

**ALEXANDRA BRISCOE, ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Victoria University of Wellington, Faculty of Law, Student/Alumni  
[alexandra.briscoe@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:alexandra.briscoe@vuw.ac.nz)

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## Announcements

### **Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC: Collected Addresses Part I: Whale Conservation and the International Whaling Commission (I)**

The Palmer Addresses is a collection of speeches and lectures delivered by the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Distinguished Fellow of the Victoria University of Wellington Law Faculty. The series is sponsored by an anonymous donor whom the Faculty gratefully acknowledges.

Sir Geoffrey Palmer was the New Zealand Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission from 2002 until 2010. This was a time of considerable difficulty for the organisation, which was struggling to reach consensus on whether the main purpose of the organisation was to conserve whales or to allow them to be killed and taken on a sustainable basis. Whaling was once a major industry, but it has since declined and only a few countries still whale on a commercial basis.

The addresses span a period when major diplomatic efforts were made to negotiate and reach a consensus. These efforts came to a head at the annual meeting of the IWC at Agadir in 2010. The efforts failed, though only narrowly. A legal challenge that Australia brought against Japan in the International Court of Justice, challenging the science upon which the Japanese whaling was based, succeeded in 2014. New Zealand intervened in the case. Japan then ceased whaling in the Southern Ocean and left the IWC in 2019, but resumed commercial whaling within its own exclusive economic zone. The addresses that follow canvass the issues that emerged in the diplomatic struggle from New Zealand's point of view.

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**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law  
Email: [geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz)

An address to the Department of Conservation seminar "Whale Tales – From Whaling to Whale Watching", delivered in Nelson on 11 March 2005. The address traces New Zealand's relationship with whaling and the International Whaling Commission. It discusses the implications of a resumption of commercial whaling and the inadequacies of the International Whaling Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

**"The Wrong Approach to Defining the Problem"**   
*Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 14/2021*

**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law  
Email: [geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz)

An address delivered to a meeting of the IWC in Ulsan, Korea, 2006. The address argues against the resumption of commercial whaling, rebutting the argument that the purpose of the International Whaling Commission is to regulate whaling, and tracing the growing emphasis on environmental sustainability in international law.

**"Opening Speech to Symposium on the State of Conservation of Whales in the 21st Century"**   
*Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 15/2021*

**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law  
Email: [geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz)

The opening speech to the Symposium on the State of Conservation of Whales in the 21st Century, delivered at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, 12 April 2007. Sir Geoffrey Palmer was the Chair of the Symposium, which was held with a view to resolving what was at the time an impasse over commercial and scientific whaling.

**"Save the Whales"**   
*Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 16/2021*

**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law  
Email: [geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz)

An address at the Open Day at Frank Kitts Park to celebrate the Gentle Giants of the Ocean on 15 December 2007. The address considers Japan's exploitation of the scientific research provision in the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

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## About this eJournal

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Papers Series primarily contains scholarly papers by members of the **Faculty of Law at Victoria University of Wellington**. Some issues collect a number of papers on a similar theme to form a suite of papers on a single topic. Others issues are general or distribute mainly recent work.

The Student/Alumni Series is a subseries of the Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper Series. The subseries started in 2015 and publishes papers by students and alumni of Victoria University of Wellington, comprising primarily work for honours and postgraduate courses. Papers are collected into thematic or general issues.

The Victoria University of Wellington was founded in 1899 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria of Great Britain and of the then British Empire. Law teaching started in 1900. The Law Faculty was formally constituted in 1907. The first dean was Richard Maclaurin (1870-1920), an eminent scholar of both law and mathematics. Maclaurin went on to lead the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as President in its formative years. Early professors included Sir John Salmond (1862-1924), still one of the Common Law's leading scholars. His texts on jurisprudence and torts have gone through many editions and remain in print.

Alumni include Sir Robin Cooke (1926-2006), one of the leading judges of the British Commonwealth. As Baron Cooke of Thorndon, he sat on over 100 appeals to the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords, one of very few Commonwealth judges ever appointed to do so.

Since 1996 the Law School has occupied the Old Government Building in central Wellington. Designed by William Clayton and opened in 1876 to house New Zealand's then civil service, the building is a particularly fine example of Italianate neo-Renaissance style. Unusually among large colonial official buildings of the time it is constructed of wood, apart from chimneys and vaults.

The School is close to New Zealand's Parliament, courts, and the headquarters of government departments. Throughout Victoria's history, our law teachers have contributed actively to policy formation and to law reform. As a result, in addition to many scholarly articles and books, the Victoria SSRN pages include a number of official reports.

Victoria graduates approximately 230 LLB and LLB(Hons) students each year, and about 60 LLM students. The faculty has an increasing number of doctoral students. Ordinarily there are ten to twelve students engaged in PhD research.

Victoria University observes the British system of academic ranks. In North American terms, lecturers and senior lecturers are tenured doctrinal scholars, not legal writing teachers. A senior lecturer corresponds approximately to a North American associate professor in rank.

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