

EDITORIAL

Jim McAloon

Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington

We are pleased to publish the first issue for 2026.

As usual our articles cover a range of themes and topics. With Ruth Ross's foundational article on the Treaty of Waitangi a recent focus of scholarly discussion, Philippa Wyatt offers a defence of the humanitarian dimension and some critique of Ross's arguments.

Art historians Vickie Hearnshaw and Mark Stocker discuss parallels between Katherine Mansfield's fiction and James Nairn's painting.

Sebastiaan Bierema and Elinor Chisholm discuss a dimension of state housing that is rather below the radar – the provision of housing as part of the conditions of employment. In a different vein on the developmental state, Tosh Stewart re-examines the demise of the proposed second aluminium smelter at Aramoana – a highly controversial part of the Muldoon government's Think Big agenda - and argues that community mobilisation was as important as economic calculation in the eventual result.

Also in the field of art history, Daniel Smith examines the work of the photographer sisters Jessie and Susan Buckland, who were active for decades either side of 1900 and argues that some of the attributions of the sisters' work needs to be reconsidered. Then, Brianah Lee discusses Gottfried Lindauer's portrait *Pare Watene* and the complexities of indigenous agency and the colonial gaze.

In a contribution to the history of education, Scott Pilkington examines the development of the PhD degree in the University of New Zealand. Given the straitened circumstances in which a good deal of research activity is now experiencing, this is a timely essay.

Once again, I extend my thanks to Debbie Levy for putting this issue together, to Steven Loveridge for managing the book reviews, and to all contributors and referees. It bears remembering that this journal is an entirely voluntary undertaking, and our commitment to maintaining open access is, I hope, some small statement of the importance of making knowledge accessible and as a good thing in itself.