OBSErvant readers may have noticed that the inside cover of this volume shows that the New Zealand Journal of History, now in its 41st year of publication, has undergone some changes. The Journal is owned by the University of Auckland and run out of its History Department. Following a review of the department in 2005 the Editorial Board decided to vote itself out of existence, allowing the Journal to be placed in the hands of a Management Board. The Management Board is now the governing body of the Journal. Chaired by the Head of the Auckland History Department, currently Professor Barry Reay, its membership is comprized of the editor(s) of the Journal, two elected representatives of the Auckland History Department, Aroha Harris and Maartje Abbenhuis-Ash, and a representative of the New Zealand Historical Association, Peter Lineham. It does not have responsibility for editorial decision-making, though it does appoint the editors and review editors. Rather, the Management Board is responsible for the financial affairs of the Journal and takes the lead in strategic planning.

As part of this restructuring it was decided that editorial appointments, which had previously been for an indefinite term, would be made for a term of three years; this can be extended if the Board and the editors so desire. Greg Ryan has agreed to continue as Book Review Editor, and we are delighted to welcome Bronwyn Labrum as the Review Editor for History in other Media.

In a return to the original 1967 division of editorial responsibilities, we are now assisted by a group of Associate Editors. The Associate Editors, known more recently as the Editorial Board, have long been the backbone of the Journal. They do a great deal of the editorial heavy lifting: providing advice on submissions, suggesting outside readers, sub-editing copy, and proof-reading. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Editorial Board for their work and welcome the new Associate Editors. Special mention should be made of two members of the old Editorial Board. Peter Gibbons has taken this opportunity to retire from the Journal. Peter has made a significant contribution to the Journal and we thank him. Judith Bassett who, with Michael Bassett, was the Journal’s first Business Manager, then the Review Editor, and has been an Associate Editor or Editorial Board member since the early 1980s, is retiring from the University of Auckland later this year. We are grateful for all she has contributed.

Since its inception the editors of the Journal have relied on the expertise of a panel of editorial advisors. The inside cover of the first issue of the Journal listed J.C. Beaglehole, W.D. MacIntyre, W.H. Oliver, Angus Ross, J.H.M. Salmon and F.L.W. Wood as its editorial advisors. The editorial advisors changed with the times: by 2006 the roster comprised Margaret Tennant, Erik Olssen, Charlotte Macdonald, Jock Phillips and Jeanine Graham. This group was also dissolved during the recent restructuring and a new Editorial Advisory Group set up. This is an appropriate place and time to thank Margaret, Erik, Charlotte, Jock and Jeanine, and all those who have served in this capacity over the years, for their many contributions to the Journal.

Editorial Advisors had previously, like the editors, served for an indefinite period of time. Under the new structure members of the Editorial Advisory Group will be appointed for terms of three to five years, the staggered change-over being desirable in order to provide some stability of membership. Members of the Advisory Group are invited to serve by the editors, in consultation with the Management Board. They have been chosen to include historians working within and outside of universities, and to
provide a diverse spread of academic interests and specialities. We are grateful to those named on the inside cover who agreed to take on this task. Many of them have already read submissions and advised us on editorial policy. The Editorial Advisory Group will meet with the editors at New Zealand Historical Association conferences and the History Summits organized by the NZHA.

Restructuring the organization of the Journal encouraged us to draw up Terms of Reference for the editor(s). It seems appropriate to outline these:

The editor(s) is/are responsible for the content of the Journal. The editor(s) reads all submissions to the Journal. If the editor(s) consider that the content of a submission is not suitable for the Journal, or not yet of sufficient scholarly merit to justify peer review, the editor(s) may decline the submission. The editor(s) can solicit or commission submissions, chooses the anonymous peer reviewers for submissions, and communicates the response of the peer reviewers to the author. The editor(s) is/are the final arbiter(s) in the peer review process.

Where revisions are requested, the editor(s) guide the author through the process of revision, and make the final decision as to whether or not the revisions are satisfactory and an article should be published.

Once an article is accepted for publication, the editor(s) copy-edit the text, which is then formatted before an Associate Editor checks the text.

The editor(s) appoint the Associate Editors for terms of three or five years.

The editor(s) select and order the accepted articles and reviews into issues.

The editor(s) check the proofs before final publication.

We have accepted an offer from the Management Board to serve as editors until 2008.

Finally, in the midst of change, there is continuity. Barbara Batt, The University of Auckland History Department’s unflagging administrative co-ordinator has been preparing the Journal copy and liaising with authors, printers, editors and associate editors for more years than we can remember (or are permitted to reveal). Barbara’s organizational ability, keen eyes and clever fingers keep the Journal going. We are immensely grateful for her efforts as the Journal’s Editorial Assistant. She is ably supported by Jennifer Ashton, and Gabrielle Fortune, the Journal’s Business Manager. We would like to take this chance to thank all three for their work.

CAROLINE DALEY AND DEBORAH MONTGOMERIE