

EDITORIAL – KÖRERO TĪMATANGA

On 11 November 2020, Chief Judge Heemi Taumaunu announced the transformative Te Ao Mārama model for the District Court. The Chief Judge explained that Te Ao Mārama means “the world of light” or “the enlightened world”, and described the model as the creation of a court where everyone, regardless of means, abilities, culture or race, could seek justice.

To us, the kaupapa of Te Aho Kawe Kaupapa Ture a ngā Wāhine is about bringing to light gender justice issues. Inspired by Chief Judge Taumaunu’s vision and call for change, we adopted his philosophy when taking the reins as Co-Editors-in-Chief of the 2021 edition of the Journal. Recognising the whakapapa of the Journal, we wanted to build upon the work of those who had come before us, by continuing to create a platform for greater diversity in voice and influence within the Journal and, more broadly, te ture (the law).

We quickly realised that a collective approach underpinned by kotahitanga would be needed in order to publish an edition that was different from the rest. We drew on the experience of the Trustees, our predecessor Editors-in-Chief, our leadership team, and wonderful group of Editors, to learn from one another and create our vision for 2021. Kia kotahi te hoe o te waka; it was not enough to simply be in the same waka, rather we needed to be paddling as one.

With the Journal whānau on board and our vision in place, our engagement with submissions and authors began. Drawing on whanaungatanga, we wanted to create an experience that was more than just writing an academic piece for a Journal. To us, the Journal is as much about publishing gender justice academia, as it is about wāhine supporting wāhine. We wanted our authors and editing team to manaaki each other, build relationships, lift each other up, learn from each other, and be inspired by their involvement in the kaupapa. We challenged our authors to build upon their ideas, as we ourselves sought to learn and engage with new and unfamiliar areas of law to assist them in publishing the best possible version of their work. On occasion, we asked authors to consider bringing in a co-author; someone with a different

background, expertise and perspective from them so they could consider their kaupapa through a different lens.

Hon Kiritapu Allan and Tiana Epati, both inspiring rangatira in their own right, open this year's Journal with reflections on their experiences in te ture and visions for the future. The Journal is then divided into three sections, each reflecting a common kaupapa and stage in time, and each opening with a kōrero delivered from members of the Judiciary throughout 2021.

We begin with an acknowledgement of our Earth Mother, the foundation of us all, in our section "Papatūānuku is breathing". This year the Mana Wāhine Kaupapa Inquiry was heard by the Waitangi Tribunal, almost thirty years after the claim was filed in 1993. It is timely that our authors acknowledge the impact of te ture on wāhine Māori and te ao Māori in particular, before offering solutions through exploring mana wāhine and kaupapa Māori practices/ideologies.

We then move into "Changing the narrative" where our authors explore how the rights of wāhine, pregnant people and victims of violence are impacted upon by the current state of the law. Each author sets out an array of informed options that could be implemented to improve outcomes. Ultimately, this section reflects on where law reform and changes in societal and judicial approaches are needed in order for wāhine, pregnant people and victims of violence to be afforded equality, autonomy and justice.

Our final section, "Still more work to be done", contemplates various and recent law reform that primarily affect our workplaces (including the legal profession). Despite efforts for change, however, the authors in this section suggest that te ture still has a long way to go to truly achieve holistic change for wāhine, with the conclusion being drawn that the law alone will not be enough to affect the change that we all want to see.

As we hand over the reins to a team of wonderful wāhine, where do the challenges lie for 2022 and beyond? First, our Māori and Pasifika sisters in te ture are overburdened being all things to all people. We must find a way to balance the desire for diversity and cultural safety with ensuring we protect indigenous knowledge and wellbeing; we encourage partnership with Te Hunga Rōia Māori o Aotearoa and the Pacific Lawyers Association as a first step. Second, we are still hearing of wāhine in te ture who are experiencing bullying and sexual harassment in their legal mahi. We are pleased to see the Journal organisation formally broaden its scope to start focusing on advocacy

and law reform and, as a result, we have no doubt that it will become a prominent voice in this area. However, it will take a collective approach from the profession to truly turn the tide.

We also want to thank all of those who have been involved in the Journal this year: the authors who have produced such insightful articles and who were willing to continuously work on their article throughout the year; our hard-working associate and technical editors who had to meet some difficult deadlines but always produced excellent work; the leadership team who were there to guide us throughout the year and help share the load; the peer reviewers who provided such considered critique; the typesetter who had to get a lot done in a short period of time; and our publishing partner for their ongoing generosity.

So, returning to Chief Judge Taumaunu's model for transformative change, Te Ao Mārama, how do we create an enlightened world for gender justice in te ture? We know there is a lot of work to do, but we hope this edition of the Journal adds fuel to the ever-growing fire.

Alice Anderson and Ella Maiden

Editors-in-Chief

14 December 2021