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## Editorial

THIS is the 49th edition of *Natalia*, and I think it is fitting to say that on the eve of the half-century celebration the journal is relevant and inclusive, representing a multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-vocal society. While the inclusion of a Zulu-language article and discussion piece as in *Natalia* 48 has not materialised in *Natalia* 49 for a variety of reasons, suffice it to say that *Natalia* remains a journal of public history and presents the work, interests and current thinking of people living or working in KwaZulu-Natal.

The *Natalia* committee also changes with the times: in this calendar year Professor Adrian Koopman stepped down, leaving a slender committee of Dr Chris Ellis, Professor Julie Parle, Mrs Debby Joubert, Dr Phindi Dlamini and me, Debbie Whelan as editor. Mrs Michelle Bartlett, the Natal Society Foundation Trust's website administrator, has attended meetings and contributed extensively. The committee for 2020 will be more diverse, and digital, and this, it is hoped, will add to the richness of contributions and opinions that has characterised the last few editions.

I need to thank the University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, once again, for supplying us with books for review: this year we have looked at Marks, Erwin and Fleetwood's sensitive approach to Kenneth Gardens. Thanks also to Jackie Kalley of Otterley Press for providing a copy of Hugh Bland's work on the Trappist missions for review; and Brian Kearney and Michele Jacobs for their work on architects Murray-Jones and McKinley, who practised in Durban in the early years of the twentieth century. University of Michigan Press kindly couriered a copy of *To Swim with Crocodiles* for review; as did Penguin Books with a copy of Bongani Ngqulunga's work on Pixley ka Isaka Seme. Parent press, the Natal Society Foundation, published the third in a series of histories of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, which is reviewed by Paul Maylam. These critical works that continue to reflect on the province, its history and its material culture are valuable.

As for thanking people, we have had significant contributions from peer reviewers of full papers; namely Dr Anne Solomon, Dr Ghilraen Laue, Dr Sibongiseni

Mkhize, Dr Heather Hughes, Professor Juliette Leeb-du Toit, Dr Justine Windjes, Dr Elizabeth Rose Aitken and Dr Anoma Kumarasuriyar. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all reviewers for their efforts in assisting us to make *Natalia* relevant; and achieve a balance between an accessible and simultaneously scholarly journal.

This year's articles balance the scholarly and the public. All continue to present thinking and reflection on living and working in KwaZulu-Natal. Long notes blend with papers: they speak of the 1989 hunger strike, Durban rickshaw pullers and their beadwork, a 'journey to the big smoke' and why we should not ignore historic discussions, architects, building plans and physical buildings, rock art and research, a revisit to historic Edendale, and a rollicking research ride through Maputaland.

We hope you will enjoy this edition of *Natalia* and many thanks for your continued support.

DEBBIE WHELAN