

# EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

As you know, we have used the editorial to communicate changes to the format of *Pacific News* in the past, and this is another such occasion. The journal name *Pacific News* reflected the nature of articles and research notes in the earlier years of the journal, but it is not appropriate to its current scientific nature anymore. For this reason, we have decided to publish as *Pacific Geographies* from this issue onwards. The new title retains the regional focus but it also reflects the conceptual nature of many of the articles. We believe that the new title is not only a more accurate representation of the journal's aims and content but also more attractive to potential readers and authors.

It is fitting, then, that this issue of *Pacific Geographies* covers a wide range of locales in the Pacific Rim as well as a wide range of academic fields. Trisha Dwyer and Andreas Holtz take social scientific approaches to discussing their Polynesia-based research, whilst urban Asia is the focus of Liang Yang's and Catherine Earl's work. Social developments both online ("Chinese Virtuality") and offline (migration) are discussed in essays by Olivia Kraef and Antje Missbach.

Issue 40 of *Pacific Geographies*, to be published in July 2013, will be a Special Issue on "Environmental Politics in the Asia-Pacific region". Dr Jan Mosedale, University of Sunderland, will act as the guest editor. Jan has been a member of our Scientific Advisory Board since its inception in 2009. If you would like to contribute to the Special Issue on Environmental Politics in the Asia-Pacific Region, please contact [jan.mosedale@sunderland.ac.uk](mailto:jan.mosedale@sunderland.ac.uk). We also invite you to contribute on other topic areas relevant to *Pacific Geographies*, please contact us with any enquiries or articles that you wish to submit.

We hope you enjoy this new issue of *Pacific Geographies*.

Dr. Michael Waibel and Dr Julia N. Albrecht

## Pacific Geographies

*Pacific Geographies* (PG), ISSN 1435-8360, is a peer-reviewed semi-annual publication published by the Association for Pacific Studies (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Pazifische Studien e.V., APSA) in co-operation with the Department of Human Geography of Hamburg University, Germany. The PG provides an interdisciplinary platform for an academic discussion of social, cultural, environmental, political and economic issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

In order to uphold scientific standards, the PG is implementing a peer-review process. Articles marked as „scientific papers“ have been peer-reviewed by two external reviewers. Articles marked as „research notes“ have been peer-reviewed by one external reviewer and a member of the editorial board. All other articles have been reviewed by the editorial board.

APSA-Members receive the *Pacific Geographies* at no cost as a membership benefit.



The Association for Pacific Studies (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Pazifische Studien e.V., APSA) was founded in 1987 at the Department of Geography of the University of Technology in Aachen. Activities include workshops, conferences, public lectures and poster exhibitions. The book series *Pazifik Forum* was initiated in 1990. In 1992, it was complemented by the publication of the journal *Pacific Geographies*. The latter has developed into the major activity of APSA in recent years.

The APSA sees itself as one of the largest scientific networks in Germany for academics and practitioners with an interest in the Asia-Pacific region as well as academic exchange.

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### COVER PICTURE

**Shane Te Ruki of Ngati  
Maniapoto, National  
Museum of China**

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The title image shows Shane Te Ruki of Ngati Maniapoto during the opening event of the "Kura Pounamu: Treasured stone of Aotearoa New Zealand" Exhibition in the National Museum of China. The exhibition marks the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and New Zealand. It explores the significant role pounamu (New Zealand Greenstone) has in building and maintaining personal and political relationships.

