

PREFACE

This volume brings together research that was originally presented at the New Zealand Linguistics Society, Language and Society Conference, held in Palmerston North, September 2004. Here sociolinguists gathered from not only all parts of New Zealand but also abroad - as far a field as Malaysia and Iran. Not only did scholars working in Linguistics or Applied Linguistics programs present their work, but also students under their tutelage demonstrated the promise of the next generation in this field. Further, the conference organisers saw the opportunity for interdisciplinary conversation and invited researchers whose work in the varied fields of Communication, Health sciences, Management and Psychology gave papers and participated in a panel presentation entitled *LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY: NEW FIELDS, NEW METHODS, NEW AGENDAS, NEW ANSWERS*. It is therefore particularly gratifying to see that all three streams of contributors from the conference - sociolinguists, their students, and scholars representing other disciplines published here together.

On a sad note, the editors of this volume would like to mark the passing of Su Olsson, who as a scholar and colleague will be sorely missed. As Frank Sligo, another contributor noted 'Su was an outstanding teacher in communication studies at Massey University, a valued leader in the department and departmental research projects and an internationally recognized author in women and management.' Her contribution to this volume co-authored with Marianne Tremaine should also be seen as a marker of her strong links with sociolinguistics in New Zealand.