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**Popular geographies: Celebrating the nation in
Canadian Geographic, Australian Geographic and
*New Zealand Geographic, 1995-2004***

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts

in

Geography

at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand

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2008

Abstract

Popular geography magazines like *National Geographic (NG)* provide readers with a lens of the world around them. Yet sadly they often only serve a limited utilitarian purpose as dust collectors on coffee tables of hospital waiting rooms or doctors' practices. It should be of little surprise then that the relative importance of geographic magazines as a representational forum has been underestimated historically. The importance of geographic magazines as an outlet for creating and disseminating preconceived visions of what may be termed 'popular geographies' has only become the subject of scrutiny in the last two decades. Authors including Lutz and Collins (1993) and Rothenberg (1994, 2007) have reflected critically upon the place of *NG* as a powerful ideological institution for legitimating particular visions of the world in the wider corpus of the discipline of geography. Yet while there has been a substantial volume of work dedicated to unravelling the situated lens of *NG* there has been no research devoted to deciphering the lenses of other geography magazines such as *Canadian Geographic (CG)*, *Australian Geographic (AG)* or *New Zealand Geographic (NZG)*. These magazines also embody the ideals of adventure, discovery and nature made famous by *NG* but purvey geography through distinctively national narratives. Through discourse analysis the thesis examines these three magazines in order to unravel geographic imaginations of nationalism in *CG*, *AG* and *NZG* and in the process challenge divergent conceptions of geography itself as both an academic discipline and popular subject.

Acknowledgements

First and foremost I wish to thank Dr Matthew Henry and Professor Michael Roche who readily gave their time, knowledge and guidance as joint supervisors throughout the duration of this thesis. Their support has been integral to the success of this project.

I would also like to acknowledge the monetary assistance given to me by various groups. First the Sasakawa Foundation provided a generous Masters Scholarship which enabled me to attend the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference in London to present my research to fellow geographers. Their assistance also removed the financial burdens of full time study throughout the entire year. I must also recognize the generosity of the Australian National University who funded my Summer Research Scholarship in 2007/08 which enabled me to research *Australian Geographic* at the National Library of Australia in Canberra. Lastly my thanks go to the School of People, Environment and Planning at Massey University in Palmerston North who provided me with funding to research *Canadian Geographic* in the Dunedin City Library.

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