

A Chronology of Archives Keeping in New Zealand to 2016

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This chronology is intended to delineate the principal events in the history of archives keeping in New Zealand, during the first 175 years of organised European settlement. In particular, it traces the emergence of a national archives system, illustrates the development of other fields of archives, records and manuscripts keeping, through to the more recent emergence of electronic forms of record-keeping. We hope it will also serve to mark the growth of awareness of the importance of archives, and of perceptions and responses to issues relating to archives-keeping. Lastly, it indicates some of the milestones along the route to an archivist profession in New Zealand.

The first version of this chronology, published in *New Zealand Archivist*, Autumn/March 1992, was based on work done by Cheryl Campbell (Simes) in 1983, with additional material by Rosemary Collier, Mary Donald, Caroline Etherington, Judith Hornabrook, Margaret and David Retter, Frank Rogers, Cheryl Simes, and Mark Stevens (who acted as editor and compiler).

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This latest version contains new and updated entries as a result of further research by the editor, together with suggestions from many friends and colleagues, notably work done by David Colquhoun on the early history of Government archives and record-keeping and writings by Rosemary Collier and Judith Hornabrook. Brief references to sources have been added and some overseas events are included to provide context.

Among the stories of fire and decay, readers will find tales of optimism, vision and hard work that have led us to where we are today.

Please contact the editor if there are any errors or omissions, and they will be considered for inclusion in any re-publication.

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The Chronology

1838

- Public Record Office Act passed in England, establishing the Public Record Office (PRO). There was no 'right to consult' the records freely for scholarly purposes until 1852, despite the Act's intention of enabling public access.

1839

- The New Zealand Company, planning the model settlement of 'Britannia' to be founded at Port Nicholson (Wellington), included a 'Public Record Office' among the principal public buildings envisaged.

1840

- Instruction accompanied Captain William Hobson RN, who became New Zealand's first Governor, that he was to provide for the security of the colonial records. Hobson's despatch (15 October) to the Secretary of State for the Colonies refers to documents including English and Māori versions of the Treaty of Waitangi..." The originals of these documents are preserved amongst the archives of the colony."
- In June, Willoughby Shortland became Registrar of Records.

1841

- Shortland was officially designated Colonial Secretary in March 1841; the Colonial Secretary (to 1907) then the successor official, the Minister of Internal Affairs, were nominally responsible for the care of public archives.

1842

- A fire (4 April) in the wooden cottage in Official Bay, Auckland, housing the office of the Surveyor-General together with those of the Colonial Secretary, the Colonial Treasurer, Commissioners of Claims and Collector of Customs, destroyed many official records but the Treaty of Waitangi and Seal of the Colony were saved from the flames by the Clerk of Records, George Eliot Elliott (*NZ Gazette & Wellington Spectator*, 30 April 1842, p3). The Treaty documents were then apparently kept in an iron safe in Auckland until 1865, then handed to the Colonial Secretary's Office, Wellington, for safe-keeping.
- The Postmaster-General, William Connell, was appointed Registrar of Records (3 October).

1847

- On 14 May, the Clerk of Records, George Eliot Eliott and George Cooper, Colonial Treasurer and Collector of Customs, wrote a memo complaining about conditions in their office. They stated that the building was cold and leaked and that records were being damaged by water and mould in the winter; their request that a stove and chimney be installed was approved.

1848

- Births & Deaths Registration Act began civil registration in New Zealand and committed the government to systematic permanent retention of records on a significant scale.

1853

- Canterbury Provincial Council passed the Public Record Office Ordinance, creating the Office and the position of Keeper of the Public Records. First mooted at the opening of the session (*Lyttelton Times*, 1 October 1853, p6). Principal duties were to accept the deposit, ensure the safe custody of, and supervise lawful access to, specified categories of provincial government records. First Keeper: James Spowers (*Canterbury Provincial Gazette*, 21 December 1853; *Lyttelton Times*, 24 December 1853, p6). Ten Keepers are attested during 1853-1876, including the provincial political heavyweights Henry Tancred (*Canterbury Provincial Gazette*, 7 August 1855; *Lyttelton Times*, 8 August 1855, p4); Joseph Brittan (*Canterbury Provincial Gazette*, 29 November 1856; *Lyttelton Times*, 17 May 1856, p7); Thomas Cass, appointed March 1858 (*Lyttelton Times*, 24 March 1858, p4); Thomas William Maude, appointed November 1859 (*Star*, 6 April 1905, p1); Augustus Frederick Noel Blakiston (*Press*, 25 June 1864, p2; 23 November 1870, p2); and John Ollivier. The Office was swept away with the abolition of the provincial governments in 1876.

1854

- Colonial Secretary commented (29 September) on the “very inadequate accommodation for keeping the records of the colony”.

1858

- General Assembly Library created to serve Members of Parliament.

1862

- Wreck of the steamer *White Swan* (29 June) carrying 12 crates of government records and books from Auckland to Wellington. Although salvaged from the hold while the vessel was aground, no boats could be spared to take them ashore and Captain Harper ordered them to be thrown overboard. Most drifted away on the out-going tide, though two crates floated ashore, one containing Postmaster-General records. Some records of the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Auditor and General Assembly were lost (*Wellington Independent*, 4 July 1862, p30).

"Mr. Fox offered £150 to get the public documents out of the hold; but as soon as they were had upon deck a sea washed them overboard." (*Colonist*, 4 July 1862, p2).

"We are happy to say that owing to the quantity sent down by previous opportunities, the loss of public documents is not so great as was at first reported. The bulk consists of a portion of the printed papers intended to be laid before both houses, of which the copies reserved for the blue books are at Auckland. Among the original documents lost, there are a letter book or two, some recent correspondence, the audited accounts, and a few other papers of no very great practical value. [The correspondence of the Government for three years; and all the patents granted since the foundation of the colony are among these.] Nearly everything that is lost can be replaced, and the Assembly will probably not be put to much greater inconvenience than having to await the *Lord Worsley's* arrival from Auckland, with duplicates of all the printed and substitutes for many of the other documents. Fortunately, the *Lord Worsley* was within a few hours of starting for Auckland when the news of the accident to the 'White Swan' reached us, and the Speakers took upon themselves the responsibility of directing the offices there, to use every exertion to supply the anticipated deficiencies by the *Lord Worsley's* return on the 15th." (*Daily Southern Cross*, 15 July 1862, p3).

1863

- When 24 cases of Patent Office records arrived from England on the *Claramont*, it drew attention to the fact that Auckland had no safe storage accommodation for public records. "There is no fire-proof building in which to preserve the records of the colony ... There is no building in which the valuable donations to hand per *Claramont*, can be deposited for reference; and when the *Josephine*

arrives, with her addition to the store of literary wealth which has been bestowed upon the Colony by the liberality of the Imperial Government, and the learned societies of England, the difficulty will be increased. ... they contain the specifications of the English Patent Office, all the Admiralty Charts, the records and history of the different regiments of the British Army, transactions of the Asiatic, Geological, Botanical, and Horticultural Societies, and ... of all the other scientific societies of the day; like-wise contributions from the Treasury, and from all the Public Offices and Departments of State, and from the British Museum ... We make an imperative demand, therefore, for the erection of a building to be used as a public library, and where, in the meantime, the records and statutes of the Colony would be tolerably safe from the risk of fire, and the attacks of rats, which often play such havoc with our State papers." ('Want of Public Buildings', *Daily Southern Cross*, 27 March 1863, p3).

1870

- Land Transfer Act introduced the Torrens registration system for land title to New Zealand and committed the government to large-scale retention of land records of permanent value.

1872

- Fire in Auckland Provincial Government buildings; many records were lost including practically all of the records of the Superintendent's Office, together with all the correspondence and minutes of the Executive Council (*NZ Herald*, 21 November 1872, p2).
- Commission (William Gisborne and Charles Knight) appointed "to enquire into the mode of keeping and providing for the safe custody and protection of the records of the Colony". No action resulted.

1875

- Improvements made to the Government Buildings in Blenheim, including safes for Provincial plan records. It was estimated that it would cost £50-60,000 to replace them if they were destroyed. The Land Transfer Office was also relocated there (*Marlborough Express*, 27 February 1875, p7).

1876

- Government Buildings, and some two dozen other buildings, in Blenheim, destroyed by fire (2 November). "The new brick safes

erected at the rear of the Government Buildings for the Land Transfer and Survey department maintained their name; the former losing nothing but stationery, all the books, deeds, etc. being intact. The Survey department has saved all the original maps and plans of the Province, but the working sheets or squares which are copies from the originals, were destroyed, and this will represent a considerable loss. All the accounts belonging to the Borough Council were burnt in the Provincial Treasurer's Office, as well as the records of his own and the Auditor which were kept there in a safe which proved to be utterly worthless. All the Supreme Court papers, records, bills of sale registry, as well as those in the Resident Magistrate's Departments and Post Office [and Customs Office] were totally destroyed, as were the records of sundry County Boards ..." ('Great Fire in Blenheim', *Marlborough Express*, 4 November 1876, p6). "For years to come papers and records will be wanted, and it will be remembered that they were burnt in the great fire of 1876." (*Marlborough Express*, 8 November 1876, p5, also 'Inquest on the late fire', *Marlborough Express*, 18 November 1876, p6).

1877

- First published version of the Treaty of Waitangi, together with the Declaration of Independence (1835), was issued by the Government Printing Office, as photo-lithographs. The original documents were then placed in storage in the basement of the old Government Buildings, Wellington.

1882

- "It is asserted by the Wellington papers that no adequate provision, we might almost say no provision, without the qualifying adjective is made in the Government Buildings for the preservation of our public documents from destruction by fire, and if those huge buildings did catch fire it would be a simple impossibility to get out papers, however valuable... It is, therefore, imperative that our public records should be placed in safer custody than at present." (*Hawke's Bay Herald*, 13 October 1882, p2).

1884

- In the House of Representatives (17 September), John Holmes, the member for Christchurch South, asked if the government intended to introduce a Bill for the protection of public documents (principally

against unauthorised destruction by Ministers). Sir Julius Vogel (Colonial Treasurer) responded that such a Bill "... might be fitly termed a Bill to abolish waste-paper baskets, and it would be dangerous for any member of the Government to tear up a single scrap of paper". The government had no such intention.

1887

- Wellington Post Office fire (28 April) destroys Post Office records and Friendly Societies' Department records (*Auckland Star*, 29 April 1887, p5).
- Sir George Grey (Governor 1845-1853 & 1861-1868; Premier 1877-1879) presented a large collection of books and manuscripts, particularly relating to Māori history and culture, to the Auckland Public Library. Further gifts followed until his death in 1898.

1888

- Mr Richard Monk (MHR) asked that the Premier negotiate with the NSW Government for the repatriation of records relating to New Zealand (*Auckland Star*, 17 August 1888, p3).
- Sir John Hall (MHR) asked the Government to ensure that a collection of records held by the Colonial Office relating to New Zealand be collated (*Auckland Star*, 18 August 1888, p3).
- It was suggested that the recent installation of electric lights in the Government Printing Office should be extended to the Government Buildings nearby. "In view of the fact that the buildings are of wood, and contain colonial records of enormous importance, it is rather surprising that some steps have not been taken ere now to minimise the risk of destruction by fire, arising from the use of gas and other descriptions of light." (*Auckland Star*, 9 January 1888, p5).

1889

- Edward Tregear urged a formal archives programme and storage facility for the Colony, in two articles ('A New Zealand Record Office', *Monthly Review*, August 1889, pp392-395; 'The Archives of New Zealand', December 1890, pp622-625).

1890

- Government Printing Office building destroyed by fire (8 October). The old wooden office in Thorndon Quay, Wellington, was completely destroyed; fortunately, the presses had already been moved to new

brick premises across the road. Even so, the losses included Survey Department photographic apparatus, printing paper and over a thousand lithograph stones. "The Customs Department have saved a large number of registers, but others have been charred, and it is doubtful whether they will be fit for reference. Treasury vouchers for very many years past ... have been greatly damaged." Thousands of books were also destroyed including 1,200 volumes of White's *Ancient History of the Māori* and 1,000 volumes of Grey's *Polynesian Mythology* (*Evening Post*, 8 October 1890, p2).

1892

- Polynesian Society was established and began collecting, collating and publishing Māori manuscripts; that collection is now housed in the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.

1893

- Survey records of the New Zealand Company, damaged by long storage in a damp strong-room in the Lands Department at Wellington, were destroyed in a cleanup. One bundle was temporarily saved and transcribed by an interested bystander, William Heywood Trimble, later Hocken Librarian.

1895

- Towards the end of 1895, James Izett, a clerk at Parliament, was appointed to work in the Colonial Secretary's Department, binding the inward letters for preservation. He also began listing the records of some departments and continued on this work for several years (*Press*, 11 January 1896, p7).

1898

- Questions were asked in Parliament about who Mr Izett was and what he was doing, as he was always seen about the building ('The Government Historiographer', *Star*, 21 July 1898, p1). The task, described as "compiling the national records and leaving them in a position that the history of the colony could be written from records that they know to be authentic", continued for several years (*Otago Daily Times*, 21 July 1898, p3). In reply to Mr Smith (MHR), Seddon indicated that the records would be made "open to anyone who made a proper application for permission to peruse them" (*Auckland Star*, 2 September 1898, p2).

- Records disposal schedule prepared for records of the House of Representatives submitted to the Speaker for approval, by the Clerk of the House, Henry Otterson. It was laid on the table and ordered to be printed. There is no record of a decision to adopt or reject it.
- Otago Early Settlers' Association formed and its museum (now Toitū Otago Settlers' Museum) began collecting papers and photographs to document the history of Otago Province.

1900

- Augustus Hamilton wrote (26 January) to the Premier, Richard Seddon, lobbying for better care for the archives of the Hawke's Bay Provincial Government.
- Correspondence between the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Speaker, about the weeding of some parliamentary documents (*New Zealand Archivist*, Winter/June 1993; vol4 no 2, pp6-8).

1901

- Following the filming of the Royal Visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York by a Salvation Army film crew from Melbourne, Colonel William Peart wrote to the Premier, Seddon, suggesting that "... the negatives could be placed among the archives of the history of the state so that at any future period the scenes which took place could be reproduced with the actuality of life and movement". Although some of this film has survived and has been conserved by the New Zealand Film Archive, the suggestion was officially ignored.
- In the House of Representatives, Mr Richard Monk (Waitemata) asked the government about the possible acquisition of archives in New South Wales relating to New Zealand, a question he said he had first raised in 1888. Seddon replied that obtaining copies might be possible. Monk further asked what progress had been made in collating the early records of the Colony. Seddon replied that he believed it was "well up to the fifties" (*New Zealand Parliamentary Debates*, 19 September 1901, vol 118, pp620-621).
- Mr E G Allen (Waikouaiti) asked the Minister of Public Works if he would erect a fire-proof strong-room next to the Government Buildings to accommodate the public records of the Colony. He mentioned serious fires in Auckland and also in Blenheim which had destroyed public records. The minister, Mr Hall-Jones, responded that the Government was erecting new Railways Department offices close by that may provide some accommodation, but pointed out

that the Government Buildings had a strong-room on each floor (*NZPD*, 20 September 1901, vol 118, p651).

1902

- Fire completely destroys the Government Buildings in Tauranga and along with it, the local records of the Resident Magistrates' Court, Native Court, Wardens' Court, Post Office & Telegraph Department, Public Trustee, Customs Department, Lands & Survey Department and Registrar of Electors; Borough and Council records were also lost. (*Wanganui Chronicle*, 18 November 1902, p5).

1903

- Dr Hocken spent "two to three months" examining and listing all the records of the New Zealand Company at the Public Record Office, London. On completion, he strongly suggested to the Colonial Office that the records, which were those of a private company, be sent to New Zealand (they arrived in 1909) (*Otago Witness*, 11 August 1909, p58).

1906

- Augustus Hamilton, now Director of the Dominion Museum, wrote to the Colonial Secretary, deploring the lack of care for government records and advocating the construction of a reinforced concrete records office, under the care of a Director of Colonial Records. No action resulted.
- Question asked in the House of Representatives about negotiating for the return of Māori manuscripts which Sir George Grey had deposited in South Africa, during his term there as Governor (*NZPD*, 12 September 1906, vol 137, p501).

1907

- Parliament Buildings' fire (there had already been two small outbreaks in 1898) caused extensive losses including most Native Department records (including inward letters, 1840-1891) and Legislative Council records, standing orders, etc. The Treaty of Waitangi sheets are said to have been saved by being thrown out a window of the burning building. The General Assembly Library wing survived. "When it is remembered that the building just destroyed was for years the 'safe deposit' of all the valuable archives of New Zealand, it becomes apparent that some more efficient structure than

this class of building is required for the conduct of our Government business. Fortunately, the valuable library and records, whose value is beyond price, since they could not be replaced, are intact." ('The Lesson of the Fire', *Free Lance*, 14 December 1907, p6). Concern was expressed in the newspapers about the safety of records in the wooden Government Buildings. (*Star*, 27 December 1907, p4). An anonymous threat had been made to burn the building down (not the first, apparently, due to the fact that all the Police fingerprint records were stored there) and extra security was mounted (*Hawera & Normanby Star*, 13 December 1907, p5).

- Dr Thomas Morland Hocken's collection of books and manuscripts given to the University of Otago (having first been offered in 1897; *NZ Herald*, 5 April 1897, p6), and became the nucleus of the Hocken Library.
- Interview with Dr Robert McNab concerning the losses in the Parliamentary fire. The loss of copies of NSW records was mitigated by having duplicates, and, in his view, losses were minimal. However, his collection of reference works transferred to the building the day before the fire, was destroyed. ('Dr McNab's Historical Records', *Press*, 12 December 1907, p8).

1908

- First volume of *Historical Records of New Zealand* by Dr McNab published (volume two was published in 1914), containing both published and archival records relating to the European discovery, exploration and the early history of New Zealand, 1642-1842.
- Cabinet again considered Hamilton's 1906 proposals but made no recommendations.

1909

- Internal Affairs Department set up a store of old government records in the Alexandra Barracks on Mt. Cook, Wellington, and Hamilton drew up plans to use the building as an archives repository. Among the records received were New Zealand Company duplicates from the Public Record Office, London, which Hocken had begun negotiating for in 1903. "Speaking of the New Zealand Company's records recently received in Wellington from the Colonial Office, the Hon. D Buddo said to a *Dominion* reporter that he would strongly advise old settlers, especially Wellingtonians, to visit the Museum and look through the documents, as they would find much to interest them relating to

the old families of the district. He felt that the public owed much gratitude to Messrs A. Hamilton, A. H. Turnbull, and C. A. Ewen, who had gone through the papers and compiled a valuable report upon them; also to Dr Hocken for his carefully prepared catalogue, which was the means of drawing attention to the documents, and had greatly lightened the labours of the investigators in Wellington. Even as it was, their task was no light one, as the documents amounted to about a ton and a half in weight. None of the papers will be destroyed, but those which are not exhibited or bound for reference will be lodged in the Mount Cook storage rooms under the supervision of the director of the Dominion Museum. Mr Buddo added that he had been advised that another two cases of documents connected with the early settlement of New Zealand had been found stored in London, and would be forwarded to New Zealand if desired. He had given instructions to have them sent out." (*Otago Witness*, 18 August 1909, p36).

- The 'National Historical Collection' was set up under the auspices of the Dominion Museum, guided by a sub-committee of the newly-created Board of Science and Art.
- In an interview given to the *Otago Witness* Dr Hocken claimed to have discovered the original sheets of the Treaty of Waitangi, "... buried in a heap of old papers and rubbish in a dungeon" underneath of the Government Buildings and damaged by water and rats. He did not give a date for this discovery, which has so far eluded confirmation from the records of the Department of Internal Affairs; but possibly 1907 or 1908 (*Otago Witness*, 11 August 1909, p58).
- Canterbury Museum sets up its Early Colonists' Department and begins to form a manuscripts collection (June).

1910

- Hocken Library officially opened on 23 March, shortly before Dr Hocken's death. W H Trimble is appointed the first Hocken Librarian.
- Series of seven articles by his wife, Annie E N Trimble, 'Raw material of history: the Hocken Library: a sketch of its contents' (*Evening Star*, 1 October-5 November 1910).
- "The possibility of the existence of valuable historic documents connected with the Native Department still remaining buried amidst the debris in the basement of the old Parliamentary Buildings, destroyed by fire nearly three years ago, was the subject of a report presented to the House by the Native Affairs Committee, with the

recommendation that the Government should take action. In the course of a discussion that ensued, the Hon. James Carroll, Native Minister, stated that it was a strange thing that these records had been in the cellars for years and years before the fire occurred, and they had never been required to be produced. The papers were mostly connected with the historic association of the native race away in the dim past. He had learned for the first time that morning there was a possibility of the papers being still there, but he was assured by the Minister for Public Works that the documents were most probably destroyed. He agreed that a search should be made." ('Buried records relative to Maori antiquity', *Northern Advocate*, 27 August 1910, p5). "Hon. J R McKenzie said that all cellars had been turned upside down in the search for documents and everything worth taking had been removed ..." (Oamaru Mail, 26 August 1910, Page 2).

- Mr John Fuller Jnr, of Fuller and Sons (film-makers), believing that "libraries of selected cinematograph films" should be established, wrote to the Director of the Dominion Museum, offering to "present unconditionally to each of the museums or controlling authority in the four chief cities of the Dominion a series of films depicting the funeral of the late King Edward VII... In years to come these scenes ... will still be of keen interest, educative or otherwise, and it should be a valuable thing to have them available as required". Some scraps of this film have survived.

1911

- Fire in the Stamps and Deeds Office, in an isolated wooden building behind the Government Buildings, Wellington, destroyed valuable records (*Otago Daily Times*, 15 September 1911, p5).
- George Russell, a member of the Library Committee of the General Assembly Library, has a resolution passed to establish a "manuscripts and historical section with the view of obtaining all possible original documents (or copies) dealing with the early history of the colony" and recommended that a special room be built. After a lengthy debate in Parliament and discussion with Augustus Hamilton of the Dominion Museum, a Dominion Historical Committee was set up (Colquhoun, *Archifacts*, October 2005, pp4-6).

1912

- Hunt Commission on the Public Service (which established the

modern non-political form of the New Zealand Public Service which endured until 1988) deplored the lack of adequate and safe accommodation for government archives and urged that provision be made for them. "The whole question of providing the necessary fireproof accommodation for the public records throughout the Dominion should, we, think, be looked into at once by experts, and the necessary steps taken for their proper protection without a day's delay longer than is absolutely necessary. If this is not done the result may be to the lasting regret of the Government and people of the Dominion." (*Evening Post*, 5 September 1912, p2).

- W H Trimble's *Catalogue of the Hocken Library, Dunedin* was published, organised principally by subject, including Dr Hocken's collection of manuscript material (*Otago Daily Times*, 8 November 1912, p7).

1913

- The Treaty sheets "torn by rats" were sent to Augustus Hamilton at the Dominion Museum to be "renovated as far as possible" (27 March). The work was carried out by Mr J McDonald.
- Board of Science and Art Act passed, which proposed a Dominion, Art, Scientific and Historical Library. However, any further action was stymied by Hamilton's death in October 1913 and the onset of the First World War (Colquhoun, *Archifacts*, October 2005, p7).

1914

- Government outlines its intentions for the Museum, Art Gallery and 'Records Storage Depot' to be housed in the old Mt Cook Prison building. "I have two principal objects in view," said the Minister [Hon H D Bell, Minister of Internal Affairs]; "first, making provision for safeguard from fire and accident of the historical documents and records of the Dominion, and, second, the provision of a method for making those documents available for reference. There are stored in various offices, and in grave danger of destruction, such documents as the early deeds from the Maoris, records of the New Zealand Company, and, perhaps more important than all, records of the Native Land Committee and its proceedings. There are many other classes of records of as great interest and importance as those I have just referred to, which should be collated, indexed, stored, and made available for reference in the same manner as the Rolls are kept in England. For this purpose, there now exists an almost ideal building, of great strength, immune from danger by fire, constructed

in cells opening on to a hall on each story, so that the documents can be indexed and made available for reference on tables arranged in the halls. That is the building which was originally erected for the Mount Cook Prison. It is obvious that it is desirable that the Museum should be erected in close proximity to the Department of Historical Records." (*Evening Post*, 24 November 1914, p8).

1915

- The Treaty sheets were finally backed with linen and parchment, returned (in May) to Internal Affairs for storage in a tin box.
- Hamilton's successor, Allen Thomson, reaffirms the Dominion Museum's interest in collecting historical documents in his annual report (Colquhoun, *Archifacts*, October 2005, p7).
- General Assembly Librarian, Charles Wilson, suggests that the General Assembly Library become a National Library, with a separate Department of Archives (Colquhoun, *Archifacts*, October 2005, p7).

1916

- "A doubt was expressed by some members in the House yesterday afternoon as to the wisdom of storing Base Defence Records in the new iron building at the rear of Government Buildings. The Minister of Public Works (Hon W Fraser) assured the House, however, that the building had been erected with due regard to safety against fire, short of building it in brick or stone, that watchmen would be stationed there, and that all the necessary precautions had been taken." (*Evening Post*, 3 June 1916, p9; also *Dominion*, 5 June 1916, p8).
- Part of the General Assembly Library strong-room was set aside for storage of items collected for the National Historical Collection (Colquhoun, *Archifacts*, October 2005, p9).

1917

- A public appeal for archival and printed material for the National Historical Collection was made by the Minister of Internal Affairs, G W Russell, in the form of a circular letter sent to over 1,000 individuals. Material sought included: State papers; personal papers of prominent men and women; busts, portraits, photographs; views of New Zealand; early maps and plans; minute books of societies, pre-1870; ships' logs and business records; early newspapers, pamphlets, almanacs, ephemera; Māori manuscripts and, interestingly, "letters

written from the front during the present great European war" (*Auckland Star*, 17 March 1917, p10). However, little material of significance was received.

- On presentation of the annual report to Parliament of the Dominion Museum, members ask searching questions about the lack of protection for Māori sites and inadequate museum facilities. ('Historical Records: Members allege neglect', *Dominion*, 12 September 1917, p10).
- Canterbury Hall, Christchurch, containing the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association's offices was "destroyed together with a valuable library; but the books of records were saved." ('Great Blaze at Christchurch', *Nelson Evening Mail*, 12 November 1917, p5).
- During this time, the records of the New Zealand Company, Colonial Secretary, and Hawke's Bay Provincial Government are stored at the Mt Cook Barracks.

1918

- Army reclaims the Mt Cook (Alexandra) Barracks and the records are moved to the new Central Police Station and later to the basement of the General Assembly Library.
- Surviving archives of Marlborough, Nelson, Otago and Southland Provinces are brought to Wellington for storage in the Central Police Station basement (Colquhoun, *Archifacts*, October 2005, p10).

1919

- An appeal for war diaries for the National Historical Collection met with little success.
- Department of Defence sets up a War Records Historical Branch, later the New Zealand War Records Section (Colquhoun, *Archifacts*, October 2005, p12). The records collected remained unsorted and in 1930 the Department of Defence began destroying them but parts were rescued by the Controller of the Dominion Archives (Colquhoun, *Archifacts*, October 2005, p16).

1920

- Alexander Turnbull Library established, following Alexander Horsburgh Turnbull's death in 1918. He had bequeathed his collection of books, serials, newspapers, manuscripts, maps and artworks to the Crown, "to form the nucleus of a New Zealand National Collection". The first Librarian was Johannes C Andersen and the Library constituted an office of Internal Affairs until 1966 when it became part of the newly-

created National Library of New Zealand ('Turnbull Library opening next Monday', *Dominion*, 24 June 1920, p4; Official opening, *Evening Post*, 29 June 1920, p10).

- Board of Science and Art committee investigated the creation of a 'war museum' ('War trophies', *Evening Post*, 13 April 1920, p6; 23 June 1920, p6). There was also discussion about the progress of the National Historical Collection ('National Historical Collection', *Evening Post*, 23 June 1920, p6).

1921

- National Historical Collection transferred to the care of the Alexander Turnbull Library until 1926, the Library thus briefly becoming the 'Office of Public Records'.

1923

- Board of Māori Ethnological Research established and began to play a role in the collection and preservation of Māori manuscripts; collection now housed in the Alexander Turnbull Library.

1926

- Treaty of Waitangi stored in the strong-room of the Government Buildings (*Evening Post*, 5 February 1926, p8; *Auckland Star*, 1 June 1928, p7).
- General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church created a Committee on Early Records (allocation £20) to co-ordinate archival endeavours within the Church; now known as the Historical Records Committee. Not much success was achieved until after a revival in 1978 and the involvement of professional archivists in the initiatives of the Committee. This resulted in the appointment of an archivist (part-time) at Knox College, in 1984.
- Guy Hardy Scholefield, a former journalist, became Controller of Dominion Archives in addition to his principal post as Chief Librarian of the General Assembly Library. The extra title was the administrative solution to a question about the justification for a higher salary level, and an historical accident. While there was no separate archives staff or accommodation, a considerable quantity of government archives was gradually assembled from all over the country and housed in the attic of the General Assembly Library.
- The principle gradually came to be recognised that government records should not be destroyed without Scholefield's consent. In

fact, this was never seriously enforced and very large quantities of public records were destroyed in “cleanups”, especially during the period ca1930-1950.

- Scholefield published *Archives Bulletin No 1*, otherwise known as *Historical Sources and Archives in New Zealand*, the first general description of the public archives.
- W H Trimble *Two lectures on Dr Hocken and his historical collection*.

1927

- Mantell family collection of books and manuscripts donated to the Alexander Turnbull Library by Mrs Walter Mantell, Wellington (*Evening Post*, 27 May 1927, p10; 13 August 1927, p10).
- G H Scholefield commenced field surveys of archives, of central and local government, throughout New Zealand, from Warkworth to Invercargill, completed in 1929 ('Historical records', *Auckland Star*, 22 August 1929, p18).

1929

- Scholefield's address to the Science Congress, detailed the extent of records held as a result of his survey, which included printed Parliamentary and Provincial Government records and newspaper files. ('New Zealand archives: preservation of records: very few missing', *Auckland Star*, 26 January 1929, p12).

1931

- Napier Earthquake (3 February) caused losses of government district office and local council records.
- Transfer of the position of Dominion Archivist from Internal Affairs to Legislative Department control.

1933

- Cabinet decision (11 May) that Cabinet was “to be the controlling authority for the Dominion's archives”, arising from a controversy over the fate of Governor Hobson's papers donated by a family member in 1928 ('Dominion would value them', *Evening Post*, 25 September 1928, p8; also 'Family papers of our first Governor', *Evening Post*, 10 November 1928, p31).

1934

- Repair work was again undertaken on the Treaty sheets after their

“discovery” at Internal Affairs, following publicity surrounding the gift to the nation of the Busby House at Waitangi, by Lord Bledisloe in 1932.

- Munn-Barr Report, *New Zealand Libraries: a Survey of Conditions and Suggestions for their Improvement*, recommends the establishment of a national library service.

1936

- Eric Hall McCormick employed to work on the archives, but work was interrupted by his successive appointments as Editor of the New Zealand Centennial Publications and Secretary of the National Historical Committee, and finally Chief War Archivist.

1938

- Country Library Service established.

1939

- First *Union Catalogue of New Zealand Newspapers* published, compiled by G H Scholefield.
- New Zealand Founders' Society established. Its collection of manuscripts and printed items was transferred to the Alexander Turnbull Library in 1964.

1940

- New Zealand Centennial increased public interest in New Zealand history. The original Treaty of Waitangi sheets and other constitutional documents were exhibited publicly for the first time, at Waitangi, on 6 February.

1941

- McCormick was appointed to collect and collate archives generated by New Zealand forces fighting in the Middle East. A War Archives section was formed within the administrative organisation of 2NZEF. In December, the Treaty was returned to Internal Affairs and sent to the Public Trust Office in Masterton for war-time storage.

1942

- School Library Service established.

1944

- E H McCormick appointed Chief War Archivist.

1945

- War History Branch established within Internal Affairs, to manage the war archives and co-ordinate the writing of the official war histories: Brig-Gen Howard Kippenberger was the first Chief Historian. The Branch was renamed the Historical Publications Branch in 1968, and continues to the present day (as part of the Heritage Group, Ministry of Culture and Heritage).
- In October, the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) was inaugurated through an agreement between the National Library of Australia and the Mitchell Library, Sydney, to microfilm records of Australian and Pacific interest held in the United Kingdom. The first reel of film was produced in 1948. Later partners included National Archives, the Alexander Turnbull Library, and some university libraries. The AJCP Office in London was closed in June 1993 and the last reel was received in 1997.
- School Library Service and Country Library Service were amalgamated to form the National Library Service.

1946

- E H McCormick produced a report on archives and a plan for future archival work, which was submitted to Internal Affairs and received general approval. It focused on proposals to undertake the appraisal of public records still not in archival custody, the arrangement and description of archives, and the importance of microfilming, including New Zealand-related archives held overseas.

1947

- Dominion Archives held 110m of archives in custody (many more records were under its supervision in the cellars of government buildings), and received 12 visits from researchers.
- Scholefield retired as Controller of Dominion Archives.
- McCormick resigned and went to an academic post at Auckland University College.
- Michael Wordsworth Standish seconded from the War History Branch to look after the archives.

1948

- Control of the Dominion Archives changed from the General Assembly Library to Internal Affairs, where it was placed with the War History Branch under the general supervision of John Cawte Beaglehole.

1949

- Dominion Archives saw an increase in staff (a research assistant and cadet) and accommodation (wooden war-surplus shed at Seaview, near Wellington).
- Frank H Rogers, who earlier in his career had been an archivist at the University of Bristol (UK), appointed Otago University Librarian, a position he held until 1956.
- The Treaty was briefly displayed in the Alexander Turnbull Library and in July was returned to Internal Affairs, stored in a metal cylinder.

1950

- Standish set out a policy on regional archives repositories for public archives, later embodied in the Archives Act 1957, but a lack of resources meant little was accomplished. However, public support for archives gathered momentum, the profile raised by newspaper articles and a history conference.
- New Zealand Library Association (NZLA) archives seminar, chaired by Scholefield, was held at the annual conference.
- A committee of professors of the University of New Zealand called for archives legislation and increased resources for the Dominion Archives, but put off a deputation to the Prime Minister, convinced of inevitable failure.

1951

- NZLA Archives Committee established, chaired by Frank Rogers.
- Supervision of the Dominion Archives became a responsibility of the Chief Librarian, Alexander Turnbull Library, within the Internal Affairs Department. During the next thirty years there were several attempts to subordinate the Archives to the Turnbull Library or National Library, initiated by Library managers advocating either complete administrative incorporation, or the sharing of accommodation.

1952

- Standish travelled overseas to study archival methods, visiting France, Britain and Australia, on half salary but otherwise at his own

expense. A secondary objective of the trip was to discover material of interest to New Zealand for microfilming.

- Hope Gibbons Building fire (30 July) in central Wellington resulted in the loss of, or severe damage to, the early records of the Departments of Public Works, Lands and Survey, Labour and Employment (Immigration Division), Agriculture, Marine, and Scientific and Industrial Research. The initial newspaper coverage referred in passing to the loss of records, and that this might cause “slight inconvenience” but they were mainly “dead files”. In Standish’s absence, salvage work was carried out under difficult circumstances, by the other two Dominion Archives’ staff, Pamela Cocks (later Hall) and Betty O’Dowd. This disaster remains one of the greatest losses of public archives in New Zealand.

1953

- NZLA Archives Committee began a survey of local government records, and appointed regional consultants to give advice to authorities concerned about their records. The Committee also urged the Government to invite a suitable overseas archivist to visit New Zealand and make recommendations about future archival development.

1953

- Dominion Archives (later National Archives) published a *Guide to the Dominion Archives* and, over the next decade, a further nine *Preliminary Inventories*, covering the principal nineteenth-century record groups; the last published in 1966.

1954

- Cabinet approved a plan submitted by Internal Affairs, for the development of a National Archives, archives legislation, the appointment of a Chief Archivist and staff, appraisal of departmental records and proper arrangement and description of transferred archives.
- One-week visit to New Zealand by Theodore Roosevelt Schellenberg, Director of Archival Management, US National Archives. Schellenberg took time off from a longer visit as a Fulbright Scholar to Australia; his experiences and discussions were important influences on his book *Modern Archives* (Chicago, 1956).
- Pamela Cocks, Archivist at Dominion Archives, travelled to the US

as a Fulbright scholar to study archives administration, at American University (Washington DC) with Ernst Posner.

- Dominion Archives was moved from the General Assembly Library attic to accommodation in the Employers' Federation Building, 8-12 The Terrace, Wellington.
- NZLA Archives Committee laid plans for a *Union Catalogue of Manuscripts*; cyclostyled segments were issued from 1958 to 1966.
- A fire in the Rotorua offices of the Geological Survey resulted in the loss of 20 years of research and scientific records.
- Nelson Historical Society founded.

1955

- NZLA Archives Committee published *An Elementary Guide to Archives Practice*, edited by Frank Rogers.
- Standish submitted the first draft of the Archives Bill to Internal Affairs. It was based on 1953 South African legislation, and included an Archives Advisory Council with substantial representation from the academic community, a provision opposed by Internal Affairs and later dropped.
- Records management service from National Archives commenced.

1956

- New Zealand Broadcasting Service began a radio Sound Archive, based in Timaru because space was available there, next to the radio station.
- A meeting was held (April) at the offices of the National Film Library, convened by its head Walter Harris, attended by representatives of the National Museum, National Archives, National Film Unit, the film societies and Film Censor, the purpose of which was "to discuss the formation of a National Film Archive". No such archive was established but some procedures were put in place for the acquisition of films.

1957

- Archives Act passed. It provided for the creation of National Archives (the renamed Dominion Archives), and the appointment of a Chief Archivist with statutory duties and powers, charged with the custody, care and control of all public archives and having sole responsibility for authorising the disposal of public records. The act also allowed for the inspection of records storage within departments,

the seizure of archives in the public domain and made provision for the establishment of 'designated repositories' which were allowed to hold public archives (in effect, legalising a framework that already existed). The Secretary for Internal Affairs exercised the powers of Chief Archivist until 1962. National Archives was positioned by the legislation within Internal Affairs (the Alexander Turnbull Library had been in Internal Affairs since 1920, but only by administrative arrangement; it was thus easily excised and made part of the National Library in 1966).

- In the events leading up to the passing of the Act, Professor J C Beaglehole wrote: "No one is more adept than the New Zealander in paying lip service to the past, and in destroying the means of knowing it. Till we convert our scattered, rat-ravaged records into a proper system of archives, our claim to civilisation is so much the more slender. We have hacked at the tree of our tradition with the murderous inconsequence of adolescent vandals in a public park. We have burnt our history with the same blind stupidity as we have burnt our forests." (J C Beaglehole "The New Zealand Scholar" (1954) reprinted in *The Feel of Truth* edited by Peter Munz (1969), p251).

1958

- Abortive attempt in Melbourne to set up an Australian and New Zealand Society of Archivists. An inaugural meeting was held and an interim constitution formulated.
- National Archives began to store semi-current records in an ex-US Army stores shed at Seaview, Lower Hutt, which had been used to store archives since 1949; all archives were finally removed from this building in March 1977.

1959

- National Archives empowered by Cabinet to take formal custody of records in departmental cellars without transferring them (in response to the lack of archives accommodation). National Archives holdings in Wellington were thus scattered across 26 separate sites.
- Two records management advisory staff commenced work at National Archives, with responsibilities for improving records management throughout the Public Service.

1960

- Treaty sheets and other constitutional documents finally passed

into the legal custody of National Archives in July, following a recommendation (December 1956) and the passage of the Archives Act.

- First full-time tertiary course in New Zealand history established at the University of Auckland.
- *Richmond-Atkinson Papers* compiled by G H Scholefield, published. The original letters, that were held at the General Assembly Library at the time, are now held in the Alexander Turnbull Library.

1961

- Genealogical Society of Utah (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) began microfilming operations in New Zealand, starting with Anglican burial records. Over the following years concern was expressed in some quarters over the LDS practice of posthumous baptism. As a result, some churches refused permission for filming.
- Treaty of Waitangi documents go on public display (6 February) at the Alexander Turnbull Library, ultimately for a period of 18 years.
- Aotea Quay Post Office fire (14 July) responsible for the destruction of the early journals of Bishop Selwyn and missionary James Hamlin, which were being returned to the UK, following microfilming by the Alexander Turnbull Library. Post Office records from 1887-1935 in storage, were also destroyed.

1962

- State Services Commission also began to work in the records management advisory field. The two programmes (NA and SSC) worked in parallel until the retirement of the personnel, and changing management attitudes, saw this work fade away during the late 1970s.
- National Archives' Records Centres opened in Lower Hutt (Daly Street) and Auckland (Hardinge Street), after previous attempts over several years had been stifled by opposition from the Treasury.
- Standish appointed first Chief Archivist, but sadly died a few months later.

1963

- John Dobrée Pascoe (Illustrations Editor, War History Branch), a prominent writer, photographer and mountaineer, appointed second Chief Archivist.
- Article in the *Journal of the NZ Institute of Architects* (June 1963, vol

30, no 5, p94) recommends sending plans, drawings and perspectives to collecting institutions for safe-keeping.

1965

- National Library Act passed. General Assembly Library, Alexander Turnbull Library and National Library Service now make up the National Library of New Zealand.

1966

- National Archives moved to Borthwick House, 85 The Terrace, Wellington. Total staff 15, including 8 professional and 4 at the Records Centres. Total holdings of textual records (including temporary records) 6,000m.
- Governance of Alexander Turnbull Library passed from Internal Affairs to the National Library, following the passage of the National Library Act.
- Agreement between Statistics Department and National Archives was reached to retain every second census; the schedules of the 1966 quinquennial census of population are due for release after one hundred years. Census schedules for 1976 and 1986 were also retained but those for 1996 were destroyed, amid public concern from historians and genealogists.

1966

- National Archives began publishing annual *Summaries of Work* in addition to a section within the Annual Report of Internal Affairs (published in the *Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives*). These came to an end in 1977.

1967

- Appointment of the first full-time manuscripts librarian (Margaret Scott) at the Alexander Turnbull Library. Previously, manuscripts were cared for by general library staff or part-time manuscripts assistants.

1968

- *Union Catalogue of New Zealand and Pacific Manuscripts in New Zealand Libraries, Part 1* published; *Part 2* published in 1969; a few small supplements were issued in the early 1970s.

- Pacific Manuscripts Bureau was established, within the Australian National University, Canberra, to locate and assist in preserving and providing access to archives and printed material, held in the Pacific, through a microfilming programme (Alexander Turnbull Library has been a partner in this project).

1970

- First archivist position created at the Hocken Library: Stuart R Strachan appointed.
- Article in *AGMANZ News* recommended the setting up of a National Register of Photographic Collections (vol 2, no 6, August 1970, pp4-5).
- St Thomas' Anglican Church, Newtown, Wellington (built 1895), gutted by fire (arson) and demolished the next year. All church records stored in the building were destroyed.

1972

- Senior Archivist Judith S Hornabrook appointed Acting Chief Archivist, with the death of John Pascoe.
- Stuart Strachan became the first New Zealand archivist to receive a professional archives qualification, the Diploma in Archives Studies (University College, London).
- Wellington Maritime Museum (now Wellington Museum) established.

1973

- First business archivist appointed: Robin Griffin, at the Bank of New Zealand.
- Judith Hornabrook appointed third Chief Archivist.
- Alexander Turnbull Library re-opened in new accommodation in the Free Lance Building, 44 The Terrace, Wellington.

1974

- NZLA Archives Committee was revived after being in abeyance for several years, and began publication of *Archifacts*, the first New Zealand publication wholly devoted to the subject of archives and manuscripts.
- Fire at the Municipal Land Building, Dunedin, housing the Otago Education Board and its records (*Archifacts*, no 1, April 1974, pp8-9).

- Construction began in Molesworth Street, Wellington, of a new purpose-built National Library building; however, work was suspended from 1976 to 1981, mainly due to industrial action.

1975

- First archives training seminar held (sponsored by National Archives, Alexander Turnbull Library and NZLA Archives Committee).
- War History Documentation Centre established as a joint venture between the Alexander Turnbull Library and National Archives, to collect and preserve privately-held war memorabilia; a large number of soldiers' diaries and letters came in to the Alexander Turnbull Library over the next 10 years.
- Cabinet formally ruled that Prime Ministerial and Cabinet Ministerial papers should be deposited at National Archives (except for arrangements made with other institutions prior to these posts being attained).
- Antiquities Act passed forbidding the export, without permission, of any book, document, photograph, film or recording which relates to New Zealand, is of national, historical, scientific, artistic or literary importance and is older than 60 years.
- Inter-departmental government committee formed to consider a photograph archive and continued its work until 1977; it identified problems and issues, collected information, but made no recommendations for action.

1976

- Archives and Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ) founded, superseding the NZLA Archives Committee, as an organisation through which the combined efforts of archives users and archives keepers could be directed towards improving the levels of resources devoted to the care and accessibility of archives.
- Option of a purely professional organisation for archives keepers was rejected because the number of archivists was considered too small to have any persuasive influence on resource allocators. First President: Thomas P Wilsted, Alexander Turnbull Library Manuscripts Librarian, a US expatriate.
- Michael Hoare's 'Turnbull Library manuscript holdings in the history of New Zealand science: a review' (*Turnbull Library Record*, October 1976, vol 9, no 2, pp4-19) places scientific holdings centre-stage. A successful History of Science Conference is later held in Wellington,

attended by scientists, curators, archivists and international speakers.

- Local Government Act amended to include provisions for protection of local government archives. Chief Archivist is empowered to promulgate regulations relating to their identification, retention and destruction.
- Intervention by the Security Intelligence Service to remove sensitive documents from the Walter Nash Papers (Deputy Prime Minister 1935-1949, PM 1957-1960), during processing by National Archives. Thirty-two documents were removed and ARANZ later raises questions of the integrity and security of National Archives (*Archifacts*, September 1977, no 3, pp49-53; March 1978, no 4/5, p103).

1977

- National Archives moved to the Air New Zealand Building, 129-141 Vivian St, Wellington. Sufficient accommodation was available for the first time in this building and the two Records Centres, for all archives in custody. Total staff 18, including 10 professional and 5 at the Records Centres. Total holdings of textual records (including temporary records) 9,100m.
- First National Archives archivist (Michael Hodder) sent to University of New South Wales to study for archives diploma. From 1982, at least one staff member was sent almost every year, until 1994.
- Film Archives Committee of ARANZ produced a report on the deplorable state of film preservation activity and the lack of appropriate storage and technical expertise in holding institutions.
- Lesbian and Gay Rights Resource Centre, Wellington, founded to collect and preserve resource materials and to work for the rights and well-being of all lesbians and gay men. This collection is currently hosted by the Alexander Turnbull Library and several staff act as honorary curators.

1978

- Union Steam Ship Company archives established and archivist appointed: Timothy J Lovell-Smith. The position and archives was disestablished in 1983, the records divided between the Wellington Maritime Museum and the Hocken Library.
- Wilfred I Smith, Dominion Archivist of Canada, visited New Zealand, at the initiative of ARANZ, to report on state of archives-keeping. Smith made 28 recommendations in *Archives in New Zealand: A*

Report (the 'Smith Report'), resulting in much discussion but little immediate action. One recommended "that urgent attention be given to the establishment of a national film archives".

1979

- Publication of the first instalment of the *National Register of Archives and Manuscripts in New Zealand (NRAM)*, a joint undertaking by the Alexander Turnbull Library and National Archives, with an index compiled by Jane Tucker. Later, it became an entirely Turnbull publication.
- Management audit of National Archives by the State Services Commission and Internal Affairs, chaired by Ian Wards (the 'Wards Report'). There were 89 recommendations arguing for increased resources, largely following and enlarging on the Smith Report.
- First Gazette notice (records disposal schedule) for local government records published, listing 153 classes of records which could not be destroyed without the prior approval of the Chief Archivist. It was soon withdrawn after opposition from local governments, which considered it too complex, intrusive and expensive.
- Treaty of Waitangi removed from display in the Alexander Turnbull Library and placed in the custody of National Archives. After conservation work, it was stored in the vaults of the Reserve Bank for a number of years.
- Working party was set up to actively pursue (over the next two years) the concept of a film archive.

1980

- Second local government Gazette notice published. The number of classes of records scheduled was reduced to thirteen.
- First consultant archivist and records manager began private practice: Rosemary Collier, formerly a Senior Archivist at National Archives.
- Archive of New Zealand Music established at the Alexander Turnbull Library, at the suggestion of Douglas Lilburn.

1980

- Circulation within National Archives of the 'Alternative D' paper by Michael Hodder proposing a means of arranging and describing successive accessions from active series. A study group subsequently focused on the Australian 'series system', and these two approaches merged as the basis of the GAIMS system adopted for the arrangement and description of public archives in 1985.

1981

- New Zealand Film Archive founded as a charitable trust (March), with a Board of Trustees comprising representatives of the New Zealand Film Commission, National Archives, National Film Unit, Broadcasting Corporation, Education Department, Federation of Film Societies, and Minister for the Arts. First Director: Jonathan Dennis (until 1990). By 1989, after several moves of premises and funding difficulties, there was a total of 15 staff.
- Raymond Frank Grover (former Deputy Turnbull Librarian) appointed first Director of National Archives, a position created pursuant to a recommendation of the *Wards Report*.

1982

- The General Synod of the Anglican Church in New Zealand passed a Canon on Provincial Archives, encouraging archives-keeping at diocesan and parish levels, and setting up a committee which included membership by professional archivists.
- Ray Grover appointed fourth Chief Archivist following the resignation of Judith Hornabrook, who left to take up the position of Chief Archivist of Papua New Guinea, which she held for 6 years (the only person ever to hold Chief Archivist positions in two countries). Thereafter, the Chief Archivist position was held concurrently with Director of National Archives.
- Official Information Act passed, bringing 'freedom of information' to New Zealand. The Act established the principle that government information should be made available unless there were good reasons for non-release. In cases of conflict with the Archives Act, the provisions of that Act, permitting access restrictions that the Official Information Act did not countenance, take precedence. The privately-originated manuscripts and archives collections held by the Alexander Turnbull Library were specifically excluded from coverage.
- National Dance Archive of New Zealand founded (*DANZ quarterly*, January/March 2008, no 10, p16 and Spring 2010, no 21, p20).

1983

- First issue of biennial *Directory of Official Information* published, containing overviews of the functions and activities, and the records systems and categories maintained by agencies subject to the Official Information Act.
- Northern Archives and Records Trust established by Jolyon Firth

and other business and community leaders in Auckland, to press for improved archives-keeping arrangements especially for local government and business in the region. It began user-pays advisory work in these areas the following year, under a partnership arrangement with National Archives.

1984

- Auckland Regional Office of National Archives opened (taking over the Records Centre in 1985). First Regional Archivist: Mark Stevens. The office held 3,447m of archives and 2,843m of semi-current records.
- Publication of *Archives New Zealand*, by Frank Rogers (Archives Press) provided a guide to more than 160 archives repositories holding more than 35,000m of textual archives in New Zealand alone, and more in the Pacific Islands. Second edition as *Archives New Zealand 4*, published in 1992.
- Public Records and Archives Bill, intended to supersede the Archives Act, introduced into the House of Representatives, but was 'killed' the same evening by the dissolution of the House for a snap General Election.
- Susan Kooyman appointed as first permanent Dunedin City Council archivist, succeeded shortly thereafter by Jill McClymont.
- A Church archivist (part-time) was appointed at Knox College to care for Presbyterian Church records.

1985

- General Assembly Library separated from the National Library and becomes the Parliamentary Library.
- Christchurch Regional Office of National Archives opened: Chris Adam appointed Regional Archivist.
- Archives and records manager (Bruce Symondson) appointed by Auckland City Council.
- First purpose-built archives building constructed, Manukau City Council.
- An archivist (Stuart R Strachan) appointed as Hocken Librarian.
- The Waitangi Tribunal given jurisdiction to investigate Māori grievances over land rights back to 1840, resulting in greatly increased awareness by both Crown and claimants of the importance of archives; extensive employment of researchers to search them for evidence for claims.

1986

- Survey of records-keeping in the Public Service, with recommendations for improvement, commissioned by the State Services Commission and National Archives. Undertaken by Canadian records management consultant Patricia Acton, supported by a team drawn partly from National Archives. The recommendations and action plan in the report *Information Can Be Managed* (the 'Acton Report') were rejected by the State Services Commission as out of step with Government policy to atomise the Public Service.
- Anglican Provincial Archives Committee published its own archives preservation guide, the *Parish Archives Handbook*.

1987

- Records Management Branch established by National Archives to manage records centres, and provide records management consultancy and training on a cost-recovery basis (consultancy and training functions ceased in 1993).
- Fletcher Challenge Ltd (New Zealand's largest public company outside the financial services sector) established an archives and records management programme. First archivist and records manager: Joanna Newman.
- Alexander Turnbull Library moved (with other parts of the National Library) into the new National Library Building in Molesworth Street, Wellington, which opened to the public in August. Subsequently there was public concern over a perceived intention by National Library management to reduce the independence of the Alexander Turnbull Library within the larger National Library.
- The New Zealand Oral History Archive, an independent entity, is housed within the Alexander Turnbull Library.
- Purpose-built North Otago Archives building (adjacent to the Oamaru Museum and Public Library) opened.

1988

- Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA) chapters founded in Auckland and Wellington.
- Archives Amendment Act permitted National Archives to charge for records management services.
- Historical Records Committee of the Presbyterian Church published its own archives guide, *Presbyterian Church Archives: Care and Conservation*.

- National Library of New Zealand becomes an autonomous government department, no longer administered by the Department of Education. The Library takes on the name Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa – the wellspring of knowledge.

1989

- Purchase of Government Printing Office building in Mulgrave Street to be the new home of National Archives in Wellington.
- National Archives total staff 49, including 42 professional. Total holdings of textual records, excluding temporary records: 38,400m.
- Newspaper article highlighting recent conservation of the Treaty of Waitangi, featured a 'raking light' image of the main sheet for the first time, highlighting its losses, repairs and folds (*Evening Post*, 4 February 1989, p30).
- Alexander Turnbull Library Manuscripts and Archives Section had 9 staff, 5,035m of holdings.
- Wairarapa Archive (Masterton) commenced operations.

1990

- Foundation of the New Zealand Society of Archivists, principally devoted to fostering the archivist profession in New Zealand and advocating for and furthering its interests. First President: Mark Stevens. Publication of journal *New Zealand Archivist* began. Publication of the *Directory of Archivists in New Zealand 1990-91*, compiled by Mark Stevens.
- New Local Government Archives Schedule published in the *NZ Gazette* (February).
- Balance of nation-wide holdings of Education Boards' records passed into custody of National Archives (Boards having ceased to exist from 1 October 1989).
- Display of Treaty of Waitangi and other constitutional documents opened to the public in the newly-constructed Constitution Room, at National Archives' future home in Mulgrave Street, Wellington.
- New purpose-built facility for Christchurch Regional Office of National Archives opened in Peterborough Street.
- National Film Library becomes part of the National Library.

1991

- Kathryn Patterson appointed Director and Chief Archivist of National Archives, on the retirement of Ray Grover, after a decade of service in the role.

- Official opening of new National Archives, Wellington, in former Government Printing Office, Mulgrave Street; it re-opened to the public on 9 December. The Lower Hutt Records Centre was closed and records were removed to the National Archives building.
- Oral History Centre created within the Alexander Turnbull Library when the New Zealand Oral History Archive (housed independently with the Library since 1987) is disestablished.
- Wairarapa Community Polytechnic began providing the first NZ-based archives and records certificate course, under the tuition of Ellen Ellis, formerly of National Archives. The course later moved to the Auckland Institute of Technology.
- First conviction in New Zealand courts for the theft of public archives and manuscripts: Graham John Sanders sentenced to 8 month's imprisonment. The stolen documents were later returned to National Archives and the Alexander Turnbull Library ('Graham John Sanders and the Alexander Turnbull Library', *Archifacts*, April 1992, pp30-35; also April 1993, pp32-38).

1992

- New Archives Bill drafted, a successor to the ill-fated 1984 Public Records and Archives Bill, but it was not introduced into Parliament.
- Cabinet minutes the preservation of free public access to National Archives.
- Victoria University of Wellington's Department of Library and Information Studies began offering an elective course in archives and records management, taught by Rachel Lilburn, formerly of National Archives.
- New Zealand Cartoon Archive opens, driven by Ian Grant, funded by a private trust but based in the Alexander Turnbull Library; first Director: Susan Foster.

1993

- Dunedin Regional Office of National Archives opened in new purpose-built premises in George Street, Peter Miller having been appointed earlier in the year as first Dunedin Regional Archivist.
- National Archives in Wellington restructured into Collection Management, and Access and Client Services units.
- F Gerald Ham from the United States visited at the invitation of ARANZ, to assess archives and records education and training needs; resulted in the publication (by ARANZ) of *Towards Career Professionalisation: An Education Programme for New Zealand*

Archivists and Records Managers (the 'Ham Report'). A seminar to discuss the report was held in early 1994.

- New Zealand Qualifications Authority began work to establish unit standards for archives, records and libraries, in consultation with NZSA, ARANZ, ARMA, NZLIA and other stakeholders; however, after lengthy workshops and consultation, no final analysis was ever produced.
- Privacy Act passed. Public concern was expressed over the implications for archivists and records managers of the long-term retention of records containing private information, particularly in the health sector, and the risks of prosecution resulting from the release of third-party information. Numerous seminars were held to educate professional staff.
- Women's Suffrage Year, and the numerous projects associated with it, saw enhanced interest in saving, listing and using women's collections. Director and Chief Archivist, Kathryn Patterson, is awarded a Suffrage Medal; Women's Suffrage Petition displayed at National Archives.
- *NRAM* ceased publication with the special issue for Suffrage Year, published jointly with the Preserving Ourstory project, the *Archives of Women's Organisations* (W series).
- The Alexander Turnbull Library's TAPUHI database, providing public access to cataloguing records for manuscripts and archives, as well as pictorial collections, was launched.
- Public Record Access, a private sector consortium of Telecom, Unisys and NZ Public Information Management was selected for a major database development in the Department of Justice public registries: Companies; Births, Deaths & Marriages and Lands & Deeds. The project collapsed in 1995 amid much public controversy and threats of legal proceedings against the government.

1994

- NZSA finalised first New Zealand professional archivists' *Code of Ethics*, with a requirement that members attest to it, and an Ethics Committee was set up to adjudicate on alleged breaches.
- Wellington City Council appointed its first full-time archivist: Michelle Redward, formerly of National Archives.
- New Copyright Act passed. It established a 50-year copyright period after the death of the writer for manuscripts and archives and relaxed rules relating to copying of material for private research.

- Health Information Privacy Code released by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, with amendments in 1995, 1998, 2000 and 2007 (revised edition, December 2008).

1995

- Auckland Regional Office of National Archives moved into new purpose-built premises on Mt Wellington Highway, Mt Richmond, amid local client concern over its distance from central Auckland.
- Consultants, having first begun investigations and interviews with stakeholders in 1994, released *National Archives: An Independent Review* (the 'McDermott Miller Report') which recommended a radical restructuring of National Archives, involving a policy-purchaser-provider split with an eventual move to Crown Entity status. The consequent changes proposed by Internal Affairs however, resulted in considerable controversy and public protest. Subsequent modifications were made; these included securing the statutory position of the Chief Archivist.
- Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum's new Kippenberger Pavilion opened to the public (24 March) housing the Kippenberger Military Archive and Library.
- Wanganui District Council archives holdings opened to the public (13 June) accessible through the local Alexander Library.
- Museum of New Zealand (Te Papa) appointed its first archivist: Eamonn Bolger, formerly of National Archives.

1996

- Restructuring of National Archives came into effect with a new position of General Manager (Margaret Retter acting) and a Manager, Statutory/Regulatory Group (Michael Hodder acting). Other changes included the establishment of an Advisory Board to advise the CEO of Internal Affairs, and an Advisory Committee, comprising stakeholders' representatives, to advise the Director and Chief Archivist on professional matters.
- Wellington City Council opened a specially-built archives facility in their Barker Street building.
- Michael Hodder left National Archives after more than 20 years' service, to take up the position of Manager, State Records, South Australia.

1997

- Chris Hurley appointed to position of General Manager, National Archives after heading the Public Record Office of Victoria, Australia and Margaret Retter left National Archives after nearly 20 years' service. Auckland and Wellington (Thorndon Quay) Records Centres finally closed (August).
- Archives New Zealand issued its *Electronic Records Policy* document, a first attempt at a framework for the preservation of electronic records.
- *National Register of Archives and Manuscripts* was revived under the newly formed NRAM Taskforce (which included the major stakeholders) and a lottery grant was used to appoint Nicola Frean investigate possible hosting databases, run a pilot project, encourage contributions and provide training to contributors.
- ARANZ and the New Zealand Society of Genealogists jointly initiate court action in the form of an injunction to prevent the creation of a Heritage Group within Internal Affairs, to comprise National Archives, Historical Branch, Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, and Heritage Properties. It was argued that this would downgrade the status of National Archives and undermine the statutory functions of the Chief Archivist.
- New Zealand Theatre Archive was set up as a trust to locate, preserve and list records relating to theatre companies, amateur theatre and drama organisations, and individuals, formerly or currently involved in theatre.

1998

- Kathryn Patterson ended her six-and-a-half-year term as Director and Chief Archivist, National Archives. Chris Hurley filled the position in an acting capacity.
- Hearing was held in the High Court, Wellington, in July, of the injunction initiated by ARANZ and the New Zealand Society of Genealogists. Judgement was for Internal Affairs and concluded that there was no evidence that the statutory functions of the Chief Archivist would be circumscribed by the administrative changes.
- Electronic inputting of births, deaths and marriages records began; conversion of the old paper records commenced the following year (March 1999); complete electronic registry was aimed for by the end of 2002.
- NRAM Taskforce initiated to convert *NRAM* paper listings to electronic

format, with financial assistance from NZ Lottery Grants Board and other groups.

- New Local Government Schedule published in the *NZ Gazette* (December).

1999

- ARANZ & NZSG successfully appeal the High Court judgement; Internal Affairs is found to have acted illegally in transferring funds from National Archives to help pay for the Heritage Group.
- Māori Land Court computerisation project costing \$6.5 million commenced in March with a new on-line index; the project hoped to make nearly 5 million digitised records available by the end of 2000.
- Upgrade (\$2 million), involving earthquake strengthening and re-roofing, of National Archives building, Wellington.
- Waimate Archives opened (June) in specially-built facilities making local records dating from 1880, available to the public.
- Birth, death and marriage records ceased to be available through district courts; from July that year they became available only from the Lower Hutt Central Registry.
- *NRAM* website created and contributors began sending contributions on disk and by email; the W series was added and A to C (printed) series were also scanned in; the printed version was thus redundant and improved through corrections and increased search access.
- Ministry for Culture and Heritage was established.

2000

- National Archives became a stand-alone institution (with the Chief Executive reporting directly to the Minister) under the title Archives New Zealand, from 1 October. Lyn Provost was seconded from State Services Commission as Acting Chief Executive and Chief Archivist, and a period of rapid growth in staff numbers began (approximately 100 positions by February 2001).
- MacKenzie District archives opened to the public in the Fairlie Museum (23 August).

2001

- Archives New Zealand held its inaugural and well-attended Open Day (10 March). Dianne Macaskill was appointed as Chief Executive and Chief Archivist (11 June). Work began in earnest on an updated Public Records Bill for an early introduction to Parliament.

- Extreme public concern was expressed by surveyors, solicitors and family historians when Land Information New Zealand began closing its smaller district offices (Blenheim, Gisborne, Hokitika, Invercargill, Napier, Nelson, and New Plymouth) and relocating their land records to larger city centres, culminating in numerous newspaper articles and a Waitangi Tribunal claim.
- New LINZ database *Landonline* commenced.
- ARANZ holds its 25th anniversary conference (September).
- Hector Library, Museum of New Zealand, renamed Te Aka Matua Te Papa Library and Information Centre with some comment in the media as to whether its research function had been downgraded.
- Publication of *Te Kaupapa Mahi Tahi – A Plan for Partnership* affirms the National Library's commitment to Māori clients.

2002

- Work on a Public Records Bill continued but it was not introduced into Parliament before the end of the year.
- New National Library Bill introduced into Parliament with features aimed at clarifying the relationship between the National Library and the Alexander Turnbull Library; establishing a Library and Information Advisory Commission; strengthening legal deposit provisions and providing for the deposit of electronic materials.
- Major fire at Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology destroyed historic records and archives (21 May).
- Ministry for Culture and Heritage launched its "Lest we forget" campaign aimed at gathering in letters, diaries and other memorabilia relating to war-time experiences, backed by a network of repositories, in similar vein to the 1975 campaign.
- Western Pacific Archive, comprising records of Western Pacific High Commission and other British territorial records, covering 1877-1978, deposited (9 October) by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office at the University of Auckland Library, after over 20 years of lobbying to have the records returned to the Pacific region.

2003

- Wellington City Archives launched its on-line catalogue enabling over 200,000 records to be searched (3 January).
- ARANZ launched its website (28 February).
- National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) Act is passed. Position of the Alexander Turnbull Library is affirmed;

created the Guardians of the Alexander Turnbull Library and the Library and Information Advisory Commission; confirmed that Turnbull collections are owned by the Crown, to be held in perpetuity. It also strengthened legal deposit. Interestingly, the second codicil to the will of Alexander Horsburgh Turnbull in which he gives his library to the King, is reprinted as Schedule 1.

- In the UK, the Public Record Office merges with the Historical Manuscripts Commission and becomes the National Archives (April).

2004

- Rātana Archives Centre opened near Wanganui (23 January), making available the archives of the Rātana Church and Movement.
- National Preservation Office, National Library of New Zealand, sends staff to Niue to provide advice and assistance in salvaging damaged heritage collections after Cyclone Heta struck on 6 January (*New Zealand Archivist*, June 2004, vol 15, no 2, pp1-2).
- New Zealand Film Archive (Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision) moves into new premises at 84 Taranaki Street, Wellington, adding a public media centre (*Dominion Post*, 28 May 2004, pB11).
- NRAM website moved to care of Archives New Zealand (July) to be incorporated into its community archives programme.
- Public Records Bill introduced into Parliament (1 September).
- Matapihi digital image site launched (8 September), an alliance comprising the Alexander Turnbull Library and several cross-cultural organisations.
- New Zealand Society of Archivists was wound up, having largely achieved its goals of promoting archival training, new legislation and increased visibility for archives; its remaining funds were passed to ARANZ. The last issue of *New Zealand Archivist* was published in December 2004 (*New Zealand Archivist*, December 2004, vol 15, no 4, pp1-4).

2005

- Public Records Act 2005 passed (14 April, effective on 21 April) which set the framework for contemporary recordkeeping across government; also that Archives New Zealand will work with government agencies to promote effective recordkeeping practices; and enhance public confidence in the integrity of government records. Features the first mandatory recordkeeping standard, established an Archives Council; strengthened care and access to 'estrays'; allowed collection

of private records and papers under certain criteria; public also able to comment on disposal recommendations.

- Cabinet re-affirms guidelines for the deposit of Ministers' papers at Archives New Zealand (Cabinet Office Circular, CO (05) 9, 16 September 2005).
- Work begins on a new site for the Auckland Regional Office of Archives New Zealand at 95 Richard Pearse Drive, Mangere, Auckland.
- Archives New Zealand launches its 'Archway' electronic finding aid, allowing researchers to search across the records and listings of holdings held in all four of its offices, and access digitized copies of some records.
- Base Records, Ministry of Defence, begins transferring the personnel files of members of the armed services who served in the South African War and World War I to Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

2006

- National Library begins harvesting current websites, using the Web Curator Tool developed in conjunction with the British Library, for storage in its digital archives.

2007

- Purpose-built Archives New Zealand Auckland Regional Office officially opened by Prime Minister, Hon Helen Clark (15 September).

2008

- Archives New Zealand digitized its war art collection to create the War Art Online database (*Archifacts*, October 2008, pp113-124).
- Plans unveiled for a new film museum at Shelly Bay, Wellington, involving Sir Peter Jackson, which did not proceed (*Dominion Post*, 14 January 2014).

2009

- National Digital Heritage Archive (NDHA) launched by National Library as a platform for all newly-digitized and 'born-digital' items (February).
- After extensive redevelopment, Archives New Zealand re-launched *NRAM* website as the *Community Archive* (June).
- Greg Goulding appointed as Acting Chief Archivist and becomes Chief Archivist and General Manager of Archives New Zealand in 2011.
- Closure of the National Library building, Molesworth Street,

Wellington, from 3 December, in preparation for its upgrade, which was expected to take two years, aimed at ensuring that it will be suitable to house collections and deliver services until at least 2030. In the interim, most public services were delivered from a building at 77 Thorndon Quay.

2010

- Budget funding of \$12.6 million is earmarked for Government Digital Archive Project (GDAP), under the auspices of Archives New Zealand. Project was put on hold in February 2013, with \$7.6m spent; by October 2013, an over-spend of a further \$10m was being projected.
- Archives New Zealand begins digitizing South African War military personnel files; the first two contingents were available in April 2010, the rest by Anzac Day, 2011.
- Cabinet paper (March) puts forth the proposal to merge the Department of Internal Affairs, National Library, and Archives New Zealand (contra view, *Archifacts*, April 2010, pp103-122).
- Major Canterbury earthquakes of 4 September 2010 and 22 February 2011 caused considerable damage to library and archives facilities, internal storage areas and collections. Public reading services from collections in the mid-Canterbury region were severely disrupted and some facilities remained closed for some time afterwards. Christchurch Office of Archives New Zealand suffers considerable damage and most material is moved to off-site storage and public services are limited. Collections were returned by the end of 2013 (*Archifacts*, April 2011, pp47-72; April 2012, pp73-92).

2011

- Archives New Zealand and National Library were placed back with the Department of Internal Affairs, from 1 February (contra view, *Archifacts*, April 2014, pp13-17).
- Plans announced (19 October) to move the Treaty of Waitangi from Archives New Zealand to a new purpose-built facility in the National Library building.
- Film vault opened at Plimmerton with storage for 18,000 reels, 40,000 video tapes on 4km of shelving; for New Zealand Film Archive; cost \$850,000 (*Dominion Post*, 4 March 2014, pA6).

2012

- National Library staff and collections fully relocated back into the

\$65 million re-furbished building, which re-opened to the public in October.

2013

- Plans announced (August) by Archives New Zealand to digitize all 160,000 military personnel files of WWI service personnel, to allow free online public access.
- Plans to move the Treaty of Waitangi from Archives New Zealand to the National Library are shelved due to cost considerations.
- Local Government Schedule, last revised in 1998, refreshed and re-issued as 'List of Protected Records for Local Authorities' (*Supplement to the New Zealand Gazette*, 28 August 2013, no 117). This reflected changes in technology and the passing of the Local Government Act 2002 and Public Records Act 2005.
- Private film company, Park Road Post production laboratory, closed down and was re-homed in Archives New Zealand to expand its capacity to conserve moving images.
- Archives New Zealand website states that it has approximately 150 staff.

2014

- New Hawke's Bay Museum opens in Napier but questions are soon publicly asked about why it will house less than 40% of its collections, requiring further expenditure on off-site storage (*Dominion Post*, 4 February 2014, pA6).
- New purpose-built nitrate film storage vault at Shelly Bay, for New Zealand Film Archive, opened; providing 100 sqm of temperature-controlled storage; cost \$400,000 (*Dominion Post*, 4 March 2014, pA6).
- Marilyn Little is appointed Chief Archivist and General Manager, Archives New Zealand.
- Plans to move the Treaty of Waitangi from Archives New Zealand to the National Library are re-activated just prior to the General Election, again with public criticism from Archives New Zealand supporters.

2015

- Plans to move the Treaty of Waitangi, the Archives Exhibition Project, now includes all constitutional documents, including the Suffrage Petition.

- Tiaki Project is commenced to replace TAPUHI, the Turnbull's unpublished materials catalogue, now over 20 years' old.

2016

- Movie Museum planned for site opposite Te Papa, to house Sir Peter Jackson's memorabilia collection; together with a conference centre; planned to open in 2018 (*Dominion Post*, 6 February 2016, pA5; 11 February 2016, pA1).
- Alexander Turnbull Library's Tiaki database goes live (26 January).
- Archives Exhibition Project at the National Library building enters the construction phase with a planned opening in early 2017.
- ARANZ celebrates its 40th anniversary.

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