

## **Erik Olssen Prize 2025**

This year, the judges were Emerita Professor Barbara Brookes and Buddy Mikaere.

### **Winner**

Ryan Bodman, *Rugby League in New Zealand: A People's History*, BWB, 2023

Why does a game thrive in a particular communities? Ryan Bodman answers this question and many others in following the fortunes of Rugby League in New Zealand. Bodman's analysis tells us much about the attraction of a particular sporting code and about the changes wrought in wider New Zealand society leading to the professionalisation of the game.

### **Shortlisted**

Katie Cooper, *Rēwena and Rabbit Stew: The Rural Kitchen in Aotearoa, 1800-1940*, Auckland University Press, 2024

Katie Cooper gives the reader multiple vantage points to view the commonplace, but previously unexamined site of essential work, the rural kitchen. This is an innovative study that examines kāuta, kitchens and community how they changed over time. In her lively history, the author reminds readers of the centrality of food and its preparation in Aotearoa's past.