



# Keeping in Touch

Newsletter for New Zealand History Federation Inc  
Te Kotahitanga o nga Hitori o Aotearoa  
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May 2024



**New Zealand History Federation Inc  
2024 Conference and  
Annual General Meeting  
20 April 2024  
at Taumarunui RSA,  
hosted by  
the Taumarunui and District  
Historical Society**



In normal years, I attend the conference, do a bit of note-taking, do a write up on the conference, a few photos, all to include here in KIT. However, this hasn't been a normal year for me. As those who did attend the conference know, I had to put in my apologies for non-attendance. In early March I came down with cellulitis, a severe infection in the right leg (and still have the after-effects). Then, just as I was coming out of that by mid-April, I came down with one of the nasty chest infections going around at the moment. Non-Covid, thankfully, but still enough to tell me I couldn't travel. I'm slowly coming out from under all that, and thank you to those who extended best wishes, your supportive words and thoughts all very much appreciated.

As I understand from what I've heard, the inclement weather at the time did not detract all that much from the attendees' enjoyment of a very well-run conference. Twelve delegates attended, along with 20 observers. Thank you, Taumarunui and District Historical Society for hosting the conference.

Due to my absence, the only Federation Executive Committee members present were Kenneth Stringer, our Vice President and Secretary, and committee member Kathryn Parsons. My thanks to them both for running the AGM in my stead — Kenneth chaired the meeting, Kathryn took notes. The unusual step was taken to reappoint the existing committee en-bloc in the circumstances, and this was approved by the delegates at the AGM. Apart from my absence, another reason this was put to the members was because we are in the period of finalising the new constitution and arranging a special general meeting for the constitution's approval by members.

### **Successful re-registrations under the new Incorporated Societies Act**

I heard from Kathryn Parsons that a question came from the floor at the AGM as to how many incorporated societies as at that date had successfully re-registered under the new 2022 Act. The answer is two: the Auckland Fire Brigades and Museum Historical Society, and the Lower Hutt Historical Society

### **Billets for conferences**

Despite approaches and suggestions made to hosts for recent conferences, preparations for billeting for attendees just have not been taking place. There are surely a number of reasons these days for this, but at the end of the day, it is a decision made by the hosts, not the Federation executive.

Seeing as, so I hear, there was applause and approval at this year's AGM for billeting, I suggest that subsequent hosts open a register of their members who are willing and able to take in attendees needing accommodation. Registration forms can then include an option to apply for available billeted accommodation, and where this is unavailable those who have so indicated can be advised immediately so they can make alternate arrangements themselves.

***Lisa J Truttman***



## **NZ History Federation Annual General Meeting 20 April 2024 Presidents Report**

### **Past year**

I referred to the challenges our sector has been experiencing since 2020 last year – and they seem to keep on mounting. Local archives such as Thames’ acclaimed Treasury is undergoing closure due to lack of funding opportunities. Museums Aotearoa are currently engaged in their “Keep the Lights On” campaign to raise public awareness of their operational struggles due to rising costs.

On top of this, for those of us who are still incorporated societies, there has been the task of grappling with and comprehending the changes being brought about by the new Incorporated Societies Act.

The Federation executive committee truly needs constructive and positive-thinking people to join us. We are very small, and it is a strain to keep the Federation’s lights on in terms of administration. I can’t speak on behalf of my fellow committee members and their situations, but I’ve had a couple of health challenges of my own since the previous conference. I know, and you know, we have constantly asked for people to step up and help us who have not been on the committee before now. Trouble is, everyone else is busy weathering the same storms and fulfilling similar commitments to ours. But – we do invite those of you here to consider lending a hand.

### **New constitution**

A draft constitution, based on the online template derived from requirements as per the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 was prepared in October last year. A few days ago, the committee met to take a look at the draft, and make corrections and additions, in order to have a version to recommend and refer to a special general meeting of the Federation, which will take place between now and the 2025 AGM and conference. The new constitution, much bigger than the existing one drawn up earlier this century, will require a meeting of the members devoted solely to that discussion.

### **Aotearoa New Zealand Histories Curriculum**

After a year, the new history curriculum appears to be off to rather a rocky start. The Education Review Office report on it has stated, according to Radio New Zealand earlier this month, “The curriculum statements are being interpreted by schools so that they are focusing on local histories rather than national events, and local is sometimes interpreted as only Māori histories. Schools are also teaching less about global contexts.” While 90% of teachers were enjoying the new curriculum, and more than half of the pupils, “Schools find developing a local curriculum challenging. They don’t understand what is required, they don’t have the skills to develop a curriculum, and it takes a lot of time to access resources.”

The ERO has said there needs to be more national and global context, not simply just local. Meanwhile the current Education Minister has concerns that history is now crowding out subjects such as geography and social studies, and wants to “restore balance.”

I would say it would pay for us all to keep an eye on the news, and on the changes that may take place.

## **Membership**

We have 59 full paid-up members (one group member, Franklin Heritage Forum, made up of 19 affiliated organisations), and 5 associates. There are a handful of members who have yet to re-subscribe for this year.

## **Website**

Over the last 12 months, the Federation’s website has been visited 564 times by internet users in New Zealand, 25 from Australia, 10 from Nigeria, 9 from the United Kingdom, 8 from the USA, 6 from Togo, 6 from Côte d’Ivoire and 25 times from a total of 15 other countries. The site is discovered mainly by users looking for historical societies in specific places. The new “contact us” email form is working, but mainly it attracts spammers and those offering to build a better website for a substantial fee.

Back issues of *Keeping in Touch* have now been added to the site, the “Our Members” directory is kept up to date as members advise changes, and there will of course be updates regarding conferences etc after this one.

## **Keeping in Touch**

There may only be three issues this year (if I’m still on the committee after today!), due to my health issues in March, so – my apologies to you members. The positive feedback received about its content is very much appreciated.

## **Facebook**

The numbers as at 14 April this year were 2123 followers. News from the facebook feeds from NZ Federation members are shared onto the page, and the number of followers creeps up.

## **Outreach**

The committee visited Helensville in August last year, and chatted with both the Helensville and District Historical Society, and the Helensville Railway Station Trust. The latter has chosen to join the Federation. The former were members, but these days are part of a North Auckland museum collective.

Once again, I heartily thank the Federation executive committee of 2023-2024 for all their hard work and help over the past year: our Vice President and Secretary Kenneth Stringer, our Treasurer Alan Bray, and committee members Kathryn Parsons and David Wong.

***Lisa J Truttman***  
***President***

## Reports presented at the Annual Conference 2024

### Albertland Heritage Museum

(From notes taken by Kathryn Parsons)

Albertland Heritage Museum are very much looking forward to people coming next year.

### Cambridge Historical Society and Museum

Cambridge Historical Society and Museum sends 187 newsletters to Members every two months, but actual members numbers are around the 220 mark as many are sent to couples and families. Our museum is in the old courthouse building near the town centre and is staffed by a team comprising a manager, administrator, collection assistant and three weekend hosts - all are part-time making them the equivalent of 2.5 people. We rely on active volunteer support and in 2023 logged 2358 volunteer hours.

So what are all these wonderful people doing?

Our biggest project in the last twelve months has been the redesign of our main room. A timeline has been installed on one side that illustrates the layered histories of the area from the 1300s to 2021. Visitors weave between the chronology on the timeline and the thematic displays to get a clear picture of the area - past and present. During this redesign, our purpose has been to connect with our communities and encourage a sense of belonging.

While our museum is small, it is possible to fit up to 30 students at a squeeze so we have been careful to choose topics that relate to the national curriculum. It is then possible to flex and respond to the various ways teachers are encouraging their students to discover local histories.

To extend our reach beyond our museum building we have been working with local iwi and community groups. Recent projects with Ngāti Korokī Kahukura, Resthaven and Lakewood Body Corporate have resulted in the production of public interpretation panels near the new Moon Creek Walkway and inside the Lakewood Retail Park. They share stories of flourishing Maori communities before the Waikato Wars, the railway revolution and how water was first delivered on tap in a growing town.

In March, as part of the annual Autumn Festival, we presented a pop-up photography exhibition at the Town Hall in partnership with the Town Hall Community Trust. The exhibition featured photographs of Cambridge people and places taken by Reg Buckingham, each chosen to encourage conversation. The photos were presented in a traditional way on walls and panels, and then there was a Memory Board at the back of the hall which had postcard versions of each photograph. Visitors were encouraged to write their memories, insights and questions on sticky notes and stick them near to the relevant image.

The introduction of the Memory Board encouraged curiosity and greater interaction. Visitors moved towards the photographs first, then to the Memory Board to see what others had posted. It was then not uncommon for visitors to return to the photograph to check comments, often talking with others along the way. This extended the amount of time people spent at the exhibition and made it a responsive and sociable experience. It was noted that people often spent over 60+ minutes at the exhibition. It has also helped kick start our oral histories project again, which stalled during the Covid years.

Our digitising programme of our photography collection continues, and we share them online using the Digital NZ platform. Another significant asset in our Collection is our Biographical Index and we are now in the process of digitizing this too to increase accessibility via our website.

We try to provide a variety of walks and talks during the year for our members and Friends of the Museum. The Dead Tell Tales tour around Hautapu Cemetery by the historian Lyn Williams and a visit to local homestead, Hanatoria, were highlights. We also deliver a historic talk series in partnership with Cambridge USA and our speakers have included Archbishop David Moxon and law professor, Linda Te Aho.

We are also in the process of rewriting our themed walks around the town and Lake Te Koo Utu, which includes testing delivery of histories using QR codes.

In these challenging times, we know it is important to make an impact in our community and we need to get better at attracting and retaining new members, so that will be a focus of ours moving forward.

## **Franklin Heritage Forum**

(From notes by Kathryn Parsons)

Waiuku Museum have had an increase in patronage and an increase in school visits and tour groups. They have just started with EFTPOS and are hoping that the costs will justify the set up and ongoing charges. Have a small number of volunteers and they potter along together.

Richard Garvey then spoke on behalf of other groups from the Franklin Heritage Forum including the Queens Redoubt which have an issue with a housing estate that is intending to build close to the redoubt. Tuakau and district have completed an indexing project and their local and family history room is proving popular. In Pukekohe the memorial archway at St Andrews Church has been restored in time for Anzac Day .

## **Mataura Historical Society / Wyndham Park Museum**

(From notes by Kathryn Parsons)

Mataura has a 100-year-old member who wrote the history of the area. Have a Museum close to Invercargill with cars and tractors and they also have a Lego display. The Wyndham Park Heritage Centre was open every day of the month during heritage month in March this

year. Noeline Shaw recommends when handling old documents wear gloves for protection against infection.

## **Mokau Museum**

Hi, I'm Kath Jennings, Collections Manager & Community Coordinator for the Mokau Museum and the Tainui Historical Society. We are lucky to have enough volunteers to be open every day. But this last year we were shut for eight months while we built an accessibility ramp and new face of the museum. While we were shut we painted the whole inside as well, and refreshed over 20 displays. We also covered over the large windows along the front and created window displays that are lit up at night, so even if we are shut visitors can have an experience. This was all possible with the help of our volunteers.

The museum hosts a community get-together each month with a guest speaker. This is a way to engage with the community alongside social media and regular newspaper articles. We have extended our merchandise.

Also we are making short movies to be shown on the ETV sites, that's school and polytechs, and we run them in our little theatre which is the jail. They are really popular.

We look forward to another great year, carrying on with archiving.

## **Morrinsville Historical Society Inc.**

Hello everyone, I am Barbara Dalziel and I have been the manager for the past ten years at the Morrinsville Museum Here's a little about what we've been up to.

From a successful funding bid from the Ministry of Culture and Heritage a free family event was held at the local Swim Zone for 200 people to commemorate the signing of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi; two workshops are also funded to take place in May.

This year we introduced a door charge, after having donation entry for many years and it has been financially viable, and with a grant for Eftpos and the Xero accounting programme for 3 years will be worthwhile.

Lots of alterations work is going on behind the scenes with networking and electrical changes. Collections are one of our main focuses; with additional volunteers we are aiming closer to having our full collection processed into Past Perfect, although it may take a few more years.

Preparation for the refurbishment of the left hand side of the main exhibition hall which will follow a timeline based on the shape of the Piako river with a focus on dairying, fundraising has begun.

We encourage and support the teaching of the histories curriculum by welcoming schools into our museum.

Currently we have a Community Collection display of china painting which has been set-up from a group that met weekly since 1997.

## **New Zealand Fencibles**

(From notes by Kathryn Parsons)

The Society have lost two key members and are in danger of collapsing. There is a lack of members prepared to contribute to the society and they are facing tough times.

## **Norwest Heritage**

Bunty reported on current situation and recent past activities with NorWest Heritage Society. The “NorWest” area of Auckland includes Kumeu, Huapai, Waimauku, Riverhead and Taupaki. Membership: 102. This has been and still is a region of extreme growth and development, enabling a large number of new residents. All the more reason for a local heritage society to exist and preserve and record the history of the area.

We always display historic photographs at the annual 2-day Kumeu Show (Agriculture & Horticulture.) People are very interested in viewing these, as well as talking about their family from the area with our knowledgeable Committee.

We also recognised the centenary of the first NZ Motor Racing Cup events, on Muriwai Beach in 1921, with a large display of historic photographs of the beach motor racing through the 1920s and 1930s, at the Kumeu Classic Car and Hot Rod Festival. This is an annual 3-day event held in January at the Kumeu Showgrounds. We were invited to display these photographs at the Ellerslie Car Show in 2023 alongside the three times winning Cadillac of the NZ Motor Racing Cup held on Muriwai Beach in the 1920s. People are extremely interested in seeing the photos and learning the history.

Books: NWH Chairman is Peter Biggs of Resource Books – Publisher. Three people have completed writing books regarding the historical subjects of the area. Peter will be helping with the publishing of two of these books covering history in Waimauku. Another book is on the fruit growing history in Huapai and Kumeu.

Fundraising: We are fortunate to be able to cut and bale meadow hay from a large field in our region. NWH is associated with Classic Tractors and Farm Machinery. They use their tractors and balers. We have enjoyed making the hay baling a social event in recent years with shade tents, BBQ and cold drinks. A lovely summer scene and fun to watch. The sale of bales of meadow hay is a welcome fundraiser after expenses to tractor owners.

Events: Last year we arranged for people to meet at the Kumeu Cemetery with their picnic lunch. History was researched and shared. Several people shared their own family histories as we visited the different graves. Everyone found this very interesting.

Our Committee members meet monthly at the Kumeu Cricket Club where we can hold catered events with guest speakers. This is possible because of the generous support from the owner, Stephen Nobilo, whose family has a big history in the area. Stephen was writing the history of the Kumeu Cricket Club, but we haven't heard if this book is published yet.

Plans are in place now for our AGM on 19th June at the Cricket Club Rooms with catering and guest speakers.

## **Onehunga Fencible & Historical Society**

On June 9 2024 the Society will celebrate their 50th year with a party at the Onehunga Community House, Selwyn Street. We are also at the planning stage for the Auckland Heritage Festival, later in the year. The Heritage Walks are always well attended.

The cottages and Blockhouse on Jellicoe Park are becoming more popular with schools and groups wanting to visit during the week. Volunteers open the cottages to the public on the weekends.

The committee decided to hold the monthly meeting on the 3rd Sunday of the month instead of Wednesday evening, resulting in a higher attendance at meetings.

## **Papakura & District Historical Society (Inc) 'PDHS' & Papakura Museum**

Our current membership is 80 members, down from pre Covid days and with natural age attrition. We are trying to encourage new members by increasing our social media presence, some passive advertising (bookmarks, flyers) as well as running through the museum a bi-monthly Saturday afternoon series of public talks on hopefully appealing historical subjects to contact a different age demographic.

We hold monthly Society meetings during the week with guest speakers where the attendance is usually around the 35-40 mark. We also, except during the winter months, arrange monthly outings, although they tend these days to be more by private car or public transport - the days of full 40 seater buses are now a distant memory.

We continue to publish a bi-monthly newsletter which in recent years has contained much new and original local research. Like many societies we are actively involved in redrafting our constitution to comply with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

The Papakura Museum is owned and run by PDHS. We have three part time paid employees and a number of enthusiastic society volunteers. We are reliant on funding from Auckland Council and top-ups from the Papakura Local Board to pay for salaries. Due to funding fluctuations the employment contracts are often short term, job descriptions change regularly, and they are always subject to our annual Council funding continuing. We regularly seek funding from many other sources to carry out projects and stage exhibitions. We have recently had major work done upgrading the Military Gallery to take full advantage of the artefacts we received relating to the Rings Redoubt archaeological survey and dig, and we now have a special display area with new display cases, signage, and an interactive screen.

The main area of the Museum which tells the Papakura story is being progressively upgraded and we are in regular contact with two local Iwi who will use one major wall to tell their

story. There is ongoing work recording and upgrading the catalogue, much of this work is being done by volunteers and interns, who are students of Museum Studies at AUT. We aim for four small temporary exhibitions a year in our small exhibition space. The current exhibition is based on the book *Violet's Scarf*, which is an appropriate theme for around Anzac Day. The next will be about notable local women.

Our education programme is busy, and we had 15 classes from two schools visit the Museum in term one and more are expected in term two. Occasionally, our own educator makes school visits. Our periodic guided heritage walks around Papakura also prove popular. PDHS and the Museum are in good heart and we are very busy but only too aware of our aging membership and the difficult financial landscape in which we have to operate.

### **Pātea Historical Society**

(From notes by Kathryn Parsons, and from an article published 8 July 2023 in Stuff.)  
Jacq Dwyer, President of the Patea Historical Society, wrote three books during 2020 while she was undergoing treatment and recovery from cancer, one on the history of the Pātea RSA, and two about the Alton community. Jacq is also the current Chairperson of the Pātea Community Board.

### **Point Chevalier Historical Society**

The Point Chevalier Historical Society Inc began as a history group in 2008, as a result of a project started by local librarian Padmini Raj. A book of local recollections was compiled and published called *Point Chevalier Memories*. The newsletter *Point Chevalier Times* was first published in October that year, and in 2010 the group became an incorporated society.

The *Point Chevalier Times* is published six times a year and is edited by Lisa Truttman who is also the main contributor to this publication. Local author, Debra Miller, in her 2019 book called *The Point*, a (contemporary) history of Point Chevalier and its people, noted that Lisa's research and writing in the *Point Chevalier Times* frequently provided a starting point for her own research.

The group meets six times a year. At the moment we have around 60 members, many still residing in the Point or nearby. The venues have changed as the years have gone on. Starting at Pt Chevalier Library, then moved to what was once the Auckland Horticultural Council rooms in Western Springs. Then a hall at the rear of the Old Homestead on Pt Chevalier Road and on to a Baptist church hall. We now meet in the comfortable clubrooms of the NZ Deerstalkers Club in Target Street, Point Chevalier.

On a personal note the *Point Chevalier Memories* book and the *Point Chevalier Times* is a valuable source of information to me as a family historian. It is widely enjoyed not only by our members but also the community.

Ross Rattray  
Club Member  
Conference Delegate

## **Rotorua Historical Society**

(From notes by Kathryn Parsons)

When Audrey Henderson discovered that no one else was attending from Rotorua she reminded her fellow members "If you want to know stuff join the Federation!" She is very positive about future developments for the Rotorua & District Society though. They have a new member who is keen and interested and she thinks things are going to perk up soon. They have their 50th anniversary coming up.

## **Taumarunui & Districts Historical Society Inc**

This is our first Report to the Federation, apart from a brief adlib one at Morrinsville last year when we came along to see what it was all about.

Over the past year we carried on our tradition of researching and then publishing local history with the production of *From Low Gear to Overdrive Vol 4*. We are proud of this series on trucking in and around Taumarunui. Originally setting out to produce a book on trucking in 2008, the one book grew and grew and grew some more. Who would have thought four volumes would be needed. They have proved popular throughout the country. Truckies love their books.

We also printed and published *Ongarue Railway Accident, 6 July 1923*. A Memorial was erected at Ongarue to mark the Centenary of this train derailment that killed 17 and left 28 seriously injured. A small book was prepared as a tribute to those who died and to the rescue effort. The Society was approached to print, publish and handle sales which we were happy to do. Our only contribution to the project apart from that was supplying some photos, newspaper reports and local information. Those travelling out to Waimiha tomorrow to visit Endean's Mill will have the opportunity to view the memorial at the entrance to Ongarue Village.

The Archive we took on almost two years ago has been a major undertaking. Things are taking shape upstairs at the old Post Office with more shelving installed which is helping create some order. It was the third shift in as many years for the collections, in itself a huge physical challenge, so it is pleasing to see some progress. You could say we have a tiger by the tail. When the previous archive building was sold other material went to storage in other locations and we have brought most of it back into the fold. We have a small dedicated team taking on sorting and cataloguing the various collections. Very fortunate to have new members with expertise in these areas.

We have a new research project underway on the businesses operating along the main-street environs over the years and this is creating a great opportunity for more to become familiar with accessing the data bases of photos, newspaper clippings, people etc that have been developed over the years.

Included in the change since taking on the Archive was the establishment of an office last year. The generosity of grant providers enabled us to set up with computer, scanner and

programs to operate. Up until then our only asset was our stock of books so it has been quite a lot to get our heads around. Any advice gratefully received.

Jim Walker

## Torbay Historical Society

(From notes by Kathryn Parsons, and handout from the Society)

The Torbay representatives presented a copy of the Society's Strategic Plan (see next page). They also spoke about their new website hosted by a company called Shock (see below). They have a payment section for donations. The Shock team gave them a good

### Torbay Historical Society Inc

#### *Purpose*

To streamline the collection of cash from members, visitors and users of the Homestead, and find a more acceptable method of collection from the credit card society.

#### *Method*

We created a website using SHOCK websites that gives various payment options. The website is linked to STRIPE a payments processing company.

#### *Steps*

A user accesses the website using the EAN barcode.

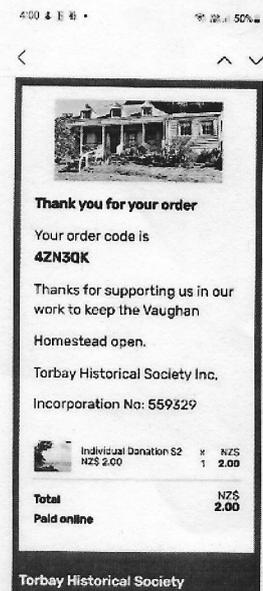
The payment type and amount is selected (multiples of each payment type can be made). The credit card details and are entered and the payor details. The payment is processed and a receipt sent to the payor.

The amount is paid over to the Society after a couple of days less 2.7% and 30cents per transaction.

There is access to all the payments details (on line) made via STRIPE showing the payor details.

#### *Result*

This process has sped up the processing of payments and eliminates the holding and banking of cash. The process is more acceptable to the younger generation.



## Torbay Historical Society Inc Strategic Plan

### Purpose and Structure

To help publicise and preserve our heritage by

- maintaining the Auckland Council owned Vaughan Homestead and grounds
- preserving and displaying historical artefacts
- providing educational events on the history of the Long Bay area
- providing a venue for Council and fundraising events

We are a group of local volunteers supported by member subscriptions and donations

### Areas of focus

	Activity	Objectives 12 Mths	Objectives 5 years	Roadblocks
Visitors	Welcome, display historical artefacts, educate, publicise with local community	Open home for events Monthly article in Focus magazine	Open home for Beach visitors, develop house as meeting, conference centre	Covid, security issues
Members	Involve members in events	Hold monthly meetings, AGM, build membership	Build membership	Aging current membership
Auckland City Council, Long Bay Park area and local Iwi	Maintain, build Relationships	Meet Regularly with ACC local management Coordinate with local Long Bay events	Build relationships with local Iwi, MERC and Anglican Retreat Centre	LHS Inc is a small organisation with limited resources
Vaughan House	Maintain, clean, ensure health and safety requirements remain paramount. Report any maintenance issues	<b>Repair rotten windows and sills</b> <b>Remove moss and lichen from roof</b> <b>Replace dangerous trip hazard flooring in flat kitchen</b> Remove flat kitchen and convert to meeting area	Redesign layout so house is more appropriate for current usage Renovate those areas of the house not currently used Compile asset register, cull excess & unwanted items Contact Heritage rescue	Limited financial and technical resources
Collections and artefacts	Display various photographs, story boards and artefacts Insure Collections	Improve lighting on exhibits Compile register of artefacts Relocate, refresh current exhibits	Redesign layout to best display artefacts	Limited resources

price for their website — they provided copies of their flyers. They have a volunteer who writes an article in the monthly community newsletter and this is very well received.

## Waikato Historical Society

(From notes by Kathryn Parsons)

They still have a 130-year-old house in Graham Park, Hamilton (Hockin House) which has about \$130,000 of maintenance needed. They have regular meetings on Saturdays, alternating with a speaker one month and a trip the next month, and monthly newsletters. Recently Neil Curgenvin the President came across a box of photographs when he was working to clean up at Hockin House. These were Burton Brothers photos from 1885 for the King Country area, and were handed over as an archive collection to Taumarunui Historical Society.

## Other news from the members

### Birkenhead Heritage

I've received a couple of emails regarding a book launch to be held at the Birkenhead Library on 27 June. This from author Ian Frazer:

"I'm planning to launch *Rain God*, my biography of meteorologist Clement Wragge, at the Birkenhead Library on Thursday, June 27. Birkenhead Heritage Society has offered to assist with the event and garden historian John Adam will speak on Clement's palm tree-planting legacy. I would be grateful if you could spread the word."

And from landscape historian John Adam:

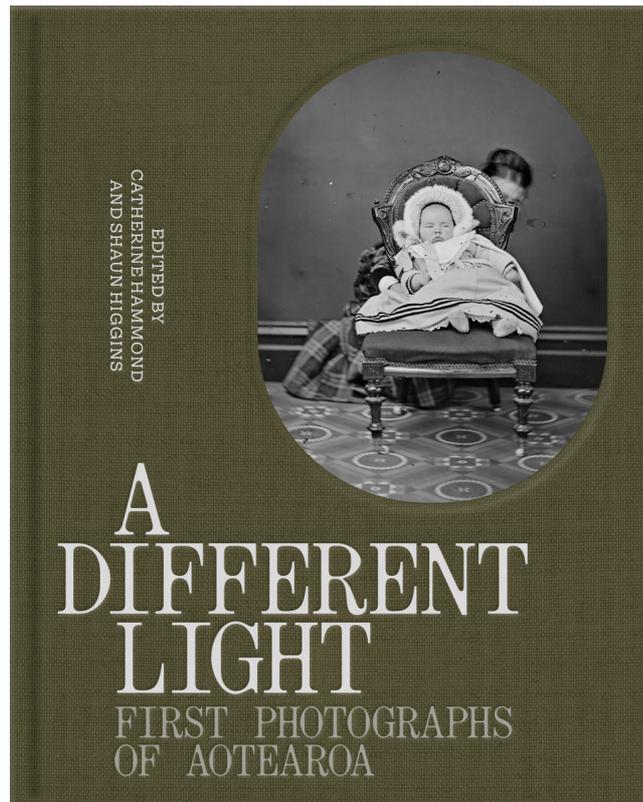
"I contact you about the proposed public lecture at the Birkenhead Public Library Community Room by Ian Frazer from Queensland, Australia on 27<sup>th</sup> June from 5.30-7.00pm. Ian is planning to visit Auckland to promote his new book 'Rain God' about the life and times of Clement Wragge (1852-1922) who created the Waiata Tropical Botanical Gardens in Birkenhead from 1911-1922. I will provide some local context."

### New Zealand Maritime Museum

The NZMM will be hosting a zoom event on Thursday 25 July regarding their ongoing digitisation outreach project. According to the latest National Services newsletter, the staff from "the NZ Maritime Museum (NZMM) will talk about their Auckland Region digitisation outreach project, helping small museums and archives to raise their digital capabilities. Since the small team began the project in February 2024, they have worked with the [Warkworth District Museum](#) and the [Charlotte Museum](#) to embed a sustainable in-house digitisation workflow. During the year-long project, funded by the NZ Lottery Commission, the NZMM will support at least 5 small organisations in this way, tailored to their needs." They hope "to continue the project in 2025 and possibly beyond!"

Register at this link:

<https://tepapa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sc--prz4pEtc0ZCxPzGgCjGFkwI2ZMcMW#/registration>



***A Different Light: First Photographs of Aotearoa***

**Edited by Catherine Hammond and Shaun Higgins. Hardback, 284 pages.**

**Published 11 April 2024, Auckland University Press. \$65.00**

The immediate first impression of this book is that the book's design encourages the reader to feel like this is a tome from the same past that it is describing within. From the feel of the cloth texture of the front cover, through to the layout within, *A Different Light* is a celebration of images from, as the preface says, "three of New Zealand's major research libraries — Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum, Alexander Turnbull Library and Hocken Collections Uare Taoka o Hākena," accompanying a touring exhibition of the photographs.

*A Different Light* is meant to be a gallery experience. The reader enters the four parts as someone in a gallery enters different rooms in a exhibition, and it shines in that respect. You view images from the Auckland Province; explore Māori images from the Urquhart Album; see the sweep of early views of Dunedin and Otago; and under the title "Camera Fiends and Sharpshooters," the legacy of amateur photography. Each image is captioned, parts are bi-lingual, and here and there are summaries of the lives and careers of some of the photographers featured. But (as I've often heard from librarians over the years), "it could do with an index," and that does mean that the book is definitely more experience than reference. It would have been wonderful to have those subject, locations, and photographers identified and included in a list so they could be easily located again. But I would think that in future, it could well be cited as a reference work by photographic historians to come.