

From the Director's Desk

Last month the Institute entered into a new phase of its publishing endeavours. We successfully launched the first two contributions to our new monograph series (details of which are contained within this issue). The initiation of this series enables the Institute to realise an important aspiration for the dissemination of critical knowledge on crime issues in New South Wales; to provide an opportunity for the publication of specialist research works of vital contemporary importance which might not otherwise benefit from commercial release and distribution. I am delighted with the quality of these initial publications as I am with the innovative treatment of their chosen topics. This is a creative dimension offered to a small organisation such as ours through the marvels of inhouse publishing. I commend the authors, editors, artists and colleagues involved in the production of these two works, and I share the assessment of our series editor, Professor John Braithwaite, that they represent a marvellous challenge to writers and readers alike to benefit from our monograph format.

During May I visited the United Nations Interregional Crime Research Institute (UNICRI) in Rome, to complete a project on alternative policing strategies. The nature of the research has given me time to reflect on the global dimensions of crime and criminal justice problems. Living and working as we do in a developed western jurisdiction there is the danger of viewing prevention, control, and justice issues as factors of complex institutional and bureaucratic agendas. The existence of relatively fundamental problems dogging the achievement of criminal justice in other cultural situations not only demonstrates the complexity of the crime problem, but confirms the need for an ongoing sensitivity to its contextual reality.

At the commencement of a new financial year it is timely to remind the friends of the Institute, and those who have only recently discovered our activities, to consider the values of Associate or Corporate membership. The Institute of Criminology will always depend for its continued development on the support and involvement of its community members.

Mark Findlay
Director