

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

With publication of this issue, the *Melanesian Law Journal* initiates a new volume, a new editorial board and some new policies. From this issue, we shall be publishing twice yearly.

Earlier issues of the Journal were written primarily for expatriates, for those with an academic or anthropological interest in this unique and fascinating land, or for government personnel engaged in fashioning legislation. We do not propose to slight our early and faithful readers. We will still publish articles describing the processes of legal change in Melanesia.

But the Papua New Guinean legal profession is growing rapidly, requiring us to assume some of the services that law journals traditionally perform for the practicing bar, both private and public, and for law students -- describing and evaluating recent cases, legislation and administrative activities; proposing reforms in the law, its operation and enforcement; analyzing the ties between the law and its social, political and economic environment. In doing this, we shall not forget that we are publishing for a legal profession that works, not in Canberra or London, but in Port Moresby -- and soon, we hope, in towns and villages throughout Papua New Guinea. Thus, the articles we publish will recognize that Papua New Guinea currently operates under a dual legal system -- but a system oddly imbalanced, where, up to now, most professional attention has been lavished on the imposed laws while most people have lived under the customary laws. Further, our articles will evaluate the ability of the legal system to aid Papua New Guineans in their quest for a future symbolized by the *Eight-Point Improvement Programme* -- political and economic independence, equality, and the spread of work and benefits to the rural areas.

The *Melanesian Law Journal* is one of the ways in which the Law Faculty of the University of Papua New Guinea serves the profession and the people of this nation. Another service will begin soon, when the Law Faculty begins publishing a digest of cases and legislation. The first issue will include only recent cases, but later issues will extend the digest back to the beginnings of the court system. We invite

readers in Papua New Guinea to subscribe to both the Journal and the Digest. You may write to our Managing Editor for information.

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