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## **‘Introduction’**

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## Introduction

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I am extremely pleased to see the publication of this latest issue, the fourth of the *Journal of Australian, Canadian, and Aotearoa New Zealand Studies (JACANZS)*. When I first created JACANZS back in 2020 I was not sure how it would be received or even how long it might last to be honest. So, it is with no shortage of pride that it has now published several issues and continues to publish cutting-edge research in the field, as well as a plethora of insightful book reviews which showcase the wonderful books also being published.

This latest issue of the journal is the best in terms of the variety of different things it contains, i.e. various types of articles and both reflective and normal book reviews. This includes (as with all issues of the journal) an excellent series of research articles showcasing the cutting-edge research in the field. For this issue, we have two articles on Aotearoa New Zealand and one on Australia. As I have mentioned in introductions to previous issues of the journal there is not always an equal representation of the three countries of focus of JACANZS in terms of articles in every issue. However, I do believe that things balance out in the end. And so it is especially good to see two articles on Aotearoa New Zealand in this issue after the other two countries dominating in recent issues. Furthermore, in terms of discipline you have one article on literature and history, another on tourism studies, and a third on history. So, again you have a good disciplinary and even interdisciplinary mixture, which is what the journal strives for.

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<sup>1</sup> I am extremely grateful to Dr. Ethel Tungohan for peer reviewing this introduction.

This current issue of *JACANZS* continues a new section which was created in the previous issue on 'Reflections on Australian, Canadian, and Aotearoa New Zealand Studies'. In the last issue we had one retired academic who specialised in Aotearoa New Zealand studies, reflecting on her career in the field. In this issue we have three others: two of whom are also retired. One of them had a career in Australian studies, another has one in Canadian studies, and the third had one in both. However, this latest issue of *JACANZS* also has a new section on 'Showcasing Australian, Canadian, and Aotearoa New Zealand Studies Centres Around the World'. There are three articles, one showcasing an Australian Studies centre, another a Canadian Studies centre, and a third illustrating the activities of an Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Studies centre. I am hopeful that we will have many more centres across the world showcasing their activities in future issues.

Going into more detail of this issue of the journal, Martin George Holmes' article on 'Settler Nationalism and Literary Conservatism: The Case of C. R. Allen (1885-1962) of Aotearoa New Zealand' reassesses conservative literary understandings of national identity in Aotearoa New Zealand, in the hope of contributing to a wider analysis of settler nationalism. Scholars have until recently tended to focus on firebrand modernist nationalists who became the literary establishment after the 1930s, and who regarded previous generations as too culturally British and aesthetically conservative. In consequence, the fact that conservatives often espoused their own version of nationalism has been little discussed, and then not always charitably. This is especially the case with respect to conservatives who lived and wrote while the firebrands were in the ascendant. This article redresses this neglect by exploring the work of C. R. Allen (1885–1962), a

once-popular author whose works embody a conservative understanding of literary nationalism.

‘Māori tourism and a post-growth economy’ by Tatjana Thimm maintains that a post-growth economy is a comparatively new paradigm in the tourism discourse. The aim of her article is to find out the commonalities between this concept and Māori tourism and in which way the latter can contribute to a post-growth economy. A qualitative mixed method approach, including in-depth-interviews, participant observation, and secondary analysis is applied. The results show that there is a lot of overlap between Māori tourism and a post-growth economy. Differences are visible, as well, regarding the value approach of Māori tourism and the indicator approach of a post-growth economy. Especially the social innovation created in Aotearoa New Zealand at the instigation of Māori groups of granting legal personhood to parts of nature may serve as a driver for a form of tourism that is in line with the idea of a post-growth economy.

Tim Causer in his article on ‘Administering the Norfolk Island penal station, 1825-55’ seeks to explore how the penal station at Norfolk Island was administered, and in the main focuses upon the internal factors which impacted upon that administration and thereby seeks to fill a considerable gap in prior histories. In so doing it proposes a model for Norfolk Island’s administrative structure, adapted from that posited by Bill Thorpe and Raymond Evans in their study of the ruling order at the Moreton Bay penal settlement. In particular the article examines the working lives and place in the administrative structure of: i) Norfolk Island’s official class, at the apex of which was the commandant, where interactions were characterised by heightened considerations of class and status; ii) Norfolk Island’s military officers and the soldiers stationed there; and iii) prisoners employed as petty officials, with a

special focus upon a few individuals who were able to transcend the boundaries of the administrative structure and rise through its ranks to positions of considerable, if relative, power.

Carl Bridge reflects back on his long career in Australian Studies, epitomised by his past Directorship of the now Menzies Australia Institute at King's College London – for a long time the most prominent Australian Studies centre in Europe. Donna Coates in her reflective piece explains how her career in Australian and Canadian studies all began, and it is a very interesting tale. Yves Frenette surveys his fascinating career in Canadian Studies as a Canadian-American historian. All three reflective pieces share a common theme of fortuitous circumstances being responsible for their careers in their respective fields: none of them planned to establish a career in Australian, Canadian, and Aotearoa studies per se, but found themselves pushed by circumstances and events in that direction.

Paul Pickering in his piece showcasing the activities of the Australian Studies Institute (AuSI) at the Australian National University makes a very impassioned plea for the future of Australian Studies, emphasising the transnational and much broader multidisciplinary (beyond the usual disciplines of history, politics, and literature) nature of the field, which AuSI is an excellent example of. Christina Keppie illustrates the incredible range of activities taking place at the Canadian-American Studies Centre at Western Washington University, its impressive collaboration with local First Nations and other Canadian Studies Centres in the Pacific Northwest being especially notable. Rhonda Evans showcases the significant research coming out of the Edward A. Clark Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. The open access nature of the data sets the Clark Center has produced should be especially commended. And the myriad opportunities provided

to students to participate in the gathering of research is also invaluable for their future development.

This issue of *JACANZS* has the largest number of book reviews published out of all the issues of the journal so far. This might reflect the post-Covid-19 pandemic boom of books published in the field. I want to publicly thank my colleague and friend, Ms. Emily Cornish for her excellent work as Reviews Editor of the journal. I was given a closer glimpse into the role when I acted as Reviews Editor for several weeks after Emily had to unfortunately deal with a family emergency. Suffice to say it is a lot of work to commission reviews, request review copies from publishers, and then edit reviews received. However, it is also incredibly rewarding to see the culmination of all this hard work. I ended up editing more than a third of the reviews in the current issue. But there are some frustrations that come with the work. These relate mainly to the continuing trend of some publishers to only provide eCopies of their books instead of hardcopies for reviewers, which unsurprisingly makes it more difficult to secure reviewers, as receiving a hardcopy of a book is usually seen as a way of saying thank you for doing what is a voluntary activity. Then there is the under appreciation of book reviewing in academia which means that it is not also easy to secure reviewers. And even when you have secured a reviewer after some not inconsiderable effort, some ask for extensions (which is of course fine and we are usually happy to accommodate, unless the publication of an issue that the review was envisaged to be included in is immediate), but then some end up pulling out of writing the review at all, several months down the track. Emily and I do find this quite unprofessional to be honest. And we would both plead that if you do not have the time to write a book review, then it is best for all concerned just to say no at the outset, then commit to something, only to pull out at the end.

Looking forward, together with our usual excellent collection of articles and insightful book reviews, I am hopeful that the two new sections in the journal, introduced in the past two issues will continue. In the meantime I hope you enjoy reading this latest issue of *JACANZS*.