



Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies



Newsletter

August 2026

Update from the Director

Tēnā koutou

Thank you to everyone who supported us throughout the last eight months; it was wonderful to see so many people coming to our events. It was especially pleasing to experience the uptake on our conference Kia Tika Kia Pono For A Just Society (<https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/stout-centre/about/events/previous-events/kia-tika-kia-pono-conference-2026>). We are currently in conversation with BWB to publish a selection of the most relevant presentations as a book. Conferences, workshops, seminars series and our journal are the pillars of our work throughout the year.

I encourage you to browse through our just published online, free access *Journal of New Zealand Studies*. It is an excellent example on how exciting and fascinating New Zealand Studies can be. Thank you very much Prof Jim McAloon and Dr Steven Loveridge for your excellent work on this, and for Debbie Levy to create the online version (<https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/jnzs>). Please consider submitting relevant articles, as we are always looking for new authors.

Our next seminars series will start on 9 September; we have invited several researchers to share their work on New Zealand biographies, memoirs and autobiography; this is to understand how to write about lives in this country, with its very specific set of locations, culture and history.

The highlight of our year will be, as always, the JD Stout Fellow Annual Lecture on 11 November, 4.30pm in the Hunter Council Chamber. Please mark the date in your calendar. Dr Frances Hancock will speak about her book project on how to create a community grassroots project, taking the example of the *#ProtectIhumātao* campaign.

We are currently advertising for the 2027 JD Stout Fellow; please encourage colleagues with significant research projects in New Zealand Studies to apply.

The highlight of the Museum and Heritage Studies Programme year will be their upcoming international conference of **Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS) biennial conference ACHS 2026 Tūhono** (www.achs2026.nz). It is a wonderful chance to enjoy an international conference on Heritage Studies right on our doorstep.

I hope you will enjoy reading through the newsletter, and the many updates from our staff, visiting and adjunct scholars, and our PhD students in MHST. We are currently fully booked and at capacity. It makes for a very lively centre, wonderful discussions and a very enjoyable working environment.

I hope to see many of you in the upcoming months.

Nga mihi

Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich

Research Update

JD Stout Fellow

Frances Hancock

The Stout Centre offers an environment wonderfully conducive to wide-ranging scholarly projects. I am grateful for new connections and critical conversations with scholars and students within the Centre *and* across the University. Attending seminars and lectures has introduced me to helpful scholarly sources. I also relish the moral companionship at our weekly shared lunches.

My project explores the lived experiences and critical insights of a group of activist-allies who contributed to the *#ProtectIhumātao* campaign. Since arriving at the Centre, I have undertaken further archival and documentary research to illuminate the context and conditions that gave rise to the campaign as well as its engagement with various legal and political processes. This mahi informs the introduction to our book on campaign allyship as well as other writing. I have enjoyed working with Pania Newton on her Foreword to the pukapuka. She is a campaign cofounder and spokesperson. Together we continue to uncover and add resources to the developing campaign archive, which belongs to Te Ahiwaru.

Opportunities to present aspects of our campaign research to various audiences while here also supports the mahi. Pania and I were delighted to deliver a presentation to the 2026 STOUT conference. Our talk considered ways in which life-sustaining tuupuna legacies invite mokopuna decisions that nourish Indigenous futures. In April I delivered a lecture to Global Studies students on the campaign's Indigenous-led, community supported approach and in August I will speak to students in the Master of Museum and Heritage Studies programme on the politics of heritage enacted at Ihumātao.

Special thanks to Brigitte and Debbie for their warm welcome, many kindnesses, and helpful guidance. Ngaa mihi nui ki a koorua.



Adjunct Research Fellows

Adjunct Professor Anna Green

I am steadily working on my Marsden-funded intergenerational family memory book. In connection with that I will be giving a paper at the Oral History Australia conference in Adelaide this coming December, exploring the gendered value foundations embedded in memories of the family past. Meanwhile my chapter on 'Oral History as Evidence: multidisciplinary approaches' has been published in the *Bloomsbury Oral History Handbook* (2026). As president of the National Oral History Association (until September) I am involved in the ongoing preparation of guidelines for members relating to data protection and the requirements of the *Privacy Act* (updated 2026). This has involved engagement with the Office of the Privacy Commission, and interesting online discussion comparing requirements and responses with the Oral History Society and their General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in the U.K. Finally, the new NOHANZ website, which has been a major endeavour, is finally completed and online: <https://oralhistory.org.nz/>

Emeritus Professor Richard Hill

Richard has completed, with Steven Loveridge, the draft of their second volume of the history of state surveillance in New Zealand, provisionally called *Top-Secret History*. He wrote the preface for Warwick Johnston's book *Amandla '76: The Soweto Uprising Revisited* that was launched on 18 June 2026 by the South African High Commissioner.

Through the Stout Centre's project partnership with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and Margaret Kawharu (Visiting Research Fellow at the Stout) he is associated with a Ngā Pae o te Maramatanga-funded project on the experiences of whanau who were forcibly removed from Ōhakumatamomoe in 1951. At the rededication of the Police Memorial Wall in February at the Police College, Richard was one of three guests of honour who had been involved in the setting up of the first professional Police Museum. He has been doing peer reviews for journals and publishers, assessing a draft history of a unit of the New Zealand Police, mentoring two doctoral candidates who do not have supervisors in Wellington, and advising two authors on the texts of their books. Richard is now in London working on security history and imperial policing, and will be a Visiting Fellow at St. Cross College, Oxford during Michaelmas Term.

Emeritus Professor Barbara Einhorn

Barbara continues the research for her book on 'Transnational Identity under Observation', that turns the lens on discrimination, persecution and forced migration. Her research journey continues with returning in August and September 2026 to the primary sites of my research: Grybów in Poland (a small town southeast of Kraków, formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire), and Berlin. In Berlin she will revisit memorial sites and some of the archives from which she sourced documentary materials in 2024, including the personal and prison records of her Stasi interrogator. Discoveries from these files as well as those from the SIS in New Zealand will feed into the larger context of my research concerning the surveillance of people perceived as a potential threat by quite disparate political regimes in that they frequently cross borders or appear to transgress accepted boundaries, be they geographical or political.

Professor Selwyn Katene

Selwyn is currently gathering oral history with ten heads of religious denominations in New Zealand. His research recognises the leadership experiences of each and documents their inspirations and learnings for future teaching and research.

Dr Margaret Kawharu

He Whenua, He Tangata: Integrating the Historical and Living Memory of Ōkahumatamomoe and the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Forcible Removal of 1951.

This research project is important for honouring kaumātua voices, reclaiming iwi history, and supporting intergenerational knowledge transmission to shape the future aspirations of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. Led by Rowena Dunn and Merania Kerehoma, the project has been granted funding by Ngā Pae o Te Maramatanga Centre of Research Excellence (NPM) through the Te Matakite Research round, and supported by the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies, through advisors Professor Richard Hill and Adjunct Research Fellow Dr Margaret Kawharu.

This research examines the oral histories of Ōkahu Bay (Ōkahumatamomoe), focusing on the lived experiences of whānau and the intergenerational impacts of the 1951 forcible removal of Ōkahumatamomoe on whānau relocated before or after the event. Using kaupapa Māori methodology, the study prioritises pūrākau shared by kaumātua, who are custodians of lived memory and ancestral knowledge. It aims to document life at Ōkahu Bay, experiences of displacement, and the ongoing effects on identity, wellbeing, and connection to whenua. The research will capture these narratives through recorded interviews, which will be analysed to produce a report of findings for the iwi. The interviews will also be used appropriately in a short documentary-style film and in educational resources for whānau and kura.

Maori Shacks Go Up in Smoke



One of the ramshackle homes at Orakau set on fire after demolition yesterday.

*Photo: Auckland Council Libraries – Tāmaki Pātaka Kōrero o Tāmaki Makaurau.
Reference: 7-A14286A*

Boys watch the burning of their homes on Ngāti Whātua's papakāinga at Ōkahu Bay. The government had eyed the area for housing since the 1920s and in 1951 it forcibly bought the land from the tribe. The new owners considered the settlement a slum and razed it to the ground. All that was left was 1/4 acre cemetery. The site later became a park.

Dr Jacqui Leckie

Adjunct Research Fellow Jacqueline Leckie has a lot of work in the publishing pipeline but can't say more. Otherwise, she is writing the biography of poet Meg Campbell, with an editor trying to whip this more into a literary rather than an academic style! There have been two research trips to Wellington this year. Jacqui continues as co-editor of the *Journal of Pacific History* with Matt Matsuda. She recently reviewed *The Dark Dad* for the *Journal of New Zealand Studies*.

Dr Steven Loveridge

Steven has completed, with Richard Hill, a draft of their second volume of the history of state surveillance in New Zealand, provisionally titled *Top-Secret History*. In February, he was part of the organising committee that convened a conference in Wellington bringing together national and international researchers to present papers on crises, controversies, and characters in New Zealand military history. He is now preparing his conference paper, which presents the results of an investigation into a spate of bombings in Auckland protesting the Vietnam War, for publication. He has also continued to contribute to the Waitangi Tribunal's Wai 2500 inquiry and is currently undertaking research on Māori servicepeople during the First World War.

Professor Dominic O'Sullivan

A leading Māori intellectual charts our political future.

In this major book, the leading Māori scholar of politics Dominic O'Sullivan draws on theories of republicanism and the commonwealth to challenge understandings of Te Tiriti as a partnership between the races, or between Māori people and the Crown. O'Sullivan also critiques the idea that Te Tiriti created one people, assimilating Māori into colonial ways of governing. Instead, he

proposes a new politics where Māori self determination and liberal democracy, rangatiratanga and kāwanatanga, complement one another to promote meaningful and culturally grounded political equality.

Dominic O'Sullivan enables us to see a future for Aotearoa in which political authority and responsibility belong to everyone and should therefore work equally well for everyone; a country where Māori people, as much as anyone else, bring their tikanga to public life; and a society where the Crown is no longer the word we use to describe government. For scholars, policymakers and political leaders, for Māori and Pākehā, for all of us imagining a Tiriti-based future for our island democracy, Dominic O'Sullivan's book is essential reading.

Article by Dominic O'Sullivan:

<https://theconversation.com/the-opportunity-partys-treaty-policy-is-closer-to-labour-than-national-but-is-it-a-bottom-line-289589>



Dr Margaret Kawharu and Dr Dominic O'Sullivan - Book Launch - July 2026

Dr Brad Patterson

Continuing his extended study of the dynamics of early settler capitalism in the southern North Island, Brad has moved to consideration of early shipping services and facilities, the sea and rivers being the principal transport arteries connecting the settlement to Great Britain and the Australian colonies, no less the links to the subsequent settlements bordering Cook's Strait and well beyond. A key task has been the construction of databases from 'Shipping Intelligence' columns in the colonial press. His chapter ('Afterword: A Personal Reflection') in *Ireland's Revolutionary Decade 1912-23: New Zealand Responses*, edited by Lisa Marr and Rory Sweetman, is currently with Dublin's UCD Press, with publication anticipated by the end of 2026. He has recently been heavily involved in the refereeing of articles for overseas journals and in the preparation of book reviews. Over the past 12 months, as chair, Brad has overseen the revision of the constitution of the Ian McLean Wards Memorial Trust, which will this year again offer a research scholarship for archivists and documentary managers. At the invitation of the Archives and Records Association he remains a member of the judging panel for the Ian Wards Prize, awarded annually for a New Zealand work of historical scholarship published in the previous year best demonstrating innovative and/or exemplary use of primary source materials

Kathryn Patterson

Research on a sample group of Irish soldiers who took their discharge in New Zealand from the British Army during the nineteenth century is ongoing with consideration of their continued army associated involvement in the militia and volunteer brigades the latest focus. In these units many of the discharges were accorded higher positions than they had held in the British Army. Short pen portraits of some of these men such as Alexander Crowe (Sergeant to Colonel), and Patrick Monaghan (Private to Major) will be included.

As a Life Member, Kathryn was also invited to contribute to *Archifacts*, the journal of the Archives and Records Association (ARANZ), reminiscences of 50 years membership of the Association. This will be published later this year.

Visiting Scholars

Margaret Galt

Margaret is an independent researcher who has recently retired from the New Zealand Treasury. Her research focus is examining the development of New Zealand settler society and economy using a dataset that traces 19th-century New Zealand settler men with surnames Ryan or beginning with RA (e.g., Rabone, Rafferty) across their lifetimes and across generations. So far, she has produced three articles using this database that cover the migration pathways and outcomes for British settlers and also the impact of family background on the enlistment and subsequent lives of World War 1 soldiers.

Currently she is researching the impact of sudden deaths on family outcomes, as a way of looking inside the hidden world of the family to evaluate the roles of husbands and wives, fathers and mothers on outcomes in nineteenth century New Zealand. She is also investigating whether iodine deficiency, which had the potential to lower the IQ of children, reduced life outcomes. In the future she plans to examine different aspects of lifetime and intergenerational social and economic mobility.

Chris Lipscombe

Chris' research into James Bertram (1910–1993) has progressed from documenting Jim's work with Corso and the NZ China Friendship Society to understanding the role he played in New Zealand's burgeoning literary and cultural scene at the end of World War 2. The Alexander Turnbull Library continues to be a rich mine of information in this area, including material from the Denis Glover Collection. Papers and correspondence from the Charles Brasch and R. A. K. Mason collections held in Dunedin's Hocken Library and the Oxford University Press records at the Auckland University Library have also proved useful.

Dr Norman Meehan

Norman is writing the biography of Canon Paul Oestreicher, a German-born New Zealand citizen who was one of the twentieth century's most distinctive voices for peace, human rights, and reconciliation. Oestreicher, ordained an Anglican priest in 1958, served as Chair of Amnesty International UK, Vice President of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, and Canon Director of Coventry Cathedral's International Centre for Reconciliation. He built bridges across the Iron Curtain, challenged apartheid alongside Desmond Tutu, and championed the ordination of women decades before the Church was ready for such advances.

It's a big project and having a desk at the Stout Centre has been a tremendous boon to me as I write the book. I'm cautiously optimistic there'll be a complete draft by the end of 2026, and access to the VUW library along with collegial conversations over cups of tea is proving genuinely helpful. I'm very grateful for the welcome I have received from my colleagues here, and to Brigitte and Debbie who have made it all work out so smoothly.

Lilburn Research Fellowship

Music writer Dr Norman Meehan has been awarded the prestigious Lilburn Research Fellowship for 2027. Dr Meehan will use the Fellowship to research and write a book about the music label Rattle Records (established 1991), renowned for its taonga puoro, jazz, and classical recordings. "Rattle occupies a distinctive place in this country's musical landscape," he observes. "Its catalogue is a kind of cultural archive, one that reflects and has helped shape the development of music in Aotearoa over three decades." His project 'Expanding the horizons of improvised and art music in Aotearoa' will consider Rattle in the context of changing times and document the stories of the musicians and composers associated with the label.

Based in Wellington, Dr Meehan is a highly respected musicologist and writer. Widely published, he has researched various topics including jazz music and New Zealand art music. He is thrilled to accept the Lilburn Research Fellowship for 2027. Sourced from scoop.co.nz. Read full article: [Norman Meehan named as Lilburn Research Fellow](#)

Dr Doug Munro

Doug has recently published: Doug Munro, 'Remembering Brij V. Lal', *Journal of Indentureship and its Legacies*, 6:1 (2026): 84-95. In mid-August he was interviewed for *The Stolen Laevans from Tuvalu: the Peruvian slavery nightmare* (a documentary film concerning the depredations of Peruvian slavers in Tuvalu in 1863 and present-day moves for reparations); and a panelist on the Indo-Caribbean Cultural Centre's weekly *Thought Leaders Forum* (via Zoom), 'Should Indians in the Diaspora demand reparations for indentureship? Part 2'.

Professor Yvette Russell

I will shortly conclude my five-month visit to the Stout Centre from the University of Bristol. While visiting the Stout I have been working on a project that investigates the discursive techniques colonial anthropologists used to draw mana wahine out of the whakapapa of mana Māori. Related to this work, I am also investigating the issue of 'grounds' in legal pluralism, informed by mana wahine theory and practice. I have benefitted during my stay at the Centre from the generous collegiality of Stout members and PhD students, as well as colleagues at Te Kawa a Māui, and feel reluctant to leave at the end of my tenure! The Stout is a centre of research excellence guided by an ethos of curiosity and openness to intellectual inquiry. It is this ethos that makes it an environment that I have found highly conducive to creative thinking and writing. My sincere thanks to Debbie Levy and Brigitte Bonisch-Brednich for facilitating my visit and their warm hospitality.

Nicola Saker

Visiting Scholar Nicola Saker has had three articles published in the Listener this year: "Hoofing It", about pony club experiences; "Under Her Spell", the life and legend of New Zealand's first female Press gallery journalist; and "Apartheid's Turning Point" an account of a young New Zealander caught up in the Soweto Uprising of 1976.

She is currently researching the brief visit of English poet Rupert Brooke to New Zealand and the role of illness in childrens' literature and authors' lives.

Violet Blue

Ms. Blue's project on Aotearoa New Zealand's groundbreaking response to the Covid-19 pandemic stands at a 45,000-word outline in manuscript draft, not including introduction, Foreword, front and back matter, and ancillary supporting material. Some material was delayed surrounding the announcement and publication of a second Royal Commission Covid-19 Inquiry. A substantial bulk of interviews have been completed throughout 2026, a handful of interviews remain to be completed, and Ms. Blue expects to hire a technical copyeditor, a Māori sensitivity reader, and an additional proofreader, all within Aotearoa.

In early 2026 Ms. Blue received a 10/10 2025 BookLife/Publisher's Weekly Prize for prose in her nonfiction book documenting the evolution of Covid-19 prevention worldwide, holding New Zealand's pandemic response as a pioneering model and extrapolating it for present-day use. The award increased Ms. Blue's number of book awards to seven. Violet also conducted and wrote a book review for No. NS41 (2026): *Journal of New Zealand Studies*, *Untold Intimacies: A History of Sex Work in Aotearoa 1978-2008* by Cheryl Ware. She also completed her manuscript for a historical fiction novella based on Wellington and New Zealand history, most especially a history of Chinese immigrants in Wellington, with research support from Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies fellows and the Stout library. The book, "The Ghost Hunter's Guide To The Alphabet," is currently in manuscript form sitting with an agent in the U.S., with two planned sequels to complete a novella trilogy.

Ms. Blue was a panellist in May 2026 as a Wellington historian for Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies Seminar Series—Between the Lines—Recent Books in New Zealand Studies: Mr Ward's Map—Victorian Wellington street by street, with the author Elizabeth Cox and archivist Adrian Humphris. Ms. Blue will be reviewing Ms. Cox's book for *The Journal of New Zealand Studies* 2027. Violet also assisted with and promoted fundraising efforts in March/April 2026 for the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies highly successful Kia Tika, Kia Pono—For A Just Society conference.

Throughout the year, Ms. Blue continued writing features for WIRED, including a popular profile on New Zealand's premiere cybersecurity conference, Kawaiicon. Violet presented the opening keynote for Black Hat Asia 2026 in Singapore, the largest cybersecurity and information security policy conference in the Southern Hemisphere. Violet also began co-hosting a fan-favorite weekly comedy-news podcast "Orbital Leisure Lounge" based in Wellington covering global and local Wellington news events.

In addition, Violet project managed a cybersecurity and civic engineering capstone project in partnership with The School of Engineering and Computer Science at Victoria University of Wellington as an Industry Collaboration with Engineering Fourth-Year Individual Projects. The project ("Honkbot") is an interdisciplinary civic art and engineering project that detects horn signals in Wellington Harbour ("honks") and automatically posts "HONK HONK HONK" to social media accounts to create a technically credible yet joyful civic bot that demystifies harbour sounds while giving students hands-on experience with real-world ambiguity, incomplete data, and multidisciplinary problem solving. Our project aims to become a long-term civic digital artifact and is open to post-completion developmental ideas, including artistic, historical maritime signal reconstruction, and incorporation of Māori perspectives on maritime trade routes and/or route signalling.

New Residents

Renée Robbers

Renée Robbers is a PhD candidate at Maastricht University whose research bridges Planetary Health and environmental humanities. Her project investigates how knowledge—understood not as a static object but as a relational and situated process—emerges, moves, and transforms through encounters between humans, rivers, and other more-than-human actors within water-related practices. Rather than treating knowledge as a universal substance to be transferred or applied, her work explores knowing as something that unfolds within relationships: between bodies, places, histories, and ontologies.

During her stay at the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies, Renée will undertake place-based fieldwork focused human–river relations in Aotearoa New Zealand. Combining multispecies, ethnographic and audiovisual methods, her research will engage with water monitoring practices, restoration initiatives, and conversations with people working with and alongside rivers and coastal ecosystems in order to explore how ecological knowledge takes shape through lived relationships with rivers and place. Renée is joining the Stout in September through to 2027.

Yuka Mizutani

Yuka Mizutani specializes in Indigenous studies and cultural anthropology. For more than 20 years, she has focused on multiple issues, including Indigenous people's experiences at the geographic margins of the U.S. territory, including Pacific islands; the revitalization of Indigenous cultures; the repatriation of items from museums; and the relationship between Indigenous people and academic institutions. In 2026-2027, she plans to participate in activities of the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies as a visiting scholar to deepen her knowledge of issues related to Māori people, in order to extend the geographical scope of her research. Yuka holds a Ph.D. in Area Studies (Sophia University, 2009) and is a professor at the Centre for Global Education and Discovery and the Graduate Program of International Cooperation Studies at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan. Formerly, she worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies at Hokkaido University in Japan. Also, she was a Fulbright visiting scholar at the Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program in the Department of American Studies of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2019-2020. Yuka is joining the Stout in November through to 2027.

Events

Lydia Wevers Scholarship Seminar - 20 March 2026

100-Year Vision of Belmont Regional Park Hannah Merrett-Kaufman

Hannah Merrett-Kaufman was the 2025 Lydia Wevers Scholarship recipient and presented her research on 20 March 2026. Globally, an estimated 385–472 million hectares of abandoned agricultural land exist (Campbell, 2008), predominantly in high- and middle-income countries (Yang, Yi, et al., 2020). Agricultural intensification has significantly altered landscapes, impacting biodiversity, trace-gas emissions, water quality and flow, soil health, and climate (Wade, Gurr, et al., 2008). While abandoned agricultural lands can contribute to carbon sequestration through natural vegetation recovery, this process is often slow or incomplete without active intervention, leaving some landscapes degraded for decades (Yang, Yi, et al., 2020).

This thesis began with observations and a walk. I stood on a ridge in Belmont Regional Park and watched birds trace paths across the wind. What started as a curiosity about land and movement became a deep exploration of time, memory, and intergenerational care. This work reflects the weaving of many voices, ancestral, ecological, personal. It's a story shaped by fauna and flora, and the patience of flight. The desert of green grass and rye, replacing the forest, wetlands and shrublands of what once teemed of life. This walk through the existing park reminds you of that past, of what was. But also, give wake to what could be. On a precipice of change, Belmont Park could take flight into something spectacular.

May Seminar Series

Between the Lines: Recent Books in New Zealand Studies

During May, the Stout Research Centre hosted a seminar series highlighting the publication of recent titles on New Zealand history, politics and culture. Each session featured a conversation between an author and expert panellists tackling a title's conception, development and reception, and a discussion on books, their authors and those who read them.

The seminar programme featured Charlotte Macdonald, *Garrison World: Redcoat Soldiers in New Zealand and across the British Empire*, Leah Vonderheide, *Merata Mita: decolonizing the Screen*, Elizabeth Cox, *Mr Ward's Map: Victorian Wellington Street by Street*, and Colin James, *Shaping Aotearoa/New Zealand: The Revolutionaries who Reworked a Nation and its culture*.

Information on past events can be found at:

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

Conference

Kia Tika, Kia Pono - For a Just Society



In April, the Stout hosted the conference at Pipitea, with the focus on developing a new way of thinking about Aotearoa New Zealand as a society. Our task is to imagine a new language with which to address the issues that we are facing and help us move towards a just society and economy. Following on from work such as Marilyn Waring's analysis of GDP as a flawed measure to analyse and Matthew Scobie and Anna Sturman's work on economic possibilities of decolonisation we are inviting people to address new ways of interrogating our multiple and interconnected crises of climate change, ecological destruction, wealth inequality, and poverty.

This conference has contributed to a paradigm change that is urgently needed. We know enough of what is wrong; we have the evidence on the causes and harms of pay inequity, poverty, and systemic destructive racism. Now we need to build a new analytical narrative that takes us from an extractive to a just economy and society. The new language we are inviting speakers to contribute to could be the scaffolding we need to get the building blocks for a just society. Setting about creating an Aotearoa New Zealand that is built on notions of comprehensive, holistic justice we need to re-imagine how an Aotearoa with a future would look.



Further information on the conference can be found at:

<https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/stout-centre/about/events/previous-events/kia-tika-kia-pono-conference-2026>

Journal of New Zealand Studies, published by the Stout Research Centre

The latest issue of the *Journal of New Zealand Studies* NS41 has been published in August.

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).

Museum and Heritage Studies

Conal McCarthy

This has been a busy period with several publications coming out, and several planned as part of RSL from June 2025 to early 2026. Late last year a special issue of the *Museum History Journal* appeared guest edited by Conal with Miranda Johnson from Otago University (a former Stout visiting scholar) and a MHST graduate Philipp Schorch who is Professor of Museum Anthropology at LMU in Munich. The issue 'Decolonising museums and archives' contained an article on Māori archives co-authored by Conal with Hirini Tāne, Paul Diamond, Gerard O'Regan and Takerei Norton. Also in late 2025 an article appeared in an ICOFOM publication (ICOM's committee on museology) which came from a keynote at a conference at St Andrews in 2024.

There are two major publications underway with Teaching Fellow Michelle Horwood, also a graduate of the MHST PhD programme. The first is a large handbook with over 30 chapters on intercultural heritage with Palgrave in the UK co-edited with Awhina Tamarapa and Kolokesa Mahina-Tuai which will appear in late 2026. The second is an encyclopaedia of heritage studies with UK publishers Elgar co-edited with Michelle Horwood which is planned for 2027-8. Finally, the major focus of the RSL is a monograph with Nebraska University Press on Māori and museum anthropology 1890-1940. Meanwhile, Conal is being kept busy with his work for ICOM IMREC (the international museum research and exchange centre) based in Shanghai. This involves coordinating the Digital Leadership Research Fellowships for 10 museum professionals from across the globe comprising expert workshops with leading scholars, one on one mentoring sessions with practitioners working with new and emerging digital technology, and presentations in China leading to publication on the ICOM website.



PhD Roundup

Matteo Collina and Robert McClean both passed their PhD orals with flying colours in May and are now fully fledged Doctors of Philosophy. Matteo has started a cross-disciplinary post-doc position funded by Museum & Heritage Studies and Marine Biology, working on a number of inter-related projects. Robert is continuing in his busy role as Principal Advisor, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira. We have a new PhD student from Germany – Franziska Jakob – who has been awarded a Wellington Doctoral Scholarship and began her studies on July 1, working with Lee Davidson. Franziska's research focuses on the social role of museums as places for intercultural dialogue in the current era of mass migration and multi-cultural societies. She is interested in the means by which museums perform this significant task, and specifically in the design strategies through which intercultural dialogue and respect for different cultures are fostered in exhibitions and museums in a diverse society. Franziska holds a BA in Communication Design (Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany) and a MA in Museum Studies and European Ethnology (Würzburg, Germany). She has worked as an exhibition designer for several museums and exhibitions in Germany.

Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS) biennial conference update

ACHS 2026 Tūhono will be hosted by the Museum & Heritage Studies programme in November-December 2026. This is the first time this major international conference will be held in Aotearoa, with a focus on our region, culture and heritage. Our Call for Papers received almost 400 submissions from all around the world. The Steering Committee, chaired by Lee Davidson, is busy putting together an exciting programme for the delegates (the draft programme outline has just been released www.achs2026.nz). Early bird registration is open (until Oct 1).

Lee Davidson Research update

While mostly occupied organising the ACHS conference, I am in the final stages with my publication for UNESCO on Intercultural Dialogue at Museums and Heritage Sites. This will be the first ever guide to theory and practice in this important area and is aimed to increase understanding of intercultural practices in heritage spaces and promote their implementation and effectiveness. I am also principal investigator for a VUW Cross-Disciplinary Research Fund project, working with colleagues in Marine Biology, Science and Society, Design and Mātauranga Māori. The project, titled “Reimaging relationships with nature: An integrated framework for combining 3D models to monitor remote marine ecosystems with the creation of transformative immersive experiences”, builds on the PhD work of Matteo Collina (and is part of his post-doc). It aims to build an integrated, cross-disciplinary framework that makes remote heritage “reachable” through affect-driven immersive digital experiences while also enhancing ecological knowledge and advancing Indigenous-led methodologies for environmental storytelling and digital representation.



Supervisors Lee Davidson and James May, with Matteo Collina.

PhD Candidate

Ruihe Qi

Research Travels: Exploring Museums Across London, Abu Dhabi and Beijing

Over the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to explore a number of newly opened museums while continuing to think about questions that relate closely to my PhD research on museums and Indigenous intangible cultural heritage.

In London, I visited the newly opened V&A East and V&A East Storehouse. V&A East reflects the museum's ambition to engage more directly with East London's communities, while the Storehouse offers visitors an entirely different experience by opening up museum collections and behind-the-scenes conservation work in an unprecedented way. Together, they raise interesting questions about how museums balance local engagement, institutional identity and public access.

From London, I travelled to Abu Dhabi, where I visited Louvre Abu Dhabi, Zayed National Museum and the Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi. Louvre Abu Dhabi presents a global narrative that connects cultures across time and place, while Zayed National Museum explores the history and identity of the United Arab Emirates through architecture, collections and intangible cultural heritage. At the Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi, I was particularly impressed by its public engagement spaces, where open laboratories and hands-on archaeological activities encourage visitors to actively participate in the museum experience.

Back in Beijing, I was invited to present at the Museum Studies and Communication Workshop held at the China Media Museum of Communication University of China. My presentation, "From Display to Participation: Museum Practice and Community Engagement in the Communication of Māori Living Heritage," introduced my doctoral research at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, focusing on Te Papa Tongarewa's bicultural approach and its relationship with the safeguarding and transmission of Māori Kapa Haka as living heritage. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas with museum scholars and professionals from across China and to discuss the evolving role of museums in supporting living cultural heritage. Looking back, these visits and academic exchanges offered fresh perspectives on how museums around the world engage with their communities, interpret cultural heritage, and respond to contemporary social and cultural challenges. They have provided valuable inspiration as I continue my PhD research.



Abu Dhabi National History Museum

Māori Post Doc

Dr Awhina Tamarapa

Awhina has been busy collating her findings on the location and descriptions of taonga pūoro (Māori musical instruments) and karetao (small carved figures with moveable arms) in overseas museums. Her research will conclude in two months. Awhina is planning to share her findings in different ways that are readily accessible to practitioners, descendant communities and general public.

Awhina is a member of *Haumanu Collective*, a national Incorporated Society dedicated to the retention and revitalisation of taonga pūoro. This group are working with Waikato Museum on a taonga pūoro exhibition, opening 23 September 2027 to March 2028. Awhina will be incorporating her research into aspects of the exhibition. Integrating post-doctoral Māori research is based on being guided by the communities that you are working for.

Last June, Awhina was part of a special Haumanu Collective taonga pūoro wānanga led by renown exponent, Elizabeth Gray (Ngāti Rēhia, Ngāti Uepōhatu, Tama Ūpoko ki te awa Tipua, Ngāti Tūwharetoa). The wānanga was with Ngāti Whakaari and Ngāti Matepū of Petane Marae, Napier. Awhina is a descendant and actively involved with her people. The hapū requested a wānanga as part of normalising the living practice of taonga pūoro. This is part of re-establishing connections, tikanga and kawa integral to the building a new marae complex. The wānanga was greatly received and enjoyed by all ages. It is such a joy when one sees the benefits of sharing mātauranga Māori as rongoā (healing). It is what keeps taonga researchers like me grounded and sure of the benefits and potentiality of our work with communities, Māori practitioner collectives and heritage organisations.



Elizabeth Gray and Awhina Tamarapa,
Petane Marae Taonga Pūoro Wānanga, 26 June 2026



Petane Wānanga, 27 June 2026

Teaching Fellow

Update from Dr Michelle Horwood

The Museum and Heritage Studies students have just completed their mid-year work placements. We had quite a diverse range of opportunities offered this year and were able to provide students with projects that contributed towards their future career aspirations in the GLAM sector. The placement experiences ranged from improving taxidermy processes at Te Papa, supporting the Pipitea Awa Partnership Project through planning and research, contributing to the expansion of The Legacies Project - a digital interactive map that traces the migration and resettlement journeys of Holocaust survivors in Aotearoa for the Holocaust Centre of NZ, highlighting collection items through blog posts and exhibition text at the NZ Portrait Gallery, training as an archivist at the Hawke's Bay Museum's new purpose-built collection store, undertaking policy-based data analysis for heritage protection at Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga, and learning about collections management processes at The Dowse Art Museum.



Abi at the NZ Portrait Gallery



The wing of a parea/Chatham Island pigeon prepared by Antoinette for Te Papa's collection.



The Pipitea Awa Project team - Steph (at left)
with Raydeen Duffe and Martin Andrews

Adjuncts

Adjunct Research Fellow, Susette Goldsmith, published *Capital Trees: The arboreal legacy of Te Upoko-o-te-Ika the Wellington region* in October last year. The book, which traces the living legacies of Wellington's rich tree heritage follows her earlier book *Tree Sense: Ways of thinking about trees* published in 2021.