

Introduction

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With the passing of the editorial baton, this seems a good moment to reiterate the aims of the journal and review some of the changes. First of all, however, may I thank the editorial committee of Lydia Wevers, Richard Hill and Brad Patterson, and the journal administrator Deborah Levy, who collectively provided invaluable assistance in the process of transition to a new editor; and welcome the members of our new multidisciplinary and national/international journal board.

We remain committed to publishing articles that reflect the broad range and diversity of subjects and approaches by researchers in New Zealand. The journal is also intended to be a multidisciplinary forum where researchers can move outside narrow disciplinary boundaries.

The journal is now published only online, through the Open Journals system, and articles should be submitted through the online process. I would like to emphasize that authors must follow the journal guidelines, particularly in terms of referencing style. Submissions are double-blind peer reviewed, and may I express my gratitude to reviewers in New Zealand and overseas who ensure the academic integrity and quality of the journal.

A new section has been added entitled 'Viewpoints'; this provides the opportunity to publish interesting reflective pieces that do not go through the peer review process. We inaugurate this section in 2013 with a New Zealand Historical Association keynote address by Thomas Isern. Finally, an increased flow of articles submitted to the journal led to the decision to publish twice a year, in June and December, from 2014 onwards.

This issue of the journal contains articles that coalesce around four main themes. The first concerns neglected topics or sources and the articles by Paul Moon, Mark Derby, and Andre Brett, while diverse in focus, draw our attention to undeveloped areas of enquiry. Two articles by Rachel Buchanan and Catherine Knight explore land ownership and use, but deploy very different approaches to the topic. The third theme reflects continuing debate around battles of the Second World War: Heinz Richter's article on Crete is accompanied by a commentary by David Filer. And finally Nicki Hessel and Simon Perris suggest new ways to approach the writings of two major twentieth-century writers.