# FOREWORD

This first issue of the *Melanesian Law Journal* is the result of the work of an Editorial Board established by the Law Faculty of the University of Papua and New Guinea. The *Journal* will be published annually.

Making the right laws and establishing the most appropriate legal procedures in developing societies is surely one of the most important issues facing modern day lawyers and legislators. The problem is as acute in the South Pacific as it is anywhere else in the world, and the challenge that it offers is exciting. The *Melanesian Law Journal* will provide an outlet for material concerned with the problem in the South Pacific area.

Because of the peculiar nature of the legal task in Melanesia, the *Journal* will not confine itself to material which the traditionalist would term "legal". The fields of anthropology, sociology, politics and geography will be freely entered. In Melanesia, the study of the law obviously must be married with studies in these areas if legal development is to take its proper course and the *Journal* will be instrumental in assisting such a marriage to occur. Contributions from non-lawyers working in such fields will, therefore, be most welcome.

Although its genesis occurred in Papua and New Guinea, the *Journal* will strive to be truly Melanesian in character. The Editorial Board will keep close contact with lawyers in the other jurisdictions, and will always be anxious to receive contributions from them.

In producing the first issue of the *Journal,* the Editorial Board is indebted to the Australian National University and the Ford Foundation, and to Professor O. H. K. Spate. The *Journal* is extremely fortunate to have been given the privilege of publishing the articles of Professor Epstein and Professor Lawrence, both of which are based on papers delivered at the 1968 Seminar held by the New Guinea Legal Research Council in Canberra. An article by Professor Bernard Brown, based on a paper delivered by him at the Seminar, will appear in the 1971 issue.

<div align="right">J. A. GRIFFIN</div>