

Humanities Research

NZ Australia Research Centre *By Philippa Mein Smith, Professor of History and* *Assistant Head of Humanities*

The New Zealand Australia Research Centre was launched as an inter-disciplinary research centre based in the School of Humanities in 2008. NZARC aims to promote research on trans-Tasman issues; to provide Australia and New Zealand perspectives on global concerns; and to raise public awareness and understanding of Australia's importance to New Zealand and vice-versa. The centre aims to develop research collaborations between individuals and institutions, to promote postgraduate training, to support working together to meet global challenges, and contribute to policy and debate about the relationship between the countries. NZARC grew from the pilot NZAC Research Centre established in the School of History by Philippa Mein Smith and Peter Hempenstall in 2005.

Membership

Membership expanded in 2009 to nine continuing UC staff, two research associates and four postgraduate (PhD) students.

Staff: Prof Philippa Mein Smith, HUMS (Director); Prof Jeremy Finn (Law); Prof Adrian Sawyer (ACIS); Assoc Prof John Henderson (SAPS); Assoc Prof Paul Millar (HUMS); Assoc Prof Elizabeth Toomey (Law); Dr Jo Diamond (HUMS); Dr Lyndon Fraser (SAPS); Dr Jeremy Moses (SAPS).

Research Associates: Emeritus Prof Peter Hempenstall (Newcastle, Australia); Stuart McMillan, Adjunct Research Fellow.

Postgraduates: Rosemary Baird, Bernadette Devonport, Wayne Stack and Gary Whitcher (all History PhDs supervised by Philippa Mein Smith; Rosemary Baird is co-supervised with Lyndon Fraser).

NZARC has featured on radio lately. Bryan Crump interviewed postgraduate Rosemary Baird about her PhD thesis on oral histories of trans-Tasman migration in a session titled 'Lure of Australia' on Radio NZ Nights on 17 February. Philippa Mein Smith was also interviewed in a symposium on 'Aussie's Seventh State' on 12 April.

NZARC members agreed in 2009 that the Centre would aim to produce one 'flagship' event each year which would vary by theme and discipline.



NZARC's flagship event for 2010 is the Trans-Tasman Law and Legal Practice Conference, co-hosted by NZARC and the School of Law at the University of Canterbury, 27-28 August 2010. Elizabeth Toomey is the Conference Convenor. Hon. Simon Power will open the conference and the plenary address will be delivered by Hon. (Justice) Michael Kirby. This conference is designed to bring together legal experts comprising academics, judges, law commissioners, and distinguished practitioners to discuss various legal relationships between New Zealand and Australia.

In September this year NZARC and the History programme are commencing an **annual postgraduate student exchange** between History at UC and the University of Queensland. The invitation came from colleagues at UQ. The inaugural exchange student is Rosemary Baird, who will visit UQ and present a seminar.

In 2011 a UQ postgraduate will in turn visit UC. Also in September Philippa will give an invited address in a trans-Tasman panel with the Australian High Commissioner and political commentator Colin James at a **Constitution Conference** in Wellington.

For more visit www.nzac.canterbury.ac.nz