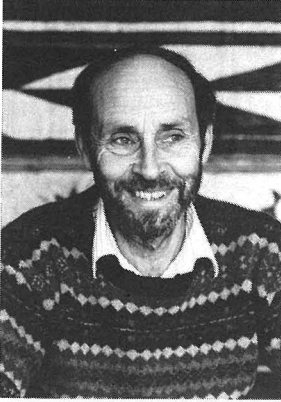


# Stout Centre forum

## Allan Thomas Stout Centre Director 1995-97



ALLAN THOMAS placed the stamp of his most agreeable personality on the life of the Stout during his two-and-a-half-years as Director. He successfully combined his teaching duties in the School of Music with those of the Centre. Residents found him endlessly helpful and supportive and he added new dimensions to interdisciplinary studies in New Zealand society, history and culture.

Among the highlights of his term were the conferences on the Christchurch International Exhibition 1906-7, the Centenary of Film in New Zealand (with the New Zealand Film Archive), Sir Keith Holyoake (with the Association of Former Members of Parliament), and seminars by Michael Jackson, Judith Binney, Rolf Brednich, Brigitte Brednich, Michael King and Allan himself.

The Stout journal, renamed *New Zealand Studies*, took on a new life, the *Stout Newsletter* was re-instated, and a new venture – the ‘Seminar on Wheels’, a guided tour of the history and ecology of the Wairarapa – was enjoyable indeed and opened up interesting possibilities for the future.

*Bill Renwick, Convener, Stout Centre Advisory Board*

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## From the new Director

THE STOUT RESEARCH CENTRE by now has a deserved reputation among those interested in the study of New Zealand culture over a broad range of aspects. A new Director consequently takes up two challenges in particular. One is to continue that reputation, through the series of weekly seminars throughout much of the year, through its conferences and occasional publications, and of course through the Journal itself. The annual choice of the Centre’s Research Fellow continues to offer what is one of the most prestigious research opportunities in the country, and the list of major scholarly and popular works that have derived from the Fellowships is among Victoria University’s notable achievements.

The other challenge to a Director is to guide the Centre into new territorial waters. At least two distinct plans come to mind. One is to resume large weekend conferences. The first, planned for 1998, is on ‘Sport in New Zealand culture’; the second, as the Stout Centre’s principal millennial event, a conference of the Pacific over the past hundred years, which would cover politics, international relations and the arts. Another intention is to begin a new publication, which will be a journal of historical, literary and lexicographical discussion, along the lines of the British *Notes and Queries*. There are longer term hopes as well, but for the moment, these seem the ones to emphasise.

The success of the Centre depends, finally, on the proven energy and commitment of its constantly changing list of resident scholars and writers, and no less on your own role as readers of the journal, your attendance at its various events, and your continued support. Please think of the Stout Research Centre as *yours*. Need I say, any suggestions you might have for extending its activities or interests, and any assistance you feel able to bring to it (even financially!), will be significant contributions to its importance in the university’s and the country’s intellectual life.

*Vincent O’Sullivan, Director, Stout Research Centre*

