

Editorial

IT HAS been three years and six issues of the *Women's Studies Journal* since the Wellington-based editorial committee took over from the Palmerston North-based editorial collective. The time has really flown and we are pleased with the wonderful New Zealand feminist scholarship that we have been able to guide to publication. However, it is time to pass the editorial mantle on – to whom, is yet to be finalised – watch this space! In this, our final editorial, we would like to reflect briefly upon the achievements of the past three years, consider the ongoing challenges for the journal and express our gratitude to our friends and colleagues who have worked with us to keep the *WSJ* alive.

We are proud of our contribution to supporting the vision of Rosemary Seymour – the journal founder – which was to promote and disseminate research about women, by women, from a feminist perspective, with a New Zealand/Pacific emphasis. We have been particularly impressed in our roles as editors to see that, despite disappearing gender studies programmes in NZ university offerings, feminist research in Aotearoa is in remarkably good heart.

The scope of the research published under our editorship reaches into many corners of social life, as has been evident in the range of topics included in the past three years of articles published in the journal. The issues covered reflect long held feminist concerns with matters including sexuality, motherhood, violence, health and beauty. The importance of difference and diversity was reflected in a thematic theme of a special issue (25:2, edited by Maxine Campbell, Carolyn Michelle and Rachell Simon-Kumar, 2011). We were also pleased to be able to have filled a 'missed' special issue (22.2) on Pacific Knowledges with the help of Karen Stevenson. As editors we have been particularly keen for the journal to provide a publishing opportunity for postgraduate students and each issue has included at least one student paper. Publishing student work is important to a goal of 'growing' feminist research in New Zealand and we would like to see this aspect of the journal flourish in the years ahead.

There are challenges in publishing a journal that importantly locates itself in a local rather than a global context, addressing those issues concerning gender that are pertinent to the lives of women and girls in the Pacific region. One of these challenges is an increasingly competitive academic environment in which publication in top-ranking international journals overshadows other forms and venues for publication. Yet, as our three years has so resoundingly established, a high standard publication does not require an international context. Indeed, with the increased access to the *Women's Studies Journal* afforded by its listing in the Proquest database we are confident that international citations to the excellent articles published in the journal will steadily increase. In the local context a more pressing challenge is how to extend its cultural voice such that the journal's pages more broadly reflect the different knowledges and experiences of diverse New Zealand identities – ethnicities, sexualities, gender, age and class. In this regard, it may also be timely to review the journal's history of excluding male authors who are now making some important contributions to gender studies. Finally, as editors we have persistently struggled with the challenge of how to encourage more submissions to the journal and, on behalf of the new editorial team, we will look forward to a time when the volume of papers submitted to the journal outstrips the capacity of publication in two issues per year.

In closing, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our reviewers, without whom the quality assurance of the journal would not be possible. A list of their names can be found in acknowledgement at the end of this issue.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank other key members of the publishing team: Liz Rawlings who has made a significant contribution to the journal in her two key roles as book review editor and as copy editor; Jenny Rankine for her design work, formatting and page layout, and Ruth Renner for managing the electronic publishing on the WSA website. Finally, we offer our best wishes for the next editorial collective and our sincerest hope that they will successfully negotiate the challenges of keeping this publication a vibrant one.

Ann Weatherall and Sue Jackson