Cover image: A Te Alo Lili in low wind conditions with its “arms” in a default position. Photo by Wade Fairley.
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Contributors to This Issue

Shar Briden is Director of Absolute Archaeology Ltd., Dunedin. Prior to this Shar was a Historic and Cultural Technical Advisor with the Department of Conservation for ten years, overseeing a variety of archaeological projects in the Otago Conservancy. Shar is currently recording rock art throughout the South Island for the Ngāi Tahu Māori Rock Art Charitable Trust and holds the Heritage New Zealand–Pouhere Taonga Authorities for ongoing assessment of at-risk archaeological sites at Papanui Inlet. Her research interests include carved wood assemblages from pre-European Aotearoa.

Naomi Alisa Calnitsky is an independent scholar and oral historian based in Winnipeg, Canada. She received her doctorate in history at Carleton University (2017) with a focus on Mexican farm labour mobilities to Canada in the postwar period. She was also a Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Otago, New Zealand (2007–08), where her research focused on the colonial periods of the Independent State of Sāmoa and Vanuatu, as well as Pacific Island mobilities to New Zealand in the postwar period.

Marianne George has a PhD in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Virginia (1988), and over 100,000 nautical miles of remote, blue-water sailing. David Schneider and Victor and Edith Turner were her primary anthropological mentors. Since 1988 George’s main affiliation has been with the Pacific Traditions Society (PTS), a nonprofit organisation with an educational purpose. George served as Principal Investigator of the Vaka Taumako Project of PTS for 20 years. She is now a non-voting member of the board of the Vaka Taumako Project of Solomon Islands/Vaka Valo Association, which administers the Lata Voyaging School of the Duff Islands and supports ongoing research and documentation, as well as networking between oceanic voyagers. George, and associates, are writing a book entitled Sailing with Lata and producing a documentary series, “We, the Voyagers: Mātou Nga MokuPuna o Lata”.

Phyllis Herda is a Senior Lecturer in Anthropology, University of Auckland. She began working in Polynesia in the early 1980s and continues to research, publish and teach on Tongan ethnography, European explorers in Polynesia, 18th- and 19th-century Polynesia art and material culture, Tongan oral traditions and history, gender, disease and colonialism, as well as Polynesian textiles—traditional and contemporary. She is currently leading a research team on a project funded by the Marsden Fund, Royal Society of New Zealand, on art and material culture from Tonga in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Geoffrey Irwin is an Emeritus Professor of Archaeology in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Auckland. His research interests include Polynesian navigation, wetland archaeology and the history of canoe manufacture in Aotearoa. Recent publications include articles in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA) and Journal of Pacific Archaeology with Dilys Johns and other colleagues. Irwin is the author of Kohika: The Archaeology of a Late Māori Lake Village in the Ngāti Awa Rohe, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, the Society of the Antiquaries, and also the New Zealand Academy of the Humanities.
Dilys Johns is a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Social Sciences and Director of the Conservation Laboratory at the University of Auckland. Her interests focus on research partnerships with indigenous Māori tribal groups (iwi), as well as the conservation of wet organic materials and their contexts in New Zealand wetland archaeology. Recent publications include articles in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA)* and the *Journal of Pacific Archaeology* with Geoff Irwin and other colleagues. Dilys is a Fellow of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (London, UK) and Assistant Coordinator of the International Council of Museums—Committee for Conservation, Wet Organic Archaeological Materials Working Group (Paris, France).

Billie Lythberg is an interdisciplinary researcher working at the junction of museum ethnography and economics at the University of Auckland Business School. Her research interests include Oceanic sciences, arts and oral histories; cross-cultural theories of value, valuables and valuation; sustainability and environmental management; and social innovation. She is co-editor of *Artefacts of Encounter: Cook’s Voyages, Colonial Collecting and Museum Histories* (University of Otago Press, 2016).

Andy Mills is a Historical Researcher for the University of Glasgow’s AHRC-funded project “Situating Pacific Barkcloth in Time and Place”. He has previously participated in the “Fijian Art Project” at the University of East Anglia and curated the Oceania Collections at the Horniman Museum. Andy’s main research interests are the 18th- and 19th-century art history of Polynesia, with a particular focus on iconography and stylistic chronology, regional stylistic variation and identity, the cultural contextualisation of material style and the history of collecting and museums in Europe.

Melenaite Taumoefolau is a Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Pacific Studies, Te Wānanga o Waipapa, University of Auckland. As well as publishing several articles on linguistic aspects of Tongan, she has co-authored a book on Queen Sālote’s poetry where she translated 114 of the Queen’s poems into English. She led the national monolingual Tongan dictionary project, which culminated in the publication of the first monolingual Tongan dictionary (2010). Her wider research interests are in Pacific Studies as an interdisciplinary subject, with a focus on Pacific languages and indigenous knowledge.

Rachel Wesley is an active participant in Ōtākou Marae affairs and is currently the Deputy Chair of Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou and Curator Māori at Otago Museum, Dunedin. Rachel’s research interests include the intersections between the traditional histories of southern Māori and archaeological knowledge, and the theoretical frameworks and methodologies of indigenous archaeology.

**Erratum**

Please note that there is an error in one of the equations found in Kirch and Swift 2017: 325. The correct equation is as follows:

$$\alpha_j > \theta_{j(1...n)} > \beta_j \geq \alpha_k > \theta_{k(1...n)} > \beta_k$$

The error has been corrected in the online PDF but remains in the print copy.