As this issue of Landscape Review is published, Christchurch, New Zealand, is commemorating the fourth anniversary of the earthquake that devastated the city in February 2011 and killed 185 people. Lincoln University, the ‘home’ of Landscape Review, is located in Christchurch, and has been closely involved in the challenges that have confronted the damaged city and continue to do so. The earthquakes have prompted depth and breadth of research, ranging from the physical challenges of geology and engineering through to the more intangible dimensions of emotion and place.

This special issue on Commemoration and Public Space therefore resonates strongly with the local setting of Christchurch. However, beyond the local significance, the diverse contexts covered within the papers are also evidence of how the issue of commemoration interacts with different cultural and physical locations.

I am very grateful to the guest editors for this issue, Quentin Stevens and Shanti Sumartojo, for their vision in gathering these papers together and proposing them for a special issue of the journal. Responses from reviewers were testament to both the quality of the papers and the vividness of their content.

Landscape Review welcomes proposals for special issues, including selections of papers from conferences. Please contact the editor, Jacky Bowring, if you would like to discuss a special issue (jacky.bowring@lincoln.ac.nz).