

Guest Editorial

Since the National Standing Committee on Bicultural Issues was established, it has been clear that it was important to generate discussion of these issues among New Zealand psychologists. The articles in this issue of the bulletin are intended to both initiate such discussion and to encourage psychologists to action.

The brief for contributors was to address the Treaty of Waitangi and/or bicultural issues facing psychologists in teaching, research and practice of psychology in Aotearoa. This they have done. Reading these contributions it was clear to us that while the Treaty was their cornerstone, they have directed attention to the relationships between Maori and psychology in a colonial society. In doing so they are building on the foundations of our big bang Treaty party of 1990 and challenging us to understand the necessity for decolonizing ourselves and our discipline. That will be an exciting process in which we should all participate.

To the National Standing Committee, the articles are a preparation for a special symposium at this year's NZPsS Conference which is intended to explore the practical implications for psychology and psychologists. For this reason we are disappointed that contributions from Wellington and Otago did not eventuate as these issues are bigger than Auckland and Waikato. It is our hope that these articles and the responses to them will provide a significant impetus to the cultural evolution of our Society and discipline.

We have attempted to place some semblance of order on the articles but each one can and does stand alone for the reader who wishes to delve in at different points. The articles by Te Hata Ohlson and James Ritchie provide an introduction to the collection. Following this, Tereki Stewart and Sandy Gauntlett both address issues of concern to Maori students taking psychology courses. Articles by Paul Stanley and Ingrid Huygens challenge the structural power base of psychology and this theme is developed by Keri Lawson-Te Aho and Tim McCreanor. David Thomas examines psychological services in this country and touches on departmental issues that are also raised in Fiona Cram and Tim McCreanor's article on steps and tips for Psychology Departments wishing to become bicultural. The final three articles address ethical issues - Marewa Glover looks at practice, and Margie Hohepa and Stuart McNaughton, and Pam Oliver examine research issues.

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