

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

ANNA GREEN

We begin this issue with the text of the W.H. Oliver lecture, given in Wellington by Emeritus Professor Lydia Wevers on 7 November 2017. Lydia recently retired as the Director of the Stout Centre at Victoria University and during this time she played leading international and national roles as both a literary historian and advocate for the Humanities. Her lecture focuses upon colonial Pākehā and the community of Dickens readers in New Zealand, demonstrating the scholarly insights that emerge from literary approaches to historical understanding.

The Native hostelrys built in the major centres during the nineteenth-century, to provide somewhere for Māori to stay when visiting to trade fresh produce or buy material goods, are the subject of the following article by the noted urban and housing historian Ben Schrader. Schrader concludes that despite racist and conflicted European settler perspectives about the place of Māori in colonial towns and cities, the native hostelrys enabled Māori to exercise some levels of agency as they negotiated colonial urban spaces. From a different vantage point, Minette Hillyer explores the ways in which an early Australian-New Zealand film, 'The Adventures of Algy', appropriated indigenous Māori dance in a settler colonial narrative.

The next two articles investigate aspects of economic and labour history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In 'Prosaic Realities of the Work Time Dream', Jon Henning challenges aspects of the popular historical origin story about the carpenter Samuel Parnell and the eight-hour working day in New Zealand. Henning argues that rather than commemorating a stand by a self-employed contractor in 1840, we should recognize the collective struggle by the labour movement over the course of the century to apply the eight-hour day in a wide range of highly contested industrial environments. Shifting to the twentieth-century and the rural context, David Hall scrutinizes the effectiveness of the New Zealand Meat Producer Board, first established in 1922, to control the export of meat and achieve the highest returns for farmers.

The final article, first presented at the 2016 Stout Centre conference 'The New Zealand Polymath: Colenso and his contemporaries', explores the life and work of W.W. Smith (1852-1942), a largely neglected 'field naturalist' whose assiduous collection of specimens and observations, Michael Roche argues, merit greater recognition of his contribution in the history of New Zealand ecology and botany. We conclude in the Reflections section with a report, by Peter Clayworth, on the 2017 conference jointly organized by the Stout Centre and the Labour History Project, in association with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand, on 'Dissent and the First World War'.

Forthcoming issues:

In June 2018 we will publish a special issue on 'Raymond Williams in the Pacific', edited by Dr Dougal McNeill, School of English, Film, Theatre, and Media Studies at Victoria University of Wellington.

The December 2018 issue of the journal is now open for submissions on any topic. The deadline is 29 June 2018, and submissions should be made through the online system. This issue of the journal will be edited by Professor Richard Hill, The Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies, Victoria University of Wellington.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Lydia Wevers for her contribution to *The Journal of New Zealand Studies* over many years, during which she both edited the journal and provided invaluable continuing support as a member of the editorial team. Secondly, our book review editor, Dr Cybele Locke, is stepping down after this issue. We would also like to thank Cybele for her contribution to the journal over the past three years. The new book review editor will be Dr Dougal McNeill and we welcome him to the editorial team.