Kia ora wahine ma.

In 2014 the tide of feminism is coming in again. Feminism is in the ether, as a (male) *Guardian* reviewer opined, referring to Jane Campion’s complaint at Cannes that very little film funding is made available to women directors. The ‘f’ word is now used unabashedly in media commentary on topics ranging from violence against women to poverty, harassment, equal pay, inequality in the arts, political representation and the glass ceiling for women in the worlds of business and finance.

The Women’s Studies Association needs to ride this new wave. We are a feminist organisation encouraging feminist scholarship, the teaching of women’s studies and preservation of women’s history. We are in the process of making changes to the way we work. The organising group, based in Wellington for many years, has moved back to Auckland. We have a redesigned website (www.wsanz.org.nz), our newsletter is going electronic from the next issue and we’re planning new events and new strategic directions. Our commitment to core association activities remains strong, with plans for national conferences every year or two, a continuance of the Rosemary Seymour Research and Archives Awards and, of course, to this journal.

The *Women’s Studies Journal* began thirty years ago in 1984 and we are very proud of its achievements. It was the vision of an Auckland editorial collective, with Margot Roth as its first editor. Production was on the kitchen table, as with so many feminist publications of the time (not much has changed!). The first issue included articles by Anne Else on Katherine Mansfield and Sue Middleton on sex-role stereotyping. Margot, now in her 90s and living in Melbourne, still follows the journal avidly and continues to write a column in our newsletter.

In its thirty years of publication the journal has amassed a truly wonderful collection of New Zealand women’s scholarship. Issues since 2008 are available on our website and on EBSCO, and our website also indexes issues from 1995 onwards, the text of which is available on Proquest. Hard copy issues going back to the beginning are available in libraries and their contents can be identified by searching Index New Zealand. Some back issues can still be purchased from University of Otago Press, a previous publisher. Most issues have peer-reviewed articles on a range of topics, but some have been special issues, such as Educating Sexuality (1996), Women and Violence (2005), Mātauranga Māori (2007) and Pacific Knowledges (2011). Further Special Issues on particular themes are being planned. A future project will aim to put all our back issues into electronic format accessible from our website.

This year the move of the organising group to Auckland, along with our new website launch, was celebrated with a feminist art exhibition. *Voicing the visible*, curated by Linda Tyler’s graduate students at the Gus Fisher Gallery, University of Auckland, contained works of 18 feminist artists from the 1960s to the present day and attracted a good crowd of all ages to the launch. The launch invitation featured an image by Shigeyuki Kihara, from a series following the recent tsunami in Samoa, showing herself as a Samoan woman in Victorian dress gazing at the ocean. Its postcolonial musings and sense of apprehension calls our futures into question, with its series title, ‘Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?’
Maybe this new wave will be another social tsunami, like the first wave disturbances that gained women the vote, married women the right to own property, and entrance to universities and the professions – and the second wave which provoked deep questioning around personal relationships between men and women and amongst women, and set off social changes that still reverberate today with their imaginativeness and their aspirations around equality, person-hood, lesbian rights, the right to control our own bodies, the right to be free from violence, and the quest for equality in the public sphere and the professions, including the universities. It is particularly apt, in an election year, to consider how a new wave of feminism can make an impact, as well as the role that women’s studies has to play in turning the light of theory and scholarship onto the pragmatic issues that concern feminists.

The articles in this issue certainly reflect concerns of today, and reiterate the relevance of feminist analysis. The papers include Chadwick, Gavey, Elizabeth and Tolmie’s research on the portrayal of parents by Family Court judges, an analysis by Schmidt of decision-making by first-time parents about parenting and working, a critique of the ‘relentless tyranny’ of body image monitoring and evaluation by Tuffin, Hamid and Blake, and an examination by Farvid and Glass of the representation of prostitution in the media. Tulia Thompson reviews the works of American cartoonist, Alison Bechdel, who visited New Zealand recently. We also have reports on emerging student research; Leask examines the implications of research that links abortions with mental illness, and Young offers a critical review of recent research on stripping as an occupation. Read and then use in forthcoming debates!

Nga mihi nui.

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