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Cover image: Coastal seep behind Ahu Tongariki on the south coast of Rapa Nui. Tanya Brosnan (California State University Long Beach) measures the conductivity of the water to determine the relative salt content. Photograph by Carl Lipo, 2015.

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NOTES AND NEWS

Contributors to this Issue

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Sean Hixon completed his undergraduate degree at Clark Honors College, University of Oregon, in 2015 with majors in geology and archaeology. For his undergraduate honours thesis, he used remote sensing to help clarify the past method of stone monument construction on Rapa Nui (Easter Island). Sean completed his master's degree in environmental archaeology at Pennsylvania State University in 2017. He is currently pursuing dissertation research on aridification and environmental change on Madagascar, with funding from a U.S. National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant.

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Gregory Jackmond is a research archaeologist with the National University of Samoa's Centre for Samoan Studies (CSS). In the 1970s he was a Peace Corps volunteer on Savai'i, where he conducted one of the first archaeological surveys in the Independent State of Samoa in the villages of Sapapali'i, Fa'aala and Vailoa (Letolo Plantation). He returned to Samoa in late 2016 to assist with CSS archaeological research and is in charge of coordinating the fieldwork and field training of students. He is retired from teaching computer science in California and now lives full time in Samoa.

Carl Lipo is the Associate Dean for Research and Programs, Director of Environmental Studies, and a professor of Anthropology at Binghamton University. Lipo's research focuses on the application of evolutionary theory to the archaeological

record, quantitative methods, remote sensing, cultural transmission models and the study of social complexity. With Terry Hunt, he co-authored *The Statues that Walked: Unraveling the Mystery of Easter Island* (Free Press, 2011), “The ‘walking’ megalithic statues (*moai*) of Easter Island” (2013) and “Weapons of war? Rapa Nui *mata’ā* morphometric analyses” (2016).

Amber Nicholson is a lecturer in the Management Department at Auckland University of Technology and a PhD student at the University of Auckland Business School. Her PhD thesis, “Arohia Ngā Tapuwae o Ngā Tūpuna: Heed the Footprints of the Ancestors”, focuses on the revitalisation of Māori conceptions of economy. Through this, Amber is exploring the ways that the energy of ancestral landscapes shapes modern-day business, as an indigenous Māori worldview involves spiritual and genealogical ties to the earth and thus deepens the notion of what is referred to in modern business practice as sustainability.

Matiu Matāvai Tautunu is a lecturer at the Centre for Samoan Studies, National University of Samoa (Lē lunistitē Aoao o Sāmoa). His PhD research in Samoan Studies will be the first ever doctoral dissertation written in the Sāmoan language. Matiu is also an accomplished author and poet with three published books, *O le vala’au mai le tu’ugamau* (2007), *‘Olo’o iai Satani i lou fanua* (2015) and *O le tautua fai matai e fa’amaga ai le ele’ele* (2017). He lives in Apia with his wife and three young daughters and son.

Steven Webster completed his dissertation on a Quechua village in highland Peru at the University of Washington, Seattle. He immigrated with his family to New Zealand in 1972. He began his research in Te Urewera with the Tūhoe later that year, and taught in the Departments of Anthropology and Māori Studies at the University of Auckland 1972–98. By the 1980s he had specialised in Māori kinship, land history, ethnic politics and political economy.