

# Stout Research Centre residents

## *Biographical notes*

### **J.D.Stout Fellow 1993: Adrienne Simpson**

Adrienne Simpson, took up residence at the Centre on 1 March. She will be working on a book covering the history of professional operatic performances in New Zealand, to be published by Reed. This is the continuation of a project that she began as the 1991 National Library Research Fellow.

Adrienne was previously a resident at the Stout Centre in 1990, when she edited the anthology *Opera in New Zealand - Aspects of History and Performance* (Wellington, 1991) and completed a number of entries for the *New Grove Dictionary of Opera* (London, 1992). Since then she has collaborated with another former Stout Centre resident, Peter Downes, to write *Southern Voices - International Opera Singers of New Zealand* (Auckland, 1992).

Although operatic history is her current concern, Adrienne has a wide-ranging enthusiasm for all aspects of the performing arts, and has been taking an active interest in the setting up of an Australasian performing arts historical association. She recently carried out research on 19th century theatrical touring routes for a plate in the forthcoming *New Zealand Historical Atlas* (edited by Malcolm McKinnon), and contributed a section on women in the performing arts to the anthology *Women Together*, being edited for Historical Branch by another former Stout Centre resident, Anne Else.

On a lighter note, she has just recorded a Concert FM series about women on the 19th century New Zealand stage - 'with a cast ranging from colourful prima donnas to a circus proprietor and a lady magician' - which will be broadcast on Monday evenings, beginning on 29 March. Adrienne is looking forward to life at the Stout Centre, which she recalls as providing 'a most stimulating and supportive working environment and a unique opportunity to meet writers and researchers from many different fields.'

**Bob Brockie** - Having recently completed a book on forest ecology *A Living New Zealand Forest* Bob Brockie is turning his attention to the ecology of city plants and animals. He is preparing an illustrated catalogue of the ordinary plants and animals most of us see in our homes, gardens and city streets, or what we encounter while driving about, waiting at the railway station, or what the cat drags in. For the most part these are foreign plants and animals, many much-unaligned and despised, but most of them having interesting stories drawn from their countries of origin, the ingenuity or dramas of their coming to New

Zealand and, since their arrival and establishment, new stories have grown up around them, new uses discovered, old uses rediscovered or modified, and they have become engrained in the local psyche. Wasps, blowflies, starlings, pigeons, fleas, magpies, willows, lupins, cocksfoot kukuyu and cutty grass, ngaio, flax, taupaga and thistles, all get even treatment here. Bob would be interested to hear from anybody who could verify that dogs develop allergic eczema after rolling in the wandering jew plant, whether Auckland's dreaded mothplant has reached Wellington, what effect those red and white toadstools had on them, or where you can buy a magpie.

In April, **Bill Renwick** will give the annual Waitangi Lecture organised by the New Zealand Studies Committee of the University of Edinburgh.

**Dorothea Turner** has been granted discontinuous sessions at a Stout Centre desk this year, and hopes that in this atmosphere she will at last pound into cohesion her episodic memoir, *Embarqued Till Midnight*.

### READER'S DIGEST PEN-SRC FELLOWS FOR 1993

**Andrew Johnston**, part-time editor of the very successful literary page of the *Evening Post* has had a collection of poems accepted for publication by Victoria University Press. He plans to work on new poems, and begin research for a novel.

**Jill Brasell**, who writes for the *School Journal*, will put together a fictional picture book for children which will introduce the names and simple characteristics of urban wildflowers.

**Damien Wilkins**, author of the short story collection *The Veteran Perils* (Heinemann Reed, 1990), will continue work on a second novel.

**Vivian Plumb** proposes a kind of diary, 'a series of pieces written in prose poetry style ... with an emphasis on living in New Zealand, and living in Wellington'.

**Jane Westaway**, author of a number of short stories and poems, will carry on working on her first full-length novel, called '*Intemperate Latitudes*'.

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*During February the Stout Research Centre was broken into and a considerable amount of electronic equipment stolen, including the main computer whose hard disc contained the entire contents of this issue. Fortunately, Valerie Jacobs, our secretary, had made a copy which was stored separately, thus minimising delays in the production of the journal. We are most grateful to her for her foresight.*

# The biennial J.M. Sherrard Awards

The winner of the biennial J.M. Sherrard Award in New Zealand Regional History for books published in 1990 and 1991 is Peter Tremewan of Christchurch, for his *French Akaroa*, published by the Canterbury University Press in 1990. The judges (Ray Grover, former director of National Archives; Jeanine Graham, University of Waikato; and Jim Gardner, formerly Reader in History, University of Canterbury) praised *French Akaroa* for its 'high academic standards in research, presentation and documentation', describing it as 'both absorbing and highly readable'. Lesser awards were also made to W.H. Gibbons for *The Rangitaiki, 1890-1990*, and James Watson for *Along the Hills; A History of the Heathcote Road Boards and the Heathcote County Council, 1864-1989*. An equivalent award was recognised for Gordon Ogilvie's *Bank's Peninsula, Cradle of Canterbury* (1990), but as a previous recipient of the Sherrard Award in 1981, the author was not eligible for this year's award.

The Sherrard Award is administered by the Canterbury Historical Association from a fund set up to commemorate the work of the late Jock Sherrard, whose *Kaikoura, A History of the District* (1966) set high standards as a model for New Zealand regional history. No application is required, as all likely titles appearing in the National Bibliography are examined for suitability. The criteria for the award are that the work should meet scholarly standards

of historical research and presentation, and possess more than merely local interest or significance. In the judges' view, a successful regional history should relate the history of a district (or even a locality) to wider colonial or national trends, and thus contribute significantly to New Zealand's historical heritage. (This tends to rule out many parish and school jubilee histories.) The judges note that inexperienced or unqualified authors tend not to produce satisfactory regional histories. A degree in History or English now seems an essential qualification for such authors, and the judges urge local historical or jubilee committees to seek properly qualified authors, even from outside their district, if they wish to produce works of lasting value. Collaborative works in particular need strong and experienced editorial control. The judges strongly recommend Gavin McLean's *Local History; a short guide* (1992) to all intending authors of local and regional histories.

Commendations were also awarded to the following: Ian Church, *The Stratford Inheritance*; Merrilyn George, *Ohakune: Opening to a New World*; Janice Mogford, *The Onehunga Heritage*; Sidney Perry, *Soldiers of the Mangateparu*; Irvine Roxburgh, *Wanaka and Surrounding Districts*; Bernard Wells, *The Fruits of Labour: A History of the Moutere Hills Area*.

## STOUT RESEARCH CENTRE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1993

# The sea

2-4 July 1993

Maclaurin 2 Theatre

Victoria University of Wellington

Further details will be advised in May.

Direct any enquiries to: The Secretary, Stout Research Centre,  
Victoria University of Wellington, PO Box 600, Wellington

# Stout Research Centre

## Publications

The following publications  
are available for purchase  
from the  
Stout Research Centre

### ***Biography in New Zealand***

Jock Phillips (ed)

Allen & Unwin/Port Nicholson Press.

ISBN 0 86861 530 7. 105pp. \$12.50

### ***American Connection***

Malcolm McKinnon (ed). Allen & Unwin/Port  
Nicholson Press. ISBN 0 86861 651 6. Paper-  
back, A5, 153pp. \$16.00

### ***Migration & N.Z. Society***

The proceedings of the  
1989 Stout Centre Conference.  
ISBN 0-475-11006-4. A4, 142pp. \$12.00

### ***Australia-New Zealand: Aspects of a Relationship***

The proceedings of the  
1991 Stout Centre Conference.  
ISBN 0-475-11010-2. A4, 272pp. \$12.00

### ***New Worlds?***

### ***The Comparative History of N.Z. & U.S.***

Jock Phillips (ed).

The Fulbright Seminars.

ISBN 0 473 00869 6. Paperback, A5, 153pp.  
\$16.00

### ***Stout Centre Review***

ISSN No. 1170-4616. Back numbers. \$5.00 each

## STOUT RESEARCH CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY HISTORY AND CULTURE

## WEDNESDAY SEMINARS

### 1993 first series

10 MARCH

**BRIAN SHORLAND**

The making of a scientist in the early  
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**DAVE BRITAIN**

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New Zealand English

31 MARCH

**HARRY ORSMAN**

A Dictionary of New Zealand English

7 APRIL

**WENDY POND**

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decoding Maori metaphor

14 APRIL

**VINCENT O'SULLIVAN**

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21 APRIL

**ANDREW JOHNSTON**

A bundle of contradictions: editing the  
*Evening Post* books page

**All seminars are held at the  
STOUT RESEARCH CENTRE**

**12 Waiteata Road,**

**WEDNESDAYS at 4.10 p.m.**

*Tea/Coffee available from 3.45 p.m.*

## ERRATA

### **AUGUST 1992 ISSUE**

We acknowledge the permission of the Society of Authors,  
London, on behalf of the Bernard Shaw Estate to publish the  
letter and material written by Bernard Shaw.

### **SPECIAL DANCE ISSUE, NOVEMBER 1992**

- p.2 Grateful acknowledgement is made to The Publications  
Board of Victoria University Press for their assistance.
- p.3 The photograph of the poster of The Fancy Dress Ball  
comes from the ephemera collection of the Alexander  
Turnbull Library.

- p.4 'Mr Lowe's Eleventh Annual Ball' (original size) is by  
courtesy of the National Library of Scotland
- p.16 Only half the waltz notation was printed although the  
caption refers to the whole.
- p.18 The title decoration, although mentioned in the caption  
was not printed.
- p.24 In the Acknowledgement Elizabeth Aldrich gave biblio-  
graphical, not biographical help.
- p.28 The illustration of 'The Five Positions' come from *Lowe's  
Ball Conductor and Assembly Guide*, c1830, by courtesy  
of The National Library of Scotland.