

## FROM THE EDITORS

Towards the end of 1999, we became acutely aware of the shortage of academic and practice-oriented material dealing with the region's relationship with both private and public international law. As the new millennium replaced the old, we worked to develop a new publication on international law focusing on the Asia-Pacific region. What was originally conceived as a newsletter grew into a complete journal; and in April 2000, the Law Faculty of the University of Melbourne gave its support to the creation of the *Melbourne Journal of International Law*.

The contents of the inaugural edition reflect the wide range of contemporary issues that are relevant to the region. The focus of the *Journal* is broad, encompassing both private and public international law. Distinctions between these areas are — it is trite to say — becoming increasingly blurred, and there has been a recent surge in efforts to make private actors on the international plane more publicly accountable. The *Journal* aims to provide a forum for the informed and considered discussion of the legal issues accompanying these important social issues. Thus, academic articles, case notes and commentaries, hopefully of interest to students, practitioners and academics alike, will be included in order to provide a wide range of styles and perspectives.

Many, many people have assisted us in a multitude of ways since the early days of this project, and nothing could have been achieved without their patient assistance. The generous support of the Faculty of Law and our sponsors has facilitated the physical and electronic manifestations of the *Journal*. The enthusiastic endorsement of the initiative by the members of the Honorary Advisory Board lent us the confidence to pursue our goals with increased vigour; and the wealth of knowledge, energy and support that was put at our disposal by the tireless members of our Advisory Board helped us to make sense of the incomprehensible, and to find solutions to seemingly insurmountable problems. In particular, we wish to thank Professor Gillian Triggs, who has supported and guided us throughout this endeavour since its inception. Finally, we wish to recognise the tremendous work and undying support of our editorial board, who worked so very hard at busy times of the year to reach the final publication date. It was especially pleasing to know that so many of our fellow students felt as passionate about this initiative as we did. Thank you for joining us on this arduous yet exciting journey: we have all enjoyed a unique educational experience.

The *Journal* is now more than the distant idea of a few individuals. It has developed a life and character of its own, and has — we hope — successfully integrated itself into the life of the Faculty. Its continuance will now be determined by whether its contents continue to make meaningful contributions to the understanding and development of international law — a challenge we are confident the *Journal* will be able to meet. We hope that, in future years, the *Journal* continues to receive the wonderful support it has enjoyed from so many people this year, and that following years of students will be able to learn as much from working on the *Journal* as we have.

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