

# Editorial

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Linda Liddicoat



***Kia ora tatou***

## ***Welcome to the 2023 edition of Archifacts***

I would like to start by saying a heartfelt *thank you* to the editorial team who have contributed to the coordination of this issue. I am standing down as editor, as my three-year term is ending. However, the editorial team will stay on and I am sure, continue to give you interesting, quality and thought-provoking material.

The theme for this edition is around how we deal with issues that arise in our everyday work. In line with this, we bring you an opinion article on handling social media chat records. Further in, there is also a contribution on the case for standards when digitising records.

An interesting addition is a look behind the scenes at putting together an exhibition at Hocken Library, complete with colourful images from Chinese culture.

We also have two solo archivists featured in the Getting to Know You section which outlines their journeys to date.

The obituary features Mary Ronnie's eulogy by Allison Dobbie. Mary Ronnie was New Zealand's - and the world's - first female National Librarian. It is heartening to see the dedication, contribution, and determined innovation shown in her life and career.

We round out this edition with three more articles. The first, on the nature of objects as archival items. This topic stemmed from a conversation on the NZRecords mailing list in May 2021 and I felt it was worth getting experts to further explore the idea.

The second is a review on school archivist's experiences and the third is a report from the New Zealand International Review Group for Recordkeeping Standards (IRG) survey results.

In parting, I do have to say I have met some lovely people in this role. The pace of change in our professions continues to be rapid. My journey has involved working in libraries, recordkeeping, education, information management and information governance (in councils and central government). I suggest recommending careers in our sectors to people. Why we do what we do continues to be misunderstood I feel, but the

reasons and roles are varied and growing as are the tools we use to do our work. There is a whole continuum of different-sized archives and records agencies and institutions out there, and all are needed.

With that, as ever, each contributor writes from their own experiences and perspectives. Should you wish to contact the next editor or contribute comments or an article, please email: [editor@aranz.org.nz](mailto:editor@aranz.org.nz).

*Ngā mihi*

*Linda Liddicoat*