

## *From the Director's Desk*

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### ***Special issue on The Future of Criminology***

We are pleased to present in this first issue of Volume 8 a special collection of articles and comments from the conference *The Future of Criminology: Australian and International Perspectives* organised by the Institute in Coogee (Sydney) in February this year. The collection splendidly captures the spirit of the Coogee conference which was to 'reflect on the theoretical, political and practical directions of criminological research' (see editor's introduction). Whilst representing the current thinking of some of the leading scholars in criminology, these papers are meant to stimulate, rather than close off, further discussion on the theme of the conference. I would therefore like to extend an open invitation to other researchers and practitioners to keep alive the issues raised here by contributing articles or comments to future issues of the journal. In fact, owing to unfortunate and unforeseen circumstances, the publication of two contributions on feminist criminology from the conference has been postponed to the next issue.

### ***A new editorial board***

The Institute is delighted to announce that a new editorial board has been appointed to facilitate and enhance the peer review of articles for the journal. Members of the editorial board (see inside front cover) represent nine different universities and a wide range of expertise in criminology. I am grateful for the enthusiastic support board members have given to the Institute and its journal. The participation of Professor Philip Stenning from the Centre of Criminology at the University of Toronto is especially appreciated. We hope that in time the journal will build further links with criminological researchers and criminal justice practitioners in other countries.

### ***Seminar on women's imprisonment***

The Institute's public seminar *Women's Imprisonment: The Politics of Difference* held in April was a resounding success. The seminar was convened by Julie Stubbs and jointly sponsored by the Institute, the University of Western Sydney and the Women's Services Unit at the NSW Department of Corrective Services. Professor Pat Carlen of the University of Keele delivered the keynote address. Other speakers were Bernardette O'Connor, Director of the Women's Services Unit, Department of Corrective Services, Dr Eileen Baldry from the University of New South Wales and the Hon. Bob Debus, the New South Wales Minister for Corrective Services. Papers from the seminar are available for purchase from the Institute of Criminology.

### ***August seminar on domestic violence***

The Institute will be hosting a second public seminar *International Perspectives on Domestic Violence: Evaluating New Initiatives* in August this year. Three prominent international authorities in the field will feature as speakers: Professors Russell Dobash and Rebecca Dobash from the UK, and Professor Jane Ursel from Canada. Further details of the seminar can be obtained by contacting the Institute.

*Management committee of the Institute*

In line with the current practice of centres and institutes at the University of Sydney, a management committee has been established to oversee the administrative, public education and research activities of the Institute. The management committee is chaired by Professor David Weisbrot, Dean of the Faculty of Law. Members of the current committee are Rosalind Atherton (Head of Department of Law), Janet Chan, Chris Cunneen and Julie Stubbs from the Institute and two external members: Dr Judy Cashmore and Associate Professor David Dixon. The advisory committee continues to provide intellectual guidance and policy advice regarding the Institute's future directions.

*Janet Chan*  
*Director*