

FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the sixth volume of the *University of Notre Dame Australia Law Review* to our readership. Four articles are published in this volume of the Review.

Justice Michael Kirby contributes the first article, which deals with the Centenary Conference of the High Court of Australia. His Honour reviews some controversial High Court decisions in the field of indigenous law, criminal law, administrative law and constitutional law. He argues that whilst adulation certainly had a place in the celebrations of the Court in 2003, new ideas and constructive criticism are necessary to revitalise the work of Australia's highest court.

The second paper in this volume, contributed by Robert Lindsay, concerns liability for economic loss under common law and statute law. The paper constitutes an admirable overview and analysis of the history of the development of the common law of negligence.

In the volume's third article, Dr Nickolas John James considers the vocational approach to legal education practised by most Australian law schools. Vocationalism as an approach to the teaching of law involves the inculcation of practical skills, which are expected to enhance the employability and efficiency of law students as future legal practitioners. The author's ruminations concentrate on the reasons for this approach becoming so dominant in law schools, and whether it impacts upon the traditional function of law schools - the transmission of substantive law to law students.

Finally, Dr Norman A Katter reviews an interesting development in tort law: the ambit of liability for negligently caused mental harm. He discusses the recent High Court cases of *Tame v New South Wales* and *Annetts v Australian Stations Pty Limited*. The Court's common law initiatives have now largely been incorporated in relevant civil liability statutes in some Australian States. These common law and statutory developments strike a balance between the defendant tortfeasors and their victims.

The articles in this volume provide up-to-date information on some important and interesting developments in Australian law. I recommend this volume to our readership. Comments on these articles will be gratefully acknowledged by the Review.

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