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# Introduction

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It's my pleasure to introduce this special issue on gender and environment, guest co-edited by Ruth Morgan and Margaret Cook. The special issue is a timely and important reminder of the need for more sustained gender analysis in environmental history. As well, the issue provides useful case studies and tools for analysing gender and environment. This includes an expert analysis of gender and environmental history scholarship (Ruth Morgan and Margaret Cook, '**Gender, environment and history: New methods and approaches in environmental history**') and a superb analysis of the fabrication of a quilt, and its implications for gender, colonialism and environment (Vanessa Nicholas, '**The naturalisation of settler colonialism by a flowered Irish quilt in Upper Canada**'). It extends to a study of masculinity and femininity in rural Waikato (Meg Parsons and Karen Fisher, '**Hegemonic masculinity and femininity in the 'backblocks' of the Waikato and King Country, 1860s–1930s**'), an article on the use of archives to reveal untold stories of emotion and masculinity (Margaret Cook, '**Emotional challenges to masculinity in the 1930s Callide Valley closer settlement, Australia**') and ends with a fascinating discussion of recent migrant women and environment (Heather Goodall and Latifa Hekmat, '**Talking to water: Memory, gender and environment for Hazara refugees in Australia**').

Rebecca Priestley is stepping down as associate editor of the journal. I thank her for her work and support. I also thank the support of the Centre for Science in Society, Victoria University of Wellington, which funded the publication of the journal from 2017–20. I welcome one new editorial board member—Courtney Addison, from Victoria University of Wellington, who as an anthropologist will help to broaden the interdisciplinary skill set of the journal.

Unfortunately annual funding for the preparation, formatting and copyediting for the journal has stopped. This means the journal will have to seek other funding sources. Please contact me if you have any suggestions or wish to donate towards publication costs.

The current funding issue with *International Review* points to wider problems in academic publishing, funding and access, evident even pre-COVID-19. Post-COVID-19, funding for open-access journals in an era of austerity is now a pressing issue. This is all the more so since the same institutions often fund research to the tune of tens of millions of dollars and then pay millions of dollars for databases to access research they have themselves already funded. For example, a recent study by the Council of New Zealand University Librarians found that New Zealand university libraries spent NZ\$65 million on ‘subscriptions to electronic resources in 2017’ alone. On top of that expense, the authors of the report estimated that researchers and funders spent NZ\$2.16 million in 2017 to have articles processed for publication.<sup>1</sup>

## Call for papers

I particularly encourage submissions on topics related to history and energy, the atmosphere and water, especially in relation to Africa, South America and Asia. Please also contact me if you are interested in guest editing a special issue.

## Acknowledgements

I am indebted to the support of so many in making this publication possible. *International Review of Environmental History* is supported through the Centre for Environmental History and The Australian National University. Its former Director, Professor Emeritus Tom Griffiths, has enthusiastically backed this venture from the outset, and its current director, Associate Professor Ruth Morgan, has carried on this tradition. In 2013, Professor Bruce Clarkson, formerly Director of the Environmental Research Institute, University of Waikato, granted me the time to devote to planning and preparing the journal by giving me teaching buy-out. I am also grateful for the funding and intellectual support for the journal provided by University of Waikato Vice-Chancellor, Professor Neil Quigley. I thank the journal’s Associate Editors and supportive and active Editorial Board for their support and acknowledge the assiduous copyediting and formatting of Dr Austin Gee.

James Beattie, Editor  
Dunedin, March 2021

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1 I thank Richard White for pointing out this report: ‘Open Access in New Zealand universities: An environmental scan, Report to CONZUL’, 12 August 2019, [www.universitiesnz.ac.nz/sites/default/files/uni-nz/OA%20CONZUL%20Environmental%20Scan%20version%201.02.pdf](http://www.universitiesnz.ac.nz/sites/default/files/uni-nz/OA%20CONZUL%20Environmental%20Scan%20version%201.02.pdf), accessed 24 March 2021.

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