

“A Famous Writer Comes to Our Pages”: James Cowan’s Children’s Writing for the *Enzed Junior*¹

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Abstract

The *Enzed Junior*, the children’s pages of the *Auckland Star*, included 255 articles written by James Cowan between 1936 and 1941. Drawing widely on his lifetime’s research, Cowan took his younger readers on journeys over frontiers, onto battle sites and on New Zealand “history trails,” revealing the enthusiasms and fascinations which had characterised his career. This paper surveys the content and themes of his writing for the *Enzed Junior*.

From 1936 to 1941, towards the end of his writing career, James Cowan produced an article nearly every week for the *Enzed Junior*, the children’s supplement of the *Auckland Star*. Apart from a few articles for the *New Zealand School Journal*, this was his first writing for children. The *Enzed Junior* articles reploughed a well-tilled field, as he condensed and re-wrote material he had published in earlier books and articles. This was a task he was also undertaking through his series of “tales” collections, which he began producing in 1930 as a permanent record of his work for adult audiences. In the *Enzed Junior* columns, “Uncle Jim” turned to persuading a younger readership of the excitement and adventure of the New Zealand past. This article surveys the themes and writing Cowan produced for these children’s pages.

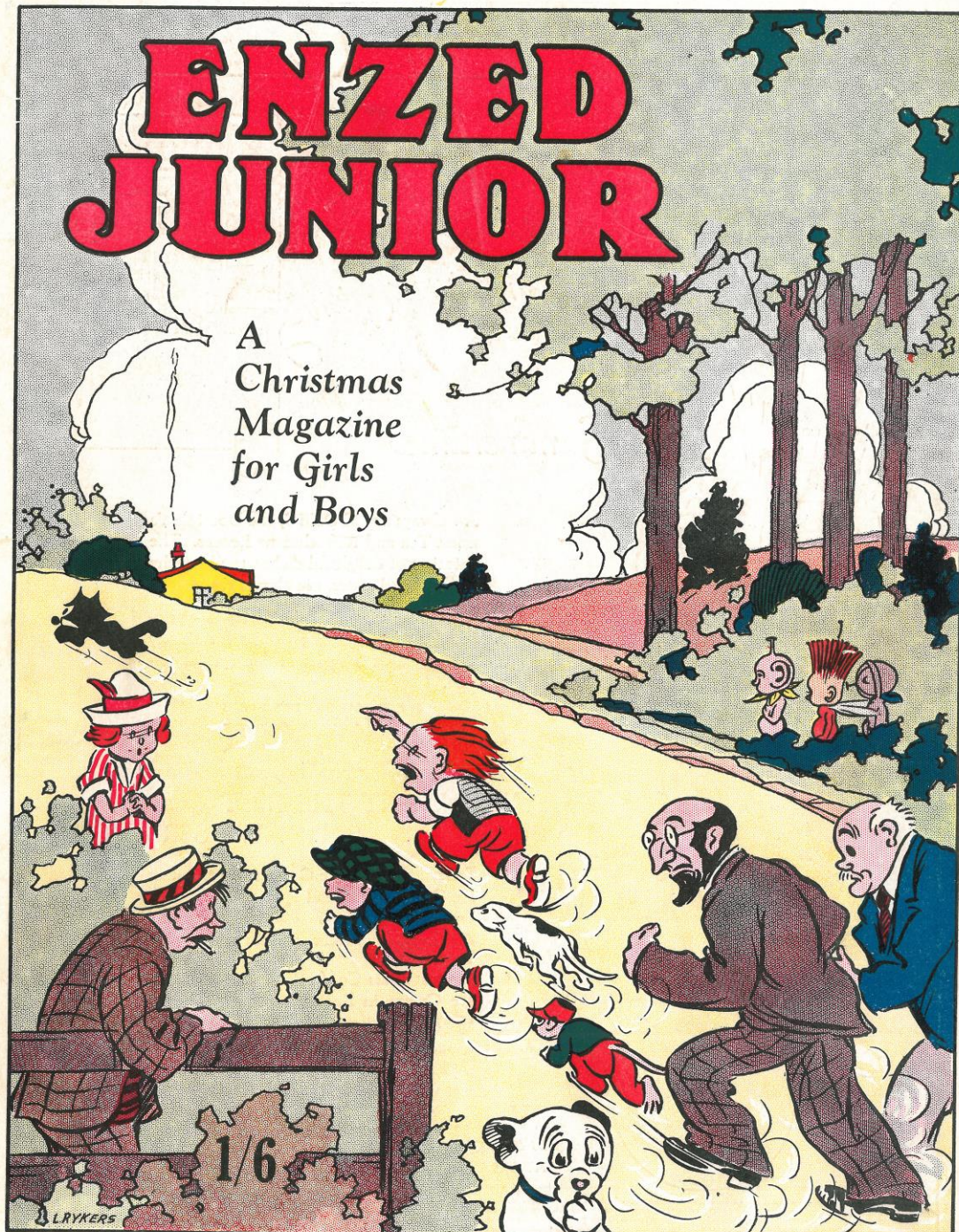
The *Enzed Junior* magazine began with two single Christmas issues: one on 17 November 1928, and another a year later on 18 November 1929. These were described as special magazines of the *Auckland Star* for the girls and boys of New Zealand. Advertised as an ideal Christmas gift for children, they were listed at 1s. / 6d. Children could sign up to become junior canvassers and sell copies to earn pocket money.

One of the particular features of the 1929 issue was a piece by James Cowan. The promotional flyer announced:

There is an exceedingly interesting article called “Nga Tamariki,” by James Cowan. The title is Maori—for “The Children,” and he deals charmingly with the lives the little brown boys and girls live in the kainga. This is the first time we have had such a sympathetic insight into the lives of our little friends. Many a pakeha boy will envy the Maori boy the hunting and fishing which formed part of every native’s stock-in-trade.²

Nearly five years later a new, now weekly, series of *Enzed Junior* began. It launched on 8 September 1934 and was published through until 31 May 1941. Subtitled “A journal devoted to the interests of the young folk of New Zealand,” it was put out with the Saturday issue of the *Auckland Star*. Although produced as a supplement, *Enzed Junior* had its own numbering and children were encouraged to keep their copies in a binder. There was no additional charge to purchase the issues of the magazine and readers could enter competitions to win binders or order them from the publisher.

November, 1928.



Incorporating the "Young Folks' Budget" of the "Auckland Star."

Figure 1: *Enzed Junior*, November 1928. Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries.

Enzed Junior

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE YOUNG FOLK OF NEW ZEALAND.

Vol. II., No. 25.

AUCKLAND, N.Z., FEBRUARY 22, 1936.

Sea Mysteries DUTCH MONITOR OF THE EIGHTIES.

IN all the mysteries hidden in Davy Jones' locker there are hardly two which present the same peculiarities (says the Melbourne "Age"). One little known sea mystery deals with the little Adder, a ram-monitor, of the Royal Netherlands navy, which sank with all hands about July 8, 1882. The helpless ship was seen from the shore, and also by the crew of a large fishing boat only 500 yards away, yet in spite of signals by flags, flares and rockets, nothing was done to help her. And strangest of all, although she vanished on a short voyage between two Dutch ports, nothing was known of the disaster by the naval authorities for three days. And that was only 53 years ago.

As recorded in the "Navy," by M. Prendergast, the monitor Adder early in July, 1882, was under orders to proceed from Amsterdam to Hellevoetsluis. There was nothing very difficult about this journey. The first stage consisted of a sixteen-mile trip through the North Sea Canal, connecting Amsterdam with Ymuiden. The next stage consisted of a run of about fifty miles along the Dutch coast. Finally, there was a short trip up an estuary to reach Hellevoetsluis. Before her departure the Adder was inspected at the Amsterdam dockyard; she was in good condition, all pumps and gear for dealing with an inflow of water being on board and in proper working order.

The officer in command of the Adder (Lieutenant Simon van de Aa) said he proposed to take the ship a little way up the North Sea Canal for the night; he would pass through the locks at Ymuiden next morning, and then proceed down-coast to Hellevoetsluis. He wanted to get the Adder away from Amsterdam for the night so as to prevent desertions. The full complement for the monitor was about 113 officers and men, but van der Aa had only 64 under his command, and the services of a civilian pilot. Neither the lieutenant nor any of those on board had ever been to sea before in a monitor. There were only two competent stokers on board, and half the hands in the boiler room had had no sea experience whatever.

The senior officer at Amsterdam approved of the voyage. He had a telegram sent to the Hellevoetsluis command saying that the Adder had passed through the Ymuiden locks on the morning of the 5th. She lumbered out of the Ymuiden locks into the North Sea, with an ebb tide to help her along. About mid-day this tide ceased, and thereafter she had to make headway against adverse currents. At the time of her departure from Ymuiden the weather was fine, but the glass was falling rapidly. Moreover, the wind rose later in the day, causing short and steep seas to rise over the sand flats off the Dutch coast. From the shore and from passing ships the monitor was observed to be wallowing along, making slow progress. By six in the evening she had made good only thirty miles. Those ashore noticed that she was making heavy weather of it, being more often under the waves than on top of them. Still, it was thought that if she got into serious difficulties she could easily be driven aground on the shelving beach at Scheveningen.

From 8 to 8.30 p.m. a signal hoist of two flags was observed to be flying in the Adder. From 8.30 to 9 p.m. she fired rockets and showed flares. Not a thing was done ashore to help her, and not a word was spoken to anyone in authority about her plight. About 9 o'clock observers on shore saw out to sea a burst of flame, followed by a cloud which looked like escaping steam. Nothing more was seen of the Adder. The optimists of Scheveningen concluded that the monitor had got out of her difficulties, and had proceeded on her voyage.

The ship should have arrived at Hellevoetsluis early on the morning of Thursday, the 6th, but when she failed to appear the rear-admiral of that port concluded that the Adder had put in at some place of refuge along the coast. So he did not worry himself over her non-arrival. The rear-admiral at Amsterdam expected no telegram from Hellevoetsluis to say that the monitor had reached her destination safely, as regulations did not prescribe that a ship's arrival should be reported to the sailing port. So neither did the admiral at Amsterdam concern himself about the ship's safety. As the officials left it to one another, the result was that no one missed her for three days. And the monitor vanished at a point within 12 miles from the Ministry of Marine at The Hague.

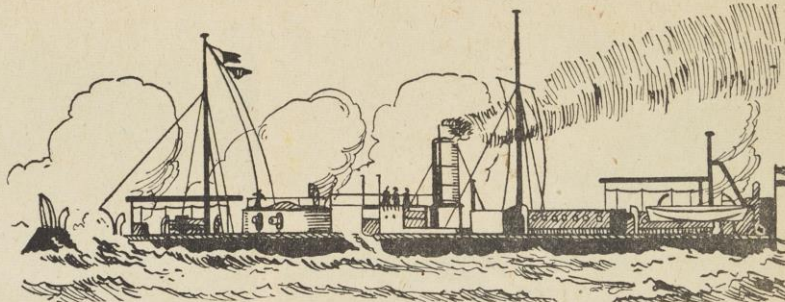
On the morning of Saturday, the 8th, the body of the Adder's pilot was cast up on the beach at Scheveningen. The local optimists said he might have been the only man to be washed overboard and drowned. The ship and crew might have got away safely. They were silenced, however, when the sea gave up 42 corpses from the Adder. Twenty-two other persons, known to have been on board when the ship sailed, were missing, and they must have gone down with their vessel. All the bodies washed ashore had lifebelts on. On one of the bodies—that of Lieutenant Jonckheer—a few notes, scribbled in lead pencil, were found to this effect:—

10 o'clock: Passed the pliers. Steam steering gear disconnected. Turret made secure. All made secure on deck. Water by the pumps.

6 p.m.: Attempted to turn back and make for Ymuiden, but the ship refused to turn with the screws. Course S.E. to lessen weight of water on deck.

This showed that the monitor had been prepared for meeting heavy weather and that she had become unmanageable. It was learnt later that all the time the Adder had been bounding in her death throes a ship had been close at hand in the shape of a fishing vessel. The fishermen had been only 500yds to leeward of the monitor; they had seen the signal flying, but had taken it to be a call for a pilot and not a signal of distress. The docket and flares they interpreted as requests for the pilot to hurry up! The fishermen admitted that they had considered the Adder to be in danger, and when the final burst of flame and the cloud of steam came, they said: "There she goes!" But they made not the least effort to save life. The Adder had gone down; that was "an act of God," so why should they interfere? When they came ashore they said nothing, as they did not want to have the police round their cottages asking for information.

The King of the Netherlands (William III.) appointed a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the loss of the Adder. As to the actual cause of loss the commissioners could only make suggestions. The most likely suggestion was that the heavy seas, pounding on the deck, had stove in one of the wooden deck houses over the hatchways, which were one of the weakest points in the ship's design.



The Dutch Monitor Adder, 1566 metric tons, and armed with two 9-inch muzzle loaders in a forward turret. The best speed was eight knots.

Figure 2: *Enzed Junior*, 22 February 1936, showing marking and binding instructions. Hocken Collections, Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago.



Figure 3: *Enzed Junior*, Volume 7, University of Waikato Library.

There is some evidence that children did collect and bind their issues: several libraries and institutions in New Zealand hold wallpaper-covered volumes and carefully hand-tied binders of the magazine.³

The length of each weekly issue varied. In 1934 it was about eight pages long, but by 1940 it was reduced to four pages due to wartime paper restrictions. To save paper there were no illustrations in the 1941 issues. By then the *Enzed Junior* was no longer a separate pull-out publication, being part of the main newspaper, and the cartoons for adults were printed on the reverse of the children's page. Cowan was published in the company of writers such as Eileen Duggan, Ernest Eyre, Elsa Flavell, George Rochester, Enid Saunders, Mona Tracy and Agnes Winskell, and two writers on science subjects, Lucy M. Cranwell and E. Graham Turbott.

Cowan's first two single stories appeared in early 1936: "Boy Heroes of New Zealand" on 15 February, and "Coastal Tales of Early New Zealand" on 22 February. The first drew on his *Hero Stories of New Zealand* (1935), the second on *Tales of the Maori Coast* (1930).⁴ It is

not clear if Cowan had been invited to supply his first series of articles or if he offered them, but he had worked for the *Star* throughout his career. Correspondence does reveal that he proposed a series of articles. Acceptance was dependent on the approval of his synopsis by the *Star's* advisory committee of teachers.⁵ Approval must have been given, as the *Enzed Junior* headline of 29 February 1936 announced: "Tales of Adventure—Good things that are in store—A famous writer comes to our pages."⁶ A schedule listing the first twenty stories in a "Stories of New Zealand" series followed. The teachers' committee asked for notes or explanations on the pronunciation of Māori names. Thus, a 1936 article on "The Conquest of Tamaki" began with these notes: "Hongi Hika, Ho-ngee Hee-ka... Patu-iwi, Pa-too-ee-wee."⁷ Apparently, teachers appreciated his efforts: Mr Blow from Mt Eden sent in his thanks.⁸

The novelist Ruth Park, who worked for the *Auckland Star* in 1939, recalled that the *Enzed Junior* was a more substantial production than the *Herald's* one-page effort. The pages for older children were carefully selected from the work of experts in order to supplement the secondary school syllabus:

We had a weekly article by James Cowan, the country's premier historian. Mr Cowan was famous for fantastically awful handwriting. While in the reading room I had sometimes seen a compositor's attempts to set it up turn out to be about a quite different subject. From this experience I could read his writing, if not with ease, at least with probable accuracy. So when his articles came in I typed them before sending them downstairs to the lino room. James Cowan was crippled with arthritis, and wrote on his chest, peering over his own chin. For this priceless material (for he was a renowned Maori scholar as well as historian) the *Star* paid him fifteen shillings. He provided the illustration free.⁹

Altogether 255 articles by Cowan for the *Enzed Junior* have been identified, an average of 48 or 49 articles a year. Over the period of these contributions, in his late sixties and early seventies, he appeared to have one week off at Christmas, another in February and sometimes one at Easter. He usually re-shaped earlier work, as he had done throughout his life, calling upon his substantial collection of research material. Each article ran to at least four columns in length, often about 1200 words. Some were even longer: on 9 January 1937, for example, "The Battle of the Gate Pa" occupied over six columns.¹⁰ The magazine's regular features from February 1936 on were Cowan's "Stories of New Zealand," as well as world affairs, things to make and do and a short story or verse. His piece was to be found on page two.

Cowan's feel for a good story translated well to a younger readership: his tales are entertaining and interesting. The titles and sub-headings entice the reader and suggest the kind of boys' adventure literature he was pitching for. Words such as "adventure," "bravery," "hero" and "expedition" feature frequently in his accounts of borders, pathfinders, courage and honour. Examples include "The Isle of Heroes," "Mackay's Swag of Gold," "Marooned: a story of treasure finders and losers" and "The Rider of Dolphins."¹¹ For this readership he adopted an avuncular conversational style, inserting such phrases as "You will have heard," or inspiring confidence in the reader's knowledge with "which you know ..." and "You have all read of the mystery of the Marie Celeste."¹² In line with this boys' literature style, girls and women do not feature often. Were Cowan's articles read by girls? Undoubtedly some, or many girls read them, as there were limited publications for them to choose from. Reed's Raupo school readers—including Cowan's *Pakeha and Maori*, and Leslie Lockerbie's *Deeds of Daring in New Zealand* (1937)—seem to have offered more to young male readers,¹³ although *Deeds of Daring* does at least have one female heroine, Huria Matenga. Cowan was following his own path, however, and does not seem to have been swayed by prevailing trends in children's literature of the time such as the rise of the school story in the 1930s.¹⁴

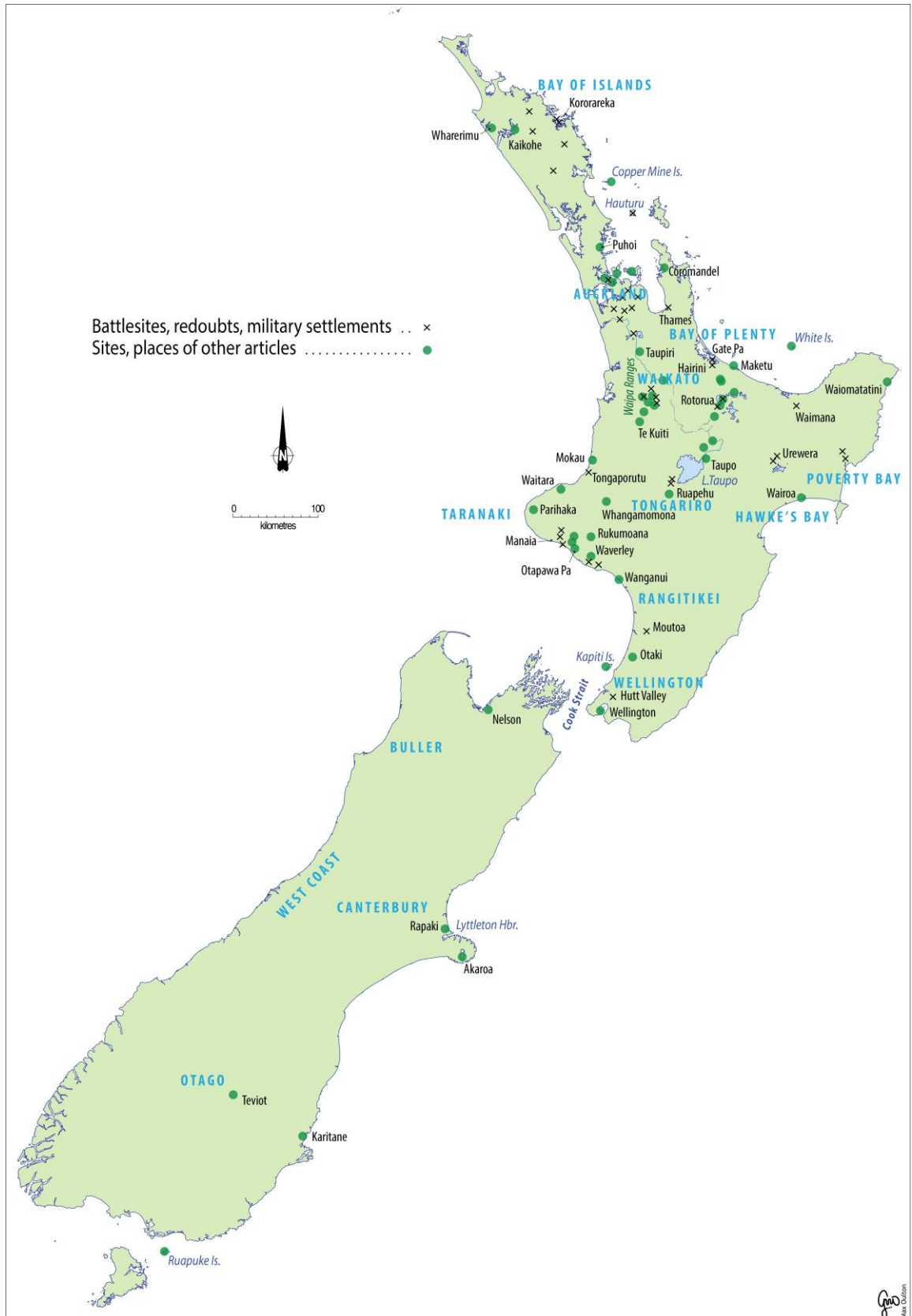


Figure 4: Locations of New Zealand stories by James Cowan in the *Enzed Junior*.

Cowan wrote seventy-five articles in the “Stories of New Zealand” series, which ran from 7 March 1936 to 11 September 1937. After this series ended, his writing in the *Enzed Junior* continued on a weekly basis and on similar topics. There were a number of two-part articles, such as those on Captain Tapsell and the Māori planting time, tales of old Taupo and Māori traditional life. The editor signalled a change on 14 January 1939: “as a break from the Maori and historical stories that have been appearing in the pages for the past few years, Mr Cowan has prepared this thrilling story of aerial adventure in Papua. It will run as a serial and provide you with some very pleasant holiday reading.”¹⁵ This series was published in four parts.

Overall the themes of Cowan’s work in the *Enzed Junior* can be described under three headings: people, particularly pioneers and Māori; places, settlements, their history and pioneering life; and warfare and its results. Many of Cowan’s articles focused on battles, as he mined his extensive archive of published and unpublished material on the New Zealand Wars in particular.

As can be seen on the map, the North Island was the focus of Cowan’s attention, but fourteen articles were set in the South Island, including four which dealt with the history, land dealings and legends of Akaroa. Unsurprisingly, Cowan’s Waipa boyhood and his work on the New Zealand Wars is reflected in the number of stories based around Ōrākau and the King Country, Rotorua and the Bay of Plenty. The Far North, Taranaki, Te Urewera, and Wellington – all sites of colonial conflict and areas in which Cowan had travelled – are also well-represented. Sixteen articles were set outside New Zealand, in Australia, the Caroline Islands, Niue, Samoa and Suwarrow.

Cowan’s keen interest in the topic of warfare—here manifested in tales of brave scouts, ambushes and fortresses—is evident with a total of sixty-five articles altogether on wars, forts, redoubts, military settlements or battles. A sample of titles and sub-headings suggests the flavour: “The New Zealand Cross—A Reward for Deeds of Valour”; “The Perfect Warrior”; “The Repulse of the British Storming Party”; “The Battle of Hairini—Maoris’ Brave Fight for their Land” and “The Rock of Courage: A Tradition of the Waikato River.”¹⁶ Cowan employed sub-headings to create excitement, to build and keep momentum, and structure the story for his young readers. An article on the Battle of Ōrākau is punctuated with: “Where the Redoubt was Built,” “Rewi’s Doubts,” “Building the Pa,” “The Alarm,” “The Siege Begins,” “The Maori Spirit,” “The Last Day,” “The Call to Surrender,” “The Women’s Reply,” and “The Last Scene.”¹⁷

As both Colquhoun and Hilliard have noted, Cowan placed a high value on personal accounts and many of the *Enzed Junior* articles are based on reminiscences from his own experience or that of others.¹⁸ He had gathered accounts from New Zealand war veterans both Māori and Pākehā, and his columns reflect these sources: “We were safe underground ... said the last survivor of the garrison, the venerable Rihara Kou ... when he described the siege to me in 1919.”¹⁹ Other informants included Ngāi Tahu leader Hone Taare Tikao, whom Cowan regularly visited at Rāpaki. He frequently commented on the first-person source of an account: “It makes quite a thrilling narrative in a letter (now published for the first time) which Mair wrote to me from his home near Waiotapu in 1913.”²⁰ And in an article from his own recollections: “I have heard on the spot from their descendants tales of the wonderful prowess of their spearmen and stone club wielders.”²¹ He emphasised that when writing on Māori topics knowledge of the language was essential: “... the key to the Maori store of the tales of the past is in the Maori tongue.”²²

The *Enzed Junior* was marketed as a magazine “for children of all ages,” and it seems likely that many “grown-ups” did read Cowan’s contributions. He commented regularly on correspondence with adults and grumbled that they didn’t always send a stamp when they sought an answer to a question. In “Taranaki’s First War” (October 1936), he

seems to have a more general readership in mind—and was certainly riding an old hobby-horse—as he contends that “Knowledge of the historical background gives interest to the landscape and New Zealanders should give a thought now and then to the deeds of old that gave the heroic touch to the traditions of their beautiful land.”²³ He fed in opinion on new and current publications, noting with disdain how: “A writer on New Zealand history said, in a recent book: ‘Not enough men have died in this land.’”²⁴ Cowan responds with an argument he had made often in earlier work:

If ever there was a country in which history was made in a short period of time it is New Zealand. There are greater things than literature and art in the making of a young nation. The clash of races, the pioneer’s efforts, the explorers’ perils and achievements, the men of the gold fields, the moving frontier, the long border wars united to give New Zealand a story and a soul of its own. The real history of our country was not made in Parliament or in the towns.²⁵

Several heroes emerge, including Sir George Grey, Donald Maclean and Gustavus Von Tempsky. Grey, whom Cowan treats relatively uncritically, is celebrated for his statesmanship and the gift of his collections to the Auckland City Library. Cowan had heard Grey speak in public, and had met him personally. One article is subtitled “His First Governorship and the People’s Gratitude.”²⁶ Maclean is characterised as “a truly wonderful pioneer” and Cowan adopts Edward Gibbon Wakefield’s description of him as “the Great Maori Mystery Man.”²⁷ Cowan also wrote enthusiastically about Von Tempsky, Captain Jackson and the Forest Rangers, using Von Tempsky’s manuscript journal as the basis for several articles in the *Enzed Junior*. The goldfields warden James Mackay also provided material: Cowan drew on his records of talking with Mackay by a campfire forty years earlier, material he had also used in “My Name is Mackay,” in *Tales of the Maori Bush*.²⁸

Other men Cowan had met personally who became the subject of articles included Captain Clayton, Charles Hursthouse, Robert Louis Stevenson, Tāwhiao and Te Kooti. Articles on the sailor and artist Captain Clayton were compiled from notes he wrote down after one of “my many yarns with him.”²⁹

Te Kooti was the subject of five articles in 1937. In *The New Zealand Wars* and in articles for adult readers, Cowan had represented Te Kooti as a complex figure, asking what might have happened had he not been subjected to the injustice of imprisonment on Wharekauri. The *Enzed Junior* articles on Te Kooti cover his guerilla leadership, the raids, his pursuit and escape from Wharekauri, his last pā and his pardon.³⁰ Cowan provides an occasionally sensational but mostly sympathetic and rather contemplative account of his life including “what if” scenarios asking what might have happened if personalities, policies and governments had been different: an invitation to his younger readers to engage in counter-factual history, and to consider how individuals and events are shaped by circumstance.

More than eighty-seven of the *Enzed Junior* articles were on Māori topics, and he often included Māori examples in others. In a 1940 article he noted “My own store of narratives of the past and the endless wisdom of my Maori friends, was acquired in all manner of places and circumstances in all parts of New Zealand, not always by questions.... But all this takes the best part of a lifetime.”³¹ Thirty-three articles cover legendary tales, mythology and folk tales. He takes his readers on ventures into the underworld of Māori mystery caves, and on the hunt to snare a taniwha. When presenting articles such as “Maori tapu interests the Pakeha” he suggests that many of his adult readers as well as his younger readers were “greatly interested in the Maori traditional lore which pertains to mountain, valley, coast and island and other features of the landscape.”³²

The frontier world of cultural encounter interested him just as much. Cowan’s frontiers were geographical, exploring boundaries and territories new to Pākehā, as well as

cultural frontiers changing, developing and responding to new ideas and practices, and technological frontiers revealing innovation and change. Men on the edge of adventure create a new world. Cowan describes his old friends Gilbert Mair and George Preece in a story on the Urewera campaign:

Mair and Preece were both examples of the New Zealand frontiersmen at his best. They could march and skirmish day after day, always ahead of their men, always eager and active. Their young Arawa warriors would follow them anywhere, knowing that once they came to close quarters with their foes that victory was certain.³³

Many of these stories exemplify, in Peter Gibbons' phrase, a world "so plotted that the conflict between Maori and settler becomes formative rather than destructive."³⁴ In an April 1937 article on military roadmakers Cowan writes: "Our sympathy usually goes to the people whose country is invaded. They have justice on their side as a rule for they are defending their native land. But we must admire the wisdom of the invading roadmakers."³⁵ Yet where land conflicts are discussed Cowan reliably gave both sides of the story, perhaps representing views that might have countered prevailing Pākehā opinion. An article on the 1848 land sale of much of the South Island, for example, is described from the perspective of the Ngāi Tahu chief Tikao who warned against it, and tried to persuade his fellow chiefs to oppose the transaction.³⁶

Cowan encouraged young travellers to seek out information about places and people on their journeys, reminding New Zealanders to honour their past. He saw himself as presenting "history on the trail," a term he often employed. He invited readers to put history into context, to seek answers, to explore and to question writing: "Next in interest to a hidden treasure hunt is the searching out of all but forgotten scenes where history was made in the pioneering era of our country."³⁷ In this 1938 article he recommends that energetic Auckland readers of *Enzed Junior* should seek out old battle sites to discover what remained. Pioneer settlement histories also feature strongly and cover for instance Nelson, Wellington and Auckland. A number of articles explore the contact period with articles on whalers, missionaries and traders. His enthusiasm for sailing and shipping saw articles on these topics appearing on a number of occasions. The reader gains knowledge of brigantines, and negotiating bars and harbours. Conservation issues and the natural world crop up too: there are articles on preserving nature, animals and birds, protecting the King Country "prairie," the grey duck, and planting to replace the vanishing bush. He was concerned about the destruction of forests and damage to waterways. Progress came at a cost: the original forests of the Waipa fall with the rise of Te Awamutu, "made wealthy by Queen Cow and the good soil."³⁸

He reflected on change and the results of change frequently in asides, lamenting the loss of little communities, especially Māori settlements: "Almost jostled off the map by the crowded places of the pakeha, there is a little Maori village in a valley...."³⁹ During his lifetime transport changed considerably, with the invention of the motor-car, and other developments such as trolleybuses, and electric trains. These prompted frequent reflections. He wrote of the joys of horseriding having been overtaken by the "torrent of motor cars,"⁴⁰ and reminisced about times "before the diabolical inventions of the modern age had arrived to disturb our healthy life."⁴¹

The Centennial fell within the lifetime of the *Enzed Junior*. As early as May 1936 Cowan signalled the occasion, writing that the first month of 1940 would see New Zealand "celebrat[ing] its first century as a British possession." He goes on to discuss the Treaty and quotes later Māori accounts of the agreement: "This treaty has been rained upon by the rain, it has been exposed to the blast of the storms, but the words remain; they cannot be rubbed

out.”⁴² In other Centennial coverage he suggested that replicas of pioneer ships should be made and reprints the 1839 song written for the emigrating colonists by Thomas Campbell, then the British Poet Laureate.⁴³ References were then regularly made to the approach of the centennial year, ranging from Te Puea’s plans for a flotilla of waka-*taua*, to the twelve Centennial stamps to be issued by the New Zealand Post Office. He also recommends the centennial histories (one of which he had written).⁴⁴

In some cases Cowan supplied his own illustrations. For example, in a September 1937 issue he uses his sketch map of the Alexandra redoubt at Tuakau, drawn in 1918 during his research for *The New Zealand Wars*.⁴⁵

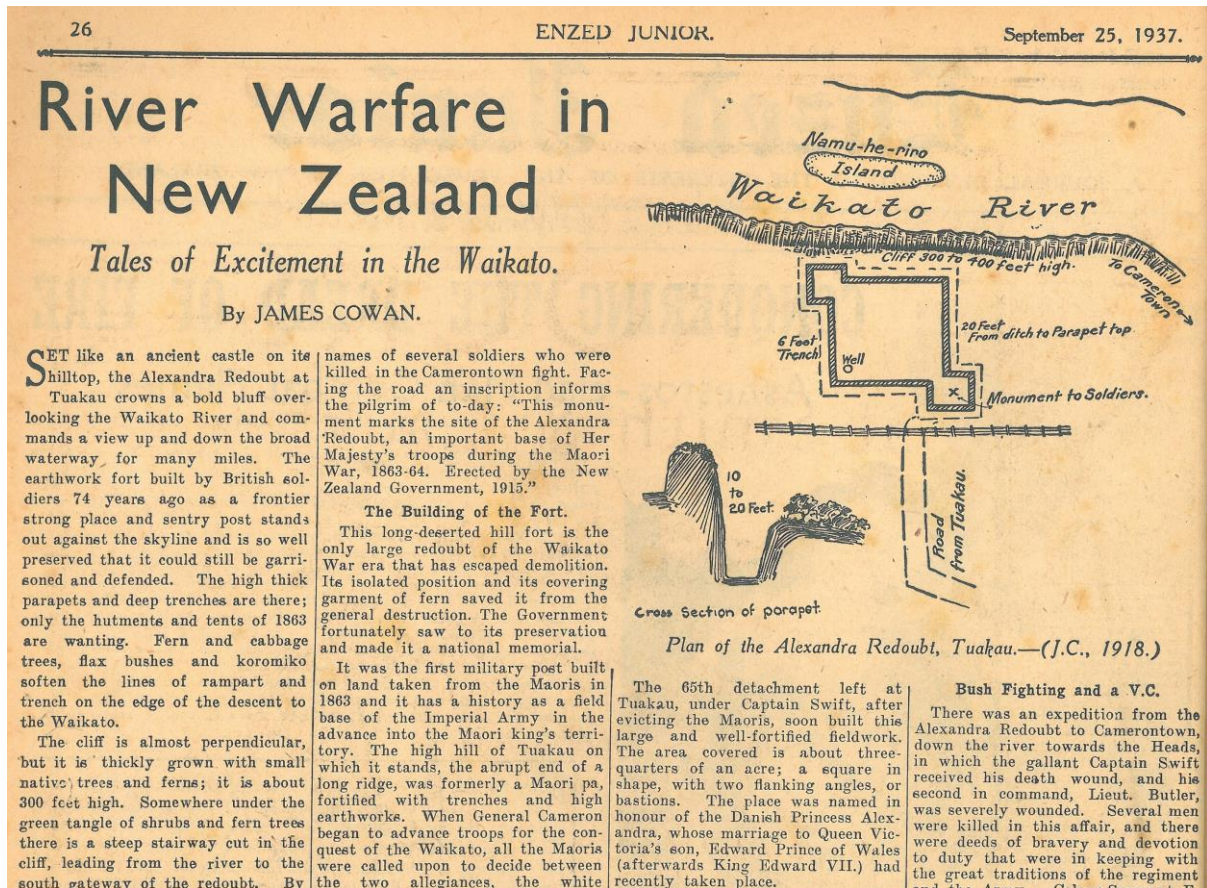


Figure 5: James Cowan, Plan of the Alexandra Redoubt, Tuakau, 1918. *Enzed Junior*, 25 September 1937, 26.

Photographs frequently provided portraits of soldiers, surveyors and other men of note. Some were local; others came from the *Illustrated London News*. He used a number of A.H. Messenger’s drawings, such as a pioneer home in Taranaki, a “Māori dragon,” the blockhouse at Ōrākau in 1870, Taupō, a pā on the coast of Nelson in 1844, and a number of war scenes.⁴⁶ Cowan also used paintings by well-known artists such as Heaphy, Lindauer and Angus, as well as drawings and sketch-plans by other soldiers including Lieutenant Bates, Captain Greaves and Major Von Tempsky. Many had been first reproduced in *The New Zealand Wars* and some of his other publications.



Figure 6: A.H. Messenger, The Snaring of Kataore at Tikitapu. Pitaka challenging the dragon. *Enzed Junior*, 3 September 1938, 418.

Cowan's articles were occasionally shorter by September 1939, and were considerably shorter by 1940, being on average a half-page instead of a full one. Perhaps his payment was adjusted accordingly but this seems unlikely. From the 20 January 1940 issue, wartime restrictions reduced the supplement's length, and its most popular features including Cowan's weekly article were squeezed into one page of the newspaper.⁴⁷ When the *Enzed Junior* finally expired, readers were urged in Māori and in English to be brave and strong with the heading reading "And So: Au Revoir" on the front page of the last issue, and an editorial surveying the pages and the work of the *Enzed Junior*. Cowan's contribution was warmly acknowledged:

Perhaps we should give an extra special cheer to Mr. James Cowan, who for many years now has for our benefit dipped into that vast treasure house of knowledge and memories which is his alone. "Jimmy Cowan," as he is affectionately known in this country which he loves and knows so well, is a living history book. He has seen New Zealand grow from a colony to a nation, and, what is even more valuable, he has remembered and noted. On those field explorations he has so often entertainingly described to us he has visited strange and historic places, talked to ancient peoples, white and brown, and added their knowledge to his own. Few people have done so much to depict the Maori as he is, without romance or sentimentality, and perhaps no one has ever written history in such an enthralling and charming way. Reading a Cowan article is like sitting

by a fire on a winter's night and listening to "Jimmy" himself telling a tale of great warriors of the fern hills of long ago.⁴⁸

Although it was promised that the absence would be temporary, the *Enzed Junior* magazine was gone. James Cowan himself followed, dying on 6 September 1943.

In the *Enzed Junior*, Cowan pursued a "history trail" he had been following all his life. He was "re-purposing" content gathered for his other publications and making new selections, for this new readership, from interviews and manuscripts he had recorded and transcribed over decades. While income was clearly one motivation for this new outlet, his desire to share his work and research, and open the eyes of a rising generation to the country's history, is also plain. For James Cowan, his work served an important function: "I gathered and recorded much information that would otherwise have been lost."⁴⁹ It seems likely that he felt he had a valuable role to play in contributing his knowledge particularly of Māori culture and society and New Zealand history, for this broader educational purpose.

¹ I am most grateful to Max Oulton for the map, Dorothy Parsons for her suggestions, Brett Rossiter for his technical assistance, and Annabel Cooper and Ariana Tikao for their editorial work. I also thank the two anonymous readers for the *Journal of New Zealand Studies* for their constructive comments.

² "Enzed Junior," *Auckland Star*, 18 November 1929, 8, accessed 14 August 2014.

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast> The 1929 Christmas issue of *Enzed Junior* does not seem to be held by New Zealand libraries, and I do not know of any extant copies.

³ Copies are held by the Alexander Turnbull Library; the Dorothy Neal White Collection, National Library of New Zealand; Hocken Collections, University of Otago; and the New Zealand Collection, University of Waikato Library. For electronic copies see *Papers Past*.

⁴ Cowan, *Tales of the Maori Coast* (Auckland: Fine Arts, 1930); and *Hero Stories of New Zealand* (Wellington: Harry Tombs, 1935). Cowan also adapted a two-volume school reader from *Tales of the Maori Bush: Pakeha and Maori* (Dunedin: A.H. & A.W. Reed, 1936).

⁵ Correspondence from the *Auckland Star* relating to *Enzed Junior*, Cowan Papers, MS papers-11310-182, Alexander Turnbull Library (ATL).

⁶ *Enzed Junior*, 29 February 1936, 210.

⁷ Cowan, "Stories of New Zealand," *Enzed Junior*, 2 May 1936, 282.

⁸ H.I. Blow to Cowan, Auckland, 11 March 1939. Cowan Papers, MS papers- 11310-61, ATL.

⁹ Ruth Park, *A Fence Around the Cuckoo* (Auckland: Penguin Books, 1992) 249.

¹⁰ Cowan, "Stories of New Zealand. The Battle of the Gate Pa," *Enzed Junior*, 9 January 1937, 154, 157.

¹¹ Cowan, "The Isle of Heroes," *Enzed Junior*, 14 May 1938, 290; "Mackay's Swag of Gold," *Enzed Junior*, 5 October 1940, 290; "Marooned: A Story of Treasure Finders and Losers," *Enzed Junior*, 26 August 1939, 410; "The Rider of Dolphins: A Story of Cook Strait and 'Pelorus Jack,'" *Enzed Junior*, 22 January 1938, 162.

¹² Cowan, "The Wonderful Brigantine," *Enzed Junior*, 27 May 1939, 306.

¹³ Lockerbie, *Deeds of Daring in New Zealand* (Dunedin: A.H. & A.W. Reed, 1937).

¹⁴ See Betty Gilderdale, "Children's Literature," in *The Oxford History of New Zealand Literature in English*, ed. Terry Sturm, 2nd ed. (Auckland: Oxford University Press, 1998), 535-37.

¹⁵ Cowan, "Winged Explorers of Papua," *Enzed Junior*, 14 January 1939, 154. (Continued in the following three issues.)

¹⁶ Cowan, "The New Zealand Cross—A Reward for Deeds of Valour," *Enzed Junior*, 13 February 1937, 194; "The Perfect Warrior: Heroic Figure from Taranaki," *Enzed Junior*, 14 December 1940, 330; "The Battle of the Gate Pa—The Repulse of the British Storming Party," *Enzed Junior*, 9 January 1937, 154; "The Battle of Hairini—Maoris' Brave Fight for their

Land,” *Enzed Junior*, 19 December 1936, 123; and “The Rock of Courage: A Tradition of the Waikato River,” *Enzed Junior*, 23 October 1937, 58.

¹⁷ Cowan, “The Battle of Orakau,” *Enzed Junior*, 2 January 1937, 146, 149.

¹⁸ David Colquhoun, “James Cowan,” in *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, Vol. III, 1901-1920*, (Auckland: Auckland University Press : Dept. of Internal Affairs, 1996) 120; Chris Hilliard, *The Cookmen's Dominion: Cultural Life in New Zealand, 1920-1950*, (Auckland: Auckland University Press, 2006), 70.

¹⁹ Cowan, “Ruapekapeka Pa: Famous Maori Hill Fortress,” *Enzed Junior*, 2 September 1939, 418.

²⁰ Cowan, “The Primitive Maori: Tamaikowha: A Survival,” *Enzed Junior*, 10 December 1938, 106.

²¹ Cowan, “Fort Builders of Yesterday,” *Enzed Junior*, 17 February 1940, 158.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ Cowan, “Taranaki’s First War,” *Enzed Junior*, 24 October 1936, 63.

²⁴ Cowan, “The Battle of the Gate Pa,” *Enzed Junior*, 9 January 1937, 154.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ Cowan, “Sir George Grey and the Maoris,” *Enzed Junior*, 2 October 1937, 34.

²⁷ Cowan, “East Coast Settlement—The Pioneers of Hawke’s Bay—Sir Donald Maclean, ‘The Great Maori Mystery Man,’” *Enzed Junior*, 3 October 1936, 34, 37.

²⁸ *Maori Bush*, 272-87.

²⁹ Cowan, “A Race with the Tea Clippers,” *Enzed Junior*, 4 November 1939, 50.

³⁰ Cowan, “A Maori General—Te Kooti,” *Enzed Junior*, 20 February 1937, 202. See also issues of 27 February, and 6 and 13 March for the subsequent articles on Te Kooti; and “Te Kooti—The Rebel Chief,” *Enzed Junior*, 27 November 1937, 98.

³¹ Cowan, “The Two War Chiefs of Rotoiti: A Tale of Maori Manners,” *Enzed Junior*, 20 April 1940, 194.

³² Cowan, “Maori Tapu Interests the Pakeha: Mountain Tradition,” *Enzed Junior*, 22 Feb 1941, 370.

³³ Cowan, “The Urewera Country,” *Enzed Junior*, 13 March 1937, 226.

³⁴ Peter Gibbons, “Non-fiction,” in *The Oxford History of New Zealand Literature in English*, 63.

³⁵ Cowan, “The Watch on the Frontier—The Military Roadmakers,” *Enzed Junior*, 10 April 1937, 258.

³⁶ Cowan, “The Story of a Maori Sailor and the One-sided Land Bargain at Akaroa,” *Enzed Junior*, 23 November 1940, 318.

³⁷ Cowan, “On the History Trail,” *Enzed Junior*, 11 June 1938, 322.

³⁸ Cowan, “Maori Tapu Interests the Pakeha: Mountain Traditions,” *Enzed Junior*, 22 February 1941, 370.

³⁹ Cowan, “Rapaki by the Sea: The Maori Church and the Lacebark Tree,” *Enzed Junior*, 25 February 1939, 202.

⁴⁰ Cowan, “Horses and Riders: The Pleasure of the Saddle,” *Enzed Junior*, 18 June 1938, 330.

⁴¹ Cowan, “Spring Voices and Memories: Old Ways by Bush and Lake,” *Enzed Junior*, 24 August 1940, 266.

⁴² Cowan, “The Treaty of Waitangi,” *Enzed Junior*, 30 May 1936, 317.

⁴³ Cowan, “The Founding of Wellington: Coming of the First Settlers,” *Enzed Junior*, 25 July 1936, 381.

⁴⁴ See also *Enzed Junior* articles for 3 July 1937, 23 July 1938, 18 March 1939 and 15 April 1939 for references to the Centennial.

⁴⁵ Cowan, “River Warfare in New Zealand: Tales of Excitement in the Waikato,” *Enzed Junior*, 25 September 1937, 26.

⁴⁶ Illustrations for “Stories of New Zealand,” *Enzed Junior*, 10 April 1937, 258; 14 August 1937, 402; 3 September 1938; 418; 1 April 1939, 242.

⁴⁷ “Notice,” *Enzed Junior*, 20 January 1940, 137.

⁴⁸ “Editorial—And So Au Revoir,” *Enzed Junior*, 31 May 1941, 427.

⁴⁹ Cowan, “The Legend of Cave Rock,” *Enzed Junior*, 29 April 1939, 274.