



# Keeping in Touch

Newsletter for New Zealand History Federation Inc

Te Kotahitanga o nga Hitori o Aotearoa

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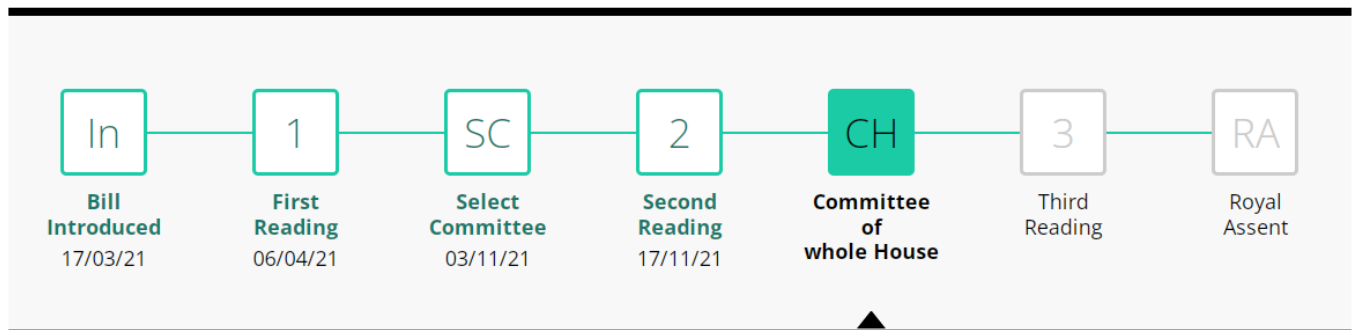
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## The Incorporated Societies Bill: close to the finish line, but ...

Progress of the bill



[www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL\\_109429/incorporated-societies-bill%20](http://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_109429/incorporated-societies-bill%20)

Well, at least the Bill has passed the Second Reading stage, folks, and is proceeding through the system, but as Parliament next sits on 8 February 2022, and things are still at the Committee of whole House Stage — we may not see this Bill finally enacted until late February at the very earliest.

The course of the Second Reading stage proceeded over two sittings of Parliament, on 9 and 17 November. By then, there had been a number of changes made at the Select Committee stage of the Bill from the original proposed version.

**Firstly, while still maintaining the ban on financial gains** where profits and/or assets are distributed to members of a society (this breaching the not-for-profit status of an incorporated society), the new Bill does allow for, as the Hon Andrew Little put it during the second reading debate, “hardship grants or scholarships and what have you ... those sorts of benefits, even if they benefit a member, are legitimate in the pursuit of the objects of the particular society.”

Also, he went on to say: “Another area is umbrella societies, or federations, perhaps—national organisations whose members are themselves different societies, and there may be a need for some cash that goes to the national organisation to go to some of the regional organisations or the federated members. And so that is not prohibited in this—members being able to gain financially as part of an incorporated society. “

**Second, the financial reporting requirements have been adjusted.** One concern many of us have had was that the original Bill as proposed seemed to want to impose an accounting standard that would have proven onerous on many small societies, bringing those of us in the smaller category into line with

charitable trusts, along with the result of additional costs of auditing. This stipulation was altered at the Select Committee stage, where incorporated societies were instead divided into two categories, based on “total operating payments” and value of current assets.

The new draft of the Bill provides for the threshold to be \$50,000 in each of the two preceding accounting periods of the Society: less than \$50,000 in payments and assets, while also not constituted under tax regulations as a “donor society”, an incorporated society is deemed small, and therefore exempt from having to have annual accounts audited. Many of us, for some years now, have engaged reviewers instead, and that would continue for small societies. As Little said in his speech: “The select committee has recommended lifting the thresholds for the exemption to qualify as small and therefore not required to produce these audited accounts. This will mean that hundreds of amateur sports clubs, in particular, around the country won't be required to hire an accountant and pay the associated fees.”

The payments and asset limit is to be adjusted periodically by regulation, due to changes in inflation etc.

If you'd like to see the draft Bill in its current version, read it here:

<https://legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2021/0015/latest/LMS100809.html?src=qs>

There is also, I've recently noticed, a handy online tool for composing constitutions for incorporated societies. This will be updated once the Bill is enacted next year:

<https://isb.companiesoffice.govt.nz/constitutionbuilder/startscreen/>

What is this “Committee of whole House” stage? According to the NZ Parliament's website: “After a bill has passed its second reading, the House – the whole of Parliament – forms itself into a committee for the next stage of the bill's consideration. This committee is called the ‘Committee of the whole House’. All members of Parliament belong to this committee. During this stage, a bill is usually considered part by part, and members have the chance to debate it in detail.

“Committees of the whole House generally operate under the same rules of debate as other House proceedings. Speeches have to be shorter, but members are allowed to speak more than once. This allows members to answer questions or respond to points raised in debate. The purpose of this stage is to allow members to work through the ‘nuts and bolts’ of a bill.

“Members may propose amendments to the bill being considered. If these amendments have been given to the Clerk in advance they are printed as Supplementary Order Papers, but this is not essential. Amendments can also be proposed during the course of the committee. These are called ‘typescript amendments’. Members vote on the proposed amendments at the end of the debate on each part of a bill.

“At the end of each committee sitting, the Speaker returns to the Chair and the committee reports its progress to the House. It may take multiple sittings of a Committee of the whole House to consider one bill.

“Once the committee has agreed on the final text of the bill, the bill is reprinted and is ready for its third reading.” (<https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/how-parliament-works/fact-sheets/the-nuts-and-bolts-stage-committee-of-the-whole-house/>)

## Dr Neil Albert Algar (1927-2021)

Neil was the NZ History Federation's eighth President, serving from 2008 to 2015, the second-longest term served in the Federation's history. He passed away peacefully on 19 September 2021, at Pohlen Hospital in Matamata.

The following was written by NZHF Secretary and Vice-President Kenneth Stringer:

"Neil was a long-serving member, who was elected to the committee at the reconstitution of the Federation in 2003. In 2008, he was elected President of the Federation at the Conference in Helensville. He served in this position until 2015, when he relinquished it at the conference hosted by Onslow Historical Society in Wellington. It was at this conference that he was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Federation for all of his years of service.

"He will be remembered fondly by long-standing committee members as a gracious host, when meetings were held at his home in Matamata. Neil travelled long distances to attend meetings on a regular basis, which were held at various locations within the country.

"Two of Neil's greatest contributions were to host the 2009 National Conference in Matamata and to give great support for the 2013 conference, which was held in Dunedin. Hosting conferences is a difficult job and Neil ensured that these events were successful with his usual great enthusiasm.

"Neil will be missed by everyone who knew him on the committee and he will be remembered for his dedication to history."

The 2003 Conference at Hamilton was where I (the editor) first saw Neil Algar in action, expressing his views concisely and academically but with a passion. Stepping up to the role of President as his successor was quite literally a matter of trying to fill big shoes. He was a no-nonsense facilitator of our committee meetings, but I will also always remember his heartfelt fondness for our country's history, and the smile which was part of his sense of humour.

Neil, who moved to Matamata in 1957, was one of the township's former Mayors for 18 years from 1968, as well as a former Councillor of the Matamata-Piako District, past Chairman of the Matamata Community Board, and has a walkway in Matamata named in his honour. In 2019, he received a Long Service Award from the Matamata Lions Club for his 60 years of service in that club. At the time he said when being interviewed about his award: "I sold my medical practice 27 years ago and retired 17 years ago, but it's things like Lions, SeniorNet, the [Matamata] Historical Society and my involvement in the All Saints Anglican Church that keeps me busy."

Thank you, Neil, for all your service.



## Helen Barbara Laurenson, PhD (1937-2021)



Helen was the founding president of the Epsom and Eden District Historical Society in 2000, the first of the new generation of Auckland historical societies to spring up in the region this century. This image comes from the Mt Eden Village Facebook page, the evening of the launch of the book on Mt Eden's history in 2019, a book by members of the historical society which Helen edited. She passed away at her home on 7 December 2021. At the time of her death she was the serving president of the historical society.

Helen was born in Hamilton on 2 January 1937, daughter of Eric and Lyndall Crabtree. The family moved from Morrinsville to Mt Eden, and there Helen grew up on Pencarrow Avenue, attending Mt Eden Primary School and Epsom Girls Grammar. She and her future husband Eric Laurenson were members of a local Methodist Church Youth Group. They married in 1959.

Helen did start a BA at the University of Auckland in 1955, but was there only a year at that point, choosing to cease her studies and become a library assistant with Auckland City Libraries. From 1959, Eric and Helen lived first in Lynfield, where they were founding members of

the Lynfield Community Church, before shifting to Mt Eden. Helen was deeply associated with the Pitt Street Methodist Church from 1963.

From 1970, Helen worked part-time at the Auckland Teachers Training College until her retirement, then went back to the university, completing her BA. In 1999, she wrote *This Familiar Place: The Mount Eden Village Methodist Church Centenary 1899-1999*. Following this, she undertook her MA, her thesis on the history of department stores forming the basis of her well-received book *Going Up, Going Down; The Rise and Fall of the Department Store* (2005) and an ensuing series of lively presentations around Auckland at a number of historical and other societies. In 2006 came the *History of Epsom* to which she contributed. Following this, she earned her PhD with the thesis *Myths and the City, a social and cultural history of Auckland 1890-1990* (2010). *Prospect*, the annual booklet produced by the historical society, has seen many articles written by Helen since it began more than 20 years ago.

Helen, from 2002 when my home society of Avondale-Waterview made its appearance as part of that new generation of specialist societies for our region, always expressed her support and interest in what we were doing. To come across her beavering away among the shelves at the Central Library's research centre, or down in the Auckland Council Archives was always a joy. Helen put in a lot of energy to record and express our city's history, taking part in events at the annual Auckland Heritage Festival. I'll miss those wonderful times when our paths crossed very, very much.

My thoughts are with her family, her friends, and her colleagues at the Epsom & Eden District Historical Society at this sad time.

Lisa J Truttman

# Arthur Charles Fryer (1935-2021)

*Image from Stuff.co.nz*

Arthur Fryer passed away on 17 December 2021, at Trinity Home and Hospital, Hāwera, aged 86. For decades Arthur gathered up stories about his community's past. In an obituary published by Stuff, his friend of 30 years Kelvin Day described him and his work.

“One of the things I liked about Arthur was his great enthusiasm for the smaller stories not often captured in the big histories. He was able to capture them and how they fitted into the bigger community stories of the district, which made them that much more significant.

“He was such a mine of information and such an enthusiast for his history.”

Both men were members of the Taranaki Regional Committee for the NZ Historic Places Trust (now Heritage New Zealand).

Fryer published several books, one of the latest in 2020 on local street names with fellow historian Ross Corrigan. He also wrote history columns for the *Taranaki Daily News*, *Taranaki Star*, and *South Taranaki Post*.

He was a fondly-regarded member of both the Hāwera Genealogy Society and the Pātea Historical Society. Jacq Dwyer, President of the historical society, described Arthur as “an absolute gentleman ... He was an amazing resource of information. If I had questions, particularly about Hāwera, I'd go to Arthur. He could quote all sorts of stuff and knew which buildings had been owned by whom. He captured things from a long time ago, he's kept these stories alive by getting them published.”

## News from the members

### Ashburton

Ashburton Museum have an interesting blog website which they have run since 2016. You can find it at this link: [ashburtonmuseum.wordpress.com](http://ashburtonmuseum.wordpress.com)

As they say in their latest newsletter: “A blog is a website that is regularly updated by an individual or organisation, with informative articles which are called “blog posts”. A blog can be anything from a personal diary, a way to tell stories and can even be considered an academic source in some cases ...

“The Ashburton Museum's blog website has had over 5,000 online visitors for the last three years running. As of November, this year's view count has surpassed 5,600. Roughly 80% of the blog's



visitors are from within New Zealand, while the rest mainly come from the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom.

“The Ashburton Museum blog is one of our farthest-reaching methods of engagement. It allows us to tell stories about the Museum and local history that can reach a wide audience. It is also an easy way for us to spread historical knowledge about our district.”

The Society have also been working with their local council on a project which will provide history panels in the revamped CBD.

## Avondale-Waterview

This year is the Society’s 20th anniversary.

With all the concerns and uncertainty surrounding the new school history curriculum and where local historical societies may fit in, we were delighted to receive emails recently from a teacher at Avondale College, seeking assistance as she compiled resources for a social studies project in the new year around what it was like in Avondale during World War II. If more schools around the country take the opportunity to make contact with their local societies and museums in this way, the future could be bright in terms of passing on appreciation of our areas’ stories to the next generations.

## Cambridge

*(From their Facebook page, December 2021. A very interesting development by the museum!)*

“Cambridge history at your fingertips! Whether you're looking for an excuse for a walk, or a way to entertain visitors this Summer, download our free Museum app and enjoy a guided historical walk around town. Available for free on Google Play and the App Store.

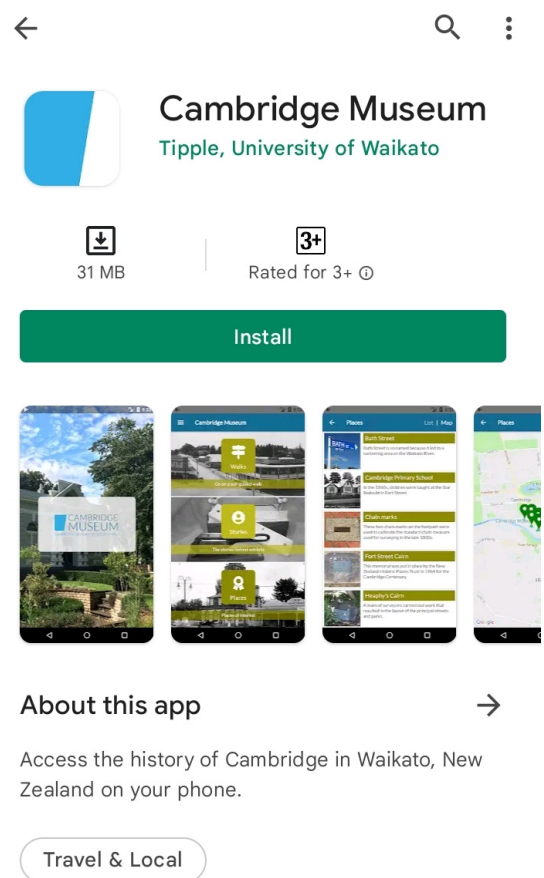
“Once you download it you can:

Explore places in Cambridge; explore museum stories and artefacts connected with Cambridge; go for self-guided tours through Cambridge, and learn about the Museum and the Cambridge Historical Society.”

## Eastbourne

In April 2022, the Society plan to celebrate their 40th birthday. Congratulations to all for the milestone!

The Society have been involved in a campaign to save the Williams Park caretaker’s cottage, but sadly after submissions to the local council and attending hearings, the council decided that the cottage had been so greatly altered between 1950 and 1980, taking away much of the heritage values, it was not regarded as worth saving. “Today,” as the Society writes in their newsletter, “little survives of the hugely popular Days Bay resort, known as ‘Wellington’s playground.’ All we have is the wharf (1894); the



former hotel (1903), now part of Wellesley College; and the central section of the resort which Wellington City Council acquired in 1914 and renamed Williams Park.

“And apart from the cottage (1895), there’s nothing to remind us of the key role played by the caretakers — a humble title for the men responsible for running the whole enterprise. The first two caretakers, who between them served for half a century, were Hugh Downes (1884-1912) and Bill Dick (1914-1947), the latter affectionately known as ‘the Father of Days Bay.’ Their stories deserve to be told (and we’re working on it …)”

At the very least, though, despite the disappointing result, the Society hope that their campaign to try to save the cottage has raised public awareness of local heritage. “Heritage preservation,” as they write in their newsletter, “means valuing old buildings not only as part of our history, but also for their potential to enhance their community in new and creative ways.”

## **Papatoetoe**

The Society have been involved with a shift of their museum space from The Depot on Cambridge Terrace to the Papatoetoe Chambers next to the old Town Hall. The change of venue is expected to be complete in the first few weeks of this year.

## **Patea**

*(Latest newsletter report by President Jacq Dwyer)*

“There is no photo of us in the Patea Christmas Parade this year, as it has been cancelled due to Covid, like so many things at the moment. We have been getting things done though. Laraine Sole had a book launch for her latest book – *Called to Colours* about the WWI Soldiers of Waverley & Waitotara. Fascinating book, it can be purchased for \$30. My book *Patea RSA 100 years* is also for sale - \$25, *Heartland of Aotea* \$45 and *Salutary Punishment* \$35 by Ian Church. Phone me 0272415595 for orders of any books and I can post or deliver to you.

“We have also had the exterior our Freezing Works display building painted, and new aluminium windows installed in the offices in the back section, which is rented by Hughson’s Accountants, and a new steel sign will soon be put on the outside with: ‘Patea Historical Society est. 1967’ cut into it.

“Next year we hope to get another 22 years of our local paper on Papers Past. *The Patea News* was published between 1952 and 1974. The issues that are held in the archives at the Museum- Aotea Utanganui, are probably the most complete set in the country. The National Library doesn’t have any from this time. Sadly, there are some years where the museum does not have a full set. The Patea Historical Society (with permission from the Museum Trust) want to get these copies micro-filmed and the eventually added to the Papers Past website.”

## **Taumarunui**

The Society have brought out a book *Logging the Punga: Ellis & Burnand Ltd.*

“The story of Ellis & Burnand’s sawmilling operation at Manunui near Taumarunui. For 60 years, from 1901, the Company was a central part of the township that grew up around the sawmills. Over that time hundreds of people worked in the mill, box factory, veneer works, and bush gangs. Ken Anderson wrote the histories of Ellis & Burnand’s other large King Country mills at Ongarue and Mangapehi, Sparse Timber Sawmillers and Maoriland Sawmillers. He had partially completed the

Manunui story before his death and his old mate Ron Cooke, along with Audrey Walker, have completed the job under the auspices of Taumarunui & Districts Historical Society Inc. Ron's influence is apparent in the hundreds of black and white photos of action at the mills, lokeys on the tramways, haulers in the bush, village life and all other aspects covered in the 392 pages of this 210mm x 297mm book.

\$70.00 a copy \$8.50 Postage Rural delivery extra \$3.90, available at [www.rollbacktheyears](http://www.rollbacktheyears) or Direct Credit A/C 03-0426-0226242-00 (use your name as reference)

Send details and postal address to [tdhs08@farmside.co.nz](mailto:tdhs08@farmside.co.nz)

Taumarunui & Districts Historical Society Box 329 Taumarunui 3946 Ph 07 8945833

## **Torbay**

*(From their latest newsletter)*

"We did have successful events with groups from Retirement Homes. We either put on Devonshire Teas with a talk and visit the museum, or just have the talk and museum and the group goes on to Browns Bay for lunch. These bookings have been very well received and we were looking forward to having more but with the Lockdown had to cancel 6 bookings.

"We were not even able to visit the Vaughan Homestead for meetings or Working Bees. We are now waiting to hear from the Parks Board as to when we can start again. In the meantime Wendy Ellis (ranger) has been looking after the Homestead."

## **NZ History Federation membership subscriptions for 2022, and this year's Conference**

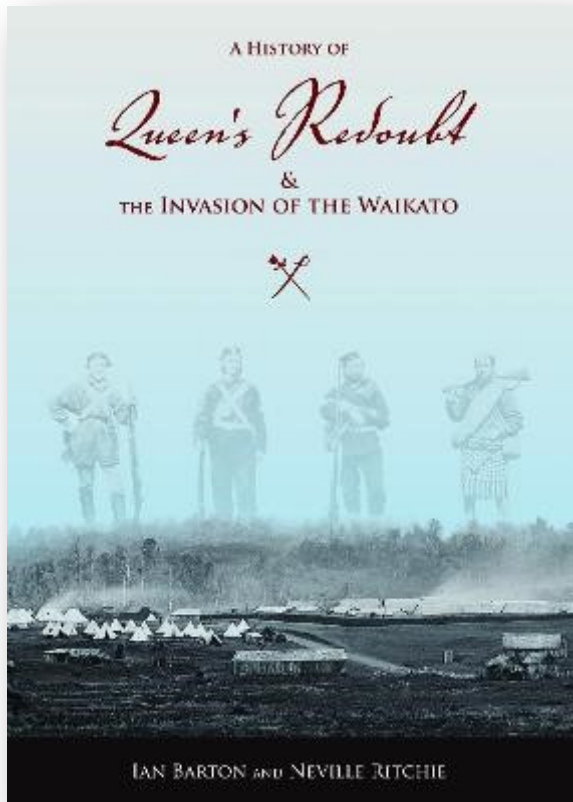
Thank you to those who have paid subscriptions for your organisations to date. A reminder of the end of February deadline for 2022 subscriptions will be sent out toward the end of January.

The Federation Executive Committee will meet in the first few weeks of this year, and amongst matters needing urgent discussion will be details around the next conference and AGM (bearing in mind that, like most of you, we're playing the pandemic will-it or won't-it game as far as planning events is concerned). As soon as details are sorted, we will forward these on to you.

## **The Digital *NZ Legacy***

Robin Astridge is still keen to hear from anyone with stories and content to share in the next edition of *NZ Legacy*. Contact him via: [chrisrobin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:chrisrobin@xtra.co.nz)





***A History of Queen's Redoubt & The Invasion of the Waikato,***  
**Ian Barton and Neville Ritchie, 2021.**  
**Atuanui Press Ltd, 332pp, RRP \$49.95**

Bare facts: the Queen's Redoubt was the second-largest military fort built by the British Army in New Zealand, and the Waikato was occupied from July 1863 to April 1864, followed by massive land confiscations, the effect of which are still today being felt.

If you left things at that, this book could have simply been just one of a number of volumes produced in the country over the past 150 years, both those pro-colonial and anti-colonial, glorifying the war and repudiating it, involved with debate and discussions that continue on.

But this book, while grounded in military history, also takes itself into the field social history, discussing and

describing the living conditions of those at the redoubt and further afield, and this is one of its strengths. Summary information provided on the British regiments, and on naval engagements on the Waikato River, linked with the redoubt's story can be found alongside details as to how troops were fed, sheltered, and punished.

The book comes with source notes and bibliography for further study, and a real boon for all researchers and librarians: an index. Highly readable, and well-illustrated, this book serves as a very good text companion to the displays at the Queen's Redoubt visitor centre, and will help the reader appreciate the broader context of both the local and military history of the site.

**[www.nzhistoricalsocieties.org.nz](http://www.nzhistoricalsocieties.org.nz)**

If you have a page on the NZ History Federation website — check it out. Is it up to date? Has your organisation had a change of contact person, opening times, even a location for your meetings?

Or, if you're a Federation member but you don't have a webpage — why not join our site? \$50 + GST one-off charge for new pages, one update per year free.

Contact us at [nzhistoryfederation@gmail.com](mailto:nzhistoryfederation@gmail.com) re any updates or for more info as to pages.