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Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

Greetings to you all

I write this note as we have yet again on the news another extreme weather event in Aotearoa (Cyclone Vaianu). Those of you who were at the 2019 Conference in Te Papa might remember Professor James Renwick's keynote speech at the conference when he showed pictures of floods and fires and warned about the future. That future feels as though it has come uncomfortably fast and my thoughts go to the communities around Aotearoa who have been affected by disaster.

On a brighter note, 2026 started off with a series of seminars organised by the Policy Hub at Victoria University in conjunction with the Population Association, Stats NZ and MBIE. These seminars featured some eminent PANZ members; Professor Michael Cameron (on 21st January), Professor Jacques Poot (28 January), and Associate Professor Polly Atatoa Carr on 11 February. These seminars were well-attended and showed the interest in population dynamics. We have included a link on the PANZ website to the recordings.

In February, PANZ published Vol 51 of the New Zealand Population Review. I encourage you to have a read of the diverse papers. Thanks very much to my co-editor, Jesse Whitehead, our peer reviewers who are such a key part of a successful journal, as well as Alison Reid for her work on finalising the journal, and Tze Ming Mok for her continued work on the website. Calls for papers are now out for Vol 52.

The Council has successfully updated our new constitution to meet the requirements of the new incorporated Societies Act. Thanks very much to Michael Cameron for leading that process and to our members for the excellent turnout to our special AGM.

We are also turning our attention to the 2027 PANZ conference. Look out later this year for further news around conference timing, location and themes. Also look out for an email from our secretary Love Umesi if you are interested in joining the council. Nominations will be out in the next few weeks. I am very grateful for the hard work and enthusiasm of our council members.

On behalf of the PANZ council I would like to congratulate Professor Tahu Kukutai, Life Member of PANZ and Dr Moana Rarere, PANZ Council member and Treasurer for their recent awards. Ka rawe korua! (Lisette Burrows from Te Ngira mentions these in her update below).

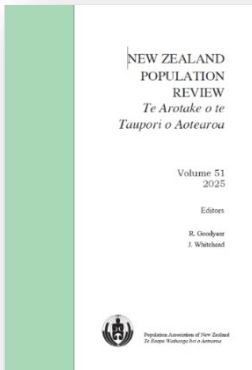
I am about to head away on six weeks annual leave – my longest holiday yet. I am hoping the world will become a more peaceful place while I am away.

Thanks to you all for your support of PANZ. Remember we welcome suggestions for events or other potential seminars, please just get in touch. Finally, see you at the AGM on 30 July (invites to come)!

Nga mihi nui,

Rosemary Goodyear, 2025/26 President

Reading



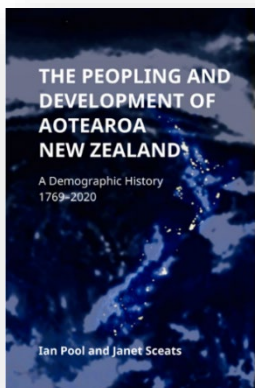
The **New Zealand Population Review (NZPR) / Te Arotake o te Taupori o Aotearoa** is the official journal of PANZ. [Volume 51](#) was released late last year and is available on the PANZ website. Papers range from a study of traditional kinship fostering in French Polynesia, the pressures on family carers from population ageing, and a study of the socioeconomic position and human capital. The journal features the Jacoby prize winner paper by Adam Glucksman, who researched the wellbeing of students who were the first in their family to attend university, and the Newell prize winning poster by Morgan Harris, which looks at population flooding vulnerability in Aotearoa.

Vol. 52 will be a special issue focused on the theme 'The Business of Population'. We are now [calling for papers](#).



The Kōi Tū Centre for Informed Futures has recently released a report titled **People, Place and Prosperity: The Case for a population strategy**. The authors Georgia Lala, Paul Spoonley and Sir Peter Gluckman outline several significant demographic shifts and trends impacting on New Zealand's demographic future including slowing population growth, declining fertility, a growing reliance on immigration, ageing and ethnic diversity. They argue that New Zealand needs a long-term and non-partisan population strategy to prepare for the impacts of these shifts.

The downloadable report is available here [Population strategy needed to plan for change – Kōi Tū Centre for Informed Futures](#)



Peopling and Development of Aotearoa New Zealand: A Demographic History, 1769–2020 written by the late Prof Ian Pool and Dr Janet Sceats (both life members of PANZ) is now available as a downloadable pdf in the Research Commons: <https://hdl.handle.net/10289/17941>.

This 600-page unpublished manuscript is the first demographic history of Aotearoa New Zealand, integrating 250 years of Māori and non-Māori data. It explores how development, in the broadest social, cultural and economic sense, drove population changes, but was in turn driven by demographic factors. Based on extensively referenced research and analysis, the timeline starts with the earliest European settlement and finishes with the multicultural and ageing society of the first decades of the 21st century.

Kia ora koutou,

It has been another hectic few months for Te Ngira.

At the end of last year, we celebrated awards for three colleagues. Tahu Kukutai was awarded 2025 [Te Rangi Hiroa Medal](#) by the Royal Society Te Apārangi for her outstanding work in Māori and Indigenous demography and data sovereignty. Moana Rarere won the Divisional Mātauranga Māori Research Excellence Award and Yara Jarallah secured a Divisional Teaching Excellence Award.

Our visiting scholar Dr Desi Small-Rodriguez has been named in the 2026 class of Native American 40 Under 40 honorees. This is a tremendous honour in recognition of her capacity to achieve academic excellence while lifting others and creating opportunities for communities to thrive. It is fabulous to see this kind of recognition for the demographic work Te Ngira undertakes.

It is also great to see new doctoral students winning scholarships and choosing to undertake Population Studies research with us. We have several newbies starting this year and look forward to their engagement in PANZ networks and conferences going forward.

We have multiple research projects on the go. These include a Marsden funded project, 'From populations to peoples: A new paradigm for 19th century Māori historical demography' (led by Tahu), a social wellbeing project, a strategic project with the Medical School establishment team and several grants to permit Te Ngira staff to connect with and grow international partnerships. Further, our Erihapeti Rehu-Murchie fellow, Dr Nikki Barrett is deep in preparation for Te Wheiao 2026: an international Indigenous birthing wānanga bringing together whānau, birth workers, researchers and leaders to revitalise Indigenous knowledge and advance maternal and child wellbeing. A not to be missed event — registrations open end of May 2026.

In March, the New Zealand Economics Forum at the University of Waikato saw Tahu sharing insights on a demographic change panel. Polly Atatoa Carr contributed to the Population Seminar Series hosted by Victoria University of Wellington discussing healthcare for our future populations. She also presented at a webinar on research in the Cook Islands.

Submission writing for the Data and Statistics Amendment Bill has also been a pressing task. The level of our engagement with regional and local councils and the media (e.g. homelessness, ageing, fertility, regional populations) currently would suggest a keen interest in how demographic changes (and our understanding of these) will shape things locally now and in the future.

We continue to relish the opportunity to work alongside [Kanapu](#). Hui Hihiri 2026 was hosted here at Waikato in April – a fabulous event showcasing some of the extraordinary Māori talent and leadership in research, science, innovation and technology that exists in Aotearoa.

The first semester of our new [Postgraduate Certificate in Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Analytics](#) is well underway. It has been a treat to have a strong cohort of participants located all over the country and working across all manner of community and government agencies, sign up for this. The Certificate is geared toward professionals in public, private and not-for-profit sectors in Aotearoa who wish to understand how principles of Indigenous Sovereignty principles relate to their work. Please do sing out if you'd like to know more about this and thank you to all of you who have supported us to offer this qualification – much appreciated! If you do want to meet any of us in person, from June we will be huddling together in a new open plan environment in the University of Waikato. We look forward to hosting you there!

Ngā mihi,

Lisette Burrows, Director Te Ngira

www.waikato.ac.nz/research/institutes-centres-entities/institutes/te-ngira/

Latest demographic projections

Stats NZ continues to update and release its suite of demographic projections.

Population projections for the 2,400 Statistical Area 2s (SA2s) – the smallest geography for which projections are derived, covering all of New Zealand – are being progressively released as they are completed. SA2 projections for one-third of Territorial Authority areas (TAs) have now been published.

Detailed data for all projections are freely available from [Aotearoa Data Explorer](#).

Recently published projections	Release date
National population	Jun 2025
National labour force	Jun 2025
National ethnic population	Sep 2025
Subnational population (16 regions, 67 TAs, 21 Auckland local board areas)	Sep 2025
SA2 and SA3 population	Nov 2025 to late 2026
Upcoming projections	
Subnational ethnic population	Late 2026
Family and household (national, 16 regions, 67 TAs, 21 Auckland local board areas)	Late 2026
SA2 household	Late 2026

For any enquiries about population projections, estimates, and indices, contact info@stats.govt.nz.

Replacing Infoshare: Update and call for Infoshare users to connect with us now

We're progressing with our work to replace [Infoshare](#) with [Aotearoa Data Explorer](#) (ADE) and are currently planning the data migration.

If you use Infoshare, you will be impacted by this work. How big an impact will depend on the way you get data from Infoshare.

The best way to stay informed and prepare for this change is to join our Customer Group.

To find out more or to join please email cdtp@stats.govt.nz, where you'll receive the latest updates about when and what you'll need to do, as well as additional support for the upcoming change to help minimise any disruption to your work.

Census update

The census is moving to a combined model that uses more of the information already collected by government, known as administrative (admin) data. Admin data will be supported by information collected through a new annual census survey, and tailored solutions to help meet the data needs of smaller population groups.

Strong progress is being made by Stats NZ to introduce the new model and prepare for the next census, with 2026 shaping up to be an important year for putting the right foundations in place. Key milestones we are working toward include:

- Amendments to the Data and Statistics Act 2022
- Publishing the strategy
- Confirming the content for the next census
- Publishing the high-level design
- Data release: transitional population measures (admin data only)
- Developing the tailored solutions work programme
- Annual census survey: design and readiness test.

Together, this work is helping to create a more resilient and inclusive census system from 2030.

Census Bill update

The Data and Statistics (Census) Amendment Bill passed its first reading in Parliament. The Bill supports the move to an annual census from 2030, confirms consultation and review requirements, and includes technical changes to support delivery. The Bill is now being considered by the Justice Committee. Read more on the [Parliament website](#).

Communities to shape the next census

Stats NZ is also making good progress on establishing collaborative design groups to ensure communities help shape the design and planning of the next census. Three new advisory groups, focused on Pacific, Rainbow, and Homeless and Transient communities, have been approved, and establishment work is underway with the aim of having these groups established by mid-2026.

The first group to be established, the Crown-Māori Statistical Design Forum, also met for the first time in March. Visit the [Stats NZ website](#) to read more about this work.

Keep in touch

Stats NZ shares regular updates about the Census programme.

Visit the Stats NZ website for more information about our work to modernise the census.

Subscribe to [Census News](#). This is a regular email newsletter with information about the census. It includes the latest information and developments about the census, and feedback opportunities.

Other news

Migration news

Stats NZ released the latest international migration statistics on 14 April 2026. Provisional estimates for the Feb 2026 year compared with the Feb 2025 year were:

- migrant arrivals: 136,200 (\pm 1,600), down 1 percent
- migrant departures: 111,100 (\pm 1,200), down 8 percent
- annual net migration: gain of 25,200 (\pm 1,800), compared with a gain of 17,700 (\pm 300).

Annual migrant arrivals peaked at 234,800 in the October 2023 year. Annual migrant departures provisionally peaked at 120,500 in the May 2025 year. Annual net migration peaked in the October 2023 year, with a gain of 135,500.

Population Seminar Series recordings now available

Recordings and presentations from the three-part Population Seminar Series arranged by the Policy Hub at Victoria University, together with MBIE, the Treasury, and Stats NZ, are available on the Policy Hub's website. The seminars occurred in January and February of this year.

Seminar 1 explored Aotearoa New Zealand's future population numbers, demographics, and geographic spread, and featured Professor Paul Spoonley, Professor Michael Cameron and Associate Prof Kate McMillan.

Seminar 2 looked at future population wellbeing, and featured Professor Jacques Poot, Associate Professor Maja Krtalic, and Professor James Renwick.

Seminar 3 on state spending and investment implications, featured Associate Professor Polly Atatoa Carr, Geoff Cooper, Chief Executive of the Infrastructure Commission, and economist Julie Fry.

[Population Seminars | Raumata / Policy Hub | Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington](#)

Upcoming conferences

The **2026 Australian Population Association Conference** will be held in Canberra 18 to 20 Nov 2026. Abstract submission is now open.

www.apa.org.au/2026-apa-conference

The 2026 **Social Sciences Conference** will be held 2 to 4 December this year at Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland. This is organised by the Sociological Association of Aotearoa NZ.

www.saanz.net/2026/04/17/announcing-the-2026-social-sciences-conference/

Thank you for reading!

We aim to publish newsletters at least two times a year, to keep the association engaged and connected. If you have any items you would like to be included in our next newsletter please get in touch with [Alison Reid](#), or any PANZ Council member.

www.population.org.nz