

Editorial

AND suddenly it was the end of the year! Certainly 2020 has been an *annus horribilis*, and one which we sincerely hope does not prevail too far into 2021. The words of ‘Influenza’, written by Edendale-based musician Reuben Caluza in 1918 provide a fitting introduction to this, a landmark volume of *Natalia*.

Who would have thought, five decades ago, that the journal would have a significant online presence, a digital committee, articles discussing events and personalities in what was then the Cape Province, an editorial committee headed by a woman, and a committee largely composed of Zulu speakers? Or, for that matter, a book review which openly frames alternative ways of considering history? Our founders would also not have included that sliver forming Nomansland and Mzimkhulu, previously part of the Eastern Cape, in their original editions of *Natalia*.

Thus, our 50th edition opens with an historical paper focusing on Sidoyi, an ‘upstart’ to rival Langelibalele in the estimation of the colonial mind, before we move more centrally to Pietermaritzburg-focused papers. Notes reference the changed borders, but also consider challenges in locating graves of indentured workers who would normally have been cremated, and trouble in the capital. An abbreviated range of book reviews, a result of logistics hampered by Covid-19, completes this year’s offering.

The significant hiccup of Covid-19 must be stressed. As with the publication of the 2019 journal, it hampered meeting logistics, prevented books getting to reviewers, and challenged the editor balancing the digital balls, for which I sincerely apologise. However, *Natalia 50* is here, and we have prevailed.

A number of our editorial team stepped down with the 2019 volume and we welcome with open arms new members to the fold, thanking those who left for their contributions over the years. Our new team represents minds and hearts with KwaZulu-Natal at the fore, and offers new networks and new ways of considering material.

We hope that you enjoy this 50th edition of *Natalia*. *Sala kahle*,

DEBBIE WHELAN