

## EDITORIAL STATEMENT

With this issue the journal embarks on a bold, new path, represented by its change of name, from *Australian Journal of Legal History* to *Legal History*. Why the change? When it was launched back in 1995, the journal filled a noted gap in Australian legal scholarship. In the years it was produced at Adelaide, the journal allowed a number of Australian scholars to showcase their work, and the journal raised the profile of legal history in Australia. Splendid work was done. Since assuming editorial control, the editorial board and I have attempted to maintain the high standards established at Adelaide, and also embarked on a strategy of internationalising its readership and content. I think that in the last few years the journal has helped place Australian and New Zealand legal-historical scholarship on the international stage, as local authors and content have published side by side with high profile international authors and content. It is time to consolidate this success.

The journal is a forum to showcase legal-historical scholarship, not from one country alone, but scholarship that represents the best of the world's scholars and scholarship that speaks to a broad, and international, audience. This does not imply that work by Australian scholars, or on Australia, will be diminished. Rather, it indicates that the best legal-historical scholarship about Australia is of international significance. It also indicates that legal history as an area of scholarship is a broad church, confined by neither geographical nor disciplinary borders. This is reflected in the contents of the current issue. This issue is also a double issue, but *Legal History* will return to a schedule of two issues a year in 2007. The journal's title has changed, but the commitment to quality remains constant.

**Andrew Richard Buck**

Editor

*Legal History*