



Keeping in Touch

Newsletter for New Zealand History Federation Inc

Te Kotahitanga o nga Hitori o Aotearoa

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May 2026



"Discarded locomotive in disrepair, in long grass," John Hamilton Tetley, 1940s. "John Tetley was a parasitologist at Massey Agricultural College and a well known amateur artist who exhibited locally. He painted a number of railway scenes." Palmerston North City Library, 2019Pa_TETLEY_026274



2026 Annual General Meeting 16 June 2026, 10 AM via Zoom

We will be holding the Federation's first ever digital AGM on **16 June** this year, at 10 AM. Deadline for RSVPs for the meeting will be **16 May** — please contact us at nzhistoryfederation@gmail.com advising us of who your voting delegate (one per organisation) will be, and any observers.

Those who RSVP will receive the link to the Zoom meeting in early June. See page 2 for draft agenda.

Draft Agenda for the 54th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand History Federation Inc.

Date: Tuesday 16 June 2026

Location: Via Zoom

Meeting opens, and welcome.

Apologies

Obituaries

Minutes

Matters Arising from the Minutes

President's Report

Matters Arising from the President's Report

Financial Report for 2025

Matters Arising from the Financial Report

Annual Subscriptions

Constitution Amendment (see below)

Election of Officers

Annual Conference in 2027

General Business

Vote of Thanks to Host

Meeting closes

Constitution Amendment recommendation to the AGM 2026

To maintain our not-for-profit status with the Inland Revenue Department, we need to insert the following clause into our constitution:

Insertion of 11.1.7:

“No addition to, deletion from or alteration of the organisation’s rules shall be made which would allow personal financial gain to any individuals. The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document.”

This maintains the Federation’s inclusion on the IRD’s RWT (Resident Withholding Tax) exemption register, which began in 1989.



2027 NZHF Annual Conference

As NZHF members are aware, in February the NZHF executive committee unfortunately had to decide to cancel this year's scheduled annual conference to have been held in Mokau, due to circumstances beyond our control. We thank the team at the Mokau Museum for all the effort put in to creating a schedule for the conference — but both the museum and the NZHF committee came to the conclusion that running the conference there this year would be both a strain on manpower and uneconomic.

The NZHF committee has begun to investigate venues for a conference in 2027, and we will report back on progress at the AGM this year.



NZHF 2026 subscription reminders sent out

The second reminders regarding 2026 subscriptions for NZHF membership have been sent out.

If your organisation is one of those who received that reminder: non-payment by the end of April each year means a cancellation of membership rights. If no payment is received by the end of May each year, the Executive Committee may terminate membership entirely.

Just a reminder regarding the difference between this year's subs (for 2025) and those for next year (2026). It was agreed at the 2025 AGM that membership subscription rates across the board are to be reduced by 50% for next year. Since 2021, we have done very well in terms of recovering from our depleted bank balance, and those attending agreed that with no projects requiring major funding at the moment, it was time to reduce the subscription rates.

Our new rates will be as follows:

Full Members

Level A	Organisations with 1 - 20 Members	\$ 12.50
Level B	Organisations with 21 plus Members	\$ 25.00
Level C	Museums and other institutions	\$ 25.00

Associate Members: \$12.50



NZ History Federation Book Lending project

***Collections law & ethics: galleries, libraries, archives & museums.* Shane Simpson and Ian McDonald. Sydney, The Federation Press, 2025.**

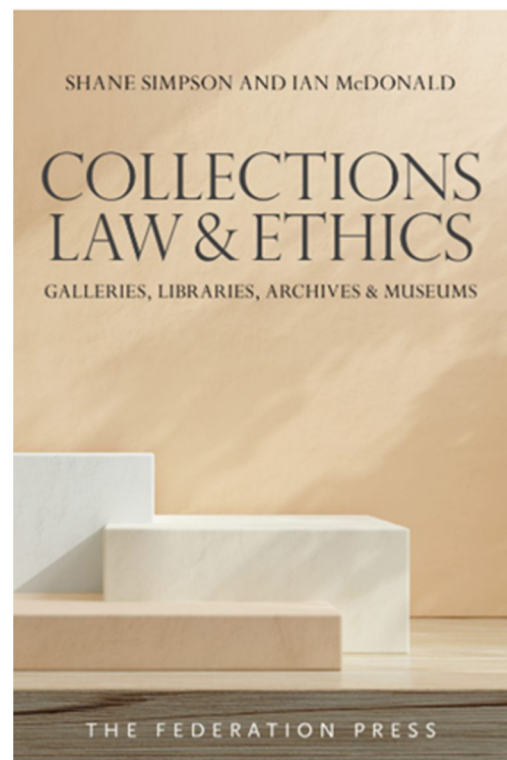
This book is available to members for a one month loan. It is described as an invaluable publication for anyone working in, or advising, a public collecting organisation (and a first-of-its-kind when it comes to New Zealand).

Why we think this book will be of benefit to your museum or heritage institution? It:

- Addresses the life cycle of collections: acquisitions, due diligence, insurance and indemnification, title provenance and authority, deaccession and disposal, repatriation and restitution
- Provides pathways on ethical and moral issues and guidance on the stewardship of collections
- Covers all aspects of exhibitions and touring exhibitions
- Discusses legal topics including contracts, copyright, duty of care, ownership and privacy
- Offers case studies, practical advice and has helpful checklists on volunteer agreements, provenance & legal compliance, merchandise design & manufacture and more
- Has recommendations on digitising collection material including access, digital rights and management

Contact Kathryn Parsons, kathrynp-sons9@gmail.com to book your slot.

Tracked post will be used to circulate this book, you will be notified who it should be next sent on to and if you wish to present your postal receipt to the Federation your costs will be reimbursed.





Auckland Regional Gathering 2026 hosted by Mt Albert Historical Society

The advice we've received from the Mt Albert Historical Society, who have very kindly offer to host the gathering this year is: "Pencil it in" for mid-August. We will update you as more information is available.



Databases and Online Resources useful for New Zealand history research

Compiled by Kathryn Parsons, this list will also appear on the NZHF website.

Archives

To find out about the archives held by Archives New Zealand search on their Collections search:

<https://collections.archives.govt.nz/en/web/arena#/>

Their research guides are well worth checking out:

[Research guides – Archives New Zealand](#)

Directory of Community Archives:

A directory of the archives, libraries and places around the country which hold community archives:

<https://www.archives.govt.nz/researching/directory-of-community-archives>

General biographical and reference sources

Find NZ articles: Use to discover references to bibliographies, indexes, family histories, journal and newspaper articles. Includes *Index New Zealand*.

<https://natlib.govt.nz/collections/a-z/findnzarticles>

Find NZ Artists: a database of artist names and a great tool to find information about New Zealand artists and which galleries, libraries or museums hold this information:

<https://findnzartists.org.nz/en/>

Goldrush Online: Goldminer's database, New Zealand 1861-1886.

Compiled by Kae Lewis this is searchable by name & can be filtered by district. Search over 88,000 records of goldminers from the Otago, West Coast and Thames goldrushes of New Zealand.

<https://www.kaelewis.com/>

Kōtuia ngā Kete (Kōtuia)

A collection-sharing site developed by National Services Te Paerangi, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. The site connects collections and taonga across Aotearoa New Zealand with people, places, and stories. It has over 1.5 million digital objects and more than 400 directory listings of museums and heritage institutions.

<https://www.kotuia.org.nz/>

KURA Heritage Collections Online

Auckland City Libraries heritage collections has a vast array of taonga such as archives & manuscripts, cemetery records, ephemera, maps, photographs and shipping lists:

<https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/>

Photographers database https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/digital/collection/photographers?_ga=2.226875992.433424454.1750552985-1239908975.1699828307

A listing of photographers operating in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands from the 1840s through to the early 2000s, including the names of studio assistants, colourists and re-touchers, together with some chemists and photo-stock dealers.

New Zealand History Timelines

From Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage by subject.

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/keyword/timeline>

New Zealand Electronic Text Collection

The New Zealand Electronic Text Collection (NZETC) was developed by Te Herenga Waka — Victoria University of Wellington Library in 2002 and hosted by them until 2024. In 2024, the collection was transferred to the National Library of New Zealand, who are making it available as a web archive.

[New Zealand Electronic Text Collection \(NZETC\) | National Library of New Zealand](#)

New Zealand Private Maternity Homes

Lisa Truttman's ongoing and building list of and database of information on historic private maternity homes and "lying-in" hospitals in New Zealand.

[NZ Private Maternity Homes](#)

Te Ara The Encyclopaedia of New Zealand

<https://teara.govt.nz/en>

It includes a digitised copy of McLintock's *An Encyclopedia of New Zealand* published in 1966. <https://teara.govt.nz/en/1966>

New Zealand Gazetteer of Place Names

<https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/>

Administered by the NZ Geographic Board, the database provides information on both official and unofficial place names.

Government Documents

Atojsonline- Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives

Parliamentary papers, votes and proceedings including reports of government departments, commissions of enquiry, royal commissions of enquiry and much more from 1854-1950.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary>

British Parliamentary Papers. Colonies New Zealand.

A collection of British Parliamentary Papers, Colonies: New Zealand, 1835-1896.

<https://onehera.waikato.ac.nz/nodes/view/5397>

Hansard NZ Parliamentary Papers: Historic volumes of Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) for the New Zealand Parliament 1854 to 1990.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/mb?a=listis&c=71329709>

New Zealand Gazette- There are two choices:

New Zealand Gazette Index.

Luke Howison's free easy to use search index for the gazette and the provincial gazettes.

<https://gazette.howison.co.nz/>

Or

New Zealand Legal Information Institute (NZLII)

Provides full text searchable issues of the gazette for 1845, 1846, 1913-1999.

NZLII is a joint project of the University of Otago Faculty of Law and the Australasian Legal Information Institute and the website hosts much of the country's case law, as well as legislation, law journals and law reform papers. It combines information from 112 databases onto a single website. Access to this information is anonymous and free.

[New Zealand Gazette](#)

New Zealand Military History

NZ Militia, Volunteers & Armed Constabulary.

This has the names and details of almost 16,000 men who served in the Land Wars as part of the New Zealand Militia, Volunteer forces, or in the Armed Constabulary, from 1863-1871.

<https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/digital/collection/acm>

Online Cenotaph

Online Cenotaph database is a gathering point for the personal and official memory of people who served for New Zealand Aotearoa.

<https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph>

Onward project

Seeks to locate and publish a photograph of every member of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force who served overseas during the First World war 1914-18. So far five volumes

have been published with nearly 20,000 portraits and an index to the volumes is available online.

[ONWARD PROJECT | Fair Dinkum Books](#)

Images and Audio/ Video Collections

Digital NZ

This platform was established by the National Library of New Zealand in 2008 to make it easier to access digital collections. DigitalNZ has grown to include more than 30 million items from over 200 content partners. It has aerial photos, artworks, digital stories, newspapers, posters, research papers, sound and video recordings and lots more.

[DigitalNZ - Explore](#)

GeoDatahub

The centralised repository of authoritative cartographic and geospatial resources selected by the staff of the University of Auckland Library.

<https://geodatahub.library.auckland.ac.nz/>

Maps

Cartographic collection (Maps held at the Alexander Turnbull Library) <https://natlib.govt.nz/collections/a-z/cartographic-collection>

New Zealand Fashion Museum

Established in 2010 by Doris de Pont, this online museum records and shares the stories of the people, objects and images that have contributed to the development of Aotearoa's unique fashion identity.

<https://nzfashionmuseum.org.nz/>

O Nehera – University of Waikato Library Digital Collections

This includes manuscripts, maps, photographs, postcards, posters, university publications from the collections of the University of Waikato Library.

<https://onehera.waikato.ac.nz/>

Retrolens

Historic Image Resource of Historic New Zealand aerial photographs from 1930-2010.

<http://retrolens.nz/>

Maori

Index of Maori Names

A vast index of Māori names referred to in books and journals, including the names of boundaries, Māori individuals, canoes, trees, landmarks and geographical locations. Journals indexed include the *Journal of the Polynesian Society* and the *Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand*.

<https://onehera.waikato.ac.nz/pages/maori-names>

Iwidex An index of information on Māori tribal history, tikanga ā-iwi and whakapapa drawn from a wide range of published and unpublished material including newspapers, serials, monographs and manuscripts. Compiled by the staff of Auckland City Libraries.

<https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/digital/collection/iwidex>

Maaori Land Court minute books

These have a great deal of information on tribal history and traditions. The Maaori Land Court minute books index indexes the minute books from 1865 to 1910 and is available at: [Māori Land Court Minute Books Index - MLCMBI - Libraries and Learning Services - The University of Auckland](#)

Waitangi Tribunal reports and publications:

These are a valuable source of tribal history and other information:

<https://www.waitangitribunal.govt.nz/>

Whakamiharo Lindauer Online

A website dedicated to Gottfried Lindauer's celebrated portraits of 19th century Maaori leaders: men and women who continue to inspire today.

[Lindauer online project - homepage - Lindauer Online](#)

Newspapers

Illustrated London News: New Zealand Content 1842-1902

A digital library of the New Zealand content published in the *Illustrated London News* from Vol. 1 (1842) to Vol. 121 (1902). The *Illustrated London News* was a weekly publication founded in 1842 as the world's first illustrated newspaper.

<https://onehera.waikato.ac.nz/nodes/view/5428>

Papers Past:

This delivers digitised full-text New Zealand and Pacific newspapers, magazines and journals, books, and other formats. Also includes Maaori niupepa.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

Family History

NZ Ancestor Search Helper

A search tool by Luke Howison for NZ-Focused genealogical research that collates results from government sites such as Archives NZ, Births, deaths and marriages, cemetery web-sites, military records and many other online history resources.

<https://ash.howison.co.nz/>

Wilson Collection

New Zealand family history records coordinated by Diane Wilson such as electoral and jury rolls, marriage records and speciality indexes.

[The Wilson Collection](#)

Research Databases

A reminder to check out what databases your public library membership provides access to e.g.

Ancestry and other family history databases such as *Find my past*. Some of the subscriptions may be for in-house library use only.

Australia New Zealand Reference Centre Plus

Articles, books and journals often full text. Many references are from 1995 onwards. Use the publications authority link to find out the NZ journals and newspapers that are included.

PressReader

Over 7,000 newspapers and magazines from around the world are available and can be viewed just as they appear in print. You can toggle between original print view and a screen-optimized text view and can download up to five full newspapers or magazines every day. Date range 2006-

Other News from the NZHF members

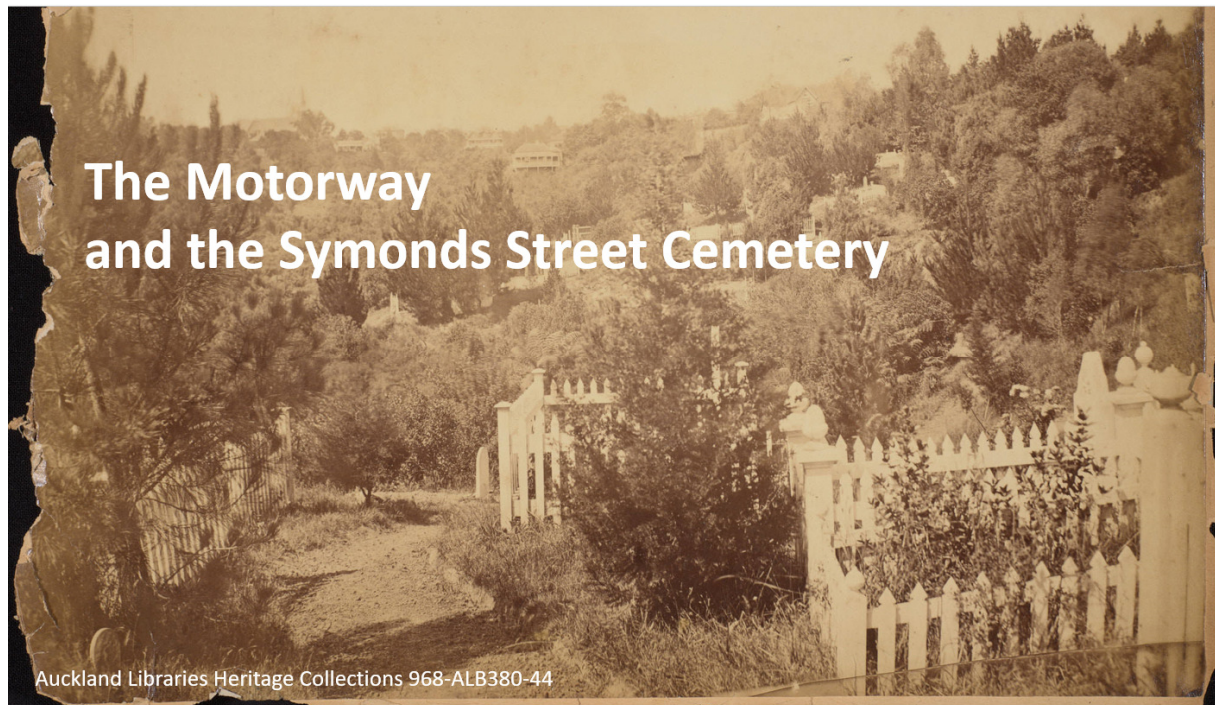
Avondale-Waterview

One of our Local Boards (we cover two Local Board areas, Albert-Eden and Whau), the Whau Local Board and Auckland Council generously gave the Society a recent grant toward the following projects:

- * Preparation and publishing online of an index for the *Avondale Historical Journal* now in its 25th year of publication. This project has been completed (with the index to be regularly updated, of course) and can be found online here: [Journals Index](#)
- Compilation and publication of a history of Avondale Racecourse. The grant has also funded provision of free copies for libraries in the area and Central Auckland.
- * Preparation and publication of a booklet on street names in Avondale and Waterview.

The Society still has issues regarding meeting locations, but we're hoping to have this sorted before the end of the year, doubly important as next year is our 25th anniversary. However, we have gained some new members, and through the wonderful efforts of AWHs Vice President Ruth Wrathall, with a couple of talks so far given by AWHs President Lisa Truttman at Avondale Library, our local community is now more aware of our existence, even without a brick-and-mortar landmark such as a heritage building attached to us, or a museum.

If anyone reading this is in the Auckland Region, or visiting over the King's Birthday Weekend, you're most welcome to join the Society at our meeting on Saturday 6 June 2026, at the Lounge, Avondale Union Church complex (entry at the rear of the building), 45 Rosebank Road, Avondale. Lisa Truttman will be presenting a talk on the Symonds Street Cemetery. Call Lisa on 0274040804 for details.



John Kinder House

If you're in Auckland Region, or planning to visit during the year, here is a programme of events published by the Society in a recent newsletter:

John Kinder House

2 Ayr Street, Parnell

Website: [John Kinder House Society](http://JohnKinderHouseSociety.org.nz)

Email: info@kinder.org.nz

April 29 - May 25. Photographic Images & Illustrators of Pacific Ocean Region. Photographic History of Aotearoa/New Zealand as a Pacific Ocean Nation.

An images record of Aotearoa's/New Zealand's relationship role as a Pacific Islands nation, through its sea & island landscapes and indigenous people's cultural lifestyle images. NZ AID in the Pacific and the support of VSA and Lions & Rotary projects.



May 27 - June 28. Auckland Photography Festival. Theme = MOVEMENT = Modes of Transport Photos + Model Display.

Gordon Nuzum; Postcards .Of trains/trams/planes Example of model trains on display.

Max Esler; model maker photographs of aeroplane & ships and model display with demonstration on model building— Saturday.13 June. Noon - 2pm :of model building for all ages.

May 27 - June 28 John Kinder's photographs. Māori landscapes and life scenes.

John Kinder as a photographer and one of NZ's earliest photographers, occasionally submitted to the London Illustrated News. His Māori images, natural scenes & poses to capture Māori life as depicted in his landscape's photographs.

August 4 - August 30. Nuclear Weapons Free NZ Poster Exhibition.

The expiry of the START Treaty, which restricted nuclear war weapons. The USA and Russia already have indicated they will start testing nuclear weapons. This exhibition is of past generations posters exhibitions, who lived under the threat of nuclear war annihilation and the exhibition is to inform future generations to STOP nuclear weapons and hope for World Peace.

David Lange Labour PM declared NZ as a Non-Nuclear nation, a world first, and NZ was ban from ANZUS treaty, Display of Peace Foundation, Non-Nuclear Campaign organisations and today's ICAN. The posters are exhibited to provide information on past Non-Nuclear War protest.

August 4 – August 30. Children's Books Plates - Ex Libris Auckland

Children's writers and illustrators from a world perspective. Sponsor is Ex Libris Auckland.

September 2nd to 25th September Moths and Butterflies of NZ Trust. Moths & Butterflies Garden Photograph Exhibition.

Garden photographs and a practical demonstration exercise to develop a Moths & Butterflies friendly garden. Opportunity to purchase discounted plants, seeds and garden books & equipment.

Sept 26 - Oct 24, Auckland Council "Heritage Festival". Auckland's Colonial Food and Drink Experience

Sponsor John Kinder House Society: *Tamaki Makaurau history of the "Food Basket" A colonial dining experience "Cookery Books at Kinder." An exhibition of heritage recipe Books printed in New Zealand, plus descriptive information panels on aspects of early colonial cookery.

Oct 26 – Nov. 25. Auckland Art Festival. Artist Friends of John Kinder House Society

Eclectic selection of artists' works of drawing, oil works and water colour painting.

Nov. 28 - Dec 22 4pm. Sir Winston Churchill Commemoration Paintings, Photographs, News-sheets & Posters Display. "80th Ann. speech "The Sinews of Peace" Cold War Start!

Invitees: Royal Commonwealth Society, NZ Institute of International Affairs Auckland, NZIIAA.

Churchill Dining Club, Ex-Italy Star WWII Family Veterans Assoc. 28th Māori Batt. A Co. Auckland "

*Speaker invitee, UK High Commissioner: Panel discussion "How would of Winston Churchill acted in resolving the global conflict situations in today's world."

Mangere

(From an email sent by Alan Bray, the Society's Museum/Archive curator)

About 150 children plus 18 teachers from The Bader Intermediate School visited the Mangere Town Centre Library on the 18th and 25th March 2026. Their study of Turangawaewae, (Our Place) meaning Mangere, was a great introduction in the Mangere Town Centre Library and then on into the Mangere Historical Historical Society Museum / Archives in 3 groups each Wednesday (placed conveniently just behind the library, and part of the same building.)

Thanks to NiaVal for the efficient way in which the students moved in an orderly manner from the library and through the archives.

Alan helped the students with their worksheets and Wall map of the Mangere Town Centre.

Jeanette – The Imperial typewriter.

Teina – The history of the glass milk bottles.

NiaVal – Supervising the change overs and assisting when needed.

Thanks, Alan.



Tauranga

(From the Society's March newsletter)

This old lawn was unusually empty at the time this photo was taken, but it didn't stay that way for long. It has been an unusually busy summer for Tauranga Historical, starting with the installation of a special exhibition feature inspired by Sunrise Rotary's "Behind Closed Doors" event that took place on 4 November. Their ticket sales for the day went to the benefit of the Tauranga Community Housing Trust, and we kept the exhibit up for the rest of the summer ; in fact we had a bumper crop of visitors to show it off to 137 people came through the house museum between November and the end of March.

The workers behind this special effort, the tireless Joy Edmonds, Joan Gooch, Glennis Smith , Julie Green and Ginny McCarty (who helped with the also-important packout) , created a near-mythical day conceptualised by Beth Bowden: Elva's wedding party on 17 August 1964 , which photos show took place in the house after the service at St Peter's Presbyterian Church just down the road .

Closely following the details in a photo of the happy couple, we recreated it on the spot that it was taken. The plastic lily-of-the-valley cake decoration had survived. A copy of the marriage certificate lay, tossed casually, on the chaise-longue.

We invented the ghost of Joseph having a pre-wedding shave in the bathroom, dressed in his shirt , with his top hat and waistcoat at the ready. We also made a fur coat joke inside the giant built-in wardrobe and we dressed three wedding guests in beautiful dresses and hats from the collection. The whole exercise showed the collection's range and scale, as well as the need for care and precision in looking after it.

Thanks also go out to Jill King and the kitchen crew for serving refreshments in the hall. Rotary's visitors socialised happily and asked many insightful questions about Tauranga and its history.



Brain Watkins House, rear lawn, December 2025. Photo: Catherine Stewart



Image: Beth Bowden



Image: Beth Bowden

Torbay

Bill and Barbara Ellis from the Society have been telling me of the very busy programme of maintenance and display updating that the Torbay Society have been working on at the Vaughan Homestead in Long Bay.

They've also passed on the info that the St Mary's by the Bay Church where the 2015 Auckland Regional Gathering was held (seems so long ago!) has been put up for sale this year.

Some history of the section occupied by St. Mary By The Sea Church in Deep Creek Road, Torbay

The land was purchased in 1885 for 20 pounds five shillings. It was stated that the five acres of land was to be set aside for religious, educational and charitable purposes. The original little church, just 22 feet by 18 feet opened its doors in 1886. The initial cost was 100 pounds. (See the black and white photo).

The name St. Mary's had already been given to the church in Parnell so the name St. Mary By The Sea (note the absence of the 's) was finally accepted by the authorities.

Local children originally went to school in Albany. Later it was decided to open a school in Torbay. On 30th January 1888 the first register discloses that 8 children became the first pupils at what was called 'Long Bay School' - a further 4 candidates were added two weeks later. The Education Board was not prepared to finance a school building so a remedy was found in the form of the Anglican St. Mary by the Sea church building.

The original church building after its deconsecration was moved to Relko Cresc. In 1982 a group of local residents opened a museum in the building. That was the beginning of our Society.

The new church building was dedicated on 29 July 1979, and was originally used by the St. Mary By the Sea and the St. Cuthbert's Presbyterian churches.

You can read more in our book 'and then came the bridge' or visit the Vaughan Homestead.



Our AGM will be held on Saturday May 16th at 2pm. The speaker will David Verran, a North Shore Historian. He will speak on the History of the North Shore especially as applied to Long Bay, Torbay.

A reminder that you can become a member as a supporter (Single \$15 Double \$25. Phone us or go into our website for a copy of the Membership Form, opening hours and hiring



President - Bill Ellis Secretary: Barbara Ellis - 473 6482 Email: thsinc22@gmail.com Website: torbayhistoricalsociety.n8.nz

From *Focus on Community*, No 48, May 2026

West Auckland

Back in March, the Society shared this good news in their newsletter: “We are pleased to announce that the [Mill Cottage] is now open to visitors once again after a lengthy closure for a re-roofing project. This project experienced unavoidable delays due to material supply issues, bad weather, and the holiday season. However, we are delighted to be back in our new, watertight headquarters at Mill Cottage and look forward to welcoming the public once more.

“As we embark on a new year, we are pleased to welcome our new committee members and are eager to build upon the accomplishments of the past year as we move into 2026. In 2025, our focus was on establishing a strong foundation for future growth. To achieve this, the committee recognised the need for a comprehensive strategic plan—one that provides clear direction, identifies key objectives, and articulates a long-term vision essential to advancing our mission. This important work is nearing completion, and we look forward to finalising and officially adopting the plan.”

Book Review

***The Art of Colonisation: Images of Europe’s encounters with New Zealand*
Paul Moon (2026). Published by Ugly Hill Press. RRP \$55**

Full disclosure here: I was approached via email by Lighthouse PR, a publicity firm for NZ books back in November last year whether I’d be prepared to do a review of Paul Moon’s book. I jumped at the chance of a copy, as in the main I admire his prolific work for his ability to open up complex concepts in the history of Aotearoa New Zealand’s history, and make them readily understandable, without a lot of academic babble. The book arrived a day or so before I write this.

The Art of Colonisation takes works, some very familiar, some that may surprise, and not only discusses their own context, the story behind both creation and creator, but places each of them in the timeline from just prior to Abel Tasman’s visit to our shores to the latter years of the 19th century in terms of colonial and settler attitudes to the “noble savages” and the “dying Māori race.” Moon’s book confronts the reader, at times quite uncomfortably (Louis John Steele’s 1908 *Spoils to the Victor*), but he is no stranger to this in his work to date. From the 1492 world map of the Ulm Ptolemy depicting the hypothesised “Terra Australis” to balance the bulk of the planet’s land masses in the Northern Hemisphere, through to Marcus King’s 1938 idealised depiction *The Signing of the Treaty of Waitangi*, each artwork is discussed, placed in context, and adds to Moon’s contention that looking at historic art in terms of the history of worldwide colonialism adds to and augments the usual documentary sources on the topic.

A case in point, I feel, is Moon’s discussion regarding Steel and Goldies’ 1899 *Arrival of the Maoris in New Zealand*. This is a well-known depiction of the idea that Māori came to these

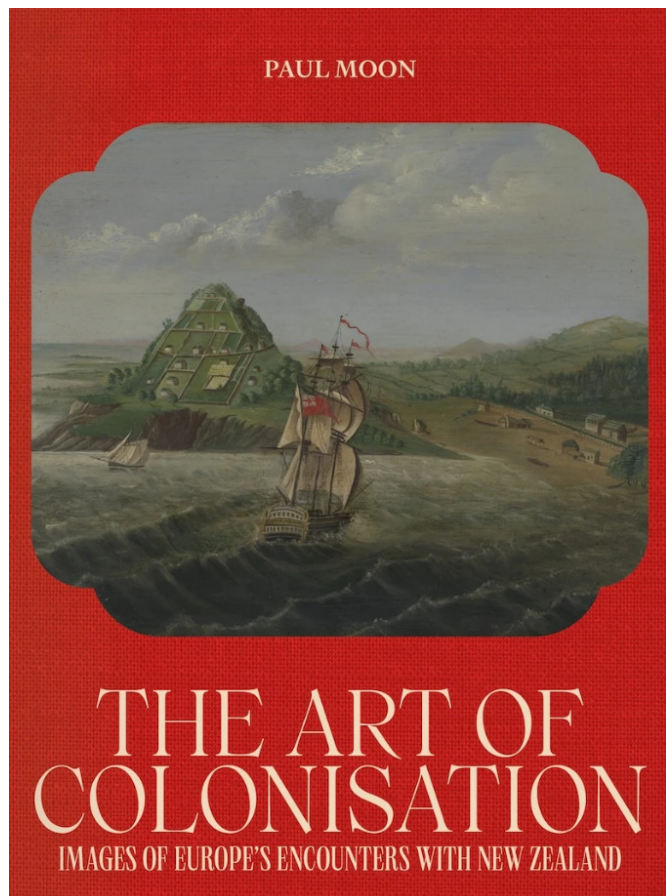
islands as part of an “accidental drift” instead of a planned and navigated process; Moon reminds us that the artwork, depicting half-starved emaciated men accidentally reaching Aotearoa, would to viewers from the turn of the 20th century appear to be in sharp contrast “with the deliberate and more sedate settlement by Europeans” as related in books, newspapers, and classrooms at the time. It took another six decades to start to turn the tide away from this inaccurate view of the history of Aotearoa’s discovery and first settlement, as illustrated by Steel and Goldie. Art can definitely forge hard to correct beliefs, and influence how we view history.

An extensive bibliography is included at the back of Moon’s book for those keen to take the subject further, which does add to the reference value of this relatively slender 266-page work.

Here, I quote Moon from the publicity press release:

“Paintings were often the first trophies of European intrusion into New Zealand. They were a form of visual plunder, which left no mark on the scenes that they portrayed, but which whetted the appetite of some viewers for further intervention. Beyond this, art was a way of accumulating, classifying, codifying and curating knowledge about the country’s indigenous people. It aided the process of placing the European understandings of the Māori world in a sort of intellectual specimen drawer – one that could be opened and added to at any time, but that was firmly in the hands of those depositing information into it.

“These approaches to the art portraying New Zealand’s colonisation offer a rich seam when it comes to exploring attitudes towards European intervention in the country. Examining these attitudes was a particularly compelling motive to write the book.”



Lisa J Truttman