

## Editorial

Kia ora koutou e hoa mā.

When the idea of this journal was first mooted, some of my esteemed colleagues were dubious that we had a local journal in us. This is now our eighth volume, albeit a volume that's taken 2 years to assemble on account of the disruptions we have experienced over the past few years. My many thanks to those who've stuck with us over this time. I'm also pleased that we're able to include in this volume write-ups of presentations from the 2022 ANZEA conference, including the amazing keynote presentations.

The keynotes at the 2022 ANZEA conference—Amohia Boulton, Jeph Mathias, and Jesse Kokaua—brought us into their worlds, inviting us to accompany them on part of their journey as they told their stories to us and described the principles and practices that guide their work. As keynotes before them, they succeeded in describing the intimate links between their professional and personal lives—blurring any assumed boundaries so that we were assured that they're in this field to do work that supports equity, justice, and decolonisation.

This passion was also clear in Yvonne Underhill-Sem's keynote at the 2016 ANZEA conference, and I'm pleased that we're able to include it in this volume.

In his article in this volume, Shaun Akroyd describes his kaupapa Māori evaluation of the Huringa Pai Māori health initiative. Shaun implemented this evaluation with aroha ki te tāngata—a love for the people. In her article and follow-on from her ANZEA 2022 conference presentation, Louise Were shares how the capacity of aroha can be actioned through leadership in the field of evaluation. In his

commentary on Indigenous evaluation, Daniel Ticehurst reflects on what it means to be a non-Indigenous ally and the challenges he sees to the decolonisation of evaluation.

Two further articles follow up on ANZEA 2022 conference presentations to reflect on what it means to be a Pākehā or tauīwi (non-Māori) evaluator in Aotearoa New Zealand. Lynley Cvitanovic shares her story of being a Pākehā evaluator—the places she’s been and the challenges she’s had along the way, while Lauren Sweetman Babbington, Meenakshi Sankar, Paula White, and Jeph Mattias have written about their own experiences and the lessons they have to share.

Finally, four of the emerging evaluators who received scholarships to attend the ANZEA 2022 conference have written short reflective pieces. It’s a good reminder to those of us who’ve been in this field for a long time that the input of new energy and new expertise can be invigorating and thought-provoking.

This is my last volume as Editor-in-Chief of the journal and it’s been an absolute pleasure to be involved, especially with the support of a wonderful Editorial Board and the impeccable work of NZCER in the production of the journal. The ANZEA convenors and boards, in their different iterations over the past 10 years, have never failed to be supportive and encouraging of the journal. Many thanks also to the authors who contributed thought-provoking articles, and to the reviewers who (mostly) upheld our commitment to mana enhancing peer review. He mihi mahana ki a koutou.

I sign off with a whakatauki and my best wishes to you all in your future endeavours.

Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei

*Seek the treasure you value most dearly, if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain*

Heoi anō, nā Fiona Cram, Editor-in-Chief