

Editorial

Kia ora koutou,

In this issue of *Archifacts* you will find work by authors who write from within, across, and adjacent to the recordkeeping and heritage community. A quick survey of our authors finds historians, academics, a research librarian, a conservator, archivists, and one Planning & Development Advisor. We hope that the questions they raise give every reader something to think and talk about – or even respond to.

Four authors speak to acutely relevant concerns for 2017, and demonstrate some of the ways archives and recordkeeping are inherently political acts. In her article on rights-centred recordkeeping, Belinda Battley addresses the traditional management of out-of-home care records and unpacks the consequences this has for individuals and communities. She describes this year's workshops in Auckland and Melbourne and includes the ARANZ submission to the Social Services Select Committee on the *Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Oranga Tamariki) Legislation Bill*. Emma Kelly and Richard Hill also engage with powerful official records in their discussions of a recent release of twentieth-century security files by the National Archives UK in partnership with Taylor & Francis. They explore the value of this online database, the context of its publication, and its relevance for research into New Zealand security intelligence history.

Chris Gousmett's timely article analyses the accuracies of inscriptions on a Hutt City monument, and explores their relationship with the available documentary record over time. As a fine-tuned, literal interpretation, this article positions the monument, and the debate it has generated over nearly a century, in one small pocket within the contemporary debate around removing or altering statues. The editors see this as an important discussion, especially considering the very contemporary debate taking place internationally about the place of monuments in (mis)remembering history and welcome readers thoughts. How should we, the archival and recordkeeping community situate New Zealand in the broader discussion about monuments that reflect the values of white supremacist and colonial power, overlook indigenous history, and commemorate violence? As recently as September, the Auckland Council created a team to address suggested changes to the Marmaduke Nixon state.

Other writing was occasioned by the development of *He Tohu*, the

new permanent exhibition at the National Library of New Zealand; now home to He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirenī, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and Te Petihana Whakamana Pōti Wahine. Lillie Le Dorré reflects on closing the Constitution Room at Archives New Zealand, and the overnight ceremony to transport these taonga to their new home. Anna Whitehead, meanwhile, discusses her work researching “non-flammable” celluloid while preparing the documents before going on display. These articles look at *He Tohu* from a wonderfully different scale, and so provide complementary insights into one of this year’s most significant events for the recordkeeping community.

This issue too engages with the central, and every day, considerations of what it means to work with archives and records. Alistair Kwan’s thoughtful piece examines different definitions of evidence and explores how institutional practices impact our interpretation of material not usually considered part of the documentary record. Similarly, Elizabeth Charlton’s article on working with legacy media provides invaluable insight into digital preservation within a small organisation and the digital forensics skills that benefit archivists. These pieces neatly situate operational practices within some of central theoretical concerns of recordkeeping work.

This month’s focus on collection items looks at maps and music. Sascha Nolden discusses a recently-described collection of speleological maps at the Alexander Turnbull Library. He highlights their value as a record of New Zealand’s cave systems, of survey techniques and entertaining naming practices. Practitioners working with audiovisual material will be interested in William Daymond’s article comparing the cassette mix and the CD/vinyl mix of The Cleans’ Oddities album. Both of these pieces, too, deftly introduce the necessary vocabulary and practical considerations for working with these formats.

In the first of our three book reviews Vivienne Cuff reviews a recent contribution to the history of gold mining in the South Island: Hilary Low’s *Pay Dirt: ‘The Westland Goldfields’ from the Diary of William Smart*. In our second review, Elizabeth Charlton looks at Alison Cullingford’s *The Special Collections Handbook* and notes its value as a practical companion for sole archivists and students. Finally, Belinda Battley recommends a recent collection of essays, *Engaging With Records and Archives: Histories and Theories*.

Last, but by no means least, our Getting To Know You conversation this month is with the multi-talented and busy Cellia Joe, the Heritage Advice Coordinator at the Alexander Turnbull Library, Tumuaki | President

of Te Rōpū Whakahau, and Secretary of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Indigenous Matters Section.

Enjoy this issue.

Jessica Moran, Katrina Tamaira and Flora Feltham