

## Editorial

Tēnā koutou ki ō koutou tini mate. Koutou kua whetūrangitia ki te korowai o Ranginui. Koutou kua wehe atu ki te pō kei tua o te ārai, ki te okiokinga i ō koutou tūpuna. Haere, haere, haere.<sup>1</sup>

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa. He mihi mahana ki a koutou me ō koutou whānau whānui.

Warmest greetings to you all from the journal editorial team.

Our thoughts go out to all of you who have been impacted by the coronavirus this year. Although in many ways we are fortunate here in Aotearoa, it has not been an easy year. Many of us are experiencing ongoing stress, job loss, financial hardship, and housing precarity. Many of us worry about loved ones here and overseas. And, many of us have mourned friends and relations who have lost their lives to the pandemic or passed away during the pandemic.

It is within this context that we bring you the sixth volume of *Evaluation Matters—He Take Tō Te Aromatawai*, beginning with a message from Adrian Field and Seini Jensen, the Co-Convenors of ANZEA. When we saw their message to ANZEA members in the midst of the first lockdown we invited them to speak again here, to members and other readers of the journal.

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<sup>1</sup> Greetings to your many dead. You who have been adorned as stars in the heavens. You who have departed to the night, to beyond the veil, to the resting place of your ancestors. Farewell, farewell, farewell.

We also wanted to include in this volume a range of commentaries from evaluators about their thoughts, conversations and/or activities over the past months, in the midst of COVID-19. Our motivation for this content was simple; namely, that we could not ignore the environment we are now working in and our need to pause and reflect on this in the midst of our ongoing evaluation work.

As part of this commentary, Robin Peace's poem, "Transformations", and Kathleen Morrison's photograph, *Bird Signs on the Land*, bring the beauty of poetic and pictorial imagery to the journal for the first time. We hope that their inclusion will bring you joy and support your own contemplations.

Heather Nunns then applies a transportation analogy to evaluation, to explore how desirability and feasibility are balanced when time is restricted. This is followed by Adrian Field's examination of survey fatigue, for those who thought that surveying might be an answer to a tight timeframe. Howard Markland then highlights challenges to evaluation more generally, asking whether our current operating model is sustainable.

Bob Picciotto's commentary on Indigenous evaluation is an epistemological provocation, in a complex system wrapping. After Bob, Mathea Roorda, Amy Gullickson, and Ralph Renger deliberate COVID-19 emergency management systems through a values lens, while Carol Mutch draws upon her experience evaluating leadership practices in emergency settings to frame up what we need from those leading us in times of crisis. Our final commentary takes us out of the country to Zambia where John Njovu casts a critical eye over the response to COVID-19 and the role of evaluation more generally in his country.

Three articles follow these commentaries. In the first, Sonia Chen draws us into her exploration of what Buddhism offers evaluation. She writes, "looking at evaluation through a Buddhist perspective

enables evaluation to be more honest, thoughtful, and inclusive as a discipline.” In the second article, Toni Rewiri, Veraneeeca Taipea, and Rosemary Dewerse write about Te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka / Unitec Institute of Technology’s development of Āta-kōrero, a five-step evaluative process founded on Taina Whakaatere Pohatu’s work in Āta. The final article in this volume, by Fiona Cram, Tanya Samu, Reremoana Theodore, and Rachel Trotman, presents findings and evaluation implications from Māori whānau involved in the first round of the Māori and Pacific Education Initiative longitudinal study, *Ngā Tau Tuangahuru*. This article follows on from their description of the collaborative development of this study, published in the journal in 2018.

I want to express my thanks to the journal’s Editorial Board for their ongoing commitment to the journal, including the peer review of journal submissions, and to the awesome team at the New Zealand Council for Educational Research, the publishers of the journal.

Kia hora te marino  
Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana  
Kia tere kārohirohi i mua i tōu huarahi

*May calm be spread around you  
May the sea glisten like greenstone  
May the shimmer of summer dance across your path*

**Fiona Cram**, PhD, Editor-in-Chief  
October 2020