

NEW ZEALAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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7th December 2015

NZHA INAUGURAL W. H. OLIVER PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT

The W. H. Oliver prize for the best book on any aspect of New Zealand history published between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2015 has been awarded to Professor Tony Ballantyne (Pro-Vice-Chancellor Humanities, University of Otago).

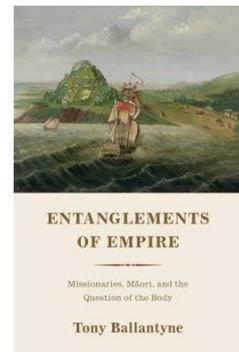
The judges, Giselle Byrnes and Graeme Dunstall, evaluated the works on the quality of their research, the strength and effectiveness of their analysis, and the significance of their contribution to historical knowledge. The judges were impressed by the high calibre of all entries.

The prize comes with a \$500 award.

The NZHA wish to express their thanks to the publishers for supporting and recognising the importance of this award.

Professor Ballantyne says he is delighted to have won the inaugural W.H. Oliver Award for the best book published on New Zealand History, but he is especially happy for the spotlight this award shines on Otago's Department of History and Art History, and also the Hocken Library (archive) Collections. "I did not expect it, given the particularly strong field, including two of my colleagues in history at Otago. This prize is an affirmation of the great strength of historical research and teaching on our campus and our deep commitment here at Otago to understanding the forces that have shaped New Zealand society," "On a personal level, it is wonderful for me to receive this award from my professional organisation, the New Zealand Historical Association, and it is also an honour for my book *Entanglements of Empire* to be linked to the name Bill Oliver, an outstanding historian who wrote with great insight and elegance on our past. "This award for *Entanglements* also reflects the tremendous riches of the Hocken Library Collections, as most of the research for this book was conducted using the Hocken's vast and significant manuscript collection."

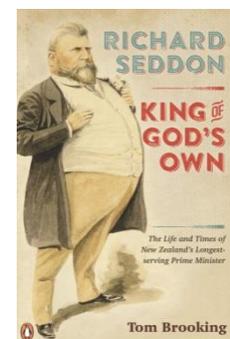
Tony Ballantyne, *Entanglements of Empire: Missionaries, Maori, and the Question of the Body* (AUP)



This is an elegant and sophisticated work, which takes New Zealand historical scholarship to a new level of analysis and interpretation. Drawing on ideas of space, place and the body, and concepts of entanglement employed in recent South African historiography, along with the work of scholars George Stocking and Greg Dening and local historians, Ballantyne revisits the moments of physical and cultural encounter in the early colonial period - specifically the cross-cultural entanglements with Protestant missionaries in the far north of New Zealand - and re-interprets the experiences through a critical postcolonial lens. The focus in this volume on contact and bodies means that the focus here is on the 'bodies in contact' on the frontier zone and the differing epistemological systems and establishments that these bodies both occupied and represented. Ballantyne's very fruitful use of the metaphor of entanglement is a useful and successful device in moving us beyond the limitations of the concept of encounter and in so doing emphasizes the more nuanced 'webs of interdependence' which characterized the complexity of empire making. Ballantyne's eloquent and effortless narrative style and his quietly confident and assured authorial voice make this text deeply engaging and highly readable. The careful analysis and attention to detail, along with Ballantyne's extensive primary and secondary research makes a significant contribution to New Zealand history and historiography. *Entanglements of Empire* is one of the standout texts in this year's entries and represents an important contribution to the historiography of empires and the 'new imperial history'.

We also congratulate the short-listed authors, Tom Brooking, Angela Wanhalla and Melissa Matutina Williams.

Tom Brooking, *Richard Seddon, King of God's Own: The Life and Times of New Zealand's Longest Serving Prime Minister* (Penguin)

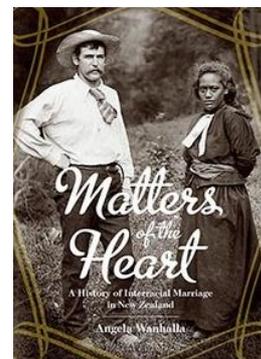


A comprehensive and impressive tour de force rendering of Prime Minister Richard John Seddon's life and times, the man and the myth, this biography is a major New Zealand history text. *King of God's Own* is an important contribution to *new* New Zealand historical scholarship, in terms of the scale of the work and the detailed synthesis of existing historiography with substantial new research. The contemporary perceptions of Seddon (and the historical judgments based on them) are critically appraised, and when found wanting, new insights emerge. Brooking convincingly rebuts the various one-dimensional images of Seddon

produced by the self-consciously cultured elite and by other historians, to present a more rounded picture of both person and politician. Seddon's complexity is particularly evident in the chapters relating to his relationships with Maori and his role as a 'nationalist imperialist'. Overall, Brooking provides an empathetic though not entirely uncritical view of Seddon's attitudes, his methods and policies. He thoughtfully examines the developing threads of Seddon's own emergent political philosophy to the extent that Seddon can no longer be simply defined as a populist politician with strong pragmatic tendencies. Brooking's biography offers us new material, providing more a fine-grained analysis of the man and his times.

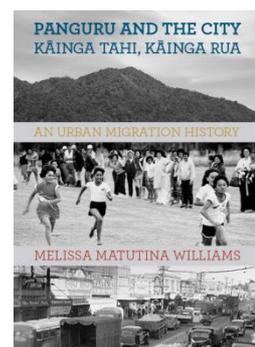
Angela Wanhalla, *Matters of the Heart: A History of Interracial Marriage in New Zealand* (AUP)

Angela Wanhalla's *Matters of the Heart* is a beautiful exposition of a significant and largely unknown seam of New Zealand's rich intercultural history; the story of interracial marriage from the pre-Treaty period through to the 1970s. Weaving together the narratives of cross-cultural intimacy characterized by intensely private personal experiences, against a context of shifting official policy, social prejudice and public intolerance, the book tells a story of interracial relationships, morality and miscegenation. Informed by national and international (and especially Canadian) scholarship and grounded in a rich quantitative and qualitative research base, including a powerful photographic archive, Wanhalla convincingly argues that private liaisons endured, even flourished, despite – or perhaps in spite of – changing public attitudes. *Matters of the Heart* has a deeply personal quality as the reader is drawn into the intimacies of family and community experiences. A book grounded in rigorous scholarship and written with great care, this is destined to be a major social history text, shedding new light on a critically important aspect of New Zealand's past. *Matters of the Heart* does more than fill a void in terms of our rich social history; it connects New Zealand historical scholarship with international literature on the history of emotions and marriage.



Melissa Matutina Williams, *Panguru and the City: Kainga taki, Kaingaru – An Urban Migration History* (BWB)

This is a groundbreaking and watershed text. As an 'insider' view of the Maori urban migration experience from rural to city spaces, with particular reference to the north of New Zealand, Melissa Williams offers us both a window into a crucial period of Maori historical experience and



a new analysis of twentieth century New Zealand social and cultural history. Williams' rich evidence base is drawn from substantial research in archival as well as secondary texts, and in particular, oral history from members of her extended whanau. This book offers an important analysis and discussion of critical methodological issues, not just regarding the oral history of kin, but the challenges faced by Maori historians seeking to provide an 'authentic' Maori history that satisfies scholarly requirements and meets the needs of a wider readership, not the least of which is the local Maori audience. Indeed, the great significance of *Panguru and the City* lies in its careful approach in addressing issues faced by 'insider' historians of Maori history, including the appropriate historiographical framework, thus presenting a 'tangata whenua world view'. Williams' work offers a revisionist reading of the impact of urban migration on Maori: it also challenges the theme of cultural dislocation and instead positions Maori urban migration as a 'life-course process', emphasizing that there continued to be 'co-existent home places' in the city and the rural communities from where people had come.