



Keeping in Touch

Newsletter for New Zealand History Federation Inc

Te Kotahitanga o nga Hitori o Aotearoa

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The new NZ History Curriculum: finalised?

Something that I'd say most if not all of our member societies and organisations have an interest in, the process of the new history curriculum into NZ schools, expected to start next year, is still something of a mystery. The NZ History Federation isn't on any direct contact list with those organising this — it was thanks to Jenny Clark from Papatoetoe Historical Society that I finally received a copy of some of the notes from the hui I attended earlier this year at Auckland Museum because, apparently, there was a loss of the attendees contact list.

More thanks to Jenny, who also spotted an opinion piece by historian Paul Moon on all this, "New history curriculum off to a worrying start" (15 October 2021, www.msn.com/en-nz/news/national/new-history-curriculum-off-to-a-worrying-start). Moon wrote about the curriculum having now emerged in a "final form." However, he expressed his concerns that "half a millennium of hapū and iwi history has been practically erased. Reading the document, you could be forgiven for thinking that once the Polynesian migrations to the country finished, around the 1300s, New Zealand history went to sleep until the arrival of Europeans." He also wrote that "no precise terms of reference for the review of submissions were published, no criteria for evaluating them was outlined, there was no feedback to submitters, and as it turns out, no material changes to the curriculum were made. In addition, while the ministry deemed many of the submissions to be of insufficient value to act on, inexplicably, it has decided not to release them to the public."

I went looking for more info on this "final form" of the curriculum. A month before Moon's article, *School News* (published with each new term) brought out an online article dated 13 September 2021 between their issues: "Finalised Aotearoa New Zealand history curriculum nears."

(www.schoolnews.co.nz/2021/09/finalised-aotearoa-new-zealand-history-curriculum-nears/)

The *School News* page linked to the Ministry of Education website, and their page there entitled: "Aotearoa New Zealand's histories and Te Takanga o te Wā : Results for the public consultation on Te Takanga o Te Wā and Aotearoa New Zealand's histories." That page was last reviewed 21 October 2021, and states: "We will keep schools and kura updated on the release of the final Aotearoa New Zealand's histories content, the testing of the draft Social Sciences curriculum content, and the refresh of *The New Zealand Curriculum* through the school bulletin and other Ministry channels, including Facebook, Twitter and this website."

<https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/changes-in-education/aotearoa-new-zealand-histories-in-our-national-curriculum/>

So, has the curriculum been finalised, as Moon wrote? That doesn't seem to be very clear.

More on next page.

The new NZ History Curriculum: finalised? continued ...

The Ministry of Education's website has links to a number of reports, mainly those to do with summarising the feedback from this year's round of submissions on the draft curriculum, and results from testing of the draft curriculum on students in a classroom environment. As with most reports by consultancy firms, the reports are lengthy, often repetitive, and written in ways that will discourage average readers. The submission numbers received were: 4323 via a general online survey, 168 via a learners online survey, 488 submissions, and 90 workshops/hui. I wrote a brief summary of some of the points (in my own opinion) from the Ministry reports for the Federation Executive Committee:

"As at September, the final content of the curriculum had yet to be decided. The reports provide a summary of the feedback received in submissions this year. The content will go to the Minister and Cabinet before publication and implementation – they're still aiming for 2022, even though several teachers have responded saying that more time would be needed for discussion and upskilling.

"Among the negative responses (many of these expressing an anti Te Reo, anti Maori history focus) was a thread saying that "some respondents did not believe that learning about history should be a curriculum priority." Some thought that history should be taught as one objective viewpoint only.

"There was criticism that oral history was to be included in the curriculum, probably from those believing that undocumented history isn't history. (Forgetting, of course, that general oral history collection has been going on for some decades, but ...)

"The seeming lack of recognition of our multi-cultural society is featured in the responses, but the numbers of those responding who actually come from backgrounds other than European or Maori was very small (22% for general, 9% for learners). Their opinions, though, were brought up time and again in the report – recognition was required for the Chinese part of our history, there should be an inclusion of Pasifika history (including the Tongan empire from before 1300 AD), recognition of differing Asian ethnicities, etc.

"Then again, there was also criticism from those wanting inclusion of general NZ history (for example welfare state, women's history, labour history, etc etc.) Reading that part of the report, my thoughts were that the planners have opened up a considerable can of worms. It isn't just about which race or races have their stories included or not – it's gender, political, ideological and many more categories and themes being called for by submitters. Even natural history was brought into the mix by respondents.

"There is some disquiet among teachers, concerned about the potential loss of a social studies curriculum, and the levels of skills and knowledge that will be required. In the trial of the new curriculum on some students, those in Year 10 seemed to have found one of the most-agreed upon aspects of the curriculum, the emphasis on encouraging and teaching critical thinking, to be confusing.

"So – it looks like it will be down to "wait and see." Personally, given the divisive responses, which should be taken as symptomatic of what the community and teachers think as a whole, more time should be given to compiling a well-rounded and inclusive curriculum."

That is where things seem to be at the moment. I do recommend that readers delve into the links I've provided here, if anything to draw your own conclusions and to provide informed discussion within your

management committees. Frustratingly, it looks like the bottom line here at the moment (and likely the current covid outbreak has a big part to play in any delay in information being shared) is indeed “wait and see.” What part local historical societies have to play in all this will likely be decided not so much at the Ministry level, but based on what your own local schools, faced with the task of incorporating this on top of a very disruptive year, will decide that they need.

My thanks, not only to Jenny Clark, but also to Gai Bishop from West Auckland Historical Society, who has also been contacting some of those associated with the curriculum planning to try to get updates for us.

Lisa J Truttman

The process of the Incorporated Societies Bill grinds on

Progress of the bill



www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_109429/incorporated-societies-bill%20

The report back from the Select Committee on the Bill was due October 6, but at the time of compiling this newsletter the date has been shifted to 3 November. Considering what’s happening with the pandemic at the moment, it will probably be a matter at this stage of constantly checking the government website for progress. I’ll let readers know as soon as something more comes down the pipeline, as it were.

NZ History Federation membership subscriptions for 2022

Consulting with our Treasurer Alan Bray and our VP/Secretary Kenneth Stringer, I’ve sent out the first batch of subscription reminders for the 2022 year last month. I’ve still to similarly contact associate members, but — so far there has been a wonderful response with a number of member societies and organisations paying already, although a last date was set for the end of February next year, given all the uncertainty and disruptions right now. Thank you to those who have paid subscriptions for your organisations to date. It is heartening to see such firm support.

Some things cancelled, others going ahead ...

Readers will be only too aware of events and occasions that have been cancelled or postponed *sine die* since the latest outbreak started in mid-August. Regular meetings of our heritage societies and organisations suddenly wiped off the calendar, which increasingly looked as empty as a desert — let alone the other interests and commitments many of you have in the wider community.

The Auckland Regional Gathering at Silverdale had to be cancelled — to the great team at the Silverdale & District Historical Society, I'm still so sorry that this has happened after all your hard work. Hopefully, you may like to consider trying another year when things are better.

The Auckland Heritage Festival was another casualty, and that is a deep disappointment for many of the Federation's members, and others, in the region.

Morrinsville Museum, however, still intend to carry on with their Waikato Regional Gathering on 20 November. I have sent their information out on 2 November to Waikato, Coromandel and Bay of Plenty members. Contact info@morrinsvillemuseum.org.nz or call **07 889 4190** for further info.

Getting the reporting done to the Government

My thanks to NZHF Treasurer Alan Bray for forwarding this item from the latest Auckland District Law Society e-bulletin:

Incorporated Societies – process to request an extension of time for Annual General Meetings

An extension measure has been introduced to assist incorporated societies that can't hold their AGMs virtually because their constitutions don't allow them to do so, or they need more time to file their financial statements. As such, societies can make a request to the Registrar to grant them a filing extension of up to 2 months.

For more information, go to the Incorporated Societies Register page:
<https://is-register.companiesoffice.govt.nz/>

and the Companies Office Covid-19 page: <https://www.companiesoffice.govt.nz/covid-19/>

Do YOU have an important event coming up in the next 12 months (or longer)???

Let us know, so we can promote YOUR EVENT via special “KIT Extra” email to our members, or on the NZ History Federation’s Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/nzhistoryfederation

North Island

- 12 Clendon House, Rāwene
- 16 Horeke
- 20 Pompallier Mission, Russell
- 24 Couldrey House, Wenderholm
- 28 Swan's Arch, Henderson, Auckland
- 32 Whatipū Lodge, Auckland
- 36 Tūrangawaewae House, Ngāruawāhia
- 42 St Paul's, Rangiaowhia
- 46 Thames School of Mines
- 52 The Refinery, Paeroa
- 56 Tama-te-kapua and St Faith's, Ōhinemutu
- 60 Brain Watkins House, Tauranga
- 66 Mātaatua whareniui, Whakatāne
- 70 St Mary's, Tikitiki
- 74 New Zealand Shipping Company building, Waima, Tokomaru Bay
- 78 Wyllie Cottage, Gisborne
- 80 Portland Island lighthouse, Wairoa
- 82 National Tobacco Company building, Napier
- 86 Rush Munro's Ice Cream Gardens, Hastings
- 90 Coles Joinery Factory, Ongaonga
- 94 White Hart Hotel, New Plymouth
- 100 The Camphouse, Mount Taranaki
- 104 Whangamomona Hotel
- 108 Chateau Tongariro
- 112 Cameron's Blockhouse, Marangai
- 116 Wharerata, Palmerston North
- 120 Mangahao Power Station
- 124 Cascade Brewery, Taihape
- 128 Pioneer Cottage, Norsewood
- 134 Anzac Hall, Featherston
- 136 Castlepoint Lighthouse
- 140 Katherine Mansfield House, Wellington
- 146 Mount Cook police station, Wellington
- 150 Ōtaki Rotunda



Who Lived There? The Stories Behind Historic New Zealand Buildings

Nicola McCloy
Jane King

RRP \$45

South Island

- 156 Moutere Inn, Upper Moutere
- 160 Langfords Store, Bainham, Golden Bay
- 164 Provincial Buildings Fire Engine House, Nelson
- 168 Broadgreen House, Stoke
- 174 Rai Valley Cottage
- 180 Tophouse Accommodation House, St Arnaud
- 184 Oddfellows Hall, Reefton
- 188 Waiuta
- 194 Custom House, Hokitika
- 198 Donovan's Store, Ōkārito
- 202 Fyffe House, Kaikōura
- 208 Cass Railway Station
- 212 Jack's Hut, Arthur's Pass
- 216 Langlois Étéveneaux House, Akaroa
- 220 Nurses' Memorial Chapel, Christchurch
- 224 Riccarton House, Christchurch
- 230 Waihao Forks Hotel
- 234 St Patrick's Union Church, Burkes Pass
- 238 Quailburn shearing shed, Omarama
- 242 Nicol's Blacksmith Shop, Duntroon
- 246 Smith's Grain Store, Ōamaru
- 250 Matanaka Farm, Waikouaiti
- 254 Cambrian School, Cambrian
- 258 Lawrence Chinese Camp
- 264 Mission Hall, Glenorchy
- 268 Cardrona Hotel
- 272 Mitchell's Cottage, Fruitlands
- 276 Carisbrook Turnstile Building, Dunedin
- 278 Empire Hotel, Dunedin
- 284 Fleming's Mill, Gore
- 288 David Strang Building, Invercargill
- 292 Templeton Flax Mill, Otaitai Bush

The following text comes from Heritage New Zealand's November e-newsletter.

New Zealand is full of buildings whose back stories have been lost over the generations. Wondering about the stories behind some of these, from cute colonial cottages to abandoned industrial buildings and ghost towns, Nicola McCloy and Jane King went looking to find out ... who lived there?

Having worked together on the highly successful 2018 title *Let's Get Lost*, the two friends hit the road once again. On their travels they sought out the fascinating stories of the people who lived, worked and died in buildings that range from basic stone cottages in barren-looking countryside to pretty coastal villas, romantic churches and small-town taverns - including some Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga sites, such as

Thames School of Mines, Fyffe House and Pompallier Mission, as well as many Category 1 and 2 listed buildings. Jane King's photographs and Nicola McCloy's words weave the facts back together to present gripping stories of these places and their ups and downs over time. Nicola says it was often the smaller more ordinary buildings that ended up really grabbing her attention.

"In terms of what I learned in my travels, the main thing was that just because a building is spectacular or significant doesn't mean it will have a story that grabs your imagination. As such, it was often the most unassuming, small or ordinary buildings that offered up the most amazing stories."

She says a good example is the WEA building in Invercargill. "From the outside, it's not that different from a lot of buildings in the city, but when I found out it was built by - and named after - David Strang, the man who invented instant coffee, that changed everything!"

Turn the pages to find out about places as diverse as the old School of Mines in Thames, Rush Munro's Ice Cream Garden in Hastings; Couldrey House at Wenderholm, near Auckland; Mt Cook Police Barracks in Wellington; Langlois-Eteveneaux House in Akaroa; Donovan's General Store in Okarito; the Empire Tavern in Dunedin and Invercargill's David Strang Building.

With beautiful photographs by Jane King, supplemented with historic shots to show how little or how much some of these places have changed.

The book is published by Penguin Random House New Zealand on 2 November 2021.

- Anna Knox

More info at <https://www.penguin.co.nz/books/who-lived-there-9780143775553>

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

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 Kenneth Stringer k.stringer@xtra.co.nz or Lisa Truttman re any updates or for more info as to pages.