



## Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies



# Newsletter

May 2024

### Update from Director

Tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter. This newsletter, more so than any other before, has many sad as well as bright parts to it. While we are reporting on so many initiatives, successes and past and future events, we are also grieving for colleagues who have passed away since the last newsletter in December 2023. Please read the obituaries and remember the wonderful fellow scholars who resided at the Stout Research Centre for long periods, doing amazing work as researchers in New Zealand Studies, as leaders in their disciplinary fields, and as contributors to the wider community, both national and international.

At the same time, we are fortunate to be currently hosting at the Stout a number of emerging scholars doing cutting-edge research, young people from around the world who enliven hallway and lunchtime discussions with their ideas, and engage with their new friends from around the university.

The Stout Centre's year of events themed around 'Poverty in Aotearoa New Zealand' held at the Te Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery, has got off to a great start with high-quality presentations, thus continuing the collaboration we started last year with that institution. The next seminar series (from 24 July), and our upcoming conference on poverty (21-23 November), will be held on the university's Pipitea Campus, further spreading our wings.

Our 2024 JD Stout Fellow, Rebecca Macfie, has settled in and is contributing greatly to these significant events. Dr Awhina Tamarapa, our postdoctoral scholar in Museum and Heritage Studies, has just returned from overseas and is producing fascinating research reports.

We are very glad to be able to announce a new team of editors for the *Journal of New Zealand Studies*, with Prof. Jim McAloon and Dr Steven Loveridge having agreed to a request by the editorial committee to continue the work of Prof. Peter Whiteford and Dr. Dougal McNeill as Editor and Review Editor respectively. The next issue in June/July will be a very rewarding read. <https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/jnzs>

It is an exciting time at the Stout Centre with so many visiting and new resident scholars and researchers making for lively discussions It is a joy to work here. Thank you, all of you.

I know I will see many of our friends, residents and visitors at our seminars and conferences, and on other occasions on campus.

Take care  
Brigitte

## JD Stout Fellow 2024

Our new Fellow, Rebecca Macfie, arrived in March. Her research will focus on the capacity of grassroots and community organisations to disrupt the harms of poverty by bringing a whānau-centred and strengths-based approach to bear on the systemic drivers of deprivation (including housing, precarious work, racism and intergenerational trauma). The Stout Fellowship will allow Rebecca to expand on an existing body of work, published in *The Listener* this year as a series titled 'Hardship & Hope', which shines a light on the skill and innovation in local communities determined to remove the structural barriers to wellbeing for their tamariki. Rebecca joined the Centre on 1 March 2024.



Morning Tea to welcome Rebecca Macfie, JD Stout Fellow 2024.

## Research Update - Adjuncts

### Emeritus Professor Richard Hill

Richard continues his research collaboration with Steven Loveridge on their next volume of security intelligence history. Among the more unusual citations for their first volume, *Secret History* (published last year by Auckland University Press), is one in *Delayed Gratification*, Issue 23 (Spring 2024) of the UK's *Slow Journalism Magazine*, in a piece called 'The butterfly effect: How a vivid dream in the 1800s led to the Beatles releasing a record-breaking chart topper in 2023'.

Congratulations to Richard's PhD candidate Margaret Kawharu, who successfully defended her thesis ('The Unsettledness of Treaty Settlements: Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara - a case study') in April. Margaret's research was both ground-breaking and interdisciplinary, and her secondary supervisor was Jeff Sissons from the Anthropology Programme. She will graduate later in the year on Te Herenga Waka Marae.

Sadly, Richard has received news that his former PhD student Kura Taylor/Teira (Te Atiawa), who graduated well into her 80s, has died in her home town of New Plymouth. Kura's thesis centred on an ethnography of her career in the educational sphere, one whose success reflected a life of negotiating between Māori and Pakeha worlds. The irrepressible Kura worked hard to secure human rights, speaking truth to power on rural and urban marae, board rooms and common rooms; she was equally at home in her tribal trust in Waikanae (which she was still chairing late in life), union and public sector headquarters in Wellington, or lobbying businesses in Auckland or the United Nations in Geneva. As her original supervisor, Emeritus Prof Kay Morris Matthews (formerly of Women's and Gender Studies at Victoria University) recalled, 'she was such a bright, vibrant character - a one-off!' She will be very much missed.

### Adjunct Professor Anna Green

Over the past month I have been working on the copyediting revisions for a forthcoming oral history anthology edited by Megan Hutching and myself. The book will be published by Otago University Press in November. I continue as president of the National Oral History Association of New Zealand | Te Kete Kōrero-a-Waha o Te Motu and have been working with a small committee on the Privacy Act 2020, formulating practical guidelines for members. In May I will be giving a seminar in the SRC series 'Re-reading Works on Poverty in New Zealand', focusing upon the seminal work in oral history by Tony Simpson, *The Sugarbag Years*, first published in 1974. Meanwhile I continue to work on a book about family memory among the descendants of nineteenth-century European settlers, review journal articles in the field of memory studies and oral history, and supervise Dean Broughton's doctoral thesis.



A delicious Simnel Cake, made by Anna, for morning tea to celebrate Easter.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simnel\\_cake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simnel_cake)

### **Kathryn Patterson**

An extended version of the paper Kathryn presented at the 2019 ISAANZ conference in Adelaide has been published in a collection of the papers from that conference. Published 2024 by Wakefield Press and entitled *Irish women in the Antipodes: foregrounded*, Kathryn's paper, "Strangers in a strange place: Irish soldiers' wives in nineteenth century New Zealand", looks at the lot of the wives of Irish soldiers who took their discharge in New Zealand following the New Zealand Wars. It is the only New Zealand contribution to this compilation. On 25 May Kathryn will be speaking to this paper/article at the Johnsonville genealogists training day.

### **Steven Loveridge**

In February Steven was featured on a podcast produced by journalist Claudia Taranto which investigated New Zealander Miranda Jakich's story of how her personal and family history were impacted by Cold War era security practices. *Secrets and Lies | My year behind the Iron Curtain* is available at <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/the-history-listen/iron-curtain-hand-hospital-operation-yugoslavia-secrets-lies/103361862>. In April Steven's research into the shifting conceptions of America and Japan towards and through the Pacific War in New Zealand was published as a chapter within the recently released anthology collection *Heavy and Continuous Sacrifices: New Zealand, Her Allies and the Second World War*. He is currently researching and writing a report into the NZDF's deployments over recent decades to be used as part of the Wai 2500 Military Veterans Kaupapa Inquiry. He is also writing, in conjunction with Richard Hill, the second volume of a history of state surveillance in New Zealand which will follow on from the recently launched *Secret History* and cover the period from 1956-2001. In June he and Richard are drawing from their experiences of researching security intelligence for two speaking events, in association with the U3A and the Friends of the Turnbull Library. The latter event is open to the public will be held on 11 June at 5.30pm. It offers a series of vignettes of the secret history of several sites around Wellington.

### **Brad Patterson**

Still working on a reconsideration of Wellington politics in the first 15 colonising years, part of his wider study of colonial political economy, Brad is also exploring the possibility of an edited volume of his writings on archives and records management issues since the formation of the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand in 1976. In December he presented a well received paper in Melbourne to the 26<sup>th</sup> conference of the Irish Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand on the comparative human and financial costs of the Dublin Rising of 1916 and a mutiny of Indian soldiers in Singapore in the previous year. In December and January he acted as historical adviser to New York company McGee Media, producer of genealogical TV series *Finding Your Roots*, in respect of episodes on 19<sup>th</sup> century Irish migration to this country. Refereeing of articles for New Zealand and overseas scholarly journals has continued

### **Jacqui Leckie**

2024 is a busy year for Adjunct Research Fellow Jacqueline Leckie. She has been awarded a Friends of the Turnbull Library grant to research a history, in collaboration with the Wellington Indian Association, "Beyond a Century: Imagining Indians in the Capital." Jacqui's lifetime work with Kiwi-Indian history was acknowledged at the New Zealand Indian Central Association's gala evening on 13 April 2024 when she was awarded honorary membership "in recognition for the continued support, guidance and fellowship to the New Zealand Indian community." Jacqui also gave the keynote address, "History Matters! Reflections on the Indian Diaspora" for their 96<sup>th</sup> AGM. Jacqui's inaugural Brij Lal memorial lecture, "Belonging, and Banishment from and in the Sea of Islands" is now freely available to download at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00223344.2024.2326270> Jacqui's book, *Old Dark Cloud. A Cultural History of Mental Depression in Aotearoa* (Massey University Press) will be launched at Unity Books on 12 June 2024. You are warmly invited but please contact Jacqui for an invitation. For more details of the book see <https://www.masseypress.ac.nz/books/old-black-cloud>

## Barbara Einhorn

Adjunct Professor Barbara Einhorn is continuing work on her research project entitled ‘Transnational Identity under Observation’, described in the December 2023 Newsletter. This takes the border-crossing fates of the Einhorn family across four generations and multiple countries as a case study for the way that transnational identity tends to come under scrutiny by the security services in dictatorships and democracies alike.

Barbara’s research application to the Stasi (East German state security) Archives has been accepted, and assigned to an archivist, marked urgent. Barbara will undertake a research trip in August-September 2024. First destination is the town of Grybow in Poland, from where members of the family fled to the US and Germany in the early 1900s. There she will attend the annual commemoration of the liquidation of the local ghetto, the forced march to Biala Nizna, and the mass murder there of 360 Jewish inhabitants of the town. Next stop are other sites in southeast Poland, and finally POLIN, the Museum of Jewish History in Warsaw. In Berlin she will work in various archives and visit Sachsenhausen concentration camp where her grandfather Hermann Einhorn was briefly imprisoned in 1939, before his deportation and murder near Riga in August 1942.



Great-grandfather Abraham Einhorn’s gravestone saved from a falling tree, Grybow 2023



Commemorating the massacre, Grybow, Poland, August 2023

## Current Visiting Scholars

### Nicola Saker

Nicola gained her M.A. from Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington. Katherine Mansfield has been the focus for much of Nicola's research including her thesis "The Performative Katherine Mansfield". Most recently, she edited the books "Woman in Love: The Love Letters of Katherine Mansfield" (2021) and "The Katherine Mansfield Cookbook" (2018). She has presented papers to Katherine Mansfield Society conferences: "Behind the Mask", (Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka (2014), "Bookends: The beginning and end of Mansfield's Life", Sorbonne Nouvelle (2014) and "A Performer in the pure air of Bloomsbury" Newberry Library (2015). Food and food history is another area of Nicola's research.

In 2022 "North and South" magazine published her article "The Forever Files" which detailed the state surveillance of her father and many of his friends in the 1940s and 1950s, two of whom were made to resign from their diplomatic careers in what was then the Department of External Affairs, now MFAT. The research involved in "The Forever Files" developed an interest in General Freyberg's intelligence unit in WW2 as one of the men who resigned, Doug Lake, was part of the corps. General Freyberg, who trained as a dentist and didn't cultivate an intellectual dimension, surrounded himself with men of exceptionally high intellectual capacity both in his intelligence unit and his wider group: Dan Davin, Paddy Costello, Geoffrey Cox, John White and Doug Lake to name some of them. These men have been written about in an atomised way, as part of a larger theme such as in "Dance of the Peacocks" (James McNeish), or in biographies of them as individuals, or in works regarding General Freyberg himself. The project would initially seek to analyse the diversity represented within the group and the military leadership that engendered its cohesion and supported that diversity. Other themes could well emerge during the process. Nicola will be with the Stout until the end of the year.

### Lynn Harbottle

Lynn Harbottle from the University of Sheffield joined the Stout in November 2023 and returned to the UK in April. Lynn has been largely engaged in clinical nutrition and dietetics since the late nineties. During her time here, she will be assisting with setting up the Association for Critical Food Studies Aotearoa New Zealand, along with other research.

### Renate Schewald

Food practices such as cooking, shopping, and waste disposal, are intricately shaped by the social, institutional, and material structures that underpin our daily lives. This research constitutes a thorough examination of the connection between humans and food, the 'community' that grows and uses food as sustenance, and the impact of our food practices on the natural environment. The research uses the value of Mauri as described in the Hua Parakore framework, to deepen the understanding of how food practices are shaped through interconnections, engaging more productively with the more-than-human through a decolonial research design. Using visual ethnographic methods, this project allows for a multifaceted portrayal of the foodscape of Poneke while documenting and analyze local food practices, but it also aims to contribute to a dialogue that fosters cross-cultural understanding and lays the foundation for more inclusive and globally applicable sustainability strategies.

Renate is a PhD researcher in visual anthropologist at Te Waka Herenga Victoria University/Erasmus University.

### Fine Brendtner

Fine Brendtner is a PhD fellow in environmental anthropology at Aarhus University, Denmark, with a background in science, technology and society studies, as well as in visual anthropology. She is further affiliated with the CEH – Centre for Environmental Humanities at Aarhus University. Her work centers around critical ocean studies, marine scientific imaginaries and biosocial relations of climate change. For her PhD, Fine studies the anthropogenic drivers of ocean acidification and its effects on local aquaculture and marine care practices. She further investigates experimental scientific setups that grapple with the challenge of recording a largely ineffable biogeochemical change at sea and posits the importance of understanding anthropogenic global change via its effects on marine animals.

During her time in Aotearoa New Zealand, Fine researches offshore pH monitoring sites alongside NIWA and DOC staff. Her work expands on these sites' social and cultural significance for coastal communities and documents local knowledge on environmental change. A particular focus lies in the role of shellfish threatened from ocean acidification (such as paua, oysters and mussels) and their role as climate change sentinels. Fine is a visiting scholar with the Stout Research Center for New Zealand Studies, where her research will be supported from February to June 2024.



Fine on the Akaroa Field Trip

### **Violet Blue**

Violet Blue is a six-time Independent Publisher Book Award ("IPPY") winning investigative journalist on cybersecurity, Covid-19, privacy, and human rights, having bylined for outlets including O The Oprah Magazine, Engadget, Financial Times, CNN, CBS News, San Francisco Chronicle, Popular Science, Yahoo News, and many others. Violet's books have sold over 2.2 million copies and have been translated into French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Russian. Her most notable book appearance was on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Ms. Blue's most notable charity contribution was donation of over 200,000 sales of *The Smart Girl's Guide to Privacy* to Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders, the International Rescue Committee, and the American Civil Liberties Union, raising £3.7m for migrant charities. Guardian UK called Ms. Blue, "One of the leading figures in tech writing in the world." She is a member of the Internet Press Guild, The Authors Guild, The New Zealand Society of Authors, the International Federation of Journalists, PEN, the World Health Network, and Advisor to online legal privacy resource Without My Consent.

Her new book *A Fish Has No Word For Water* won 2023 Independent Publisher Book Awards GOLD and has been selected as National Indie Book Awards 2023 Finalist. KIRKUS called it "Gripping." BookLife/Publisher's Weekly describes it as a "Superb memoir" with "Sharp dialogue, incisive observations, and polished prose." Blue's book on personal digital privacy and security, *The Smart Girl's Guide to Privacy*, was praised by ELLE Magazine as, "An illuminating handbook for women." Ingram Collection Development Librarian Becky Walton wrote, "Highly recommended for public and school libraries, as well as social science and technology classes." Violet has presented two Google Tech Talks, she is a crisis counselor, a harm reduction educator and a media crisis NGO trainer. Ms. Blue's father was a nuclear engineer and mother was a defense engineer for the US government. Blue is the only surviving member of her family and grew up homeless on the streets of San Francisco.

Violet has joined the Stout Research Centre as a long-term visiting scholar position to undertake research on her next book.

## Seminars and Conference 2024

### Re-reading Works on Poverty in Aotearoa New Zealand

In this seminar series we set out to take a fresh look at some major New Zealand works on poverty. 'Re-reading' books, plays, novels, songs and academic analysis across the 20<sup>th</sup> century will help us to understand the historic trajectories of poverty in our country, and evaluate our current situation of inequality, low wage economy, beneficiary shaming, gendered poverty and the long-lasting effects of colonisation. The seminars will run from 24 April until 29 May at Te Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery, Kelburn.

This first series is part of a whole series of events on inequality and poverty the Stout Research Centre is planning for 2024.

The seminars were held in collaboration with Te Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery and covered:

- *Poverty and Progress in New Zealand*: thoughts on WB Sutch's work in historical and intellectual context. Malcolm McKinnon
- Revisiting "The Folk Culture of the Dispossessed". Michael Brown
- Washday. Reframing the Narrative through cinema. Film by Kath Akuhata Brown.
- *Tooth and Nail*: Mary Findlay's Modernist Realism. Dougal McNeill
- 'Dare to Struggle, Dare to Sing': Protesting Poverty through Song. Cybèle Locke
- The Sugarbag Years (Tony Simpson). Anna Green
- Wednesday to come': Mana wahine and poverty in Aotearoa New Zealand Nicola Hyland.

### Poverty, by Design – Seminar Series and Conference

A second seminar series is planned from July/August - Poverty, by Design - which will be followed by a Conference on the 21-23 November at Pipitea Campus.

The seminars are planned for Wednesday at 5.30pm at Pipitea Campus 24 July to 29 August will be advertised on our website closer to the date.

Working titles and themes as below:

- Max Rashbrooke - Overview of Poverty by Design
- Charles Waldegrave - Finding our way home
- Ragne Maxwell, Porirua College & Tute Mila, Arakura School Wainuiomata - Full Bellies
- Lyndy McIntyre and Living Wage organisers - Bad jobs and better jobs
- Aaron Smale – Abuse in State Care
- Jake Lilley (FinCap) - Profiting from poverty

All upcoming, and previous events, are on our website:

<https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/stout-centre>



## Seminar

### Washday: A short Film. Reframing the Narrative through Cinema Kath Akuhata-Brown

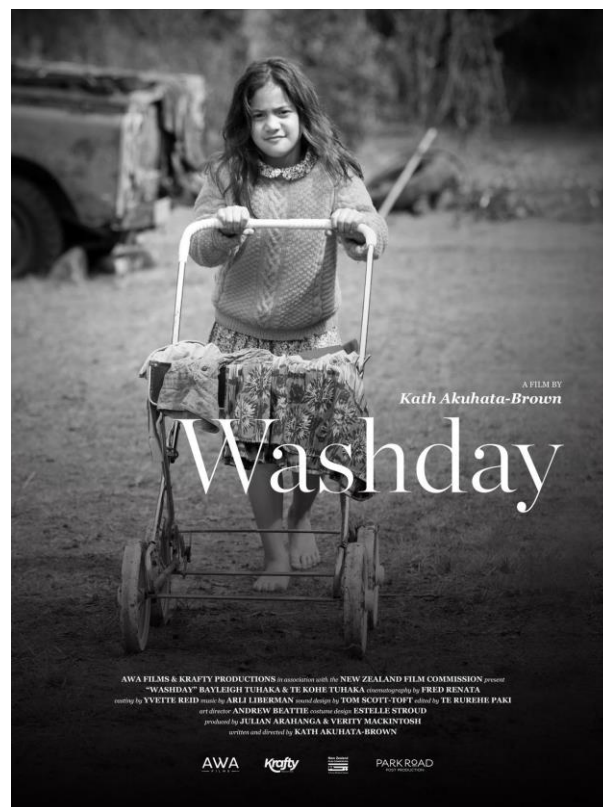
On 3 May, co-hosted with Te Kāwa a Maui, we held a talk on the film by Kath Akuhata-Brown. The film is a response to the book *Washday at the Pa* written by Ans Westra and featuring her iconic photography. When the book was published in 1964 and distributed to New Zealand schools it became the focus of Māori protest. A few months after the release of the book, and after pressure from Māori, in particular the Māori Women's Welfare League, the book was recalled. Though photographed in Ruatoria on the East Coast, the book tells the story of a day in the life of a family from Whanganui. Over the following decades much has been written and filmed about the book and the controversy.

**Washday:** *Whai turns his car into a water pump while his young daughter, Hine, becomes a force of nature. The film brings together simple rituals of daily life in a small Māori family binding them together with the land, water, air and the constant spiritual presence of our gods and ancestors.*

Mike Ross, Te Kāwa a Maui, introduced Kath, along with Julian Arahanga and Verity Macintosh, who produced the film.

#### Kath Akuhata-Brown

Ko Hikurangi te maunga, ko Waiapu te awa, Ko Ngati Porou te iwi. Ko Te Aitanga a Mate me Te Whānau a Hinerupe, Te Whanau a Tuwhakairiora ōku hapu. Kath is a writer and director. Kath is a graduate of the Binger Film School at the Amsterdam School of the Arts in the Netherlands. She has written and directed television documentaries, docudrama and drama over a career spanning 30 years. She has been a Development and Script advisor and assessor as well as a board member on various industry guilds. Her first feature film *Kōkā* is due for release in 2025.



## Infrastructure: power, politics and imagination

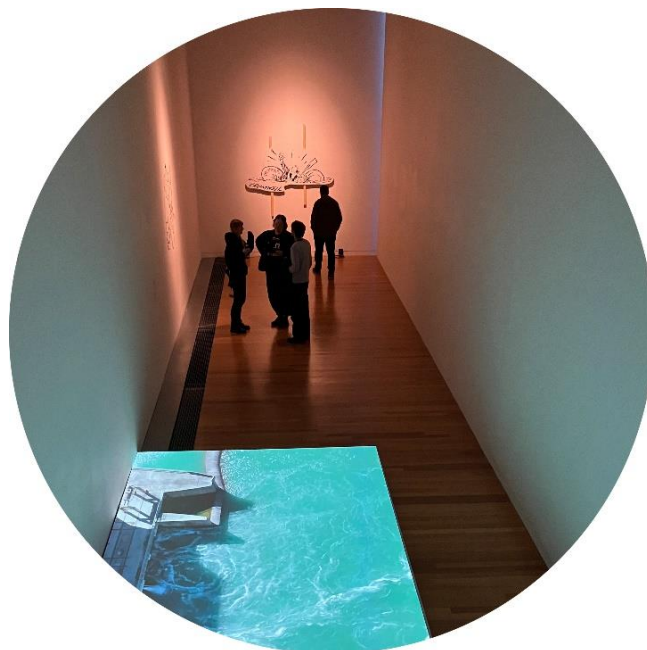
**Te Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery launched its latest exhibition to an enthusiastic crowd.**

Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, Director of the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies and Eli Elinoff Senior Lecturer in Anthropology, alongside Sophie Thorn Manutaki Acting Director of the Adam Art Gallery, opened the exhibition to an audience of more than 140 staff, students and members of the public. The exhibition brings together three discrete projects by Matthew Galloway, Doris Lusk, and Raúl Ortega Ayala, that all focus on power: both in the sense of the physical creation of energy and the political thrust behind large infrastructural projects.

Brigitte, who is also the staff-elected member of Victoria University Council, described the exhibition as a triumph, commenting on the bold and timely nature of its theme as a “coming together of art and art history in New Zealand but also politics and the power, as Matthew Galloway puts it, the power that flows through us.” This was echoed by Eli, who described the exhibition as exciting in the way it makes “visible at precisely the right time” questions and considerations about power and infrastructure.

The exhibition as a whole considers environmental questions, and is mindful of people, both those in power who get to make decisions and those whose lives are changed by their actions. It has an immersive quality with its large-scale moving image projections and blown-up sculptural cartoons. As Sophie says, “In playing off the unique architecture that makes up the Adam Art Gallery, these exhibitions call attention to the not-so-distant past to help us think about where we are heading.” Adding that, “I hope what we have really done here is to open a conversation.

In addition, the Stout Research Centre for NZ Studies will present a seminar series *Re-Reading Works on Poverty in Aotearoa New Zealand* across six weeks. Brigitte praised the Gallery’s collaborative approach describing the connections being made as “breaking down silos in the university and making us think of unlikely and very likely connections which we never dare to make.” These two series are a small part of the broader public programme, which also includes panel discussions with the artists, a lunchtime talk with Professor Maria Bargh about resource governance and renewable energy generation, and a discussion about cartooning with a panel including the first woman political cartoonist in the mainstream Aotearoa media Sharon Murdoch facilitated by Programme Leader in Communication Design Dylan Horrocks. For more details of upcoming events visit the [Gallery website](#).



## Ben Schrader

On 24 April many people gathered at the National Portrait Gallery to celebrate the life and achievements of Ben Schrader, who had recently died after a long illness. The New Zealand expert on the history of the built environment, Ben was the JD Stout Fellow in 2022. Redmer Yska, who was resident at the Stout Research Centre in 2021, was among those who spoke movingly at the celebration. He has kindly written some memories of Ben for us:

My friendship with Ben Schrader belonged to this century, though we first bonded over colourful histories dating from the previous one. We met, fittingly, in the millennium year 2000, at the Petone Settler's Museum out on the sea-weedy, wind-whipped foreshore of Whanganui-a-Tara, with sweeping views out to the Heads. We were both participants in a series of midwinter talks relating to the stories, Maori and European, of the flood plain that became the Hutt Valley. Ben spoke knowledgeably about the valley's urban and suburban histories, the post WW2 housing and population boom in particular. His Masters at Victoria University tackled the rise and fall of Naenae, east of the Hutt River, conceived by state planners as a 'ideal garden city' suburb. His brilliant and original analysis led to a scholarship to undertake a doctorate at Melbourne in urban history. And by the time we met, he was lecturing on this specialist subject in the History Department at Victoria.

Both presented our talks. Ben told how the Hutt became a focus of state attention, how the famed Ernest Plischke designed Naenae to house 10,000, an Eden of rambling streets, green corridors along which children could walk to school. His vision, however, as Ben noted, ended in '*dust and grit [still] blowing down unsealed streets and the site of the main shopping centre just a swampy hollow*'.

My talk addressed what might be seen as more lowbrow matters. In 1993, as Ben completed his MA, I'd published *All Shook Up, the Flash Bodgie and the Rise of the NZ Teenager in the Fifties*, looking at the Hutt through a different lens. I'd examined it as the epicentre of a sex scandal, a tear in the postwar social fabric that sparked soul-searching and a government inquiry into the morals of postwar adolescents, especially those raised in freshly-minted suburbs like Naenae by a scary phenomenon known as working mothers. At the time we met, Ben was already in my good books. Back in 1993, he'd reviewed my book in the *Evening Post*, and to my delight, had roundly praised it. We'd reached many of the same conclusions, even though *All Shook Up* had a popular rather than academic focus.

Anyway, our 21<sup>st</sup> century friendship took wing at the Settler's Museum and never stopped, a bond forged in the unlikely crucible of steamy tales and Utopian suburban visions on a windswept flood plain. With gentle Ben I, like many others, realised I was in the presence of a brilliant yet utterly humble and approachable scholar. We shared our lives, his beautiful family and mine, until his tragic death last month. Lovely, lovely man.

We also draw our readers' attention to the following link, written by Michael Kelly (with the assistance of Lis Cowey, Kay Schrader, Malcolm McKinnon and Felicity Wong).

[Article on Ben Schrader from SCOOP](#)

## Vale Vincent O'Sullivan: Stout's 5<sup>th</sup> Director.

The recent passing of Sir Vincent O'Sullivan (to most simply Vince) has understandably drawn an outflow of tributes, recognition and fond memories of an outstanding New Zealand writer, editor, anthologist, and scholar, for many arguably the country's finest all-time man of letters. Alongside there have been the recollections of an admired and engaging teacher and academic mentor, one always ready to make time for colleagues, students, even the most casual of acquaintances. His interests were wide, encompassing all facets of New Zealand culture, reaching far out beyond the learned and literary communities while still strongly functioning within them. Some of the warmest of recalls are of Vincent the person: a New Zealand-Irish man of the people; welcoming; ever ready to yarn over a beverage; devoid of side, but derisive of pomposity and pretension. While the following comments are offered on behalf of those who were privileged to work with Vincent during his time at the Stout, they must necessarily be regarded as personal. It was my good fortune, as an Honorary Senior Research Fellow, to enjoy his friendship and support in those years, establishing a rapport which continued well beyond.

For four years (1997-2000) Vincent was Director of the Stout Research Centre, at that time the 'Centre for the Study of New Zealand History, Society and Culture'. Like most institutions with a longevity extending over four decades, the Stout has experienced several incarnations, each with its own strengths and weaknesses. Whereas in recent decades, almost certainly at management fiat, the Centre has been more inwards looking, more closely aligned with other university groupings, in effect almost a staffed interdisciplinary department of New Zealand studies, in earlier years its focus was as much looking out as looking in. It was conceived and supported as a conduit between the university and the wider Wellington and national publics. It was to be essentially a meeting point between university and independent researchers, with the latter offered space and facilities to advance their work. To emphasise this mission, setting directions was entrusted to an appointed Advisory Board, its membership split between academic staff and community representatives, with an independent chair (in Vincent's years retired Director-General of Education Bill Renwick). Day-to-day leadership was the responsibility of the Director, a 0.5 limited term appointment drawn from the academic staff. In taking up the role in 1997 Vincent paid tribute to the work of his predecessors, endorsing the view that a Director's key task was to encourage and facilitate the research and writing of the Centre's ever-changing cast of residents. He nevertheless believed he had two challenges, first 'to maintain and enhance the Centre's reputation', and second to guide it 'into new territorial waters'.

Vincent was a cheerful risktaker. An early stated objective was to resume the hosting of large multi-day conferences, appealing to wide audiences, attendances having dropped off. His chosen first venture was a symposium on 'Sport, Society and Culture in New Zealand', almost certainly the first such to be organised. The theme, not inconsistent with his personal interests, was not universally popular (the Centre's resident *arbiter elegantiarum*, John Mansfield Thomson, dismissed the juxtaposition of sport and culture as 'simply monstrous') but the gathering proceeded at the National Library in October 1998, attracting around 40 papers. Over 100 sporting personalities, writers, scholars from a range of disciplines, and interested general public, mixed happily over three days, a selection of the contributions being subsequently published in a book under the Stout imprint. Almost contemporaneously, a similar publication, *Eminent Victorians: Great Teachers and Scholars to mark Victoria's First 100 Years*, the result of a series of public lectures and edited by Vincent himself, appeared. While a conference centering on New Zealand's place in the Pacific was initially mooted for 1999, for reasons now obscure this did not eventuate. Instead, in November of that year a conference on the national celebrations marking the 1940 centennial was sponsored, this too resulting in a well-received publication (this time by Victoria University Press). In 2000 the focus turned to the Irish in New Zealand, a conference in mid-July seeking to evaluate progress since the 1990 publication of Donald Akenson's *Half the World from Home*, itself the product of Akenson's tenure of the J D Stout Fellowship in 1988. Featuring distinguished keynote speakers, this too drew a large attendance, a cross-section of academics, those seeking roots, and the merely curious, with a selection of papers later published under Stout imprint (around 700 copies were sold, both in New Zealand and overseas). It is perhaps not too much to suggest that this gathering was the kickstart which led to the establishment of Victoria's Irish-Scottish Studies Programme (ISSP) in 2002, followed by Otago's Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies some years later.

Vincent's natural enthusiasm to promote Stout sourced publications was not simply confined to conference-based collections. It was also evident in his continued upgrading of *New Zealand Studies*, the popular publication - A4 format - designed to promote the Stout's interests and activities to wider than academic

audiences. Launched under John Mansfield Thomson's editorship by Jim Collinge, with the format significantly refined while Allan Thomas was Director, from 1998 further attention was devoted to design and paper quality. An additional biannual journal, *Kotare: Notes and Queries*, conceived as an outlet for brief scholarly papers on a range of subjects, was launched in association with the English department in October 1998. From time to time the Stout hosted book launches. Yet in endeavoring to widen the Centre's community appeal not all attention was devoted to print. Vincent was an innovator in a number of other ways. In addition to maintaining the established weekly seminar schedule, over 20 sessions in most years, a milestone in September 1998 was inauguration of an annual J D Stout Lecture, with the first deliverer Richard Mulgan. The original intent was that in each year an invitation be extended to an influential New Zealand scholar or individual of note to deliver a promoted public address. While the event lapsed after some years as the Stout moved in different directions, it was later revived as a centerpiece of ISSP conferences, and is now embraced as a celebratory showcase for the current Stout Fellow.

There were also unprecedented moves in other directions. Pursuing a 1996 review recommendation that consideration be given to the Stout developing a distinctive postgraduate New Zealand Studies offering, in consultation with a number of colleagues, including residents, much of 1999 was devoted to fashioning both a course structure and a proposed programme of study. The consensus was a groundbreaking Masters in New Zealand Studies, both by thesis and by papers, with the first intake in 2000, the teaching by a mix of Stout residents and invited lecturers. In preparation for the launch, in some ways testing the ground, several two-day workshops exploring interest in primary research sources and accessing techniques were hosted by the Centre in 1999. Vincent was also prepared to take the Centre in directions quite new, a prime example being his championing of the Treaty of Waitangi Research Unit (TOWRU), set up under the Stout umbrella in 1999 to foster independent research into Treaty processes. Its proposer and founder Richard Hill notes that 'Vince fully backed me when the idea was pitched to the Dean, VicLink, the Vice Chancellor, and various CEOs downturn', also offering the Stout as a home. Although a companion associated unit, the Irish and Scottish Studies Programme (ISSP), did not emerge until after Vincent's departure, he was instrumental in its origins through his strong personal support for the 2000 seminal conference and his ability to open doors in New Zealand's Irish communities. Later, for all too short a time, he took up residence with the unit as its honorary *seanchai* (Irish storyteller). It was a position for which he was uniquely qualified.

Under Vincent the Stout was a busy and vibrant place. Applications for residencies, both from local researchers (independent and university-based), also overseas early career and postgraduate students, were at a consistently high level, necessitating the appropriation of additional office space in adjacent buildings. Also in residence for various extended periods were a panoply of outstanding international scholars, the likes of anthropologist and poet Michael Jackson (later a Distinguished Harvard Professor), celebrated German ethnographer and folklorist Rolf Brednich, and Donald Akenson, acknowledged leading historian of the Irish diaspora. All were encouraged, if not required, to share their experiences with other residents and regular visitors to the Centre. The standard Thursday lunch, still a feature, had a tendency to expand into other days of the week, with lively debate around the seminar room table, generally with Vincent presiding. The lingering memory is one of sociability, unexpected insights, but most of all laughter. Anecdotes and gossip at least equaled serious argumentation. To be sure, on occasion Vincent could be acerbic, even caustic, he would never have claimed to be a saint, but the tone most commonly was one of whimsicality, of humour.

I knew Vincent only slightly when he took up his directorship, and must confess to some opening uncertainties. Although he had had occasional involvement with the Stout earlier, it seemed puzzling that he might now wish to so divide his time. Any misgivings were soon allayed as I came to appreciate the commitment and generosity of the individual. Vincent just was. He had nothing to prove, few further academic or reputational steps to climb. For the time he was at the Stout he was an almost constant presence, notwithstanding his ongoing 0.5 professional responsibilities in English. Further, his door was always open; he was ever ready to engage in conversations (whether serious or slight), to make suggestions, if appropriate offer to intercede. It was a matter of wonderment that the stream of stories and poems continued seemingly unobstructed. He was open almost to a fault, both to colleagues and residents, for instance never disguising his contempt when the Centre was in 2000 threatened as a result of an ill-conceived Deficit Reduction Project, indeed in the forefront of public condemnation. While in later years he was scarcely ever seen at the Stout, after the shift to Dunedin not at all, he was nevertheless always eager to learn of developments, whether via meetings over coffee, through emails, sometimes phone calls. Personally, those contacts will be sadly missed. Attempting to write a fitting tribute for such a talented wordsmith has proven challenging. On two previous occasions, when called upon to write eulogies for mutual friends, Vincent inadvertently, through his own

comments, provided the appropriate concluding words. It is perhaps only right, therefore, to leave the summing up to another of his friends, Dame Fiona Kidman, who on learning of his death stated that Vincent was 'the wittiest, funniest, and most generous man you could wish to meet'.

Brad Patterson



## Obituary

### Denis Fairfax

Commander Denis Fairfax, a Resident at the Stout Centre in 2001, died in April. Denis had a varied career, including service in both the Australian and New Zealand Navies and, later, headship of Wellington Free Ambulance. He had been the naval representative on the Police and Armed Forces Working Party of the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, and his research during his Residency at the Stout was on Royal New Zealand Navy history.

### Peter Franks

Peter Franks was a Stout Resident in 2000, during which time he worked on his history of the New Zealand printing workers and their unions. It was published in 2001 by VUP as *Print and Politics*. A lifelong socialist, Peter worked as a trade union researcher and official, and as an employment mediator, and researched and wrote labour history in his spare time. His other works included an edited history of the Federation of Labour (with Melanie Nolan) and a history of the Labour Party (with Jim McAloon). He died in Wellington on 5 May.

### Edmund Bohan

Edmund (Ned) Bohan was the JD Stout Fellow in 1995, during which time he worked on his biography of James Edward Fitzgerald, *Blest Madman*. A MA graduate of the University of Canterbury and a talented singer, Ned spent 25 years in the United Kingdom pursuing this art, and returned to Christchurch in 1987, where he had a second career as a historian and novelist. His works included biographies of Edward Stafford, George Grey, and Philip Burdon, as well as a history of New Zealand in the 1860s and detective novels set in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Christchurch. Ned was also a strong supporter of the Centre's Irish Scottish Studies Programme. He died in Christchurch on 23 March 2024.

## Congratulations to Greg O'Brien, Ockham Book Award Winner

Writer, poet, artist and curator Gregory O'Brien MNZM has won the Booksellers Aotearoa New Zealand Award for Illustrated Non-Fiction for *Don Binney: Flight Path* (Auckland University Press). Greg was the JD Stout Memorial Fellow in 2015. Category convenor Lynn Freeman says even as an experienced biographer, Gregory O'Brien has achieved a near impossible task in *Don Binney: Flight Path*. "He has encapsulated the artist's full life, honestly portraying his often contrary personality, and carefully interrogating a formidably large body of work and its place in Aotearoa New Zealand's art history.

<https://www.nzbookawards.nz/new-zealand-book-awards/2024-awards/winners/>

## **Journal of New Zealand Studies**

### **Call for Papers**

The journal publishes two issues a year online, in June and December. Please submit articles for future issues of the Journal through our online registration:

<http://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/jnzs/index>

Access to all issues of the Journal can be found at: <https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/jnzs/about>

## **History of Giving**

The Stout Research Centre was founded in 1984 through the generous support of the Stout Trust, which was established from a bequest left by Dr John Stout. The Stout Trust continues to fund the annual Stout Fellowship, which has enabled research into many aspects of New Zealand society, history and culture. John Stout's gift is valued highly by today's researchers at the Stout Research Centre. We also value the contribution of all our Friends and supporters and welcome opportunities to talk with you about continuing your support through a gift in your will. All gifts are managed by the Victoria University Foundation, a registered charitable Trust established to raise funds in areas of strategic importance to the University, such as the Stout Research Centre. For further information on how you can support the Stout Research Centre through a gift in your will, please contact the Development Manager – Planned Giving, Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, telephone 0800 VIC LEGACY (0800 842 534).

## **Lydia Wevers Scholarship in New Zealand Studies**

Fundraising for two Masters Scholarships in New Zealand Studies are underway.

Please see more information below:

<https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/engage/giving/donate/areas/donate-to-the-lydia-wevers-scholarship-in-new-zealand-studies>

## Museum and Heritage Studies

With the new MMHP cohort arriving in February, Conal and Lee have been busy teaching the courses in T1: the introduction paper 501, the Practicum 503, the research methods paper 504 and the interpretation course 528. Students are lining up work placements for the mid year break which will get underway in June. After the break there are three more taught courses in T2, and then the internships starting in T3.

## Wānanga 2024

A highlight of the year so far was the annual wānanga which was held on 17-19 April at Hongoeka Marae, Plimmerton. This year as well as the Masters and PhD students we had a very large number of professionals joining us from Experience Wellington Wheako Poneke, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, Te Papa, National Library and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage Manatu Taonga. Altogether more than 40 people spent the three days and two nights learning about taonga, tikanga, te tiriti and surrent and emerging issues in museums, galleries and heritage. This year speakers included Moana Parata, Te Herekiele Herewini and Jamie Metzger from Te Papa, Mark Sykes Potae from Whakatāne Museum Collections and Research Te Whare Taonga o Taketake. There was extensive input from Te Runaga o Ngati Toa including: Callum Katene, Te Rauparaha Horomona, Te Mako Orzeck, Robert McLean and Jasmine Arthur. This gave the hui invaluable insights into how iwi are dealing with postsettlement tribal dev in terms of arts, culturte and heritage.

### *Wānanga at Hongoeka marae near Plimmerton 2024*





## Post Doctoral Fellow, Dr Awhina Tamarapa

Awhina Tamarapa was in the UK in March for work with the new Museum in Perth Scotland, and postdoctoral research. Awhina has been involved with the Perth Museum for nearly 20 years. This work started when she was a Curator Māori at Te Papa. Awhina and Mark Hall, Collections Officer at the Perth Museum, collaborated to share information on the only *full* kākāpō feather cloak known. This significant taonga was donated to the museum in 1842. The cloak and the cultural importance of kākāpō feature in the taonga display. Since 2020, Awhina has led a co-curated taonga display with the Perth Museum and Te Papa Māori Curators, while teaching and studying. The project was a case study for her PhD and an opportunity for three consecutive years of MHST students to engage in Kaupapa Māori action research in an international context.

Awhina's postdoctoral research is to locate and collate information on taonga puoro (Māori 'singing treasures') and karetao (carved figures with moveable limbs) in overseas museums. She visited the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh; Great North Museum: Hancock, Newcastle, with Professor Areti Galani, University of Newcastle; the British Museum; Pitt Rivers Museum; Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge. Museum and University staff are interested in making connections with descendant communities and cultural practitioners. Awhina is starting to notice features that could point to the same carver or carving school.



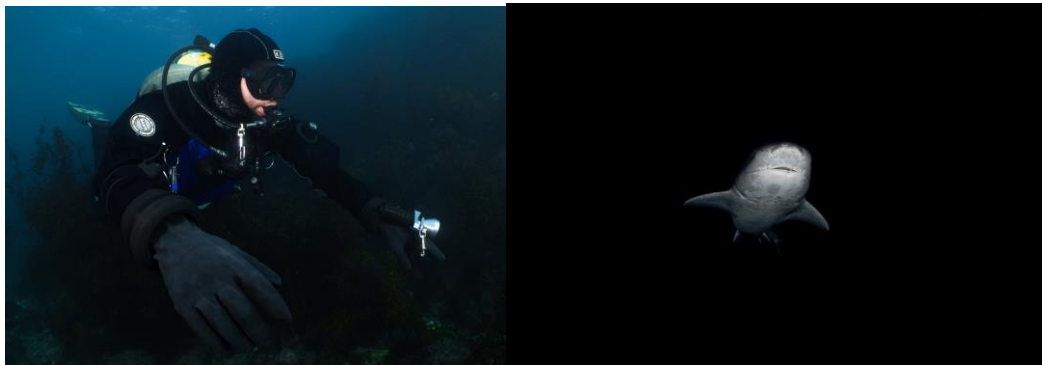
- Photographer Julie Howden/Culture Perth & Kinross. Detail of kahu kākāpō on display
- (Perth Museum) Photographer Rob McDougall. (L-R) Mark Hall, Kararaina Te Ira, Awhina Tamarapa, Te Kenehi Teira, JP Reid.

## Update on PhD Candidates

### **Matteo Collina**

Matteo Collina has a BA in Graphic Design and Visual Communication, and a MA in Cultural Heritage Photography. He is also a technical and cave diver, and his main interest is in underwater heritage. He has worked for five years as a Research Fellow studying survey methods for 3D reconstruction of underwater archeological sites, working on several European projects and 3D scanning shipwrecks all over the Mediterranean Sea. He has also been a Teaching Fellow for “Cultural Heritage Photography “ and “Scientific Photography”.

Matteo's current PhD research focuses on raising awareness of underwater heritage through Virtual Reality experiences taking a multidisciplinary approach that involves museums, science, and art. He is focusing on the Fiordland region, and he is closely working with the Victoria University Coastal Ecology Lab on different research about black corals, sharks and sponges. Starting from 3D data he collected from the environment, that have been used for biological research, he now aims to transform them into a VR experience. In particular, he is interested in new storytelling approaches, and he is exploring the possibility of narration through the embodiment of the land concept.



Matteo is currently in Fiordland recording sharks for his VR experience. He described it as a “very sharky week”. A close encounter (2.5 metres apparently!).

### **Anamaría Rojas Múnera**

Kia ora and hola! I am Anamaría Rojas Múnera from Colombia. I am a curator and exhibition development coordinator, working with a network of small and medium-scale museums in isolated territories from Southern Chile (Patagonia). This year I started my PhD in Museum and Heritage Studies with the supervision of Conal McCarthy and Lee Davidson. My research focuses on sociomuseology and Indigenous museologies, particularly, on the social role of community-based museums from Patagonia. In this context, I would like to analyse how Aotearoa could throw lights for our Latin American museums, regarding the roles played by communities in the management of natural and cultural treasures. I am so happy to meet you all and honoured to be a student of this inspiring PhD programme at VUW!

## Robert McClean

### Connecting research interests.



Critical Heritage PhD fellow, Robert McClean and visiting PhD fellow, Fine Brendtner (Aarhus University), sampling cockles at Whitianga (near Paremata Railway Station).

After a serendipitous introduction in the Stout Centre's coffee kitchen, PhD colleagues Robert McClean and Fine Brendtner connected up shared research interests about how cultural and environmental health entangle wetlands and waterways.

Robert McClean's PhD is about cultural redress as part of settlement of claims under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and complex interactions between the planning system (especially the RMA) and environmental change (especially climate change). In particular, he asks about how cultural redress is implemented 'on the ground' (or on the sea) as part of 'the system' dominated by all manner of RMA plans and consenting processes. In his 'day job', Robert is a principal advisor for Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira and one of the project leaders of *Te Ara o Raukawa Moana*; a research project of Ngāti Toa Rangatira to enable active kaitiakitanga of Te Moana o Raukawa (Cook Strait) in response to climate change.

Fine Brendtner is a PhD fellow in environmental anthropology, visiting the Stout Centre as part of her fieldwork on ocean acidification impacts and mitigation strategies in Aotearoa New Zealand. Some of the marine life most harshly affected by ocean and coastal acidification are calcifying organisms, such as shellfish. Fine has a special interest in how shellfish become sentinels of environmental change, how they 'biomonitor' their surroundings and how they are part of a place, being in cultural relationship with people.

Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira (with Environmental Science and Research - ESR) are leading the restoration of Te Awarua o Porirua (Porirua Harbour). The harbour is of paramount cultural significance to the iwi and recognised under the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014. Te Awarua o Porirua has been degraded due to water pollution and reclamation since the 1880s. As part of the restoration, Te Rūnanga and ESR are undertaking cultural health monitoring which aims to assess the holistic health of the harbour using both Western science and mātauranga Māori methods of sampling and observations.

On a sunny April morning, Robert and Fine, together with other project members and volunteers, gathered cockles, water and sediment samples at six sites around the Porirua harbour. This is a way for local whānau to get involved in the restoration of Te Awarua o Porirua. Fine recounts: "Walking across the harbour's

seabed at low tide and digging up cockles was a different approach to sampling than I have experienced before. When you stick your hands in the cool muddy ground and carefully feel for cockles, smell the salty breeze and spend enough time to observe the birds and waters around you, and you do that together with others, you learn about the place in new ways. I started to see the landscape through Robert's eyes, when he talked about the environmental history of the land, the whenua, and how it had been changed by urban development. It gave me a new understanding about how the harbour's health was bound up with the communities' cultural and physical health and why it is vital to recognise them as one."

### Postscript

Te Awarua o Porirua took center stage during the recent hikoi against the Fast-Track Approvals Bill by Ngāti Toa Rangatira and iwi allies at Parliament on Wednesday 8 May. The protest gave the message that three government ministers cannot be allowed to make decisions over te taiao and repeat the mistakes of the past as happened at Porirua during the 1950s when the health of the harbour was sacrificed in the rush to 'fast track' building of state houses. It was good to see that the Stout Centre was well represented at the hikoi with Debbie, Conal, Lee, Fine, Robert, Awhina, and Raha, supporting the kaupapa.



### **Karin Mahlfeld, MA**

Rapid advances in bioinformatics, molecular biology, in the knowledge industry and data services combined with the biodiversity crisis and climate change have created additional pressures and demands on collection management (CM) in museums. At the same time little guidance exists for breaking down barriers and better integration between humanities, sciences and cultures in Natural History Collection Management (NHCM). The application of mana taonga and mātauranga Māori promises a more holistic and integrated approach to NHCM, ensures documentation and collections of ongoing relevance to a wider audience and users and protection of local customs and rights, yet there is very little written on this topic in the Natural History (NATHIST) museum sector. My thesis project is unique by testing the theory and practice of mana taonga in NHCM through interviews with professionals and through assessment of NHCM practices by using Māori Data Sovereignty models.

Museums with extensive NATHIST collections and expertise can play an important role as advocates for biodiversity and a greener future but policies and practices are continuously challenged to adapt fast enough to the changing pressure caused by technological advances, climate change and biodiversity loss. The application of Māori Data Sovereignty models to screen NHCM practices is a novel approach and will help to identify insufficient safeguards and culturally unsafe practices. The aim of my project is to investigate how mana taonga and mātauranga Māori are currently used in NHCM at Te Papa, what resources and guidance staff use and where staff see further opportunities for the application of mana taonga and mātauranga Māori? While one objective of my thesis is to test mana taonga in NHCM in theory and practice, the other one is to show how mana taonga and mātauranga Māori can enhance conservation, e.g., in conjunction with the New Zealand Threat Classification System and technical and ethical aspects of CM and conservation.

## **Graduation**

### **Awhina Tamarapa** (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Ruanui)

Congratulations to Awhina who graduated in May with a PhD in Museum Heritage Studies.

#### *The living cultural practice of Māori weaving*

For her PhD, Dr Awhina Tamarapa looked at the role of museums in the maintenance of Māori weaving as a living cultural practice, and whether or not museums recognise the mana of weavers who hold the mauri of their practice. The PhD was a continuation of Dr Tamarapa's earlier studies, as well as to reflect back on her practice as a Māori curator and museum professional. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Māori Studies and Anthropology from Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington in 1992, and went on to earn another bachelor's degree in Māori Law and Philosophy at Te Wānanga o Raukawa. She also has a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from Massey University.

Dr Tamarapa started her museum career at Te Papa as a trainee in 1989, and worked as a Māori curator for many years. She has also worked at Te Herenga Waka as a course coordinator and teaching fellow for the Museum and Heritage Studies programme at the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies. Following on from her PhD, Dr Tamarapa is now working on a three-year fellowship as a postdoctoral researcher at the Stout Research Centre which she describes as a 'dream job'. "My topic is Māori musical instruments and Māori figures with movable limbs, called karetao, keretao, or tokoraurape, among other names. I aim to locate them in museums overseas, collate the information, and then start to pull together ways in which communities and practitioners are able to access that information."



Prof. Conal McCarthy, Dr Awhina Tamarapa, and AProf. Lee Davidson



Congratulations to our 2023 Museum and Heritage Students who graduated in May.

## Museum and Heritage Studies Seminar

On 3 May, Dr Lisa Renard gave a seminar - *Whakarongo ki ngā Taonga Tuku Iho: Listening to Taonga Held in French Museums.*

In France, the majority of the Māori taonga are housed at the Musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac in Paris, where 268 taonga are registered in the collections of the museum. Based on previous research conducted during my M.A. and my Ph.D. at the University of Strasbourg, France, I found that the oldest taonga in French museums travelled from Aotearoa to France in the late 18th and first half of the 19th centuries. For many years, Māori specialists across Aotearoa have sought to access more information about taonga in museums around the world. My postdoctoral research is intended to help meet these needs and to demonstrate the richness of the taonga tuku iho biographies and agencies, particularly in terms of their mnemonic qualities, when reunited with the tangata whenua of Aotearoa and other taonga tuku iho. This paper presents the state of my research in relation to 4 kākahu, 2 hei tiki, 3 taonga pūoro, and 1 rākau atua associated with the voyage of French explorer Jules César Sébastien Dumont d'Urville on board l'Astrolabe in 1827.

Lisa Renard is a social and cultural anthropologist and museologist. Her PhD from the University of Strasbourg (2020) is titled, "The Māori Art of weaving relationships: analysis of the relationships between the living and their ancestors through the intermediary of Māori cloaks (kākahu) as ancestral treasures (taonga) in Aotearoa New Zealand." Her passion is researching taonga in museums and providing greater understanding of Te Ao Māori, kaitiakitanga and knowledge practice. Since 2012, she has been teaching social and cultural anthropology at the University of Strasbourg and has worked in different museums in France, Germany, the Netherlands and Aotearoa. In January 2023, she was awarded a prestigious two-year Post-doctoral Research Fellowship by the Fyssen Foundation. She currently works at the University of Auckland, Faculty of Arts, under the guidance of Associate Professor Ngarino Ellis. Lisa Renard's research topic is "The Mnemonic qualities of Taonga (Māori Ancestral Treasures) housed in French museum collections."



*Image: Musée du quai Branly, Paris. Current exhibition space for Maori taonga  
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