

FOREWORD

This special issue of the Victoria University of Wellington Law Review (VUWLR) celebrates Bill Atkin's 40th year at the Victoria University of Wellington Faculty of Law. We are proud to present this collection of articles in honour of our colleague, and believe these pages are a fitting tribute to the breadth of Bill's influence as a legal academic. In addition to our own reflections on Bill as a scholar, teacher and friend, the first part of this issue contains personal tributes to Bill's career from Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Judge Peter Boshier, both of whom have known Bill for many years.

The largest group of articles is, unsurprisingly, devoted to family law. Bill's contribution to this field has been enormous, and this second part of the issue is led off by an article examining Bill's commitment to children's rights and child-related legislation by Otago colleagues Mark Henaghan and Ruth Ballantyne, along with a retrospective on 40 years of family law by Sydney's Patrick Parkinson. The pieces which follow represent a significant collection of family law writing by scholars from Bonn, Cambridge, Cardiff, London, Otago and, of course, Wellington.

The third group of articles, while more eclectic, nonetheless touches upon areas in which Bill has had a longstanding engagement such as torts, accident compensation, medico-legal issues and welfare law. For example, the article on teaching torts by Graeme Austin, a former student of Bill's and now a colleague at Victoria, explores an activity to which Bill has devoted many years of his life. It is the teaching of this subject for which he will long be remembered by countless students.

We would like to thank the various contributors, along with those whose efforts have helped bring this issue together (including a number of anonymous referees). Most importantly, our Student Editor-in-Chief Paul Comrie-Thomson, who has devoted many, many hours not only to the editing of this issue, but to coordinating the whole process that led to its timely production. He and his team have done a wonderful job. Denise Blackett has, efficiently as ever, seen the issue through from vague talk to hard product as Production Assistant. Claire Norris took on a valuable copy editing role late in the piece, and Judge Ian Borrin's support of the VUWLR has once again proven central to the production of a quality issue in this regard. Dion Blummont and Sean Brennan compiled the list of Bill's publications, while John Caldwell provided considerable assistance on various family law-related matters.

Tony Angelo, Geoff McLay and Bevan Marten

For the VUWLR Committee, October 2015

