

## Editorial

31 December 2011 is the close-off date for publications eligible for the current PBRF research audit. This witching-hour has had all sorts of implications for JNZL. It may have contributed to this issue's high rejection rate: the essays in JNZL 29 (2011) represent just over 20% of those we considered as general submissions, producing a rejection rate of around 75%. JNZL 29 also carries a generous reviews section, but the twelve reviews and two review essays presented here discuss only a fraction of the books we received in advance of the PBRF deadline. Additional titles arrived too late in the year to allow time for the considered reading they deserve, and will appear in the 2012 issue. Roger Horrocks and Lawrence Jones both took up a standard invitation to reviewers to write at greater length than JNZL's usual 1500 words if they feel the occasion warrants, and both have taken long views over large subjects. Lawrence Jones's review-essay of Joel Gwynne's *The Secular Visionaries* arrived with a note suggesting that it might generate some reaction, which Jones—a former editor of this journal—would welcome: 'I'm quite willing to be cast as an out-of-touch curmudgeon so long as the issues are discussed'. Although JNZL no longer carries letters to the editor, readers may wish to respond in kind.

This year's JNZL Prize produced a field of eleven entries from emerging researchers in New Zealand, the UK and the US. We again short-listed four. Congratulations to Andrew Dean, whose essay 'Reading *An Autobiography*: Michael King, Patrick Evans and Janet Frame' was ranked first or second by eleven of our thirteen judges.

This issue also presents new work from an unusual quarter, and in an unusual genre for JNZL. Ian Wedde's memoir 'A Little Bit Prickly...' was presented as the 9th annual Frank Sargeson

Memorial Lecture at the University of Waikato on 15 September 2011. The English Programme of the University of Waikato has previously published the Sargeson lectures in its ephemeral Occasional Papers series, but we are now delighted to be able to offer these addresses a more permanent and accessible home in JNZL. Thanks indeed to Ian, New Zealand's poet laureate, for making his text available to us.

JNZL's international reach continues to expand thanks to licensing agreements with JSTOR, ProQuest and Gale. Together, they produced around 20,000 hits/downloads in the year to December 2011. Revenue-sharing income from JSTOR will fund a Special Issue of JNZL for 2012 (essays on James K. Baxter and Robert Burns), and a Special Issue for 2013 will be advertised via an international call for papers. CFPs for the 2012 JNZL Prize and the 2013 Special Issue appear on JNZL's web page, and at the end of this issue. This year subscribers will also receive JNZL 29: 2 (2011), 'Writing the Waikato', funded by a Strategic Research Investment grant from the University of Waikato and edited by Anne McKim and Kirstine Moffat. JNZL 29: 2 carries an obituary for Ken Arvidson, who passed away in May 2011. I would like to pay personal tribute to Ken, friend and mentor, who edited this journal from 2001 to 2004.

**Sarah Shieff**