EDITORIAL

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The year 2015 marks 40 years since the founding of the University of New South Wales Law Journal (‘Journal’). This is a significant milestone in the Journal’s history and we are delighted to be celebrating this achievement with our first publication of the year, Issue 38(1).

Since the launch of the inaugural volume in 1975, the Journal has been the flagship publication of the University of New South Wales (‘UNSW’) Law School. It bears the distinction of being entirely managed and produced by a voluntary student Editorial Board. Members are selected from high-achieving students in the Law School through a rigorous application process, reflecting the exceptional editorial standards of the Journal. The success of the Journal is a credit to the pioneering spirits and dedication of generations of Editorial Board members who have shaped the Journal’s growth year upon year.

Over the years, the Journal has witnessed a steady growth in the size of its Editorial Board. The Editorial Board has expanded from seven student members in 1975 to 30 student members in 2014. Much of this expansion is attributable to the increased volume of high-quality submissions the Journal has received from contributors, who include local and international academics, judges and legal professionals.

Originally, the Journal produced two General Issues per year consisting of articles on diverse areas of law. In 1981, a Thematic Issue was introduced to replace one of the General Issues to allow the Journal to participate in topical discussions on contemporary legal issues, and to remain at the forefront of legal debate. The year 1995 saw the introduction of the Forum, appended to the General Issue. It was conceived of as a newsletter to inform subscribers of upcoming Issues, to update published Issues, and to provide an arena for comment and debate on current legal affairs. Over the years, the Forum gradually developed into an extended publication of its own, with significant academic rigour, much like the Thematic.

Past Thematic and Forum components focused on a range of areas such as media law,1 climate change law,2 family violence,3 corporate regulation,4 genetics and the law,5 and constitutional law.6

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* Editor, Issue 38(1) 2015.
In 2013, the Journal streamlined its publication structure into three annual Issues, each consisting of a General and a Thematic component. In 2015, we are pleased to announce that the Journal will continue its tradition of growth and innovation by introducing a fourth Issue into the publication structure.

The Journal has long been supported by a diverse and influential readership. As one of Australia’s leading peer-reviewed legal journals, the Journal is distributed both internationally and domestically to government departments, non-government organisations, law firms, over 250 universities, and Justices of the High Court of Australia, Federal Court of Australia and Supreme Court of New South Wales.

The Journal’s achievements are also testament to the generosity of our Premier Sponsors: Allens, Herbert Smith Freehills, and King & Wood Mallesons. We are very grateful for the long-term support of these global law firms.

Issue 38(1) could not have come to fruition without the kind support and dedication of many individuals. I am deeply grateful for the Executive Committee’s support, dedication and friendship throughout the production process. In particular, I would like to thank the Executive Editor, James Norton, for his encouragement, good humour and guidance. I would like to extend my gratitude to my colleagues on the Editorial Board for their time and hard work in editing this Issue. Special thanks goes to Wee-An Tan, a General Member of the Editorial Board, for his diligence and dedication. I feel privileged to have met and worked with all of you.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Professor David Dixon, Dean of UNSW Law School, and to Associate Professors Michael Handler and Lyria Bennett Moses, the Journal’s Faculty Advisers, for their ongoing support and wise counsel. The strong connection to the Law School has always been one of the Journal’s strengths.

Thanks must also go to the anonymous peer reviewers, whose detailed feedback on each submission was perceptive and invaluable. Finally, my

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deepest thanks go to the authors for their patience during the publication process, and for providing such insightful contributions to this Issue. It has been a pleasure to work with each of you on these articles.