

A note from the Population Association of New Zealand President Dr Rosemary Goodyear

Te *Arotake o te Taupori o Aotearoa / New Zealand Population Review (NZPR)* acknowledges the passing of Emeritus Professor Ian Pool. Ian played a major role in establishing the study of demography in Aotearoa New Zealand. He was also a major contributor over the years to this journal, and in 2011 there was a special *NZPR festschrift* in his honour. The *festschrift* editors described the very significant role Ian played for both Te Roopu Waihanga Iwi O Aotearoa / Population Association of New Zealand (PANZ) and *NZPR*.

From an institutional point of view, we would like to emphasise the importance of Ian in the ongoing survival and success of PANZ. Ian has been a long-term supporter of PANZ, including in his roles as president and council member, and as a frequent keynote speaker at PANZ conferences. In 2007, he was elected a Life Member of PANZ, just one of many honours he has received, both nationally and internationally. Ian has also made significant contributions to this journal over the years on topics including population momentum, demographic and social policy, the history of New Zealand population trends, and Māori demography.

I remember the stimulating nature of Ian's discourse and one particularly lively talk at a PANZ conference where Ian's use of the word 'childless' was challenged by a member of the audience who felt 'childfree' was a more appropriate word. Ian took this in good humour and the conference continued with the use of the word childfree. We have been very fortunate to have had Ian as such an important part of the association over the years, and while he will be sorely missed, his legacy will continue.

The obituary presented here was composed by Len Cook and Tahu Kukutai, with assistance from Professor Natalie Jackson and Emeritus Professor Richard Bedford QSO.

Obituary

David Ian Pool (1936–2022)
BA, MA (Hons), PhD (ANU), CNZM FRSNZ

LEN COOK¹ AND TAHU KUKUTAI²

(WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM RICHARD BEDFORD AND NATALIE JACKSON)



Without doubt, Emeritus Professor (David) Ian Pool was the founder of Aotearoa New Zealand demography. His decades of research on regional, national and international population dynamics established a deep knowledge base on the peopling of Aotearoa which has influenced generations of scholars, students, planners and decision-makers. Ian went far

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beyond 'doing one's job' to instil interest and curiosity among diverse audiences, a feat that extended well past the classroom, podium or media interview.

Laying the foundations

Ian was born in Auckland and completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees in the 1950s at the University of New Zealand's Auckland University College. He then took up a scholarship to undertake a PhD in demography at the Australian National University with the renowned demographer Mick Borrie.

Ian's thesis was the first substantive analysis of Māori population change from the late 18th century using contemporary demographic techniques. His thesis was subsequently revised and published in 1977 by Auckland University Press and Oxford University Press. *The Māori population of New Zealand, 1769–1971* was the first of three books that Ian would eventually publish on the topic of Māori demography.

After completing his PhD, Ian headed further afield to take up roles at the University of Ghana (funded by the Population Council), the University of Western Ontario, the International Population Program at Cornell University, Carleton University, the University of Montreal (lecturing in French), and the World Fertility Survey in the UK. He was also an invited lecturer at universities in the UK, Europe, Asia and North America. Ian became widely regarded as an expert on African population dynamics and on the relationships between population and development. From the mid-1970s, Ian's services and expertise were drawn on extensively by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and a range of other international agencies including the International Statistical Institute, the International Labour Organization, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, and the UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). During these years Ian developed a strong interest

in regional and global population dynamics and built an extensive network of contacts with leaders in the field of demography.

In 1978 Ian left a professorship at Carleton to return to Aotearoa to take up the chair of sociology and anthropology at the relatively new University of Waikato. He became the founder of the university's Population Studies Centre (PSC) in 1982, and shortly after was made the inaugural professor of demography, a position he held until he retired in 2009.

Population and policy

Ian's research and contributions to public life informed a broad spectrum of public policy. During the 1980s he was a member of the New Zealand Planning Council's Population Monitoring Group and was a key contributor to the six reports that the group published between 1984 and 1991. This coincided with Ian's deepening involvement in research and national policy debates about population issues during a decade of major economic restructuring.

As the voice for Aotearoa demography on the global stage, Ian was the advisor to New Zealand's delegation to the first International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. He was a member of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), the UNFPA, and the Comité International de Coopération dans les Recherches Nationales en Démographie (CICRED). Ian also provided research and technical assistance for UNFPA in Africa (the Gambia, Nigeria, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Zaire, Malawi, Ghana, sub-Saharan Africa), the Pacific (Tonga, Fiji, New Caledonia, Vanuatu) and Asia (Bangladesh, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Nepal). A fluent French speaker, Ian's bilingual capabilities and deep interest in the demography of Indigenous peoples made him an excellent candidate for many international missions.

A lifetime of research

Ian is perhaps best known for his lifetime of work on Māori demography. *Te Iwi Māori: A New Zealand population past, present and future* remains the seminal historical demographic analyses of the Māori population. In 2015 he published his third and final instalment on Māori demography, *Colonization and development in New Zealand between 1769 and 1900: Seeds of Rangiatea*. It was a significant expansion of his earlier work, providing a rich case study of how Imperial era contact and colonisation negatively affected naturally evolving demographic transitions and thwarted Māori development. In later years Ian also undertook research on iwi demography for the Crown Forestry Rental Trust and appeared as an expert witness before the Waitangi Tribunal.

In addition to his research on Māori population issues, Ian published on nearly every aspect of Aotearoa demography. One of his major contributions was assembling a two-volume ESCAP monograph *The population of New Zealand: Country monograph series*. Published in 1986, the monograph included contributions from virtually all of Aotearoa's population specialists at the time.

In the mid-1990s, Ian and a team of staff and postgraduate students undertook Aotearoa's first major survey of fertility and reproductive behaviour as part of an international series of surveys in European countries. The survey – New Zealand Women: Family, Education and Employment – provided an unprecedented evidence base for policy relating to reproductive health and family formation. Over the next decade, it generated numerous PhD theses, monographs and published papers. In 2007 Ian published *The New Zealand family from 1840: A demographic history* with his former PSC colleague Professor Arunachalam Dharmalingam, and his wife, Dr Janet Sceats, a noted demographer in her own right. Ian and Janet are two of only eight researchers to be awarded life membership by the Population Association of New Zealand.

Ian also made major contributions to our national understanding of ageing, and the critical distinction between structural and numerical ageing. The former relates to the changing age structure of populations, driven by fertility decline, while the latter refers to the absolute increase in the number of elderly, driven by increasing longevity. Ian was also among a group of scholars at the forefront of international scholarship on the so-called 'second demographic transition' – the age-structural transitions associated with changes in fertility and mortality as countries move from periods of rapid growth through natural increase, to slow and then declining natural increase. His research on age structural transitions led to two major edited collections of papers with international collaborators: *Population, resources and development: Riding the age-waves* and *Age-structural transitions: Challenges for development*. These books reflected on the demographic, social, economic and political dimensions of population ageing in a theoretical context that challenged much conventional wisdom on contemporary population change. Ian's scholarship not only provided a window into our past and present but remains vital for public policy in Aotearoa as we undergo changes that will radically transform the population structures of most localities and communities.

In the last few years – and despite being very sick – Ian completed a substantial manuscript covering more than a century of Aotearoa's demographic history. It brings together and extends all the threads of his earlier work into a comprehensive account of the peopling and development of Aotearoa – a story only he could tell.

Teacher and mentor

Ian was passionate about nurturing new generations of demography scholars and his students' achievements were a great source of satisfaction and pride. Over the course of his career, he supervised more than 50 master's and doctoral students, many of whom now hold senior roles in universities, government departments and the private sector across the world. Having lived and worked in west Africa, Ian

was particularly committed to supporting demographic capacity in less-developed countries. In the 1980s and 1990s, the Population Studies Centre was home to many students from Africa and southern Asia. He was a generous and supportive teacher and mentor, and maintained close relationships with many of his students years after they graduated. When the *New Zealand Population Review* published a *festschrift* issue in 2011 to honour Ian, his former students were among the 13 leading population experts who contributed papers. Ian continued to supervise students and provide guest lectures long after his retirement.

Ian took his critic and conscience role seriously. He was a scientist who was prepared to play a significant part in public life and was not afraid to point out shortcomings in policy and political decision-making. He regularly fronted for the media well before science communication was popular and encouraged his junior colleagues to do the same. Ian was a richly informed, compelling speaker who could speak with authority on all dimensions of population change. Over decades he gave hundreds of talks and keynotes for scholarly and policy audiences, politicians, industry leaders, community groups and Māori organisations. His talks often interspersed empirical analysis, and a sharp critique of current policies, with witty anecdotes and wry humour. A talk from Ian was never dull.

The significance of Ian's work has been recognised through numerous awards, honours and appointments. In 1994 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. A decade later he was awarded the Society's James Cook Fellowship, and in 2009 he received the Te Rangi Hiroa Medal Royal. This award was particularly special to Ian as he was a long-time admirer of the Ngāti Mutunga politician, doctor and scholar, and had cited Te Rangi Hiroa liberally in *Te Iwi Maori*.

Ian was a keen swimmer and treasured the time spent with family and friends at their bach in Hahei. A visit to the Pool-Sceats home was both a social and intellectual experience to cherish and

energise. For many, Ian will be remembered as a larger-than-life colleague and friend who lived and breathed demography. He was dedicated to his craft and to undertaking research that he felt made a real difference. His dedication was surpassed only by the love and pride he had for his wife, Janet, his children, Felicity and Jonathan, and his four mokopuna. In many ways, Ian's love for his family reflected his philosophy of what he thought population research could and should be – that in the end, what really mattered was people.

He aha te mea nui o te ao?
He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

What is the most important thing in the world?
It is people!

Selected bibliography

In addition to nearly 200 articles in refereed journals and chapters in books, Ian published 30 published discussion papers, 15 monographs, and more than 100 expert reports. Some of the books he authored are listed below, in order of date of publication.

- Pool, I. (1977). *The Maori population of New Zealand, 1769–1971*. Auckland University Press and Oxford University Press.
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