



By the late 1970s, some cartoonists were attacking prime minister Robert David Muldoon and his policies with increasing venom. All regretted the 1984 departure of a politician who gave them such opportunities to shine at their craft. Peter Bromhead, *Auckland Star*, 18 October 1980. *ATL ref.:* A-330-029.

### *Cartoon riches in the 1970s and 1980s*

Strong political convictions and anger about injustices strongly motivated a number of cartoonists during the third golden era of cartooning in New Zealand, from the mid-1970s until the end of the 1980s. There was a fortuitous combination of one of the largest cadres of talented, stay-at-home cartoonists for decades with a period of convulsive and compelling politics as Robert David Muldoon, by sheer force of his abrasive personality, tried to insulate the country from international economic forces, and then ‘Rogernomics’ swapped regulation for heady, unprecedented liberalisation.

Among the new cartoonists—more motivated by social conscience than by a desire to entertain—were Bob Brockie, Peter Bromhead, Malcolm Evans, Trace Hodgson, Tom Scott, Chris Slane, Malcolm Walker, and Mark Winter. In dailies and weeklies they produced a stream of hard-hitting cartoons through a period of very rapid change.

Bob Brockie, a committed socialist, cartooned for Victoria University of Wellington student publications while he studied for a zoology degree in the