



STOUT RESEARCH CENTRE

for New Zealand Studies



Newsletter

November 2017

Stout Research Centre farewells long-serving Director

Internationally renowned literary historian and critic, teacher, writer and scholar Professor Lydia Wevers ONZM, retired at the end of July after 17 years as Director of the Stout Research Centre. Lydia was appointed as a part-time director of at the Stout in 2001, when its long-term future was uncertain. Within a year, her role expanded to full-time and under her leadership the Centre grew its staff numbers, broadened its scope for research and created strong connections with other research institutes.

During this time, the Centre has forged a reputation as a hub for New Zealand-focused research, and actively engages with academics, professionals and the wider public through its year-round programme of events. Few will be surprised that one of the reasons for Professor Wevers' retirement is a desire to finish writing a new book. "I've done a lot of research for it, but it is slow work getting a book written while running a centre and teaching," she says.

Lydia's association with Victoria goes back to 1968 when she was a first-year student. In 1973, as a recently returned graduate from the University of Oxford, she took up a position as a lecturer in Renaissance literature in the English Department.

Since then she has metamorphosed into a specialist on New Zealand literature and New Zealand studies. Her career at Victoria was interrupted by periods living overseas, where she worked at the universities of New South Wales and Sydney and became interested in Australian literature, which still forms part of her research.

Throughout her career, Lydia participated in numerous governance groups such as the Trustees of the National Library, the Marsden Fund Council and the Arts Board of Creative New Zealand. She has been a guest speaker at over 30 national and international events and produced more than 100 written works.

Richard Hill—who has worked with Lydia since 2001—says her retirement will be “a huge loss” for the University. “She has served on and chaired many of its committees and has been a tireless advocate for New Zealand studies across all disciplines. “Lydia has that rare talent of combining scholarly excellence with dissemination of scholarship in the public arena, making her one of this country’s leading public intellectuals.”

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Studies Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Dean, Professor Jennifer Windsor noted that Lydia had been instrumental in the Centre’s regeneration and success. “Professor Wevers is renowned as a thinker, writer, and contributor to what it means to be a New Zealander and she has an unwavering passion for the arts. She has also impressed upon others her wise judgement, leadership and incredible foresight about how to bring research to life.”

As an Emeritus Professor Lydia will remain involved with a number of projects at Victoria University, including co-producing Victoria’s second massive open online course for the edX platform. We wish her well in the next phase of her career.



Welcome to new Director, Kate Hunter

University Council member and History lecturer Associate Professor Kate Hunter steps in as the Centre's new director from Monday 31 July. Associate Professor Hunter has had a long association with the Stout Research Centre, and Professor Wevers is delighted she has been appointed as her successor. To consolidate the links between the Stout Research Centre and its wider networks, Associate Professor Hunter will continue to hold her academic role in the History Programme.



Research Update

Kate Hunter

Kate is best known as an historian of World War One, and she continues to publish and research in this area. Her most recent article, published in the *Australian Journal of Politics and History* looks at the murky bureaucratic context of the war, in which recent arrivals could enlist in the New Zealand army and claim greater benefits than New Zealanders serving for the Royal Navy or other imperial forces. Compounding such confusion was the introduction of passports for British subjects for the first time in 1915. Her research sheds light on the tensions of having a national army, yet being part of an imperial war effort.

Kate also gave a paper in September at a Christchurch symposium on Visual Culture and Material Memory 1918-1928. Organised by members of Canterbury University's Art History department, the symposium coincided with the opening of the exhibition of photographs documenting the construction of Samuel Hurst Seager's battlefield memorials in Europe and Turkey. Kate's paper examined the movies being eagerly consumed by New Zealanders in the 1920s, especially the desert romances and harem comedies. This is part of her new research project on the Middle East in the Australasian Imagination, 1890-1945, and she is looking forward to summer research time looking at Australian movie and theatre magazines for the interwar period to complement the work she has done on New Zealand.

Richard Hill

Richard has had an 'expert commentary' published in the first book on policing in Portugal and its global spheres of influence: Conor O'Reilly (ed.), *Colonial Policing and the Transnational Legacy: The Global Dynamics of Policing Across the Lusophone Community*, Abingdon and New York, Routledge [2018, but published 17 Aug 2017]. His chapter is titled: 'The Portuguese Colonial Policing Mission in Comparative Perspective'.

He presented a paper at a conference to a University of Auckland research symposium on 'The Crown and Constitutional Reform: Comparative Perspectives on a Political Enigma and Symbol of Statehood'.

Richard has also been chairing the Labour 100 Project working with Stout resident Emma Kelly.

Anna Green

Over the past six months Anna has been recording oral history interviews around the country for her Marsden-funded project on intergenerational family memory. This research investigates the genealogical research, memories and stories passed down across the generations within families that have NZ European/Pākehā forebears. More information about the project, including how participants were approached, may be found at www.familymemory.nz.

Anna attended two recent conferences in the field delivering papers at both: 'Pākehā Family Stories in New Zealand: Dilemmas and Decisions in an oral history project', Oral History Association of Australia conference, Sydney, 13-16 September 2017; and 'Intergenerational Family Memory and Moral Agency', American Comparative Literature Association conference, Utrecht, 6 - 9 July 2017.

In addition she has published with Kayleigh Luscombe, 'Family memory, 'things', and counterfactual thinking', *Memory Studies*, 2017, and with Graham Smith 'The Magna Carta: 800 Years of Public History' in *The Oxford Handbook of Public History* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

Anna is co-supervising Miranda Williamson's MA, with Conal McCarthy, on the use of oral history in heritage studies.

Steven Loveridge

Steven is continuing to work on a Marsden-funded project on the history of security intelligence in New Zealand. Serving on the organising committee for the Stout Centre's Dissent and the First World War Conference, held over 31 August-2 September, he also presented his research on the Second Division League. On 3 October he gave a keynote speech for Auckland War Memorial Museum's Remembering Passchendaele Symposium.

Adjunct Research Fellow

Brad Patterson

Brad's principal focus at the moment is the revising and extension of his study of the economic and social development of early Wellington, tentative title 'The Wellington people are much occupied with money making'. He hopes to make substantial progress on the manuscript over the coming twelve months. In December he will be presenting a linked paper at the Victoria University symposium 'Garrison Towns in the 19th Century Empire', examining the impact of Commissariat expenditure arising from the basing of Imperial Regiments in Wellington from 1845. He was a contributor in September to the Centre's 'Dissent and the First World War' conference, presenting a paper on the fostering of sectarian hysteria by the Protestant Political Association. A chapter reviewing the apparent linkages between Dublin's Easter Week Rising of 1916 and the emergence of the Protestant Political Association is to appear next year in a collection to be published in Ireland.

Student Update

Kura Taylor

PhD Candidate, New Zealand Studies

Kura is nearing the completion of her PhD on *Kura Marie Teira Taylor Te Atiawa Pāake Reflections on The Playgrounds of Life: An Autobiographical Narrative* which is being supervised by Richard Hill and Lydia Wevers.

Sandra Thomas

PhD Candidate, New Zealand Studies

Sandra is working on the operation of the Compensation Court in the Waikato from 1865-1867 and in particular the attitudes of pakeha settlers to it. Sandra is being supervised by Richard Hill and Brad Patterson.

Lindsay Ferguson

PhD Candidate, New Zealand Studies

Lindsay has recently begun his doctoral research which will focus on privacy issues and concerns. He will put particular attention on finding a balance between the ever increasing demands of the state and the rights of individual citizens in New Zealand for a reasonable level of privacy. His doctoral studies are being supervised by Richard Hill and Brad Patterson.

Gerrard Carter

PhD Candidate, New Zealand Studies

Gerrard is continuing to look at the Wellington Provincial Council, 1853-76. His research examines the Council's executive decision-making and policy prioritisation processes, and the development of administrative systems and structures. Supervisors Richard Hill and Brad Patterson.

Ethan McKenzie**MA Candidate, New Zealand Studies**

Ethan's research interests centre on the politics of activism and culture, particularly in postcolonial nation states. His Honours thesis was a history of biculturalism in New Zealand, focusing on biculturalism's impact on the public service under the Fourth Labour Government (1984-1990). His Master's thesis will build upon this project, exploring the role of activists-turned-bicultural consultants during the 1980s and 1990s. Supervisors: Richard Hill and Anna Green.

Charlotte Thompson Darling**MA Candidate, New Zealand Studies**

Charlotte is continuing her work on how dictionaries in Aotearoa have functioned as important aspects of our textual landscape, and as multifaceted networked objects that were used to navigate a complex language contact situation. In particular, her thesis will focus on William Colenso (1811 – 1899) as a central character who helped to define our textual landscape through his printing of dictionaries, and his own (unsuccessful) attempt at lexicography. Charlotte is being supervised by Lydia Wevers.

Matthew Nicoll**MA Candidate, New Zealand Studies**

Matthew continues to progress in his Master's work on Intelligence Processing in New Zealand and has recently undertaken the following:

1. "Tell Me About Your Thesis" [Radio Interview] Jesse Mulligan, 1–4pm, *Radio New Zealand*
<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/201852622/tell-me-about-your-thesis>
2. "Foreign policy: the elephant in the room in this year's election" [Opinion Editorial], *The Spinoff*
<https://thespinoff.co.nz/politics/07-09-2017/foreign-policy-the-elephant-in-the-room-in-this-years-election/>

Supervisors: Richard Hill and Anna Green.

Events

Dissent and the First World War Conference

31 August – 2 September

The annual Stout Conference was co-hosted this year by the Labour History Project, and held in association with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand. The conference opened with a public lecture by keynote speaker Professor Cyril Pearce titled 'Britain's war resisters 1914-1918 – some new thoughts'. This set the theme of the conference, which defined dissent broadly and analysed it within northern English communities. Cyril is a Hon. Research Fellow, School of History, and a former Senior Lecturer in the Schools of Continuing Education and Social Studies, at the University of Leeds.

For further information and to view Cyril Pearce's presentation please go to:

<https://www.victoria.ac.nz/stout-centre/about/news/keynote-speaker-cyril-pearce>

The second keynote speaker was Joan Beaumont, Professor Emerita at the Strategic and the Defence Studies Centre, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, The Australian National University. She expanded the conference theme spatially by comparing anti-conscriptionism in Australia and New Zealand. The third keynote speaker was co-chair (along with Richard Hill) of the conference, David Grant, who expanded the topic in time by comparing the activities of dissentient New Zealand labour movement leaders in the first world war with role in government in the second: The Seditious and their Heritage. David is a former JD Stout Fellow and a former chair of the Labour History Project, of which both he and Richard are Life Members.

The conference was attended by approximately 90 people, and had two streams of papers covering a wide range of topics. It was a great success. Some of the papers may be published in future issues of the *Journal of New Zealand Studies*.



A conscientious objector, Thomas Moynihan, undergoing forced drill at Wanganui Detention Barracks. Allegations of serious abuses at the Barracks were raised in 1918. [AAYS 8638 738] Archives New Zealand The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua.

JD Stout Annual Lecture

Damian Skinner

JD Stout Fellow 2017

4 October 2017

Theo Schoon and the Case of the Pink Venus De Milo

Theodorus Johannes Schoon (1915-1985) was a pioneering painter, printmaker, photographer, gourd and jade carver and ceramicist. A Dutchman, born and raised in Indonesia, he arrived in Aotearoa in 1939, where he used his sense of difference and being out-of-place to make art that challenged Pakeha attitudes and cultural values. This talk by Damian Skinner considers how Indonesian art and Dutch colonialism prepared Schoon for his encounter with Maori art – resulting in an extraordinary and complicated relationship that left its mark on the visual arts in Aotearoa.

Damian Skinner is an independent art historian and curator. He was curator of Applied Art and Design at the Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira from 2012-16, and a Newton International Fellow at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge, in 2012-13. His most recent book was *The Māori Meeting House: Introducing the Whare Whakairo*, published by Te Papa Press in 2016. He is currently completing a biography of artist Theo Schoon.



Seminars

Research Roundup Seminar Series

Wednesday 4 October
McLaurin Lecture Theatre 102

JD Stout Annual Lecture 2017
Damian Skinner
*Theo Schoon and the Case of the Pink
Venus De Milo*

Wednesday 4.10pm - Stout Research Centre Seminar Room

11 October
Followed by Book Launch

John Newton

18 October
1 November
8 November
15 November
22 November

Ben Schrader
Emma Kelly
Kate Jordan
Carwyn Jones
John O'Leary

Book Launch - John Newton

'All the history that did not happen': Allen Curnow's critical nationalism

For all sorts of (sometimes quite good) reasons Allen Curnow's nationalism has fallen out favour. It might even be imagined that there's not much more to say about it. But have we ever really done justice to its modernist originality or its No 8 wire ingenuity? This paper takes a fresh look at the problem in light of the findings of John's new book, *Hard Frost: Structures of Feeling in New Zealand Literature 1908-1945*.

Hard Frost
Structures of Feeling in
New Zealand Literature
1908-1945 **John Newton**



Enriching National Culture

Three Treaty of Waitangi Fellowship recipients - Nikki Hessel, Carwyn Jones, and Simon Perris, spent time at the Stout in the second half of this year. The Fellowships were awarded as part of the Enriching National Culture theme which is under the umbrella of the Stout Research Centre.

For more information about the distinctiveness themes, and to view the online presentations of the Butcher Shop Series, please go to:

<https://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/strengths/national-culture>



The Butcher Shop series of seminars can also be accessed on the RNZ website as podcasts:

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/programmes/the-butcher-shop>

Resident Update

Ben Schrader

Won and Lost: Saving New Zealand's Built Heritage 1885-2015

The project is the first major history of historic preservation in New Zealand. It uses cases studies of specific buildings and sites – including public buildings, marae, and neighbourhoods – to examine New Zealanders' changing attitudes and practices towards their built heritage. It hypothesises that this history can be characterised as an ongoing tension between those who believed that progress demanded incessant rebuilding and the obliteration of the material past and those who thought that past provided a gauge of progress and a means to better understand the present. It explores why people rallied to save built heritage and the diverse ways in which preservation campaigns engaged communities and fostered public history and place-centred social identities. It also charts how campaigns led to new regulations and bodies to better manage and protect both Māori and Pākehā built heritage. Finally, it considers the types of places heritage campaigners sought to preserve and which ones failed to attract their attention. How did this affect what history was remembered, and forgotten? The study will be co-authored by Wellington historian and heritage practitioner Michael Kelly. The main publications from project will be a number of journal articles and a book. We hope this will be published in early 2019.

Ben is a Wellington public historian specialising in urban history and the history of the built environment. He was Senior Researcher for the *New Zealand Historical Atlas* (1997) and has written extensively for Te Ara, the online encyclopedia of New Zealand, for which he co-edited the City and Economy theme. His books include: *We Call it Home: A History of State Housing in New Zealand* (2005) and *The Big Smoke: New Zealand Cities 1840-1920* (2016).

Emma Kelly

Emma Kelly completed her PhD on Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision (previously the NZ Film Archive) in 2015 and subsequently was invited to publish the book *The Adventures of Jonathan Dennis; Bicultural film archiving in Aotearoa New Zealand* (John Libbey Press, UK, 2015) which was launched at Le Giornate del Cinema Muto in Pordenone, Italy in October 2015. She has an upcoming paper in the *Journal of Educational Philosophy and Theory* entitled "Listening Harder: Queer Archive and Biography".

She is recently completed her work as Archivist/Educator for the Labour 100 Project, encouraging Labour Party activists present and past to deposit their materials into local repositories. In addition she worked as a research assistant for aspects of Richard Hill's Security and Surveillance project. In her spare time Emma is working on a paper reflecting on an exhibition curated by Jonathan Dennis and Sharon Dell called Heart of Fiji: Photographs by Arthur Hocart 1909 - 1914 which was held at the National Library of New Zealand in 1992. Emma left the Stout in October to begin work at the Waitangi Tribunal.

John O'Leary **The Intellectual Grey**

“The Intellectual Grey” will be the third research project I have undertaken at the Stout Research Centre. Previous research projects, in 2006 and 2012, have helped lead to the publication of two books: *Savage Songs & Wild Romances* (Rodopi, 2011) and *A Peculiar Gentleman* (ASP, 2016).

“The Intellectual Grey” is a short research project designed to lead to an extended book chapter on George Grey’s ethnographic work and the formative cultural and philosophical influences behind it. Grey’s early work on Aboriginal languages and customs in Western Australia has been described, though not in great depth, by biographers such as James Rutherford, Edmund Bohan and Bernard Cadogan. Grey’s subsequent work in New Zealand with Te Rangikaheke and other Maori informants – which led to his famous publications of Maori mythology and proverbs - has been well studied by New Zealand scholars such as Bruce Biggs, David Simmons and Jennifer Curnow. Similarly, South African researchers such as RJ Thornton, Pippa Skotnes and Andrew Banks (among others) have considered the pioneering work of Wilhelm Bleek and Lucy Lloyd on !Xam language and lore, work that was effectively kicked off by Grey. No-one, however, has connected up these separate areas of ethnographic enquiry/writing and provided a single, integrated, well researched account of Grey’s activity in this area.

Kate Jordan

Kate has been working on an oral history of the Gordon Wilson Flats. A range of previous tenants, dating back to when the Flats opened in 1959, have been found and interviewed. The interviews focus on the tenants’ lives at the Flats and how they interacted with the building and other tenants.

Journal of New Zealand Studies

The journal now publishes two issues a year online, in June and December. It is edited by Anna Green, with an editorial committee of Kate Hunter, Richard Hill and Brad Patterson. In December we welcome our new book review editor, Dougal McNeill, and thank Cybele Locke for her contribution to the journal over the past three years. The journal is multidisciplinary, and attracts articles from scholars in New Zealand and overseas. We hope to expand readership further through listing on Google Scholar, and are currently considering our response to a request for publication through a leading international, independent, academic publisher.

Call for Papers

Please submit articles for regular issues of the Journal through our online registration for our 2018 issues. <http://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/jnzs/index>

Looking Ahead

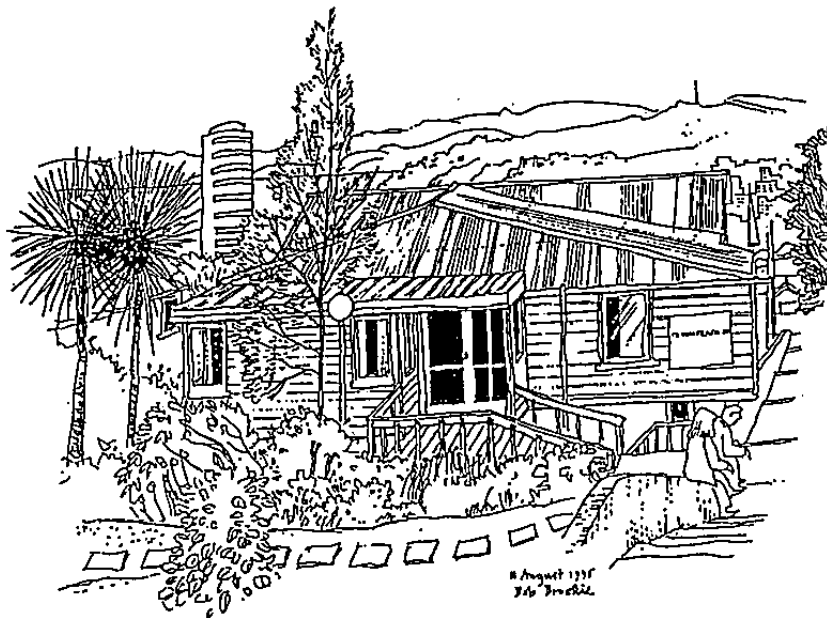
Next year, a significant focus of the Stout’s activities will be on the celebrations of the 125th anniversary of women’s suffrage in New Zealand. Kate has been liaising with colleagues from Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Heritage, National Library and Te Papa to design a vibrant Wellington-wide programme. We look forward to sending out more details when events are confirmed.

A 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 either:

Kate Hunter, Director, Stout Research Centre, telephone 04 463 6434, or Jill Robinson, Development Manager – Planned Giving, Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, telephone 0800 VIC LEGACY (0800 842 534), email: jill.robinson@vuw.ac.nz



*Drawing by Bob Brockie, found when cleaning out old files.
Stout Centre 1995 - with people sitting on wall taking a break!*