

F O R E W O R D

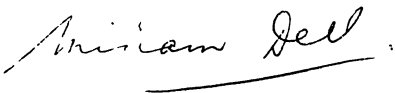
This collection of essays by women lawyers is unique. It brings together the writing of women who have been connected with the Law Faculty of Victoria University of Wellington as staff or students, past and present.

It is the first time that an issue of the Victoria University Law Review has been dedicated to the writing of women. Not only are all the contributors women, but the subjects of their work are issues of concern to women. Some pieces undertake an analysis of an aspect of the law from a woman's point of view. Others simply recount the experience of the writer as a woman working in the law, as a practitioner, judge, student, policy maker or teacher. This collection is therefore the first significant contribution to the growing body of writing which questions and challenges, through both content and methodology, the gender bias of the law and legal institutions.

In their own way, each piece is a brave and innovative attempt to extend the range of discussions about the law. Some of the writers challenge traditional legal reasoning by validating story telling as method. Others question the nature of legal education and the messages that it continues to give to women law students, and other "outsiders". Still others, in critically assessing the role of the law and the state in keeping women "in their place", go on to suggest how women lawyers may make a difference. ¶

This collection of essays makes a valuable contribution to the objectives of the 1993 Suffrage Centennial Year Trust of celebrating the past, assessing the current status of women and developing a vision for the future. The women contributors draw on the past experiences and achievements of women in law, analyse the limitations of the law for women today, and issue a challenge to both women lawyers and the legal system.

The range of subjects covered in this collection is testimony to the diverse interests of women working within the law today. Their experiences and ideas about the role of law will provide a starting point for consideration of the many important issues raised. The accessibility and relevance of the contributions in this special suffrage edition of the Victoria University of Wellington Law Review make this a valuable resource book for all people with an interest in the position of women beyond 1993.



Dame Miriam Dell
Chair
1993 Suffrage Centennial Year Trust
Whakatu Wahine

14 April 1993

