

Introductory Note

This, the first issue of the *Journal of New Zealand Studies*, is in fact the most recent manifestation of a Stout Research Centre publication of established lineage. Commencing life in A4 magazine-type format in October 1990, the *Stout Centre Review*, successor to a more modest earlier newsletter, was seen by the then Centre Director Jim Collinge as providing a vehicle for the dissemination of ‘shortened versions of papers given at seminars, interviews with researchers, and accounts of conferences’. Over the next few years, under the able and lively editorship of John Mansfield Thomson, the *Review* grew in size and sophistication, evolving by 1995 into a handsome new publication *New Zealand Studies*. Though still in magazine format, and with the staple content continuing to be articles and papers by Stout Centre residents, or papers delivered at Centre conferences and seminars, *New Zealand Studies* soon secured a wide readership, both in New Zealand and overseas. Publication was suspended, however, following John Thomson’s death in 1999, it proving difficult to find a replacement editor of appropriate background and with the necessary range of skills.

When I was appointed Director of the Stout Research Centre in 2001, the question of a flagship Centre publication was revisited in discussions with Dr Brad Patterson, who eventually agreed to re-launch *New Zealand Studies*. We both felt that the time had come to transform what has been essentially a ‘house journal’ into a peer-reviewed, cross-disciplinary, scholarly publication. To facilitate this objective, an Editorial Advisory Board, representing many disciplines and geographically spread, was appointed. Two years, lots of emails and many edited drafts later, the *Journal of New Zealand Studies* finally enters a new phase in its life cycle. I am grateful to all who have assisted with the rebirth, but most especially to Brad Patterson who, despite other commitments, undertook to produce the first issue, and has laboured on in the face of a number of unexpected complications, to members of the Advisory Board who have offered advice, to the necessarily anonymous referees of papers, and to the contributors without whom there would be no *Journal of New Zealand Studies*.

In the short term, the *Journal* will appear annually, but the intention is to develop it into a bi-annual publication. The present issue is print-only, but the possibility of dual electronic publication is to be investigated, as

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well as the feasibility of maintaining an electronic archive. The ultimate aim is a high quality journal, one which will be recognised as a primary outlet for New Zealand-focused research in the humanities and the social sciences, a forum for local researchers and also for scholars from beyond this country's shores with New Zealand interests.

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