Editor’s Introduction

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In the 2021 June issue of the Journal (NS 33), Anna Green announced that it was to be her final issue as editor, a role she took up in 2013. The December issue last year was a Special Issue with a particular focus on Pacific Research in Aotearoa, so it is appropriate to begin this open issue with an acknowledgement of Anna’s exceptional work as editor of what is the most significant journal of New Zealand studies. Only those who have themselves edited a journal over any length of time fully appreciate the challenges of the task—the more so when it evolves from a print journal to one that is wholly online. Anna’s stewardship of the Journal through that time has been exemplary, and that it remains a strong and vibrant home for the publication of research in New Zealand studies is its own tribute to her energy and her scholarly care for the field. Readers of the Journal are very much in her debt.

It is equally appropriate, as this issue is released, to acknowledge the former Director of the Stout Centre, and former editor of the JNZS, the late Professor Lydia Wevers. Readers of this journal will be only too acutely aware of Lydia’s death in September of last year—in the midst of pandemic-related restrictions on meeting and gathering that severely constrained any public farewell. Her extraordinary contribution to New Zealand scholarship and her role as a pre-eminent public intellectual were noted in the many obituary notices that followed her death. This brief note is not intended to repeat those notices, but rather to record the extremely generous scholarship that has been established in her name for any postgraduate student undertaking research in New Zealand Studies. While the student will be supervised by academics from within their own discipline, they will have an intellectual and physical home at the Stout—the Centre of which Lydia was Director for close to twenty years.

The very varied contents of this issue have the kind of eclectic mix that is so characteristic of New Zealand studies, and that gives it no small part of its appeal. Edgar Burns uses the lens of cultural traffic to explore the development of the veterinary profession in New Zealand from the 1880s until the establishment of the first Veterinary Faculty at Massey University in 1964; Barbara Stone turns to New Zealand newspapers to gather evidence of the antipodean Francophobia that emerged in the context of the attempted annexation of the New Hebrides and the Dreyfus Affair; Alex Trapeznik surveys the literature that deals with the phenomenon of ‘house museums’ before turning his attention to the historic Dunedin house, ‘Olveston’, and the role of domestic servants in the household; Matthew Bannister provides a longitudinal study of local television advertising over the last twenty years to chart changes in the representation of Māori/Pasifika masculinities; and Clare Gleeson investigates the horticultural societies that flourished in various Wellington suburbs in the first half of the twentieth century, looking at their establishment and growth, and their eventual demise.

Following these articles, the Journal reproduces discussion papers from a panel discussion that reflected on Brian Easton’s major publication of 2020, Not in Narrow Seas: the Economic History of Aotearoa New Zealand. The Stout Centre organized a symposium of distinguished speakers to reflect on issues raised in Brian’s book—discussants were Brian himself, Margaret Galt, Geoff Bertram, and Alan Bollard. There papers are reproduced here.
The second issue for 2022 will appear at the end of the year as usual. This is another Special Issue, with guest editors Lachy Paterson and Paerau Warbrick from the University of Otago. The subject for the Special Issue is conveyed through its title—He Tuhinga Tuku Iho: Texts, Contexts, Resonances.