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EDITORIAL

THIS ISSUE of *New Zealand Studies* is, in an informal way, a memorial to its long-term editor, John Mansfield Thomson, who had brought together a good deal of its contents before his death. During his last spell in hospital he was unhappily aware that the future of the journal was in some doubt; he was determined that at least this number should be published.

While his work in London and his early music activities might well take pride of place in any full account of his life, here it is right to dwell upon his two widely separated New Zealand periods, in both of which he was associated with Victoria University. The first, by good fortune and good timing, we are able to remember through Stephen Hamilton's essay on the literary adventures of the 1940s, in which John played a characteristic part. In this as in so much else he was a planner and an organiser, a tenacious man of business who got things done. It is sad to record that another of those recalled in that essay, Patrick Wilson, a school friend of John's at Nelson College, died in London recently. His last volume of poems, a beautiful production from the Nag's Head Press, was recently published in New Zealand.

John's funeral service, at Old St Paul's, was attended by a great number of people drawn from his wide range of activities, enthusiasms and friendships – a category, it must be said, which from time to time included some of his animosities. A number of tributes were offered; it seemed especially suitable, in the light of John's long connection with the Stout Centre, that this issue of the journal which he edited with such devotion should include Vincent O'Sullivan's eloquent

review of the vital role he had played in the life of the Centre.

W.H. Oliver
 Editor, *New Zealand Studies*

IT IS A SAD IRONY that *New Zealand Studies*, founded by John M Thomson and guided through its nine volumes by his enthusiasm and editorial skill, is now very much under threat. The Stout Trust, which until recently so generously funded the journal, is no longer able to continue its patronage. A request has been made to the University to take up the modest amount required to publish the journal, but as we go to press, next year's budget allocations have not been announced.

The Stout Research Centre regards *New Zealand Studies* as central to its activities, and as an essential contribution to what members at the Centre receive in return for their support. With the MA in New Zealand Studies, a degree convened by the Centre, beginning in 2000, the case for a continued journal, with a new and wider editorial policy, is a strong one. We hope the University's commitment to quality and innovation will encourage it to agree. In the meantime, and at the conclusion of John M. Thomson's editorial years, may I thank W.H. Oliver for supervising this present issue, and thank the journal's readers for their many years of support.

Vincent O'Sullivan
 Director, Stout Research Centre