

Introduction

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The range of contributions in this issue really highlight the diversity of what we do and the things we are concerned with. Following on from the opinions expressed about Archives New Zealand in *Archifacts* April 2014, we have another perspective in this issue: the view from inside the organisation. The Chief Archivist, Marilyn Little, provides insight into the issues and challenges faced by our national archival authority and the outlook for the future.

The next two articles are both situated in the context of local government. The first is provided by Natalie Dewson, and describes a very practical and useful real life approach to working with born digital records, in the context of local government. For those of you who were at the ARANZ/ASA conference in Christchurch, the broader case study was the basis for discussion at the closing workshop. If you were not present at the workshop and you're tackling the problem of establishing a digital archives, it's well worth reading Natalie's paper and then following up by reading Anne Picot's summary of the Christchurch discussion.¹

Then for a complete change of pace, Wayne Nelson provides a very readable and entertaining account of the parks and gardens of Lower Hutt, showcasing the resources of the Hutt City Council Archives. Records of this type will be familiar to many working in local government, and this paper demonstrates how they can be used to provide the narrative detail that brings local history to life.

The final paper included in this issue of *Archifacts* is peer reviewed. It takes us offshore for a fascinating account of a very different type of archive – an emerging archive of Australian Aboriginal languages and literature.

The book reviews are the usual eclectic mix, very well written and eminently readable. We conclude with the second instalment of the getting-to-know-you feature introduced last time. In this issue, please meet Christopher Meech, Curator of Archives at Waitaki District Libraries and Archive.

This final *Archifacts* for 2014 marks the end of an often tumultuous year for New Zealand's archives and archivists. It remains to be seen what 2015 has in store, from an *Archifacts* perspective I hope we will

be able to publish some of the fascinating papers presented at the Christchurch ARANZ/ASA conference.

Endnotes

1. Picot, A. Report back from the Recordkeeping Roundtable workshop at #ARANZASA in Christchurch, NZ <http://rkroundtable.org/2014/10/14/digital-archives-heres-the-problem-how-would-you-address-it/>