

ARCHIFACTS  
2021

# ARCHI FACTS

ARCHIFACTS 2021

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**Membership** of the Association is open to any individual or institution interested in fostering the objects of the Association. Subscription rates are:

**Within New Zealand:** \$60 (personal), \$40 (students), \$105 (institutions)

**Overseas:** NZ\$95 (personal), NZ\$70 (student), NZ\$145 (institutions).

Applications to join the Association, membership renewals and correspondence on related matters should be addressed to the Membership Secretary:

membership@aranz.org.nz

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### **Objects of the Association**

The objects of the Association shall be:

1. To foster the care, preservation and proper use of archives and records, both public and private, and their effective administration.
2. To arouse public awareness of the importance of records and archives and in all matters affecting their preservation and use, and to co-operate or affiliate with any other bodies in New Zealand or elsewhere with like objects.
3. To promote the training of archivists, records keepers, curators, librarians and others by the dissemination of specialised knowledge and by encouraging the provision of adequate training in the administration and conservation of archives and records.
4. To encourage research into problems connected with the use, administration and conservation of archives and records and to promote the publication of the results of this research.
5. To promote the standing of archives institutions.
6. To advise and support the establishment of archives services throughout New Zealand.
7. To publish a journal at least once a year and other publications in furtherance of these objects.

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2021

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## Editorial

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Linda Liddicoat

Kia ora koutou and welcome to the 2021 issue of *Archifacts*.

My name is Linda Liddicoat and I have taken the editor role over from the very capable Katrina Tamaira, whose improvements to processes have done much to make the role easier, though it was still a challenge.

My interest in archives is purely personal, valuing the past they preserve. I have worked in council information management and education administration. Information management seems increasingly about managing data and volumes of documents and records and the disposal of this, whereas the attraction of archives for me is the social, economic and community history they contain and give access to, and the knowledge, intricacies and interconnections there is to discover within the broad range of collections there are.

In this 2021 edition, coincidentally, the first two articles that came in for publication involved World War II, but each with a different focal point.

As his 3-year term is coming to an end, Eric Boaham gives his outgoing President's Report for ARANZ for his final year.

We have a further contribution from UNESCO, and it is with pleasure I can say this will be an ongoing feature in *Archifacts*.

There are also two Community Archives highlights in this edition, both from the North Island.

Featured is the obituary of Pam Hall, who we have much to thank for founding and shaping the world of archives in New Zealand. Thanks to Stuart Strachan for his work in this regard.

In the "Getting to Know You" section, we have one item from Katrina Tamaira - fitting as the outgoing editor - and one from the NZ Theatre Archives by Rowena Cullen. Both contributions are very welcome.

There is our book review section, ever faithfully coordinated by Stephen Innes. I hope you find something you might like to follow up on with the information given.

My hope is you will find something of interest in this year's publication. If you have a collection you would like to have included in future issues, please contact me via email [editor@archives.org.nz](mailto:editor@archives.org.nz).

Finally, I would like to thank all those who contributed to this edition, especially the proofreading team, and those who advised me of processes and procedures along the way.

# ARANZ President's Annual Report 2020 - 2021

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*Dr Eric Boamah*



Tēnā koutou katoa

***Ehara tāku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini***  
***My strength is not as an individual, but as a collective.***

It has been a privilege and great honour to serve this august association in the highest capacity as President. When I look back and reflect on all that has transpired in the last three years of my term, I see clearly that my strength alone would have failed, but the collective strength of all members, and especially members on the ARANZ Council and specific individuals providing invaluable support from the background. The purpose of this report is to present the 45th annual report of the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand, my third and final as President present, and to recall the key highlights of events.

## **Highlights of the year's Events**

Most of the events Council concerned itself about, were carried on from the previous year's activities which were affected in one way or the other by the COVID-19 pandemic. Prominent among them were:

### **ARANZ Conference**

The year began with serious discussions on what we could do about our Biennial Conference. As you may recall, the conference was supposed to happen in 2020 in Dunedin and because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was postponed to 2021. The new Council launched straight into discussions and initially planned a one-day lightning talk conference in Wellington. But because the pandemic showed no sign of slowing down with its in-out-in-out regional lockdowns, (especially in Auckland and Wellington),

coupled with the uncertain financial implications to the association, made the Council decide to cancel the conference for this year as well.

This year was also the time for the ARANZ/ASA Joint conference. The Vice President and I had several discussions with the new President of ASA to see the possibility of making that happen. But because of the same issue with the pandemic, we decided to shelve the idea of a joint conference and pick it up again next year.

### **The Community Archive**

The decommissioning of The Community Archives website was an issue that Council considered important and took a keen interest in following it up last year.

Council resorted to engaging with key stakeholders, including consultation with key leaders of the various information organisations in our community. These consultations led to the development of a survey to collect the perspective of all members and users of the Community Archive about its future.

The survey received very high participation from records managers, archivists, researchers, librarians, and a variety of users from various fields in New Zealand. The outcome of the survey was a resounding YES for the future of the Community Archive. Almost all the participants found the Community Archive very useful to them in various ways. The full report of the survey is published on the ARANZ website.

Following this outcome, the President and the Vice President followed up with the current Chief Archivist, who has promised to address the needs of members regarding the future of the Community Archive. The Chief Archivist has assured to address the Community Archive issue through the role of a Kaihatu position at the Archives New Zealand. Once the establishment of this position is finalised, we are assured of progress on the Community Archive concerns.

## **Stakeholder engagement**

The Council, through the President and the Vice President, has been engaging with key stakeholders in various ways to ensure ARANZ stays relevant to its shareholders.

## **Meetings with the Chief Archivist**

We have established a regular monthly catchup with the Chief Archivist where the President together with the Vice President updates the Chief Archivist on ARANZ matters and discuss the various issues and concerns from our members. The Chief Archivist also shares their visions and a plan for the community. Through these meetings a lot of ARANZ's concerns have achieved progress, including the progress on the Community Archive concerns. Also, through the discussion of the concerns from the School Archivist Group in one of the meetings, the Chief Archivist found the need to offer an amount of money up to \$10,000 as a grant to support research into the state of archival education and training in New Zealand. The Chief Archivist wants ARANZ to design the mechanism to support a member or a student to use the money for the research.

## **MOU with ASA**

ARANZ continues to collaborate with our sister association across the Tasman. The president and the Vice continue to meet with the leadership of ASA to ensure that our members receive reciprocal benefits the associations offer. To fully achieve this purpose, we have renewed the ARANZ/ASA MoU this year. The last MoU, which was signed in 2017 expired this year. So, it was useful to renew it so that our members could especially take appropriate advantage of the upcoming ASA conference.

## **Victoria University Guest lectures**

Every year, The School of Information Management invites key industry leaders to their INFO 520 – The Information Profession Course, as guest lecturers to tell students about their professional associations. The President has been attending this lecture every year. This year it was interesting to have our own Vice President also being a student of the class. So, having him also talk to his colleagues made the lecture more

interesting and livelier. Through these guest lecturers, we have had more students signing up to become members of our association. The Member Secretary will tell you more about that soon.

### **GLAMr Collaboration**

Following the regular meeting with the Chief Archivist, the Chief Archivist expressed concern about the disintegrated nature of the information professional community in New Zealand. The discussion led to various meetings between association heads in the GLAMr sector, and now ARANZ will be part of a discussion of a GLAMr hui coming up in September this year. The aim is to see how our members can receive full benefits from such a collaboration with other professional associations in the sector.

### **Open Polytechnic LIS Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings**

The Library and Information Studies Programme at the Open Polytechnic has a Stakeholder Advisory Group, which involves representatives from key information institutions and professional associations, including representatives LIANZA, RIMPA, Archives New Zealand, the National Library, etc. Members of this group provide the LIS team at the Open Polytechnic updates on the various organisations and advice on how the LIS programme can be developed and managed to suit stakeholders' needs and interest. The President has represented ARANZ on this committee. Through these discussions most students have heard about ARANZ and what our association stands for, which has been progressive towards membership drive.

### **Honouring Governor-General invitations**

As our patron, we call on the Governor-General on various occasions to grace our events. Plans were far advanced with the arrangements for the Governor-General to attend and open our conference before it got cancelled. We have also had various communications and interactions with the Governor-General to enable most of our processes this year. So, when the Governor-General also invited the President and the Vice President to attend this year's Waitangi Day reception at the Government House, we honoured her invitation with joy on behalf of the association.

## Updates on portfolios

### Website

The website and social media platforms are constantly updated and effectively maintained by our webmaster. The key highlight includes the development of a microsite to publish Alerts and Archifacts issues online which members can now access.

### Membership

- As of August 2021, there were 135 paid members
- Honorary Members 8
- Institutional New Zealand Members 39
- Institutional Overseas Members 1
- Personal New Zealand Members 78
- Personal International Members 3
- Student New Zealand Members 6

These numbers are likely to change as ARANZ membership invoices were emailed out in the first week of July 2021. So, at the time of preparing this report, most members had not paid their subs. Various invoice generating scripts went without incident. Emails confirmation of payment has been sent to all paid-up members, receipts have been issued on request to several members. Membership payments continue to come in each week. Six membership cancellations since 1 July 2021. Seven new membership applications since 1 July 2021 of which three have paid membership fees.

### Archifacts

Since assuming office we've had three different Editors and editorial groups working very hard to ensure that we have the usual two-issues yearly of Archifacts publications for our members. The hardworking editorial team faces different challenges including the difficulty of receiving articles for

publication. But the current editorial team has worked out strategies to ensure that the team will rather go out to encourage members and solicit for articles rather than waiting for people to submit.

Also, all the back issues of Archifacts have been digitised and made available on the ARANZ website. Thanks to the hard work of the WebMaster and other support members of the Council. This makes it easy for members to browse and search.

A key focus of the current Archifacts Editor, Linda Liddicoat, is to search for articles from various platforms such as Regional Community Archives, NZ Sound Archives and writing to other bodies like NZ Theatre Archives etc. So, the future of Archifacts looks bright and exciting.

## **Awards**

Despite the postponement and later cancellation of the conference, both of our prizes were offered this year. The selection committees for the biennial Michael Standish Prize, which is awarded to an outstanding essay; and the Ian Wards Prize, which recognises an outstanding piece of publishing writing annually, have been very busy working to select winners to the awards this year. The convenors of the panels worked tirelessly to identify very deserving winners.

Elizabeth Charlton's *"Reappraisal and deaccessioning: Applying a 'Dangerous Practices' in New Zealand", Reappraisal and Deaccessioning in Archives and Special Collections, 2019*", was the Winner for the Michael Standish Prize and Sarah Gaitanos' *Shirley Smith: An Examined Life (Victoria University Press, Wellington)*, was the winner of the Ian Wards Prize

An awards event was held in Wellington, where the winners were celebrated and received their prizes. Details of the winners were also published on our website.

The Council also announced our usual conference scholarship for interested members to apply so that they could use it to attend the 2021 ASA Conference. But the call was not responded to, despite the several announcements on different platforms.

## **Alert**

The format of the Alert newsletter has been improved to include interesting images to go with the text in the news items. Our new Alert Editor solicits new materials and has been a very useful source of updates for our members, especially during the various lockdowns. The editorial with the support of the council is still developing strategies to help find new and interesting ways to engage with readers while building upon the already successful format and keeping up with new advances to enable access.

## **Branches**

The Council continues to support branch events and facilitates regular contact with Branch Councils to discuss issues affecting their branches and possible ways those issues can be resolved.

Over the past year our branches have been active with the following activities:

- Creation of the Guide to Archival Repositories in the Manawatū-Whanganui Region 2021 and updating of the Directory of Community Archives
- Representation and presentation at Southland Heritage Month
- Submissions to Dunedin City Council and Otago Regional Council on storage standards for the regions records and archives
- The success of the digital meet-up group, Information and Records Management Group, run by Claire Dowling of Otago/Southland
- Listing of Otago/Southland Branch records stored at the Hocken Library
- A well attended Wellington Branch AGM with guest speaker, Jared Davidon

Recent developments, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-cultural impact on the whole of society present challenges to the way we operate our current branch system. This is making it difficult for even our most vibrant councils to operate smoothly as we are used to. The Council is, therefore, considering other branch models that will effectively support our members fully and move the association into this new normal smoothly.

ARANZ National Council continues to make available set aside funds for active branches or branches that wish to become active again, to assist with activities or running events that are in line with the aims of the association. Top-up funds were distributed to the active branches in 2019 and 2020, being Wellington, Central Districts, and Otago/Southland.

Finally, I would like to welcome new Committee members from each branch as we move into a new year. Thank you for volunteering your time and effort to ARANZ.

## **Advocacy**

The Council continues to advocate for the profession, our association and members.

In the last year, the Council has made submissions to regulatory bodies such as Archives New Zealand, the Chief Archivist, and the Archives Council on several issues that impact our members and the profession. The submissions on the Community Archives decommissioning, changes to the reading room hours, etc.

The Council, through our Advocacy Secretary, has also written 6 reports on "intentions to dispose" applications submitted to Archives New Zealand by several institutions.

The Advocacy Secretary provides regular updates to members to give annual reviews of some of the advocacy activities the Council undertakes on behalf of the association and the profession as a whole.

## **Information Management**

We now have a substantive team to manage this portfolio and the team hit the ground running. Clear and specific strategies to engage with members, gauge their interest areas and topics of relevance to their needs, so that education and training events will be organised to support them. Key highlights of the strategies include:

- Sharing Records and Information Management content on social media to encourage conversations around them
- Conduct Webinar series on the topics that interest members
- Offer free, and where necessary, affordable online courses
- Employ friendly and approachable tactics to encourage participation

## **Looking Ahead**

The Council is poised to offer the best for the association in the coming years. Calls were made for interested people to join Council and take up new portfolios. Through this process, we have 6 highly skilled and motivated professionals from various areas of our profession taking up various portfolios, including:

- Abigail Wharne - Information Management
- Jennie Hood - Information Management
- Danielle Campbell - Awards
- Haylee Alderson - Alert Editor
- Linda Liddicoat - Archifacts Editor

Council will continue to interact with key stakeholders to advance the association and the profession as a whole.

## Acknowledgements

To finish I would like to congratulate all the members of the Council for their commitment and energy. Despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, Council members still made themselves available for discussions through online platforms and still got all their work done effectively. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes that the membership doesn't often see. Sometimes, the going gets tough, tiring, and frustrating but the kindness and understanding among Council members made the support for one another and working together an enjoyable process.

So, I'd like to thank our Vice President, Evan Greensides. If you will observe through my report, you will see that I have been attending almost every meeting with him. He's been amazing; the Advocacy Secretary, Kathleen Stringer; Treasurer, Susan Hanham; Secretary, Tiena Jordan; Membership Secretary, Chris Meech; Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator, Sean Connelly, who also functions as the Helpdesk for Council's shared drive and email account issues; *Archifacts* Editor, Katrina Tamaira; *Alert Editor* Nina Whittaker, who even though resigned from Council keeps inspiring members, General Advisor and Book Reviews coordinator, Stephen Innes. We also appreciate the support of all past Councillors, ex-officio members, and people who are not on Council but provided invaluable support and pieces of advice behind the scenes.

I want to personally thank Peter Millar, Brad Patterson, Kathryn Patterson and Triona Doocey, Sean McMahon and Elizabeth Charlton for their support and encouragement during my term as a President of ARANZ.

Ngā mihi

*Dr Eric Boamah*  
*President, ARANZ*

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

# **UNESCO Memory of the World: 2021 Inscription**

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*Jane Wild*

### **Archifacts statement – October 2021**

The Memory of the World programme was established by UNESCO in 1992. The objectives are to raise awareness of the significance of unique documentary heritage and to support preservation and access to these collections. The Aotearoa New Zealand register was initiated in 2010 by the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO and now features 46 inscriptions.

Inscription 46 is for the Ursula Bethell Collection at the Macmillan Brown Collection, University of Canterbury. Jane Wild, Chair of the UNESCO Memory of the World Aotearoa New Zealand committee, notes that the posters published in *Archifacts* support the programme's objectives around visibility. The inscription process during lockdowns in 2020 and 2021 continues to provide challenges with conferences and other opportunities for promotion constrained by Covid-19 lockdowns. It is helpful to share the posters for each inscription, which link back to the refreshed Aotearoa New Zealand Memory of the World website: <https://unescomow.nz/>

We warmly invite archives and libraries across Aotearoa to contribute to building our unique documentary heritage register.

Nominations for the 2022 register close on 31 May 2022 and Expressions of Interest can be sent up to 31 March 2022.

UNESCO Memory of the World  
Aotearoa New Zealand

2021

# Much the most complete & clear writing that has been done in this country.

## Ursula Bethell Collection

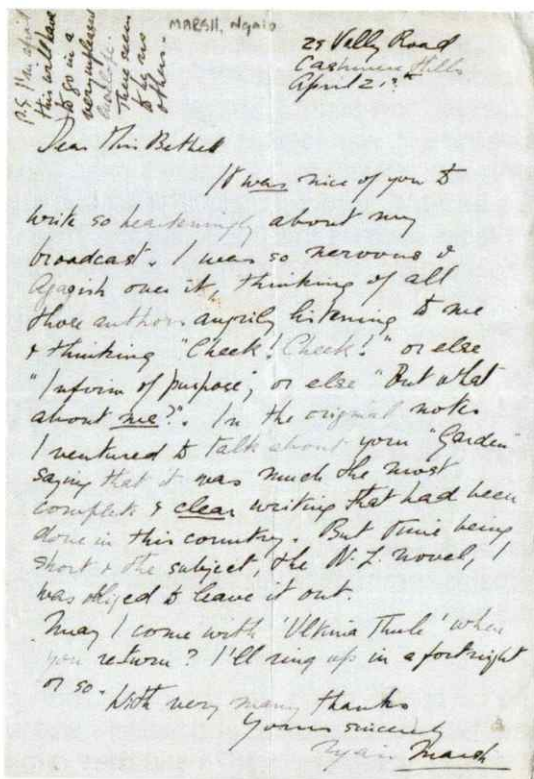
Bethell was a pivotal figure in the Christchurch arts community, and among her friends were many of the major artistic and literary figures of the day. Her correspondents include Charles Brasch, D'Arcy Cresswell, Allen Curnow, Denis Glover, and Monte Holcroft.

"The significance of Mary Ursula Bethell in the development of New Zealand poetry, and New Zealand letters more broadly, cannot be overestimated. Her poetry, which she only began to write in any serious way when she finally settled in New Zealand at the age of fifty, reflected a keen awareness of contemporary trends in modernist literature, nourished on wide reading in English and French work. Her interests extended beyond poetry: she was a painter of no little ability, an integral part of the local art community, and a correspondent par excellence. Indeed, the writing of letters became her 'work', and she wrote frequently to a wide range of correspondents, about poetry and literature, about the arts more broadly, and about theology and spirituality." Professor Peter Whiteford.

The collection spans the years 1890 to 1945, a period of rapid transformation in New Zealand's cultural history. Bethell was writing during the decades when two world wars, and economic and social change brought about a developing sense of national identity in New Zealand. Her writing reflects and amplifies this, yet does not fall back on nationalistic tropes. Her poems show how the environment and conditions of New Zealand impeded the complete imitation of English poetry, and led to the adaptation of a locally distinct style.

### Archive Location

Macmillan Brown Library  
University of Canterbury  
Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha



Letter from Ngaio Marsh to Ursula Bethell. MB558-124252.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

National Committee of New Zealand  
Te Kaitiaki o Aotearoa me Ngāi Māhara o te Ao  
Memory of the World

Inscribed onto the UNESCO Memory of the  
World Aotearoa New Zealand Register in 2021

Discover more at  
[unescomow.nz](http://unescomow.nz)

## HIGHLIGHTS:

### What's Happening in the Archive Spaces - Feilding & Districts Community Archives

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*Marilyn Wightman*

The community archive in Feilding (FDCA) began in 2009 at the Coach House Museum. In 2007 Manawatu District Council (MDC) was approached by three community groups, the historical society, the genealogy branch of NZSG and the museum. MDC was grateful to see this enthusiastic approach and assisted establishing a purpose-built archive that would retain all 'non-council' archival material. This was at a time when central government was legislating local government bodies to focus on their core, and retention, of 'council-only' records. In previous years there was an MDC accumulation of material, some informally collated, stored in places such as the public library. There had been a period of council management where community records were handled in a formal procedure of collation, cataloguing and storage but this had lapsed in intervening years.

Funding was found, grants obtained and twelve years on the archive is housed at the museum in a purpose built, humidity and temperature-controlled area. There is a pool of twenty workers, all volunteers, who work to ensure the community history is in safe-keeping. From the start, Archives New Zealand 'Continuum' has been the 'go-to' guide. FDCA remains community based and is administered by the trust board of the museum.

The current projects are the publication of two texts, one old and one new. 'Swamps, Sandflies and Settlers' was published in 2000 as the history of emigrant settlers in 1874 and their families while a valuable reference it is out of print. This third edition is being rewritten to include further information and high-quality photographs thanks to the modern digital age twenty years on since it was first published.

The second book, 'Hearths of Feilding Families' has evolved because a major proportion of research queries concern local families, places and their history. This book has chapters on Feilding houses built between 1874 and 1899. It is the 'why, what and who' of each house.

Being a stable, rural community some of the homes have been occupied for successive generations of the same family. Both publications are a 'win-win' for the FDCA utilising material already stored, authenticating facts, enhancing records and compiling this into readable, published history that reaches beyond the confines of the archive.

While the FDCA is a non-council, community-based organisation it is enhanced by the proximity of other archive and museum resources in the Manawatu. Archives Central, the regional council facility, has digitised needed ratebooks for us to research. Palmerston North and Feilding libraries both have readily accessible heritage websites and helpful archival advice. Archives at Massey University and Te Manawa Museum also provide opportunities to network, advise and engage.

Marilyn Wightman, Archivist and Trust Board Member CHM  
[www.feildingarchive.org.nz](http://www.feildingarchive.org.nz) [www.coachhousemuseum.org.nz](http://www.coachhousemuseum.org.nz)

## HIGHLIGHTS:

# The Treasury: A history of the Coromandel-Hauraki community archive and research centre

*By Danielle Campbell*



**Figure 1.** The Treasury Research Centre and Archive, comprising the former Thames Carnegie Library building and a purpose-built adjoining Archive.

Photograph by Danielle Campbell, Sept 2021.

A small community of 7,000, the people of Thames are proud of their heritage and passionate about the preservation of their town's history. Thames Goldfield was opened in 1867 and the settlements of Shortland and Grahamstown were merged soon afterward to form Thames. Much of the town's built heritage from the gold mining era remains and several historic buildings now operate as heritage attractions, such as the Thames School of Mines and the Bella Street Pumphouse. However, the preservation of the area's documentary heritage has been largely tasked to a Thames-based regional community archive and research centre, The Treasury.

Operated by The Coromandel Heritage Trust, a non-profit organisation formed in 2003, The Treasury is comprised of two buildings; the former Thames Carnegie Library and a purpose-built adjoining Archive. Built in 1905 for £2000, the Carnegie Library was funded by Scottish-born American businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. 2,500 libraries were built around the world with Carnegie Foundation funds, including 18 in New Zealand (of which 12 remain). This building was used as a library until 1990 when the new Thames Library was built. It was subsequently occupied by various community groups, including the local music and drama society, until The Coromandel Heritage Trust took over the lease in 2008.

Listed by HNZPT as a Category 2 Historic Place, much of the former Carnegie Library building's original fabric and features have been retained. This includes brass door handles, kauri fireplaces, tiling, gas lamps and pressed metal ceilings. The Treasury also has a set of Boer War trophy rifles belonging to the Thames-Coromandel District Council on permanent display. Trophy rifles were distributed to councils across New Zealand following the Boer War and this is believed to be the only complete set remaining in New Zealand.

The former Carnegie Library now houses The Treasury's research centre, which contains a range of historical resources that may be of use to researchers. This includes a tangata whenua book collection, gold mining records, family history books, a births, deaths and marriages section, an oral history collection and more. Adjoining the research centre is The Treasury's purpose-built Archive, which was constructed in 2014 after many years of fundraising by the dedicated founders and members of The Coromandel Heritage Trust. The only brief to Architectus, the architectural firm which designed it, was that the Carnegie Library building needed to stand out. Therefore, the Archive is a brown recessive colour, its height doesn't match the Carnegie Library and there is a glass passageway connecting the two buildings so that they each retain their individuality.

The Archive is a temperature and humidity-controlled facility where maps,



**Figure 2.** Inside The Treasury's Archive, which holds maps, newspapers, books, diaries, letters, photographs and more relating to the Coromandel-Hauraki region's history. Photograph by Danielle Campbell, Sept 2021.

newspapers, books, diaries, letters, photographs and more relating to the Coromandel-Hauraki region's history are preserved. The Treasury is fortunate in that there is no pressing need to undertake deaccessioning work in order to free up physical storage space. With the Archive having been built only 7 years ago, there remains plenty of available shelving. However, The Treasury faces significant challenges as an organisation that has operated for most of its existence without professional paid staff. Making the collection accessible to the public has not always been a priority. Much of the collection hasn't been catalogued in a CMS, public access to archival material was generally restricted, and there was no formal collections or acquisition policy in place to guide the appraisal process. High research fees also posed a considerable barrier to access.



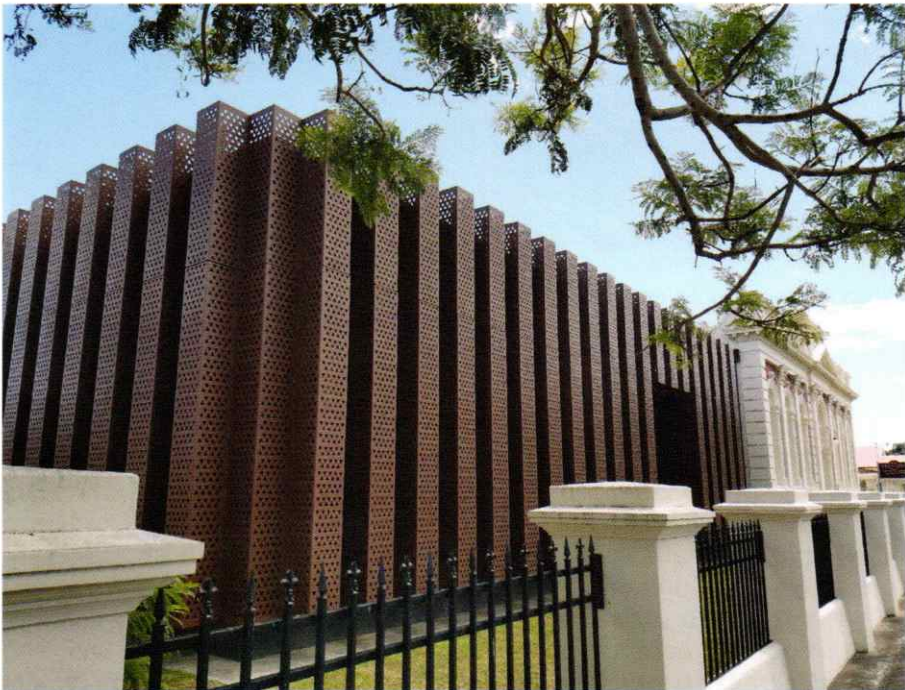
**Figure 3.** Letter books and cash books c.1930s, preserved in The Treasury's Archive alongside a range of documentary heritage relating to the Coromandel-Hauraki region. Photograph by Danielle Campbell, Sept 2021.

This year The Treasury has made significant steps towards increasing access to its collection. The Trust received a grant from the Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund to appoint a full-time, fixed-term Collections Assistant to catalogue the organisation's most important collections. Condition-dependent, archival material can now be retrieved for researchers to utilise in the research centre. Among The Treasury's most frequently accessed archive collections are the Thame Star and Hauraki Herald newspapers, which are only available digitally on Papers Past up to 1934. A formal collections policy has also been adopted to ensure that any new items collected are authentic, have archival value, relate to the Coromandel-Hauraki region and are unlikely to be held by other museums or archives in Aotearoa.

HIGHLIGHTS: The Treasury: A history of the Coromandel-Hauraki community archive and research centre

Free tours of The Treasury are now offered, and on-site research charges have been considerably reduced (free for students and Trust members, \$5 per hour for non-members). The Trust also hopes to purchase the photographic equipment required to set up an in-house digitisation suite and begin making its collections available online. The Treasury Research Centre and Archive certainly has great potential and a bright future ahead of it. Its unique collection of documentary heritage capturing many different histories of the Coromandel-Hauraki region will continue to be enhanced and made more accessible to the public.

Watch this space!



**Figure 4.** Exterior shot of The Treasury's purpose-built, temperature and humidity-controlled Archive, which was constructed in 2014 after many years of fundraising. Photograph by Danielle Campbell, Sept 2021.

# The Treaty of Waitangi in Masterton

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By Mark Pacey



**Figure 1.** Public Trust Building from Chapel Street. Mark Pacey

## Introduction

As Japan emerged as threat to the peace of the Pacific during the early years of World War Two, the authorities here began to look at protecting important objects from harm should the Japanese attack. The Treaty of Waitangi was deemed one of these important objects and it was decided to send this and other records north to the Wairarapa town of Masterton for the duration of the war.

## Background

In the decades after the signing of the Treaty, successive settler-based governments tended to ignore its significance.<sup>1</sup> By the 1930s, New Zealanders began to show a renewed interest in the Treaty. In 1932 Governor-General Lord Bledisloe and his wife donated the Treaty grounds to the country. In 1934 on the anniversary of the signing, 10,000 Māori attended a gathering there.<sup>2</sup> In 1940, New Zealand celebrated its centennial, and the Treaty formed a central part of the celebrations. The Treaty was now being seen as a founding document of the country. As such, it was essential that this document should be kept safe and well protected. At the time of the centennial, the country was at war with Germany, but the territorial aspirations of Japan were starting to cause some concern.

In a letter sent to the New Zealand Secretary of State by Joseph Cowern — who later became mayor of North Saint Paul in Minnesota<sup>3</sup> — he asked if there were any records in New Zealand that were the equivalent of the



Figure 2. Public Trust Building in 1930s. Wairarapa Archive 97-152-018

United States Declaration of Independence. A reply was sent by Minister of Internal Affairs William Edward Parry. In his response he spent time commenting on New Zealand's "warm attachment of its people to their kin in Britain". In regards to the records of national importance, Parry's reply reflected Pākehā sentiments towards Māori and the Treaty at the time. While recognising the Treaty as one of our most important records, he also said that "Maoris have lived on terms of racial equality with the white people. They rightly regard the Treaty as the charter of their rights, and in this they are supported by the Government and the people of New Zealand".<sup>4</sup>

Regardless of interpretations of the Treaty, its national importance was recognised. As the war progressed, the situation in the Pacific changed. Japan had signed the Tripartite pact with Germany and Italy on 27 September 1940 and this gave them confidence to extend their influence in the Pacific region.<sup>5</sup> One month before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and Malaya, the New Zealand government made the decision to move the Treaty of Waitangi away from Wellington, which would be a prime target should Japan choose to attack.

### **Moving the Treaty of Waitangi**

On 15 October 1941, under-secretary at the Department of Internal Affairs, Joseph William Heenan, gave instructions that "the Treaty of Waitangi and bound Historical Records in safe, are to be stored with Turnbull Library materials at Masterton".<sup>6</sup> On the same day, Heenan issued a statement that two cases were urgently required for the storage of the historical records and asked for an officer to measure the records to ensure they would fit in the cases.<sup>7</sup>

Less than two months after this request, Japan simultaneously attacked Pearl Harbor and Malaya, declaring war against the United States and Great Britain. The decision to consign the records to Masterton suddenly took on greater importance. On 24 December the records were ready in their two cases and were marked for shipment. The consignment consisted of two cases of documents weighing three hundredweight (300 pounds) between them.<sup>8</sup> They were then to be placed in the Public Trust Building.

### The Treaty of Waitangi and other Historical Records in Masterton

The Treaty and the other historical records arrived in Masterton and were taken to the Public Trust Building on the corner of Chapel and Perry streets. The Treaty

was stored in one of the strong-rooms in the building of which there were two on each of the building's three floors.<sup>9</sup> As to which strong-room the Treaty was stored in is uncertain. The bound Historical Records were in a larger case, and this was too large to fit into the lift. While the Treaty was safe in one of the strong-rooms, the bound Historical Records remained in their case which was stored in the entranceway to the Public Trust Office. In a memorandum dated 27 February 1942, the Masterton Public Trust Office requested a key to the case so they could remove the contents



**Figure 3.** Strongroom door in Public Trust Building. Mark Pacey

and store them safely with the Treaty. The case was also requested to be moved to the top landing. It was stated by a member of the Public Trust that the case "was placed in the entrance to our building and I shall be pleased if you can arrange to have it shifted as it is causing considerable inconvenience".<sup>10</sup>

The Department of Internal Affairs sent the key to open the chest and gave permission for the records to be removed and stored with the Treaty and the box to be taken to the top landing in the same building. The empty case was taken to the number four cellar in the Government Buildings.<sup>11</sup> The Treaty and the bound Historical Records were safe, locked away in the Public Trust Building in Masterton. They were well away from the capital and any chance of them being damaged from bombing or shelling was greatly reduced.



**Figure 4.** Entranceway where the large records box was initially stored. Mark Pacey

### **Threats to the Treaty**

A natural threat to the treaty and the other records came on 24 June 1942 when a large earthquake struck the area. A second earthquake occurred on 1 August, exacerbating the effects of the June event. While there were no deaths in Wairarapa (there was one in Kelburn), twenty-four buildings were required to be partially or fully demolished. A further forty-three suffered cracks and collapses.<sup>12</sup> The Public Trust Building was not among those heavily damaged and no correspondence exists stating the Treaty and the bound Historical Records had to be moved from there.

Masterton's military defences were bolstered by the arrival of the Ruahine Infantry Regiment of the New Zealand Armed Forces who were in the Solway Showgrounds from mid to late 1942. Later, two battalions of the United States Marine Corps, the Third and Fourth Defense Battalions were stationed at the Solway Showgrounds and Cameron Soldiers Memorial Park between February and October 1943.<sup>13</sup>

While there was no danger by way of military action by the Japanese against Masterton during World War Two, in Wellington there was a brush with the Japanese navy. On 8 March 1942, just months after the Treaty was sent to Masterton, the Japanese submarine, I-25, surfaced in Cook Strait and launched its seaplane which flew a reconnaissance mission over Wellington. A week later she surfaced off Auckland and flew a similar mission there. These facts were obtained through the capture of Japanese documents which showed that the I-25 had started reconnaissance missions in Sydney, then to Melbourne and Hobart before coming to New Zealand waters. This was printed in the newspapers at the end of the war and show how close the Japanese came to New Zealand.<sup>14</sup> As the paper stated, "These flights effectively shatter the fondly-treasured belief, held by many people, that the Japanese were not interested in New Zealand. They give lie to the complacent attitude, so frequently adopted of 'it can't happen here'".<sup>15</sup> The decision to move the treaty and Historical records was well justified.



Figure 5. Public Trust Building from Perry Street. Mark Pacey

## Returning the Treaty

After the Battle of Midway in June 1942 the main threat of the Japanese advancing further south diminished. By 1945 the Japanese were well on the retreat. For the duration of the War with Japan, the Treaty and the bound Historical Records remained in the Public Trust Building. It was not until the Japanese surrender in September 1945 that the Treaty and other records were returned to Wellington. Few knew at the time that one of the country's most important records was kept in Wairarapa's largest town. Even today it is not a well-known fact that for the duration of the war with Japan the Treaty and the bound Historical Records were safely put away in a non-descript building on the corners of Chapel and Perry streets in Masterton.



Figure 6. Public Trust Building. Mark Pacey

## Endnotes

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## What's in a name?

### Improving access and discoverability in New Zealand's sound archive of World War II radio recordings

*Sarah Johnston*

Information in any archive gains validity and mana through knowledge of who imparted that information. When the identity of the informant is obscured or unknown, the archival source is less authoritative and less likely to be used or cited by researchers. This problem is amplified when that archive is stored on an aging medium that is technologically hard to access. In the past, these two obstacles have hindered access to New Zealand's sound archive of World War II radio recordings, recorded in the battle zones of North Africa, the Middle East, Italy and the Pacific between 1940-1945.

The National Broadcasting Service Mobile Units travelled overseas with the New Zealand Division, using portable disc recorders to record the troops. The Mobile Unit broadcasters captured interviews, commentaries on military action, greetings to whānau back home and descriptions of daily life in "The Div." These were cut on 12-inch lacquer discs, which were shipped back to New Zealand for broadcasting on radio. Today, around 1600 of those discs survive in the Radio New Zealand sound archive collection, held in Lower Hutt by Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, the national archive of film, television and sound.



**Figure 01** Mobile Unit broadcasters using a portable disc recorder to capture messages from repatriated New Zealand prisoners of war, Helwan, Egypt. From left: Charles Goodwyn Lewis (with recording equipment), John William Proudfoot (holding microphone), Sergeant Harry A. Taituha, Private C.A. Petrie. Photograph taken by George Robert Bull circa 3 November 1943. Ref: DA-03223-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

What's in a name? Improving access and discoverability....

In my research this year, funded by the Judith Binney Trust and the New Zealand History Research Fund, I am investigating the output of the Mobile Units and the home-front listener response to their broadcasts. I am also attempting to verify the identities of the hundreds of men and a handful of women, recorded on the discs. I am collaborating with Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, which is providing access to the recordings (which are part of an on-going digitisation project) and Auckland War Memorial Museum, which maintains the comprehensive Online Cenotaph database of military service personnel. I am sharing my findings with both institutions to enhance discoverability of this collection and hopefully, facilitate greater use of New Zealand's World War II sound archive, as was intended by its creators.

The origin of this collection was in February 1940, when James Shelley, the Director of the National Broadcasting Service, wrote to the Acting Minister of Broadcasting, proposing to send a mobile recording unit overseas with New Zealand forces. The unit's work, Shelley wrote, would have immediate value in maintaining the morale of the troops and the nation, and he listed among its proposed activities: "To make disc records of events, voices of personalities, eye-witness accounts etc., for sending to New Zealand to broadcast here and to form part of an historical library of the war for future use."<sup>1</sup>

Some 80 years after it was created, digitisation means the potential of this "historical library of the war" is beginning to be fully realised, with digital projects such as the Ministry for Culture and Heritage's Māori Battalion website, which features extensive use of Mobile Unit recordings. For many years the collection has been used by broadcasters for Anzac Day documentaries for radio and television, however, the only in-depth, scholarly study of the Unit itself is a 1986 Honours thesis by Otago University's David Thomson. He noted that the Mobile Unit had been largely ignored by the War History Branch when New Zealand's official histories of the war were written, and that "half a century later, this bank of recorded material has hardly been noticed by historians."<sup>2</sup>

There are several reasons for this. Despite the production in 1996 of catalogues of the Units' output, the content of the recordings remained opaque. Due to the nature of the medium, accessing the recordings meant either a trip to the RNZ Sound Archives office (in Timaru and later, Christchurch) or requesting copies of items on cassette or CD, which could be costly. Without time-consuming transcription or easy listening access, using archival sound was cumbersome for researchers more comfortable with written primary source material. Current digitisation of this collection and the ability to upload the recordings to Ngā Taonga's online catalogue is a huge improvement in terms of access.

Another barrier, which I hope to help overcome, is that most of the discs carry only scant original metadata about their contents and the identities of the voices they contain. A 12-inch acetate or lacquer sound disc contains around four and a half minutes of audio per side. Some discs may only have one speaker, perhaps a leader such as General Bernard Freyberg giving a radio 'talk' about some aspect of the war. In such a case, the speaker's name was hand-written by the Mobile Unit broadcaster on the disc label at the time of recording, whether it was in a jungle camp in the remote Solomon Islands or in the deserts of Egypt, as in the case of the disc label pictured here.

**Figure 2.** Close-up of a typical Mobile Unit disc label, showing the limited written metadata which accompanies the recordings. This reads "An open-air concert by a Māori Bn (Battalion) 23/9/41, Part 3." The homemade censor's label "Do Not Play" was added later, possibly because this part of the concert contains a performance of the waiata "E pari rā, a World War I lament for dead soldiers, which may have been considered unsuitable for morale-boosting war-time radio broadcasts. (You can hear this recording on Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision's website) Image: Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision collection.



However, many of the discs feature multiple speakers. The Mobile Units' most popular production was recording simple, 20-30 second messages home from men who were chosen by ballot to send a greeting to their loved ones. Back in New Zealand, these were compiled and broadcast in a weekly radio programme "With the Boys Overseas," which aired nationwide twice a week between February 1941 and December 1945.<sup>3</sup> The brevity of these messages means there can be as many as 20 different speakers per disc – far too many names to fit on a label.

There is evidence that lists of the names of speakers were sent back to New Zealand with the discs, but so far none of these lists have been located. Therefore, when the Mobile Unit recordings were described in print catalogues by RNZ Sound Archives in 1996, the absence of an easily-accessible verifying authority (it was still the early days of the internet), combined with the scant metadata, meant the spelling of speakers' names could be only a "best guess," and they were sometimes mis-heard or misspelled in the catalogues. This has the effect of making the recordings virtually undiscoverable to the speakers' descendants and a less-than-authoritative source for researchers.

To identify the speakers, like past cataloguers I still have to rely on my ears, listening closely to the voices of the Mobile Unit broadcasters who made the recordings. These were men like Arch Curry (of station 3YA Christchurch), pictured here holding the microphone to record a line of New Zealanders in Italy in April 1944. You can hear the messages home they were recording at [www.ngataonga.org.nz/collections/catalogue/](http://www.ngataonga.org.nz/collections/catalogue/).

Arch introduces each speaker by name and hometown, and typically the men then sometimes give further identifying details, mentioning a street address or the names of wives and family members who they are greeting. Now, thanks to the development of Auckland War Memorial Museum's Online Cenotaph database, I can hunt for the speaker to verify his (or her) identity, creating an authoritative record and making the recording discoverable.

At a public presentation about this research in Christchurch earlier this year, I played the greetings by the six New Zealanders in the R.A.F., as an example of a typical 'messages home' recording. Afterwards I was approached by an elderly man with tears in his eyes. By sheer coincidence, one of the men who spoke was his elder brother who had passed away in 2010. The man and



**Figure 3.** Mobile Unit broadcaster Arch Curry (far right) records greetings from a group of New Zealanders serving with a Spitfire wing of the Royal Air Force, in the Cassino area. Photograph by George Bull, Venafro, Italy 25 April 1944. DA-05600-F Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

his family never knew the recording existed - and even if they had, it might have been hard for them to discover. His brother Cedric, is identified by the nickname "Ced" in the recording. This had been mis-heard in previous cataloguing as "Ted", and that name had persisted in the description.

What's in a name? Improving access and discoverability....

I am sharing the enhanced metadata and verified identities with Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision who are using this to update their online database. A link to their catalogue entry for the recording can also be added to the speaker's page in Online Cenotaph, which has also created a new dataset of service personnel who have surviving recordings. This on-going work will not only make this collection of wartime sound recordings a more accessible and authoritative primary source for historians and researchers, but hopefully it will also reveal more of these voices of New Zealanders at war to their descendants.

## Endnotes

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## OBITUARY: Pamela Somers Hall née Cocks, 1927 – 2021 An Appreciation

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*Stuart Strachan*



*An original member of ARANZ and founding editor of Archifacts, Stuart was the first archives curator at the Hocken Library, then formally trained at University College London, before becoming Senior Archivist at the National Archives. In 1985 he was appointed Hocken Librarian at the University of Otago, retiring in 2008. A member of the Archives Council for nine years and ARANZ Life Member, he was awarded QSO for services to archives in 2006.*

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With the passing of Pamela Hall at the age of 93 in January this year died the last of our first generation of fully professional archivists. Two others, Michael Standish and Judith Hornabrook, also of National Archives, had predeceased her in 1962 and 2011 respectively. There were others, librarians and museum curators, influential in the care of archives during the crucial formative period of the 1950s and early 1960s — in Auckland Enid Evans, in Wellington Graham Bagnall and Michael Hitchings, in Christchurch John Wilson, and in Dunedin Frank Rogers<sup>1</sup> — but Pam came to stand out from these for the depth and extent of her professional knowledge and experience gained over many years that can still command our attention and respect.

A fourth-generation New Zealander, Pam was born in Riccarton, Christchurch, 29 March 1927, the elder of two children; brother Alan was born three years later. Their father Henry Bromley Cocks, a returned serviceman and engineer, had married her mother Edith Hazel Walker in 1922. The Cocks's were a notable family of Anglican clergy: a grandfather was an Honorary Canon of Christchurch Cathedral and a great-grandparent, first vicar of Sydenham. Further back, the family was connected to the aristocratic Somers Cocks dynasty, politically prominent in seventeenth and eighteenth-century Britain. Not that Pam ever made much of this, but her Anglican faith was important to her all her life.<sup>2</sup>

Pam's early education was first at the local Wharenui school and then at Christchurch Girls' High School, her mother's old school, from 1940 to 1944. A photograph of her as prefect shows a tall girl, who excelled at jump events.<sup>3</sup> After matriculation she entered Canterbury College from which she finally graduated with a MA Hons in history in 1949 with a thesis on Henry Sewell, New Zealand's first prime minister, who in 1853 had been sent to New Zealand to wind up the affairs of the Canterbury Association. Providentially for her later career, she made extensive use not only of Sewell's own journals 1854–60 but also of Canterbury Association despatches, her first real encounter with archives.<sup>4</sup>

In the immediate post-war years there was an acute shortage of professional librarians in New Zealand, so Pam, bypassing teaching, then the obvious path for academically well-qualified women, took the opportunity to undertake the graduate Diploma course at the recently established New Zealand Library School under the controversial directorship of Nora Bateson.<sup>5</sup> A conventional career in librarianship awaited her, but in Pam's own words:

One day after mounting to the top of the stacks of the General Assembly Library in quest of information for some School assignment, I happened to stray through an open door into another part of the building. I felt immediately as though I had entered another world. I was in a large room with book stacks on the outer edges. In the centre was an open space, in the middle of which sat an enormous coloured glass dome covered

with the dust of ages. There were two large tables piled with old papers and seated at the tables were two young men.<sup>6</sup> There was an air of quiet concentration that somehow made one feel that they had been there for ever and would so remain. This was my first glimpse of the Dominion Archives and my first meeting with Michael Standish, the officer-in charge of the Archives...I was so excited I knew immediately that this was what I wanted to do.<sup>7</sup>

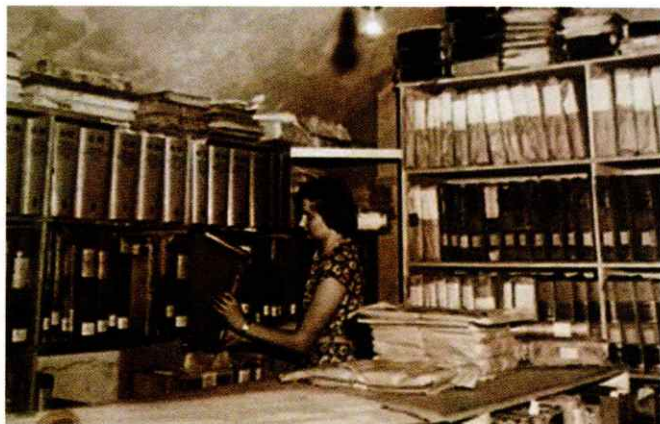
It was an 'On the road to Damascus' moment: Pam was entranced. What she had stumbled on Narnia-like was the ongoing legacy of Guy Scholefield's work as Controller of the Dominion Archives from 1926–1947, when Chief Librarian of the General Assembly Library. Responsibility had then passed to the War History Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs, where Michael Standish was initially employed as a research assistant. Michael immediately recognised Pam's interest and enthusiasm and a few months later offered her a permanent position as an assistant, beginning 1 February 1950 with a salary of £575.<sup>8</sup> Over the next twelve years, together they went on to forge a highly effective partnership: Michael Standish, as Officer-in-Charge, was the early visionary, already with plans for a national archives system;<sup>9</sup> Pam, a natural organiser, became his very able lieutenant.

At first there was little technical guidance. The main available text in English was Hilary Jenkinson's magisterial *Manual of Archives Administration* first published in 1922. Written with great emphasis on British medieval records the *Manual* was not easily applied to New Zealand's more recent large accumulations of nineteenth and early twentieth records, mainly of government departments. As Pam herself put it, desperately attempting to "relate the records of the King's Remembrancer's Office with those of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson" was a trial.<sup>10</sup> Further, Jenkinson considered appraisal for preservation or destruction was no part of the archivist's duties and current records management did not feature. Neither was the Dutch manual, Muller, Feith and Fruin, first published 1898 and available in English translation since 1940, of much help.<sup>11</sup>

Both Standish and Cocks, however, quickly came to one essential truth: that in the long run an effective archives system depended on efficient disposal procedures backed by good current records practice. New Zealand lacked both. Government record-keeping was antiquated and inconsistent across departments; and only informal agreements to consult Archives staff before disposal stood between preservation and seemingly random destruction, an ever-present danger with accumulations of many years spread over numerous locations, all without exception physically unsatisfactory and lacking lists of what was held where.

In 1952 Standish was given leave, at his own expense, to investigate modern practices and procedures in the United Kingdom. It was while he was overseas that the most dramatic episode of Pam's career occurred. A fire broke out in the Hope Gibbons building, Dixon Street, Wellington, on the afternoon of 29 July, destroying and damaging many older departmental records on its top floor which, utterly unfit, had become a records dumping ground for lack of other accommodation. Though these records were not under formal Dominion Archives control, Pam strongly encouraged by her friend historian Ruth Allen<sup>12</sup>, a regular archives user, sought and gained permission from Arthur Harper, the Under-Secretary for Internal Affairs, to rescue what she could from the disaster. As Pam was later to recall, "The records had fallen from the fifth to the third and fourth floors, and were sunk, amid burnt flooring, broken shelving stacks, charred beams, twisted girders, and a mass of entangled pipes."<sup>13</sup> Over the next few weeks, showing considerable energy and initiative working alongside demolition contractors, Pam and fellow staff member Betty O'Dowd,<sup>14</sup> retrieved 1,000 cubic feet of sodden and edge-charred records that required drying. This was not easily done, until Pam hit upon the idea of using a timber kiln, which the Evans Bay Timber Company generously made continuously available over two weeks. Pam and Betty each received a £10 bonus for their rescue work. Despite their efforts, there was much grievous, irretrievable loss, particularly of Lands and Survey, Labour and Employment, Works, Agriculture and Marine records. Pam did not stop there, but followed up with a trenchant memo to her department's Under Secretary, roundly condemning the quite unsuitable housing of widely scattered, historically valuable government records no longer in current use and urging their concentration in a purpose-built Archives building secure against "fire, damp, mice and earthquakes."<sup>15</sup>

These losses, and Pam and Betty's heroic efforts, made national headlines hailing the role of "Two Determined Girls", but more importantly they drew general attention to the parlous plight of our national archives, with a staff of just three, no proper accommodation to speak of, and lacking any real legal basis. There was a general clamour for improvement. Such hardly ever happens quickly within government, and the truth is that the Department of Internal Affairs was somewhat on the wane after its glory days with Joseph Heenan as Under-Secretary and Peter Fraser as Prime Minister. It had many other preoccupations and calls on its resources: royal and distinguished visitors, wildlife, local government, recreation and sport, explosives, lotteries and racing, the Alexander Turnbull Library, etc. No longer in the front rank under the new National government elected in 1949 and not always sympathetically regarded by the Public Service Commission, the Department struggled for attention and influence.<sup>16</sup> Out of the fire, however, did emerge improvements.



A turning point was 1954. Better accommodation was obtained, with the move from the General Assembly Library attic to more commodious space in the Employers Federation Building on the Terrace, though this was almost immediately filled. More important for the future was the week-long visit in August that year of Theodore Schellenberg, Director of Archives Management at the US National Archives, invited by the Department with some trepidation. As one official put it:

Our archives arrangements are so appalling and there is such a general feeling of shame that I see no prospect of the Government inviting him ... our archives situation could not be worse than it is and the help stimulation or jogging that we could get from Schellenberg would be of immense value.<sup>17</sup>

However, the government in the end did invite him, and the advice Schellenberg provided enabled Standish to speak with greater assurance to those in authority about the importance of archives, leading Cabinet to approve a departmental plan for the appraisal of government records, their arrangement and description, appointment of a Chief Archivist with staff, and the introduction of legislation.

Schellenberg may not have included in his advice that an archivist should go to the United States to attend one of Dr Ernst Posner's foundational courses on archives and records at the American University in Washington, where Schellenberg himself taught. However, by happy chance, and encouraged by a visiting American historian Pam had already successfully applied for a Fulbright Travel Grant, which, supplemented with half-pay from the Department (surely, part reward for her role in the Hope Gibbons fire), enabled her to study in the United States, 1954 to 1955. There she got fully to grips with recent appraisal theory and modern records management, later set out systematically by Schellenberg in his seminal text *Modern Archives* (1956). While there she took the opportunity to visit archives on the East Coast, and then crossed to the United Kingdom, taking in the Public Record Office and various county record offices.<sup>18</sup> On the way home to New Zealand, Pam spent a few days in Sydney and Canberra, where she spoke to a gathering of archivists on her impressions of overseas institutions.<sup>19</sup> All of which she recorded in monthly letters to

Michael Standish. About this time, too, Pam was accepted into the UK Society of Archivists as a Commonwealth member.<sup>20</sup>

What came next was of greater significance even than her part in salvaging records from the Hope Gibbons fire. On returning early in 1956 to her old job at the National Archives, Pam drafted a comprehensive report of her findings with recommendations for the better management of government records, particularly their disposal. After study by senior departmental officers, her report was forwarded to the Public Service Commission for further consideration by a special committee chaired by V. W. Thomas, Secretary of the Commission. The report's dual premise was that better current records management meant easier and safer disposal of non-current records, and that easier disposal of non-current records led to better current records management, a virtuous circle that not only improved general efficiency, but also enabled considerable cost savings by freeing up space. The Commission's consequent acceptance of the need to improve general standard of record-keeping led to a revised *Handbook on Records Management* that was sent to all government offices.<sup>21</sup>

Simultaneously, Michael Standish's long and patient nurturing of appropriate archives legislation bore fruit with the passage of the Archives Act 1957, with cross-party support. Crucially, as well as giving the National Archives proper statutory footing, it also vested in the Chief Archivist control of all records disposal for the whole of government - executive, legislative and judicial - and mandated a strong current records advisory role. This forward-looking legislation, alongside which Pam's report happily sat, finally enabled a fully functioning National Archives with augmented staffing to take root, though the longed-for and much-needed headquarters repository was to be as elusive as ever. A specialist records advisory officer was appointed 1959 and records centres established in Lower Hutt and Auckland in 1962. At the same time the work of surveying records, approving destructions and implementing disposal schedules, all of which had begun as early as 1951, was ramped up. Finally, the well-regarded series of preliminary inventories that first appeared in 1953 continued to be published.<sup>22</sup>

Pam was at the heart of all this activity. It is interesting to have Judith Hornabrook's later view of Michael and Pam. Judith had joined the staff as reference archivist in 1958 to make a staff of three.<sup>23</sup> They were "an impressive team". Slightly built, Michael was "studious, but determined – a thinker who could adapt overseas theory and practice to the everyday scene ...A born archivist". Pam, a tall woman, was "just as dedicated, in a more extrovert way, full of energy and very much a doer as well as a thinker". But technically astute also; Judith was greatly impressed by the classification she developed for "a large mass of uncontrolled New Zealand Company correspondence." Very broadly, the two had their separate spheres, only overlapping as necessary. Michael as the effective chief was the broad strategist with overall responsibility, but was also particularly skilled at reference work assisting researchers. Pam's particular interests lay with records management, appraisal, transfer and disposal, arrangement and description, and repository management generally.<sup>24</sup> Each held the other in high regard, shared in Pam's case by historian J C Beaglehole who entrusted her with the complicated land question chapter of Ruth Allan's uncompleted Nelson history, earning her place on its title page.<sup>25</sup>

Pam's interests were not confined to government archives. As early as 1951 a group of concerned librarians had formed an archives committee within the New Zealand Library Association. It was particularly interested in promoting the preservation of local authority, business, and private organisation archives. Michael Standish was member. Its work was largely driven by its convenor Frank Rogers' Otago's university librarian who had had archives training in England. As well as organising seminars, its two main projects were the compilation of an archives practice manual and a survey of local authority records. The first appeared in 1955 as *An Elementary Guide to Archive Practice*, largely authored by Rogers.<sup>26</sup> The survey, despite a strong initial push, was less easy. After Rogers' departure for Australia in 1956, it rather languished, and it was left to Pam who became convenor at the end of 1958 to organise publication of its results, as *Preliminary List of Archives of Local Bodies in New Zealand, 1960*. In the same year she published in the *Canterbury Economic Bulletin* (May 1960) an article on the value of business archives, the first serious writing on the subject in this country.<sup>27</sup>

The Standish-Cocks partnership might well have continued productively for many more years, but for the tragically early death of Michael from a heart attack in May 1962, shortly after his formal appointment as Chief Archivist. Less than a year later Bernie Reid, the very experienced Records Advisory Officer, was killed in an accident. These were huge setbacks, and it was left to Pam to carry the load. In the normal course of events Pam, with her experience, knowledge and qualifications, might reasonably have expected to be the next Chief Archivist. She did apply, but was not appointed. Instead the position went to an experienced departmental officer, John Pascoe, well-known author and mountaineer, but with no archives experience or academic qualifications whatsoever. One cannot escape the feeling that the department was not yet ready to appoint a woman to what was now seen as a relatively senior position.

Whatever her thoughts, Pam, soon to be promoted Senior Archivist, accepted the situation. Pascoe sensibly concentrated on improving conditions and increasing resources—more staff, better pay, and improved accommodation—having success with all three, though a new headquarters building remained as elusive as ever.<sup>28</sup> Apart from reference, Pam was now the main source of professional knowledge and expertise, mentoring staff at regular instruction sessions; and working under delegated authority it was left to her to manage the technical side of things, with both records centres under her control, as well as all appraisal and arrangement and description, and general repository management.<sup>29</sup> It was Pam who introduced custom-made archives boxes to replace the paper parcels tied with pink and green legal tape, a huge improvement. It was at this time, 1963, that Pam was able to visit Australia, examine procedures at the Australian National Archives in Canberra and the State Archives of New South Wales in Sydney; and also the Mitchell and Dixson Libraries to select New Zealand material for microfilm copying.<sup>30</sup>

Pam also began to write about New Zealand archives generally. She contributed the main article on archives in New Zealand to the first volume of *An Enclopaedia of New Zealand* (1966) edited by A. H. McLintock, as well as a number of other smaller entries.<sup>31</sup> Even better from an archivist's perspective was a thoughtful article she published in the *Journal of the*

*Society of Archivists*, 'The Development of the National Archives of New Zealand', which Michael Standish might well have written had he lived. In it she traverses the full range of issues faced by National Archives from its earliest days, with particular emphasis on problems of records centre operation, records disposal, scheduling, description, shortage of qualified staff, and lack of space, exacerbated by a generally poor standard of record keeping, especially file classification which she described as 'appalling'. Nevertheless, it is a story of obstacles overcome, wholly and in part, on the long path towards the more mature national archives that Michael and then she had envisaged all those many years ago when first starting out.<sup>32 33</sup> Pam's deep respect for Michael was fully expressed earlier in the obituary she wrote in the British journal *Archives*. It concluded:

His ready wit (if sometimes caustic in its irony), his complete integrity, his charm and unassuming manner endeared him to all with whom he came into contact, especially to his staff who mourned his passing, knowing that they had lost a chief of exceptional quality.<sup>34</sup>

It might now be added that in Pam he had had a lieutenant of exceptional quality.

By this stage of her career, for all of her experience, Pam was still a relatively young woman, just on forty. Not too late for another life, and so it transpired. Through their mutual involvement at the Catacombs, St Peter's Anglican Church on Willis Street, supporting those in need, Pam had as early as 1960 met a young lawyer, Allan Hall. A friendship developed which over time turned to love. In 1968 the pair married and moved to his hometown of Gisborne, where Allan had found permanent work. National Archives, without a trace of overstatement, recorded a tribute to her in its 1969 *Summary of Work*:

Miss P.S. Cocks (now Mrs A. Hall of Gisborne) retired after continuous service of 19 years. The staff members of National Archives are grateful for the generous way in which she communicated her experience and for the sound archival practices she left behind her. Officers of government departments, researchers and librarians, and others concerned with the preservation of the raw material for history have cause to be grateful to Miss Cocks for work that was often of a pioneer nature.<sup>35</sup>

Pam, being Pam, was not idle for long, finding work almost immediately in Gisborne at the H. B. Williams Memorial Library with its strong New Zealand collection. Children then followed: Veronica in 1970 and Rosemary in 1972. This led her into series of energetic involvements outside archives work: playcentre, for long president of the larger Tairāwhiti association; Girl Guides district commissioner; marriage guidance counsellor; various school committees; Parents Centre; Good Samaritans; and Citizens Advice Bureau. A Bible class leader, she was both Parish and Vicar's Warden at Holy Trinity Church in Gisborne, which she and Allan regularly attended. A keen Labour Party supporter, Pam organised several marches against apartheid and for a nuclear-free New Zealand. A woman of faith, she regarded all such activity as part of her Christian duty.<sup>36</sup>

Her love of archives was not abandoned. For eighteen years she was honorary archivist at the Tairāwhiti Museum with its fine collection of local materials. And then in a last venture on the national scene, she contributed two technical papers on archives to a national seminar organised in 1975 by a revived Archives Committee of the New Zealand Library Association.<sup>37</sup> This was the only time I met her, but somehow the occasion symbolically, and movingly, marked a handing over to an emerging new generation of professional archivists, that her work nationally was now done.

She herself said, shortly before she died, that she had had a good life; and one which all New Zealand archivists have great cause to be grateful for and would do well to remember. A younger colleague and close friend, Rosemary Collier, remarked in her farewell eulogy, "Pam's contribution to the archives profession in New Zealand was unique. Her knowledge, professionalism and influence mean that the shades of her work are everywhere still:<sup>38</sup> "The Fulbright Foundation did well when they invested in Pamela Cocks...."<sup>39</sup>

Pam's funeral was held on 5th February 2021 at Holy Trinity Church. She is survived by her husband Allan, daughters Veronica and Rosemary and their families.

Stuart Strachan

Waitati

August 2021

In writing this article I should like to acknowledge the generous assistance of Pam's husband, Allan Hall, of her daughters Veronica and Rosemary Hall, of her former colleague and close friend Rosemary Collier. Stephanie Lash of Archives New Zealand and Peter Miller have also been of considerable help in identifying relevant sources.

## Endnotes

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4. Cocks, P. S. 1948. "Early Canterbury in the light of Henry Sewell's journal, 1853–60" Unpublished MA thesis, Canterbury College.
5. See McEldowney, W. J. Geoffrey Alley, Librarian: his life and Work. 2006. Wellington: Victoria University Press, p.228–231.
6. Michael Standish and John Miller, author of *Early Victorian New Zealand ... 1839–1852*. 1958. London: Oxford University Press.
7. Hall, P. S. 1974. "National Archives in Retrospect: a personal reminiscence". *Archifacts* no.2 (June), p.1.
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14. An Auckland history graduate, Betty was later appointed lecturer in history at Canterbury University College in 1958, from which she retired in 1987. She became a prominent Catholic historian and authority on theology in the Christchurch diocese. Creon, M. 2020. "The Gift of Dame Betty O'Dowd". *Inform. Publication of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch*, Issue 123 (Winter), p.14–15.

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17. Unattributed in an email from Stefanie Lash to Richard Foy, 27 August 2019.
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20. Email, London Metropolitan Archives to Stuart Strachan, 2 June 2021. LMA holds the Society of Archivists' archives.
21. "National Archives", *Report of the Department of Internal Affairs for the Year ending 31 March 1957*, AJHR H.22
22. The first was *A Guide to the Dominion Archives*, published 1953, followed by nine inventories of key early record groups, 1953-61.
23. Judith later became Chief Archivist, 1972-82.
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OBITUARY: Pamela Somers Hall née Cocks, 1927 – 2021 - An Appreciation

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## Getting to know you

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### ***Katrina Tamaira***

*Research Librarian Māori  
Alexander Turnbull Library*

#### **Who are you and where are you based?**

Nō Airangi ,nō Tokaanu ōku tupuna  
Ko Pihanga te maunga  
Ko Taupō te moana  
Ko Ngāti Tūwharetoa te iwi  
Ko Katrina Tamaira tōku ingoa

I am Katrina Tamaira, Research Librarian Māori in the Arrangement and Description team at the Alexander Turnbull Library (ATL) in Wellington.

#### **Can you tell us a little about the path that led to your current role?**

My first role in the sector was around 2004 at ATL as a fixed-term conservation technician. Even though the contract only lasted 4 months, that experience helped me secure a Library Assistant job at Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) library. I worked there for 3 years. Ironically, though, it wasn't until I left New Zealand in 2011 that the concept of 'access to information' governance really sunk in.

For three months I lived in Mae Sot, Thailand, a small city that borders Burma/Myanmar.<sup>1</sup> I flatted with a New Zealand friend, her Burmese husband, and his friends. I also taught English (badly) to economic migrants from Myanmar. You might have read about the human rights abuses committed against Rohingya Muslim populations. These were most brutal in Arakan/Rakine State, the home of my adult students. My biggest learning curve came when I realised my students supported the ethnic cleansing.

For reasons that were probably valid, they held a huge distrust towards information provided by government or aid agencies. The confirmation bias was deeply entrenched and was not helped by the fact they had poor literacy skills and no access to libraries. I suddenly saw information access in a whole new light.

With this in mind, on return home I began working again at ATL as a Library Assistant, taking Information Studies papers through VUW. I quickly drifted towards archival theory, leading to 5 years at Archives New Zealand and my involvement with ARANZ's *Archifacts*. After rāhui 2020 (the first lockdown), I began a secondment role at ATL and I am now a permanent member of the Arrangement and Description team.

### **What's your biggest challenge in your role?**

As 'Research Librarian Māori' I am a Māori specialist. By far the biggest challenge is figuring out where the role specialist stops and the over-extension of my cultural capital begins.

### **If you could change or enhance any part of your role what would that be?**

In te ao Māori the role of archives and collecting libraries is shifting. There is always talk of 'archival power' and the emancipatory potential of archives, but as many iwi re-gain their economic mana this is closer to becoming a reality. I expect to see more iwi and hapū archives in the future. I think there is scope in my role for supporting those initiatives and creating more balance in Tiriti relationships - less gatekeeping and more āwhinatanga.

### **What is your favourite archive or collection?**

It's self-indulgent, but my favourite archives are those that relate to my family. Like this one taken by Walter Burke of my Great-great grandparents – PAColl-10689-1: Portrait of Te Waaka Tamaira and his wife Ngaumu Tamaira (née Runuku), Tokaanu.

**Do you have any recent notable acquisitions or taonga that you'd like to highlight to ARANZ members?**

PAColl-10760: Photographic prints relating to Māori homes and housing.

The 51 black and white prints were collected by H. B. Turbott (aka. the Radio Doctor) and have been with the Library since 1988. Taken circa late 1920s and early 1930s, the prints show various types and conditions of Māori housing. Some of the dwellings are seriously substandard, but the images are important records of the shocking living conditions of the time. They also include fascinating features, such as circular whare, kumara crops, and hybrid Māori/Pākehā construction techniques. I recently enhanced and re-housed the item level descriptions and the prints are now in the digitisation queue.

**Endnotes**

1. In 1989 the "Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma" became the "Union of Myanmar". My flatmates considered themselves from Burma and my students, Arakanese from Myanmar.

## Getting to know you

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### New Zealand Theatre Archives

*Rowena Cullen*



#### **Who are you and where are you based?**

Theatre Archives New Zealand is a charitable trust based in Wellington. We have links to both Victoria University of Wellington – Te Herenga Waka and Playmarket, and usually meet in Wellington. Our Board of Trustees includes theatre personnel, information managers and academics. In addition to our current seven Trustees we have ten Advisory Trustees, who we can approach for advice on issues of interest. They include former trustees whose expertise we are keen to retain and people working in archival repositories to ensure we maintain contact with such institutions.

#### **What are your current holdings?**

We do not have physical holdings of any kind. Our purposes include promoting the retention and care of theatre records, listing where material is held (whether that is in personal collections or repositories), commissioning oral histories of theatre practitioners, educating the industry about the care of theatre records and advising individuals holding theatre records or seeking information related to theatre history. Our database is a meta-database which includes more than 550 records of holdings by other individuals or institutions.

### **What services do you provide?**

Our website provides advice to theatre practitioners holding material and links to related resources including our e-manual *Caring for your Theatre Archives*, purchasable on the Playmarket website. It also provides searchable access to our database of individuals and institutions holding theatre records and a link to the survey of theatre personnel we are currently running to enable us to identify and list individuals and companies. We also invite and answer queries from people seeking information about past productions, play scripts, theatre companies or personnel.

### **Can you tell us about a recent event, acquisition or change you'd like to highlight to ARANZ members?**

One current project is to list the extensive theatre records held in the Special Collections at Auckland Libraries to enable them to be more discoverable. We'd be happy to hear from other repositories which have uncatalogued material of this kind. We are also applying for funding to add another six oral histories to the more than 20 we have commissioned previously. These are deposited in the Alexander Turnbull Library Oral History and Sound Collection, which has an extensive collection of oral histories of theatre personnel.

### **Tell us some of the challenges you face in your role or archive?**

Our greatest challenge is to reach people - those holding material in boxes at home as well as new theatre groups and emerging practitioners. Our mission is to persuade them to ensure production and administrative records are retained and well cared for, and passed to suitable repositories in due course. We are at times asked to advise families sorting through the effects of frail or deceased former theatre practitioners and have

prevented material being destroyed in the past. To this end, we recently wrote to lawyers advising of our existence and mission. We also offer stickers to those who complete our survey to place on their records. The stickers read "Please do not destroy. Contents registered with Theatre Archives NZ". This is followed by our email address. Promoting the value of records is a worthy cause everyone in the sector can play a part in.

### **What do you enjoy most about the work you do?**

Our greatest successes come when we save a collection from destruction, aid someone unsure what to do with their theatre records or have been able to put a researcher in touch with a source of information. Every record we add to our database helps. If we do not have a record that can aid the researcher, we can still assist them by referring them to the major repositories, as well as the Directory of Community Archives maintained by Archives New Zealand. The National Library's *Papers Past* is also a very useful resource for theatre researchers. We also undertake searches of the holdings of the National Library and the Alexander Turnbull for an enquirer. We find that many theatre researchers are unaware of these rich resources.

## Book Reviews

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### **Pākehā Settlements in a Māori World: New Zealand Archaeology 1769-1860**

Ian Smith

Bridget Williams Books, Wellington 2019

Archivists are used to finding stories of the past amongst the dust: for archaeologists, those stories are disinterred from the dirt beneath our feet. Ian Smith's final book, *Pākehā Settlements in a Māori World: New Zealand Archaeology 1769-1860*, draws both methods of knowing the past together to construct an important and innovative retelling of Aotearoa New Zealand's early contact history.

The title is prosaic, but the ambition of the book is not. Smith's book offers considerably more than a survey of Pākehā settlement. Over seven chapters, he takes the reader on a tour of the material remains of both Māori and Pākehā settlement, often pausing to tease out the intricate interplay between indigenous and imported cultures. It is a survey made possible by the author's lifelong commitment to historical archaeology in Aotearoa New Zealand, and many of the sites that inform this book were excavated by Smith, his colleagues, and students.

The chapters frame almost a century of what Smith refers to as the "early colonisation period". His classification is further subdivided, separating periods of sojourning from later dispersal and diversification. Still, some historians might quibble with this definition, as it rolls together eighteenth-century European exploration, and the sojourning experiences of those who came - or were left - in New Zealand to exploit resources like timber or seals, with the qualitatively and quantitatively different settlement period that began in the 1840s. Yet terminology aside, there is a compelling logic to telling a story that begins with "the first non-Māori footfall" and ends at the point when settler population growth meant what had once been te ao Māori was increasingly a European world.

The book begins with a brief but assured summary of early Polynesian settlement, one that will surely find itself, like most of this text, in regular use in undergraduate teaching. This foundational chapter is followed by equally lucid and economical coverage of first European contacts, in which Smith neatly dispatches those myths of lost caravels and Chinese expansionism that have proved so remarkably durable in the public imagination. From these starting points, Smith then weaves together history and archaeology to reconstruct the daily lives of whalers and sealers, missionaries and traders, governors and settlers. Fragments of rusting iron and shards of pottery capture the cold comforts of the first European settlement at Luncheon Cove in Dusky Sound, while square-sided gin bottles (designed for easy shipping), clay pipes and even an empty bottle of Chateau Lafitte sketch out the essential elements of life in Aotearoa's first town, Kororāreka. From these beginnings, Smith traces the physical relics of formal colonial power structures, including the Treaty House, the first parliament, and military fortifications, and their informal expression in the "instant townships", industry, commerce, and agriculture that characterised the spread of Pākehā settlement.

All of these activities left their impressions, however faintly, in the landscape. Smith demonstrates how archaeology works to coax stories from these traces, using maps, tables, cross sections of excavations, period artwork and an abundance of photographs to help bring the settler past to life. Yet as Smith deftly reminds us, European detritus tells us much about contemporary Māori life too. Perhaps the best example, singled out from the many that fill these pages, is a stone slate, found under the kitchen of the Kerikeri mission house. A critical tool in the inculcation of literacy, seen by missionaries as a stepping stone to Christian conversion, the slate is powerful reminder that 'many Pākehā introductions were as much "ideas" as "things"'. (p.266) We might add that these things and ideas were used by Māori in their own ways, and for their own purposes. Inscribed in elegant copperplate, the slate holds not a catechism but the text of a waiata whakatau, the earliest extant example of a written waiata, almost certainly composed by a woman attending the mission school.

Some of these complexities are developed within the text, but its main job is exposition. Archaeology's contribution to historical debate is largely

developed in the conclusion, where ideas like adaptation and entanglement are clearly, if concisely, explored. Here Smith offers a further challenge to the idea of “rapid cataclysmic changes in Māori culture” (p.276) arguing instead that archaeological evidence suggests a high degree of continuity in cultural practice during this period. These short sections show the impact of cross disciplinary approaches and the possibilities for more are clear. What light might archaeology shed on other longstanding debates? One example might be the social structures of settler society? Do material remains suggest atomised loners or integrated communities? And how might archaeology illuminate new ones, like the role of consumption in settler and Māori lives?

Question like these are not answered by this book. However, that they might be raised at all is proof of its success. In this expansive, accessible, and detailed book, Smith has provided an indispensable introduction to settler history through an archaeological lens, bringing a “more nuanced understanding of a formative time in this country’s history and the development of its cultures” (p.277). At the same time, he has shown beyond doubt the value of interdisciplinary approach to Aotearoa New Zealand’s past. In the dirt as well as in the dust, there is gold.

*Felicity Barnes*  
*University of Auckland*

## The New Zealand Wars: Ngā Pakanga o Aotearoa

Vincent O'Malley

Bridget Williams Books, 2019

272 pp. Print: \$39.99 ISBN: 9781988545998

Do we need another book on the wars or civil unrest that took place in New Zealand between iwi, and between Māori and Pākehā that have as many names as causes? Author, and historian, Vincent O'Malley seems to think so. This is his second book that covers the period. His first, *The Great War for New Zealand Waikato 1800 – 2000* (2016) was reviewed in Archifacts 2018 no 2.

O'Malley acknowledges and draws on the works of those that already have written in depth on the topic. He claims that Belich's *The New Zealand Wars and the Victorian Interpretation of Racial Conflict* (1986), which spawned a television series, remains the seminal work on the era. It is clear, however, that O'Malley's newest work will be another very important book for students, as well as those who seek to understand events that still have an impact on our society today.

It is an easy to read, concise book, covering many unrelated events happening in different parts of the country at the same time. One drawback of this conciseness is that, given the complicated subject, the coverage of events is sometimes too brief. For example, to deal with the Parihaka in a few pages seems very once over lightly dealing with a significant event, not only in Taranaki's but New Zealand's history as well as the concept of passive resistance, which is linked to global ideologies. O'Malley's referencing of other works on the topic enables readers to explore those issues and areas which are of most interest to them. It therefore acts as a guidebook, directing people to the most appropriate material for their specific needs.

The use of maps and images, often merely page fillers in 'history books' add greatly to the understanding of O'Malley's words. Even portraits are vital in reminding us that these events affected real people, and form a connection between events that happened many years ago and New Zealanders of today.

The main focus of the work, naturally, is to give an account of what happened where and why. As with most wars, there is no one cause and although it is convenient to call the events the Land Wars (as opposed to the earlier 'musket wars') there were many different reasons why certain iwi or hapu took up arms. O'Malley explores the personalities and reasons behind the events as separate actions.

Worth special comments are O'Malley's introduction and conclusion. The introduction gives an outline of what happened, but he also addresses the often confusing topic of what to call the events he is writing about. He poses the question, 'do names really matter?' He explains that what we call the events can apportion blame (the 'Maori Wars' infers Māori were the enemy, as in the 'Zulu Wars') and provide a single cause (the 'Land Wars'). O'Malley, like many before him, believes the 'New Zealand Wars' were to be the most comprehensive and fairest term to be used.

The conclusion explains concisely the effect the conflicts have had on Māori and Pākehā, and regional economies and stresses that some of those effects still are being felt. He mentions Rā Maumahara - a national day of commemoration for all those affected by the hostiles, which was established last year, unfortunately with very little promotion or explanation.

The only issues that I might have with the work was that it often comes from a viewpoint which champions or acts as an apologist for Māori. Wrongs were committed on both sides and both sides suffered. Although earlier books came from a very biased, 'pro-pākehā' standpoint, there is a fine line between being fair and taking the other's side. A few times I felt the fear and dispossession that settlers faced was played down.

This may affect those people's descendants which could in turn reawaken negative feelings.

The other issue is more a plea for historians to look at the entire country when discussing the New Zealand Wars. As mainlanders we are led to believe that the 'North Island Wars' didn't impact there. However, the Ngāi Tahu land claim is one of the longest running indigenous land claims in the world and affects large parts of the South Island. A heke to Ōmārama (North Otago) in 1879 asserted land rights of Waitaha. Land rights, and other disputes, did affect Māori and Pākehā in the South Island. It also reaped benefits by many North Islanders coming southwards to escape the hostilities. These factors are rarely mentioned in books on the New Zealand conflict.

I believe O'Malleys presentation of the wars is one of the clearest that has been published to date. With the Government's laudable decision to make New Zealand history compulsory this book will undoubtedly be a text book used to learn about a very uncomfortable part of our nation's history.

*Kathleen Stringer*

## **Merchant miner mandarin: the life and remarkable times of Choie Sew Hoy.**

Jenny Sew Hoy Agnew and Trevor Agnew

Christchurch: Canterbury University Press, 2020

Recent years have seen the publication – with the active support of the Chinese Poll Tax Heritage Trust – of many fine works dealing with the settlement of Chinese in New Zealand and the contribution they have made to New Zealand economy, society and identity. On the other hand, and the appearance of several excellent studies and collections of essays notwithstanding, the history of the post-rush gold mining industry in Otago, especially alluvial and quartz mining, remains a largely unexplored field. In this finely crafted work by Jenny Sew Hoy Agnew and Trevor Agnew, the authors – also supported by the Trust – both augment our understanding and appreciation of the contribution made by immigrants from China and their descendants, and enlarge our understanding of the fortunes of Otago’s gold mining once the rushes had subsided. Most importantly, it offers a careful assessment of the life of a man whose enterprise, business skills, and connections did much to sustain commerce and industry in southern New Zealand.

The book contains five parts. Part 1 summarises the political turbulence and economic hardships that the people of Canton endured during the nineteenth century, thus setting the context in which the Choie clan decided that some of its young men should seek their fortunes overseas. It describes the major movement of Cantonese miners into Victoria between 1853 and 1855, records the invitation, inspired by the Dunedin Chamber of Commerce, to Chinese miners to mine in Otago, and offers some valuable insights into the role played by Melbourne merchants, among them, Ho A Mei and Lowe Kong Meng, in organising, financing, and supporting the movement of Chinese miners across the Tasman. Further, their involvement points to some interesting contrasts with the movement of Victoria’s European miners on to Otago’s gold fields.

Part 2 details Choie Sew Hoy's arrival in Dunedin in 1869 and his early business activities, including his connection with Chew Chong, the pioneer of Taranaki's wood-ear fungus export trade.

Part 3 examines his expanding engagement as owner, investor, and financier in the gold mining industry, in the quartz mines of Macetown (notably the Tipperary, Maryborough, and Premier mines) and Skippers, in alluvial sluicing claims (notably in the Nokomai Valley) in which he employed the latest technologies, and, most notably, in gold dredging. The original Sew Hoy dredge with its revolving bucket and ladder system, was set to work on the Shotover River's Big Beach in 1889 and where Sew Hoy had financed some of the Chinese mining parties that had attempted to work that ground. It was on the Shotover that some of the earliest experiments in dredging had taken place, several spoon dredges working the bed of the river from about 1870. It was also Sew Hoy's success that prompted the 'Wakatip' dredging boom of 1889-1890 and led on to the even greater dredging boom a decade later. This carefully reconstructed account offers valuable insights into the breadth of Sew Hoy's mining interests, his support for gold prospecting expeditions, his plans for the diversion of the Shotover River to realise the miners' dream of laying bare its bed, his adoption and extensive use of new mining technologies, including hydraulic elevating, and the changes in the organisation and financing of an industry that had once been the preserve of small, miner-controlled and financed associative enterprises. His failures are also recorded, along with the controversy that surrounded the formation in 1889 of the Sew Hoy Big Beach Gold Mining Company.

Part 4 traverses now familiar ground, namely, the general and local government-sponsored discrimination that New Zealand's Chinese settlers endured throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth centuries. The generally cordial welcome accorded Otago's first and relatively small number of Chinese miners (the Nevis Valley incident of 1866 and a series of incidents on the Mount Ida field excepted) was displaced by growing hostility as the number of men arriving directly from China swelled after 1870. It is perhaps ironic that the growing hostility was marked by the 1871 conviction and imprisonment (and, under public pressure, premature release) of Otago's other mining magnate, John

Ewing, for wounding Ah Cheow on suspicion of the latter having robbed one of his tail races, a charge frequently levelled at Chinese miners but seldom proved. The authors offer a useful account of Sew Hoy's efforts to counter the growing flow of racist sentiment that led to the prolonged efforts to restrict the inflow of Chinese settlers, to their exclusion for many years from State-funded social welfare programmes, and to the denial of access to naturalisation between 1908 and 1952.

In Part 5, the authors discuss - so far as the record allows - Choie Sew Hoy's family life, his community involvement and commitments, his extensive connections with Dunedin's business and professional communities. They reveal his love of horse-racing and his very considerable success achieved through betting on every horse in every race. They recount, too, his efforts to facilitate and support the disinterment of remains and their return to China in fulfilment of custom and wish. Choie Sew Hoy died in 1901, his remains being among those lost when the *SS Ventnor* sank off Hokianga Heads in 1902. The authors offer a fitting acknowledgement of the part that Te Rarawa plays in caring for those remains found from time to time on the western shores of Te Tai Tokerau.

*Merchant miner mandarin* is a well-researched, lucidly written, copiously illustrated, and attractively presented account of the contribution and times of one of Otago's foremost citizens. By exploring the life of Choie Sew Hoy, the authors explore the gradual admixing rather than merging of cultures and the development of a new sense of national identity. It is especially a fine addition to the burgeoning literature dealing with the contribution of the Chinese to the settlement and development of New Zealand.

*Dr Terry Hearn*  
*Dunedin*

## **Community Archives, Community Spaces: Heritage, Memory, and Identity**

Edited by Jeannette A. Bastian and Andrews Flinn

London, Facet Publishing, 2020

190pp. US\$89.99 (paperback) ISBN: 978-1-78330-350-2

The concept of community archives has always been at the centre of debates when it comes to a common definition and the activities which should be included in their operations. This is partly because they collect records about a community of people in a specific context. Since contexts differ, the practice of community archives is diverse and their operations, just as challenging as its definition, making any discussion about it difficult to reach common definitions.

Today's societies increasingly engage with records and with people whose lives and histories have often seemed to exist outside conventional practice. As a result, archives professionals have an ongoing need to discuss community archives as an important aspect of archival practice. The discussion becomes more and more interesting not only to archives professionals, but also to diverse groups including researchers and academics. This is because today's community archives are vigorously attempting to address critical activities of archiving that are situated within the areas of cultural power and authority in a fast-developing digital world, where space, heritage, memory, and identity are all becoming more complex. Thus, the importance of a clear understanding of the meaning, purpose, and functions of community archives in modern society cannot be over emphasized.

For this reason, Jeannette A. Bastian and Andrew Flinn's edited *Community Archives, Community Spaces: Heritage, Memory, and Identity*, is a must-read for every practitioner and stakeholder of archives, especially those with a focus on community archives. Both Bastian and Flinn are highly esteemed in the Information Science and Heritage fields respectively. Bastian is a Professor Emerita in Information Science, and at the time of publishing this book she was at the School of Information Science, Simons University, at Boston, Massachusetts. She

has directed many Archives Management programmes and held respected positions in the Information Science field. Flinn is a Reader in Archives Studies and Oral History at the University College of London and has also held many respected leadership roles in the Archives and Heritage field. The authors of the various chapters carry similar authority in their fields. It is therefore not surprising, that the book is so rich in ideas about community archives, which are presented with clarity and expertise.

The book expands and clarifies the definition of community archives to explore all that the concept encompasses in the modern world. The diverse range of contributors effectively explore the relationships that exist between community archives and their various manifestations. The content of the book is laid out in two parts. The three chapters in Part 1 contain analytical essays that challenge the reader to move from archival optimism to focusing on how to sustain a community archive. They also look at what community archives can teach other mainstream institutions and reveal the relationship between community archives and conceptual models, with special reference to the records continuum theory. Part 2 of the book presents the remaining seven chapters as case studies on community archives in diverse contexts. They include examples of archiving for indigenous language and cultural revitalization in New Zealand; reflections on self-documentation of Thai communities; popular music, community archives, and *public history online*; *documenting housing displacement and gentrification in a Latino community* and a community-based archiving in Croatia, among others. The book is broad in perspective and very useful in its discussion of the scope of community archives.

This is a book with fresh ideas that will appeal to all archives and records management practitioners. It is highly recommended to historians, librarians, researchers, teachers, students, and professionals in the archives and records management community and the cultural heritage field.

*Eric Boamah*  
*Open Polytechnic of New Zealand*

## Notes on Contributors

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### **Jane Wild**

Jane Wild chairs the UNESCO Memory of the World Aotearoa NZ Trust. Currently Principal Curator Rare Books (job share) at Auckland Libraries, Jane has extensive experience in documentary heritage across the GLAM sector including roles at the University of Auckland and the Alexander Turnbull Library.

### **Marilyn Wightman**

Like the volunteers at FDCA, Marilyn is retired. All the workers bring to the archive a wealth of life experience. Marilyn's paid work began as a teacher, including an OE year in a Lincolnshire school in England. Owning a plant nursery complex in Feilding for 30 years, teaching was relegated to community education at two local high schools for 24 years. Journalistic work includes 13 years as the herb writer for a national gardening magazine and two published history books. In 2015, Marilyn was the recipient of a community service award from Manawatu District Council.

### **Danielle Campbell**

Danielle has recently been appointed as the Deputy Director of the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum. She has previously worked in a range of research, curatorial, collection management and interpretation roles at Te Papa, the New Zealand Police Museum, Wellington City Council's Heritage Team and The Treasury Research Centre and Archive in Thames. Danielle has a Bachelor's degree in History and a Master of Museum and Heritage Practice from Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka. She is passionate about exhibition development, heritage interpretation and increasing access to museum and archive collections.

### **Mark Pacey**

Mark is an archivist at the Wairarapa Archive where he has worked since 2017. He has completed a degree from Massey University with a double major in Defence Studies and History. He has a strong interest in military history and is currently working on his fifth book on a history of the United States Marine Corps and their time spent in Wairarapa during 1943.

### **Sarah Johnston**

Sarah Johnston is a library assistant at the University of Canterbury's Macmillan Brown Library. She is also a sound history researcher and a former radio journalist and broadcaster, enthusiastic about sharing the sounds of New Zealand's past. A 2021 recipient of funding from the Judith Binney Trust and Manatū Taonga's New Zealand History Research Fund, she is researching the work of New Zealand's World War II Mobile Broadcasting Units. Sarah nominated this collection for inclusion in UNESCO's Memory of the World New Zealand Register in 2019. You can read about her current project on the blog [worldwarvoices.wordpress.com](http://worldwarvoices.wordpress.com)

### **Stuart Strachan**

An original member of ARANZ and founding editor of Archifacts, Stuart was the first archives curator at the Hocken Library, then formally trained at University College London, before becoming Senior Archivist at the National Archives. In 1985 he was appointed Hocken Librarian at the University of Otago, retiring in 2008. A member of the Archives Council for nine years and ARANZ Life Member, he was awarded QSO for services to archives in 2006.

### **Rowena Cullen**

Chair, Theatre Archives New Zealand Trust Board

Rowena Cullen is Emeritus Professor in Information Management at Victoria University of Wellington- Te Herenga Waka. A former theatre practitioner herself, she was one of the founding trustees on the Board, and has been Chair of the Trust Board since 2015. Theatre Archives New Zealand was founded in 1997 following an earlier 1984 conference held at Victoria University on *The Preservation of Theatre Records*. A written record of the presentations at this conference, including one by Rosemary Collier, former archivist and member of the Theatre Archives Trust Board, has been deposited in the Alexander Turnbull Library.



The *Archifacts* editorial board welcomes contributions on archival, recordkeeping, preservation, and related issues.

Contributions can be of both a New Zealand and international nature. Submit papers and content in electronic form to the editor: [editor@aranz.org.nz](mailto:editor@aranz.org.nz)

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- Book reviews - 350 - 500
- Section article - 200 - 500
- Letters to the Editor - as appropriate

All papers must be prepared as fully justified Word documents, in 12 point font, with one-and-a-half line spacing.

Macrons, for Māori words, should be used where appropriate. Contributors should apply macrons consistently. For guidance see Te Taura Whiri: <https://tetaurawhiri.govt.nz/en/learn/orthographics/>

Glottal stops, and other phonetic notations, should be used where appropriate. For example; Hawai'i, 'O tagata. These should be applied macrons consistently.

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