

Editorial Introduction

THE *NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF HISTORY* is in its 37th year of publication. In that time it has had only three editors, Keith Sinclair, Keith Sorrenson and Judith Binney, assisted by a small group of associate and guest editors, a panel of editorial advisors and a pool of referees participating in the process of anonymous peer review. Keith Sinclair retired from the editorship in 1986, leaving Keith Sorrenson and Judith Binney as joint editors until 1996. Since 1996 Judith Binney has been the *Journal's* principal editor, shouldering the bulk of its workload with style and editorial finesse. The capstone of her editorship was the 2001 publication of *The Shaping of History: Essays from the New Zealand Journal of History, 1967–1999*, a selection of influential articles that testify to the range and depth of the *Journal* and its editor's engagement with New Zealand history. Following the publication of *The Shaping of History* the structure of the *Journal's* editorship was modified in order to better spread the burden. Judith has not retired. We could not let her go so easily. She joins the other associate editors in a renamed collective editorial board, from which editors for each issue will be drawn. In an act of editorial oversight (which if anything testifies to how dependent we had become on her eagle eye for detail), her name was omitted from the editorial board listing in the last issue. It seems fitting that this issue should open with an acknowledgement of her many years — decades in fact — of dedicated service to New Zealand history in general, and to this periodical in particular.

It is also fitting that we open with more general thanks to those who contribute to the maintenance of what has become a New Zealand historical institution. We are dependent on the historical community in a myriad of ways; for readership, subscriptions, advertising, book reviews, expert advice on the content of substantive articles and for the articles themselves. We do not, and cannot, pay our contributors but we do appreciate the effort it takes to prepare research to publication standard, participate in scholarly debate, referee articles, and review books. In his final editorial, Keith Sinclair referred to the NZJH as a 'kiwi roll-your-own journal' because of its dependence on unpaid workers; it remains an unpaid collective endeavour, though perhaps in the non-smoking 1990s we succeeded in upgrading ourselves to a bracing cuppa (if not a double-shot latte).

In this issue we trial a new feature (a Noticeboard) and return to a past habit (Notes). We hope you will send items for future noticeboards to the *Journal's* business manager, and that those involved in new projects will follow Jock Phillips's lead and discuss the intellectual challenges they present. While the *Journal* will always provide a home for substantial, innovative articles on important aspects of our past, such as Arthur Ray's comparative examination of aboriginal title and treaty rights research and Robert Grant's discussion of Ernst Dieffenbach's racial and environmental thought, this issue also contains three pieces that examine and challenge particular aspects of our historical writing. In a modified version of his 2001 Sinclair lecture Peter Gibbons enjoins us to think about alternatives to the national stories and boundaries within which we

have inscribed New Zealand's past. Kerry Howe also critiques New Zealand history-writing's insularity, and charts the different course of Pacific history. In 'Reconnaissance: Twentieth-Century New Zealand War History at Century's Turn', Deborah Montgomerie enters the debate about the relationship between military history and New Zealand social and cultural history. All three are sure to generate debate. We hope they will also spur others to write about the state of New Zealand historiography. In the mid-1960s, when the idea of a New Zealand journal of history was first discussed, there was concern that there was not enough history written in, or about, New Zealand to warrant a journal. The volumes of the NZJH now fill a sizable bookshelf, evidence of the maturity of the field and its readiness for critical self-examination.

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