

## Editorial

WELCOME to the 2018 volume of *Natalia*. As editor, I would like the opportunity to comment on our promises from the last edition in order to measure ourselves, and to be able to explain decisions that have been taken by the committee in the last year.

There were a number of changes to the committee in this calendar year. Bill Guest retired, and was replaced by Chris Ellis. In the course of the year, Mxolisi Mchunu and Pranitha Barath resigned, as did Phila Msimang who moved to work in Stellenbosch. This left a small but active committee of Adrian Koopman, Julie Parle, Debby Joubert, Phindi Dlamini and me as editor. Michelle Bartlett, who is employed by the Natal Society Foundation Trust to market and distribute its publications, has attended meetings and contributed extensively.

The bones of the usual publication remain: we have implemented our changes to the structure in order to allow for a broader section of writers with different abilities and various backgrounds: the restriction of the ‘full paper’ has been added to by inclusion of ‘discussion’, which is a lengthy article, but not as rigorously assessed as the full articles. This then leaves the smaller section of notes and queries open for succinct submissions that may fit in with one of the themes of *Natalia*. In the course of the year, the need for greater flexibility to allow for more engaged discussion was recognised, resulting in, literally, a discussion piece authored by a number of people, centred on an article Chris Ellis wrote for the *Witness* some years ago, which weaves in change, language, ethnicity and identity. In addition, the richness in discussion around the multi-faceted Shakan myth prompted by the review of John Laband’s latest work, *The Assassination of King Shaka*, is presented as a discursive review, Laband’s work being kindly supplied to us by Jonathan Ball in Cape Town.

Again, many thanks to the University of KwaZulu-Natal Press for supplying us with volumes that they have published this and last year, namely Nomkhosi Xulu-Gama’s work on hostels, Goolam Vahed’s biography of Chota Motala, and *A Literary Guide* by Niall McNulty and Lindy Stiebel. Thanks also to Jackie Kalley

of Otterley Press who proffered Glenn Flanagan's work on the French Prince Imperial for review, as well as an edited volume by Kalley herself, *Farmhouses of Old Natal*. Udo Küsel willingly sent his weighty volume on the Hermannsburg settlement, as did Greg Ardé his family history of Gerard de Rauville. We also need to thank the Natal Society Foundation for Julie Parle and Vanessa Noble's work on McCord Hospital, which is reviewed by Heather Hughes.

We have had significant contributions by peer reviewers for full papers, namely Debby Bonnin, Percy Ngonyama, Shokahle Dlamini, Liz Thompson, Sheila Meintjes, Vusi Khumalo and Vicci Tallis. 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.

Last year we declared that *Natalia* as a journal needs to remain relevant in order to continue to justify its existence. Thus, this year's volume has a mixture of issues often left in the shadows, such as rape, protest and child slavery: Elwyn Jenkin's note on the San child should be contextualised in the literature of the time in which it was written, in addition to reading it against the linguistic note discussing the use of the words San and Bushman in contemporary times. Topical notes around land issues are pitched against hostels, Shri Vishnu Temple and McCord Hospital. The submission of the note on Peter Rainier by Elwyn Jenkins supplements his submission in the 2017 edition, and should be read with this in mind.

Given engagement with a mixture of contemporary and historical items of relevance, both now and in the past, an orthographic note is important. An article by Adrian Koopman in *Natalia* 41 (2011: 96–8) reflects that the correct reference to the Zulu language in written English is Zulu, which allows for interpretation both as a noun and an adjective, and not *isiZulu* which allows only for noun. Thus, with apologies to contributors who referred to the language as *isiZulu* in their written English text, we have reverted to *Natalia* style. This orthographic discussion foregrounds our first article written in Zulu, about the Yellow-billed Hornbill and the White-fronted Bee Eater. A short text in English supplements that note.

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

DEBBIE WHELAN