



# Keeping in Touch

Newsletter for New Zealand History Federation Inc

Te Kotahitanga o nga Hitori o Aotearoa

KIT Editor: Lisa Truttman

[nzhistoryfederation@gmail.com](mailto:nzhistoryfederation@gmail.com)

[www.nzhistoryfederation.org.nz](http://www.nzhistoryfederation.org.nz)

November 2025



Postcard image from editor's collection. Queen Street, Auckland Central, c.1909

## NZ History Federation Inc re-registers under Incorporated Societies Act 2022

On 6 September 2025, at a Special General Meeting held in Onehunga, Auckland, delegates from 13 member organisations of the Federation gathered for discussion and voting on the revised constitution to comply with the new act. Some amendments were made, but the finalised version was approved unanimously. Even better, once I got back home from the meeting in the afternoon, I put it through the online registration process, and I received notice of that re-registration within seconds of clicking "send." The upside of the AI technology being utilised by the Companies Office at the moment to deal with the thousands of incorporated societies going through the process. The downside is — those thousands have been a bit much for the AI, so we have to wait for a formal certificate to be added to the register. We are okay, though, we have re-registered, and the new constitution is now current. See our website.



## NZHF 2026 subscription reminders sent out

The first reminders regarding 2026 subscriptions for NZHF membership have been sent out, and a considerable number have already sent their subs through for next year — thank you!

We will send through another reminder around February next year. The due date, as per our constitution, is within two months of the start of our financial year — so, this means the end of February each year. Non-payment by the end of April each year means a cancellation of membership rights, and 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



## 2026 Annual General Meeting and Conference

Mokau Museum / Tainui Historical Society have offered to be hosts for the 2026 AGM and Conference next year. They have submitted a draft programme and date, and the Executive is waiting for the details to be finalised.

**The prospective (unconfirmed) date for the AGM is Saturday 16 May 2026.** We will send through further and confirmed details as they come to hand as KIT extra emails to members.

Based on this prospective date, please submit any remits you want considered for addition to the AGM agenda by **16 February 2026** to the NZHF email address. Under the constitution, the committee may in its discretion disallow or amend any such remit. A remit needs

to be supported by two member organisations (full members) of the NZHF. Alternatively, you can ask for items to be added to the General Business part of the agenda up to **1 April 2026**.

## **Welcome to a new member: Victoria Battery Tramway Society Inc.**



*Image supplied by Victoria Battery Tramway Society*

*I asked the Victoria Battery Tramway Society to write and tell us about themselves.*

### **A brief background, From there to now, and the future.**

The Society was registered as an Incorporated Society on the 19th of October 1994. Since that time, it has been worked purely by Volunteers and with the help of DOC staff.

The purpose of the Society is two-fold

- \* To help ensure that the memory of this Historic Site is preserved now and into the future, and
- \* To create a positive and educational experience for visitors to the Battery Site.

Our Goals include:

- \* Providing activities which support education and recreation
- \* Recording and promote the historic remains of the Battery Processing site
- Exhibiting artifacts and items of historical interest of the mining and extraction of gold and other minerals from the Battery and other local sites.
- Helping restore and preserve early mining and ore processing equipment and machinery for display

The operational programmes we have in place to provide these services are many, and include:

- \* providing safe and appealing access to our facilities
- \* knowing and recording the conversation items in our care
- \* caring for exhibit items, including photographs, goldmining equipment, operational stamper, models and other displays and memorabilia items.
- \* developing, installing, and maintaining interpretation information panels, including displays
- \* developing and preserving the knowledge bank of information about the Victoria Battery site including cataloguing the items we hold.
- \* recruiting, sustaining, and training volunteers to deliver our services

We have the largest number of photographs showing different aspects and scenes of the Victoria Battery in one place, that place is the Transformer House at the Battery Site. These photos have been collected over the years and placed around the walls. Over time the space has become very cluttered, and the story line confusing, but each picture tells a story about what was being done or about to be done at that point in time.

We have brought computers into the system which are now being used to record and become the repository of copies of all the information that we have so others maybe able to access and see what we have.

Gold, without which, life today might be a lot different. How we got it and what we did to get it, and how communities changed as a result, is the story that becomes part of our history. A history that we believe needs to be kept and told, as without it the Community we live in might have been different.

The photos we show are of the beginnings of the building and development of the Victoria Battery Site which began operation in February/March 1898 and continued until 1952/53 by the Waihi Gold Company Ltd.

In its time the Waihi Gold Company helped develop and refine the processing of quartz to extract the gold and silver particles, which today are still being done in a similar but more efficient and environmentally acceptable way. About 12 million tonnes of ore was processed at The Battery between 1898 and 1952, producing over 35.5 million ounces of gold worth in its day about \$56 million.

Energy use has changed over the time from the use of water to provide energy to turn axles, pulleys, belts and drive machinery, to steam to drive the same axles, pulleys, belts etc. The use of wood to “cook” the quartz rock, the use of coal to feed the boilers and to produce gas.

Then came the need for **electricity**, where the Waihi Gold Company was the first to harness the Waikato River at Horahora to produce Electricity and then run the cable over land 72 km to the Transformer House Victoria battery. The first electric motors were turned on in February 1913.

For those of you who have been to the site over recent times, you may not have seen anything in the way of change or if change has been seen it might not appear to be much. Look back if you can over the last few years and what have we had, over 2 years of Covid, and weather, which in the later part of 2022 and most of the beginning of 2023 was disastrous.

What we were achieving prior to the restrictions of Covid and wet weather placed on volunteers attending and the downturn in visitors attending, meant whatever had been achieved started to regress.

Such is the strength and dedication of a few; the Victoria Battery Tramway Society has been able to maintain a decorum of responsibility and perseverance and keep going. We have been cataloguing the photographs which at this point, about 1500 have been taken down, scanned inspected, the majority, labelled, period dated. There are still more to do.

Most of the original written papers that have been found “lying” around are being scanned and now we getting a record of these with the intention that they will be included as part of the reading material available from our web site.

The present displays that have been gathered over previous years with many more items having been added to the walls and displays where space was available are being changed. While these displays show a lot of activity on the site from years ago, it was not easy to see the story of why, how and when things happened at the Battery.

Today there is a different need for information and how it is presented.

With the drop in volunteers this has also meant a drop in numbers whose knowledge of and stories, albeit many second and third hand, can now be recorded and be told. Many visitors want information which they can take in quickly, and move on, others want a lot more. We can do it, but it requires a change in how we presently are doing it. As we all know change takes time, I think we have enough time left?

The refreshed look tells the story of the Battery Site in at least 3 ways, those who want the quick version, those who want a bit more information and those who want to know a lot more. It means a use of modern technology and integrating it with what we have now. That takes time and people who have the digital skills who are willing to donate time to help.



Images from Victoria Battery Tramway and Museum Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/victoriabatterytramwaymuseum>

**DIGITAL VOLUNTEERS we need you.**

The reception area has been made more welcoming and once through the Museum entrance way, the story of the Battery will follow a timeline of events that visitors can either read about or visually look at the photographs that will take them through a visual time walk around the process.

A new/old 13 minute film has been reproduced which we run in the Museum. Visitors can take minutes or as much time as they like. Then they can take a walk through the Kiln Tunnel, built in the 1896/97 period to enable the quartz ore to be cooked before being broken down and going through the stampers.

The information is put together in a way to invoke interest in learning more about this Historic Heritage Site by staying longer or coming back. There is always more to see and to learn from our dedicated Guides and Volunteers.

We also have the narrow-gauge tramline 1.2km that takes visitors around the battery site to see the remnants of the buildings that once were. Much work is and has been done in

replacing sleepers, screws, aligning the rails, checking the joints, regauging the track where required, replacing rail as required, maintaining the 2 electric engines that we run, both have had new batteries installed, new brakes designed and made and fitted, repurposing old engines into new ones, building a new carriage out of old ones. Our thanks to the volunteers that we have and the local businesses who have helped out where and when needed, without this help we would not be where we are.

We, like other volunteer societies, need more volunteers, to be trained to guide our visitors on a Journey, be it through the Museum, through the Kiln Tunnel, or on the Tram ride around the site. We also need those who are able to help maintain, upgrade, rebuild, improve on what we have.

## Obituaries

### **Margaret Noeline Shaw**

**10 Aug 1940 - 27 Jul 2025**

Noeline was one of the NZ History Federation's long-standing members, a former member of the Executive Committee from 1990 until 2007, serving as Treasurer from 1993 to 2007, and an Associate Member up until her passing.

She believed fervently in the Federation, and was a familiar sight at the annual conferences, representing both Mataura and also Pātea (the latter place where Noeline was born and raised). Together with her husband Malcolm, Noeline ran the privately-owned Wyndham Park Heritage Centre, incorporating her dual passions for local history and genealogy. That interest led to her writing several books, and being a staunch member of the NZ Society of Genealogists.

I knew Noeline as a determined woman, very frank and vocal with her point of view, and keenly interested and supportive of the cause of promoting and discovering our country's local histories.

My sincere condolences to Noeline's family, her friends, and her colleagues.



*Image from fraserfunerals.co.nz*

**Lisa J Truttman  
President  
NZ History Federation**

**Robert Bruce Graham, JP (Ret.)**  
**Passed away 17 October 2025 aged 88.**

*The following (including image) comes from the Tuakau and District Museum's [Facebook page](#).*



It is with sadness that we record the passing of museum life member Bruce Graham on 17 October 2025. Bruce will long be remembered for his unwavering support and passionate advocacy for the museum.

Bruce Graham has been described as 'a loyal son of Tuakau.' And that he certainly was.

Born, raised and educated in the town, he supported many of its organisations and causes, not least, the Tuakau and District Museum. His involvement with the museum stretched from his attendance at the initial April 1983 meeting called to discuss its establishment. From there, his involvement only deepened.

He served on the committee, held the role of Vice President from 1991 to 1998 and then led as President from 1998 until stepping down in 2015.

They were productive years. One of his first actions as president was to establish the museum newsletter which to this day provides a vital and much appreciated link with the community. He always concluded his newsletters with a joke titled 'Laughter is the best medicine' and was known to ruefully comment that (a) it was the only feature of the newsletter for which he ever received any praise and (b) it was sometimes a struggle to come up with a joke guaranteed not to be offensive to someone!

Prior to his Presidency, the only funding available to the museum was from membership fees and donations; sufficient to cover day to day running costs but little else. Under his watch regular funding from the council was established as well as other income streams, allowing for much needed maintenance and progress at the museum.

Other initiatives of his time in office have been:

- \* The re-blocking and re-painting of the main building and other improvements to the property.
- \* Overseeing the acquisition and moving of the mission hall from the Anglican Church to the museum in 2007.

\* Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the main building (Tuakau's former Post Office) in 2013.

\* The introduction of regular Thursday morning working bees which have brought in new blood and contributed many improvements to the upkeep and functioning of the museum.

In 2017, Bruce was honoured with life membership to the Tuakau and District Museum in recognition for his years of dedicated service to the organisation.

## **Barbara Joan Marks**

**16 March 1923 - 26 September 2025**

*Info received by email from Julie Benjamin, Mangere Historical Society*

"Barbara Marks née Lipscombe died on September 26th, aged 102. She was born in 1923. Barbara grew up in Normans Hill Rd Onehunga. She went to Onehunga School, Otahuhu College then worked at the Onehunga Woollen Mills.

"As a member of the Onehunga Amateur Athletic Club, Barbara was an excellent shot putter. She was the national women's champion, and at the age of 16 in 1939 broke the NZ women's shot putting record. She went on to break it again, in the 1940s. Unfortunately she did not go to the Olympics, as they were not held during the war."

When Barbara turn 100 in 2023, and *Woman's Day* published an article on her, she was noted as being "this country's oldest-surviving shot-put champion, who first broke the New Zealand shot-put record in 1940 (and held the record again in 1944 and 1945) as Barbara Lipscombe, before she married."

More info:

<https://www.nowtolove.co.nz/news/real-life/barbara-marks-milestone-100-birthday-46700/>



## Other News from the NZHF members

### Avondale-Waterview

*(By Lisa Truttman, President AWHS)*

Great news was received by the Society in August. Kay Thomas, the chair of the Whau Local Board, advised us that the Board had finally resolved (after 10 years) to give the reserve at 72-80 Tiverton Road, New Windsor the name Lowe Nam Reserve after the last private owner, the last Chinese market gardener in Avondale. Even better news: Te Kotuitanga will be placed rightfully as the Te Reo part of the name Te Kotuitanga Olympic Park on Wolverton Street. Te Kotuitanga is a name known and supported by Te Kawerau a Maki, and recognised as early as 1921 by ethnographer George Graham in the *Journal of the Polynesian Society*.

Back in 2015 when the name was misapplied to the small reserve on Tiverton Road, I set fingers to the keyboard and wrote an article for the *Avondale Historical Journal* called "Poor Te Kotuitanga — left high and dry." Over the years I made sure to keep reminding the "powers that be" that their decision should be reversed, nagging nuisance when it comes to our local heritage that I can be. Backing this up, the AWHS formally resolved in 2015 to support the campaign to have our area's heritage rightfully recognised, both in terms of mana whenua history for Te Kotuitanga, and Chinese New Zealanders' history for Lowe Nam.

My sincere and heartfelt thanks to Kay Thomas and the rest of the Whau Local Board for this welcome decision that has taken place. Yes, it has been 10 years to get to this point. But, with both political and cultural considerations that needed to be worked out, it was worth the wait.

The Avondale-Waterview Historical Society isn't massive -- but our voice has again been heard.

We've recently gained a Vice-President for the first time since 2003 (the writer was the first VP, until I became President in July 2003). Ruth Wrathall is a very enthusiastic promoter of the AWHS, starting up the Society's Facebook page and liaising with the Avondale Library and the local community. Our committee felt it only right to appoint Ruth as VP, considering she is out and about waving the flag for us in the local area. Ruth and our Secretary Karen Brown are also exploring possibilities for trips for our members in the new year, and there may be a book publication in the works during 2026 on the history of the Avondale Racecourse.

### Franklin Heritage Forum

*(From written and verbal reports relayed via Jan Butcher, September 2025)*

#### **NZ Genealogists Franklin Branch**

We have produced two books [and are] progressing on the next one with the subject being the WW2 [servicemen] named on the honour boards within the District. These are available

on line, the link being for books Franklin Genealogy Soc. <https://anyflip.com/bookcase/udte>

### **Franklin Historical Soc.**

Work has resumed on Roulston Park regarding the child-proof fence, and a few additional tasks are to be completed. The intended opening date is October 10th. We are looking forward to getting back into the swing of things. Our rooms at 22 Edinburgh St have been closed by Auckland Council due to asbestos and flooding issues. The council has been having meetings as to our future. We have had the use of the Stevenson Room, in the Library complex for our monthly public meetings.

### **Franklin Vintage Machinery Club**

We have had a number of very popular tractor treks with the next one, jointly with the Hauraki Club. Work has been continued at the Franklin A&P Soc Shed, under the work supervisor, Eric Muir ... We have had great support from local tradesmen and a plentiful amount of donated goods. The ploughing competitions have started again and we have the use of grounds in Buckland. Murray Jamieson has donated a plough which our members can use to upgrade their skills.

### **Papakura & District Historical Society**

The past year has been a very busy one for the Society. The draft constitution sub-committee spent much of their time rewriting our Constitution and at a special general-meeting held on 10 July this year, our members agreed to the final draft. On 27 July, we received confirmation that our constitution had been accepted and our Certificate of Incorporation reissued.

During the year, PDHS established our own website [www.papakurahistoricalsociety.org.nz](http://www.papakurahistoricalsociety.org.nz) which is now live, and began a monthly Society newsletter called 'Staying in Touch' in which members are brought up to date with meetings, trips and related articles associated with our monthly meetings. The bimonthly *Sentinel* newsletter continues, focusing on publishing original writing based on research, memoirs and journal entries, as well as features based on Museum artifacts and two new regular features, History Now (observing current changes) and Her Story ...

Planning is well underway to create a space within the Museum that tells the stories of 3 local hapū, namely Te Aakitai Waiohoua, Ngaati Te Ata Waiohoua and Ngaati Tamaoho. Each hapū will have the opportunity to share and display its own journey in a spirit of co-operation and understanding. A digitisation project has begun with new equipment and a skilled volunteer.

The PDHS and Museum team have also collaborated with the above three hapū and Auckland Council and the Local Board to create a Papakura Heritage Map, which is being printed at the moment. PDHS, Museum and the hapū were entrusted with the final development. Education is a joint responsibility. With all the pressure on schools this year, there has been much less engagement with schools. On 23 Oct a presentation on Kirks Bush with the emphasis on oral history will be held.

### **Pukeohe East Church Preservation Soc.**

We are in the process of Reregistering as an Incorporated Society under the new Act which comes into force on April 6, 2026. Also under that Act we are required to write a Constitution. The Secretary and Chairman downloaded the Commerce commissions template and with assistance from Mr, Alex Robison drafted that Constitution. It is before the members for 20 working days at present and will be accepted at a Special General Meeting on Sun. Oct. 13, 2025. Acceptance will be achieved by a simple majority of members in attendance.

We held an Open Day at the Church on Sep. 14th for the 152nd Anniversary of the Land War Battle fought there. Those visitors who attended demonstrated considerable interest in stories of that day, and other stories about local history.

### **Queens Redoubt Trust**

Visitor numbers are down with the long wet winter and also with the closing down of the Sunday market. Pukekawa Library ... was damaged [but there is] finally resolution of the ownership of the responsibility for restoration ... It was shifted off site and [has] now been restored and [will be] back on site shortly. The books had been damaged and it is unknown as to the state of them.

### **Tuakau and District Museum**

The museum's AGM was held on 28 August ... At the AGM the updated constitution was approved. Our application to reregister was accepted on 10 September and we have received our updated Certificate of Incorporation.

Work on Feather Cottage is progressing well – the walls of the cottage have been insulated with wool insulation, Collett Electrical have rewired the cottage free of charge, we received a Tuakau Community Board grant to get window glass replaced where needed and reputty existing windows in the cottage and Summit Homes have started installing and stopping the gib in the cottage. Paint colours have been chosen for the exterior and the volunteers are busy sanding the cottage with the orbital sander donated by Mitre 10.

### **Waiuku Museum**

The insurance has paid out for the flood damage upstairs and we now have revamped the upstairs toilet, kitchen and the work in the store room below should be finished shortly. A container had been hired to store goods and we shall soon be able to shift everything back on display. We were able to have some displays with visitors only paying half price.

### **Tauranga**

*(From the Society's September-October 2025 newsletter)*

"We are now all-but-in-possession of the updated Conservation Plan [for Brain Watkins House] and its all-important associated Maintenance Plan provided by way of a grant from the Tauranga City Council that enabled us to hire Dave Pearson Architects for the job. As their job comes to an end, however, so ours begins: the programme of works, and the funding to pay for it, now lie before us.

"One of the cost-free, indeed potentially money-earning, conservation steps we can take involves a thorough clean-out of the [Brain Watkins House] garage and the sale of some of

the items that have been stored there for ages. We are keen to make an inventory of stuff of saleable value and, well, sell it; discard what is evidently junk; and tidy and take some conservation care, within the limits of the facilities available, of what is left. The garage is deeply unsuitable for anything that isn't tools or garden equipment – and we need a tough-minded crew of willing helpers at a working bee before the summer gets too hot (it gets stifling in there).”

*Below, a snippet from the October 2025 newsletter for the Lower Hutt Historical Society — an interesting viewpoint from that society's President, June Stratton.*

Over the years, I've had the privilege of sitting in a Roman amphitheatre, touching the stone of an ancient Greek temple, and stepping inside a 13th-century church. In these places, history feels tangible — something you can see, touch, and almost breathe in.

But what about places where history isn't quite so visible? If a painting depicts a moment in time, how do we know it's accurate? When a story is handed down, how can we be sure it's true? New Zealand's human history is relatively recent by global standards, yet we have very few physical remnants to help us visualise or confirm that past. Much of what we know depends on written accounts, oral histories, and our willingness to believe and interpret them. Take, for instance, the small stream that flows from Bracken Street, past the Petone Croquet Club, and on toward Jackson Street. Today, it offers a quiet and pleasant walk. But 185 years ago, this was the site of Britannia — one of the earliest European settlements in the Hutt Valley, home to around 200 people living in tents and makeshift huts. Without delving into old writings and trusting those accounts, this piece of history might pass unnoticed.

Or consider Waiwhetu Marae. Today, it is a vital and vibrant part of our community. Photographs from the 1880s offer a glimpse into its past, but to understand the marae's deeper history, we must once again turn to stories passed down and records preserved. With so few physical links to our early past — both Māori and European — is it any surprise that many New Zealanders struggle to connect with their history?



*(Above) Photo of the team from Mangere Historical Society beside a display during Auckland Heritage Festival regarding the history of Old Mangere Bridge.*

*Left to right: Julie Benjamin, Alan Bray, Barbara and Les Dixon. Photo courtesy Mangere's 275 Times*

## **Waikato: Deaccessioning Update**

*(From the Society's October newsletter — with additional info from Kathryn Parsons)*

As many of you are aware Waikato Historical Society (WHS) is going through a process of deaccessioning items from its collection held at Hockin House. Members of the Society have been helping at regular deaccessioning workshops. They have been listing all items, including the linen and clothing items in the bedroom, ornaments and furniture in the parlour, cooking and washing implements in the old kitchen and much much more. All the books, pamphlets and publications held in the library have been listed. A committee member has taken [to] the Museum catalogue of WHS artefacts and our inventories to check. Photographs from the collection, many of which are copies, are also being assessed to determine if there are any unique or special examples that should be deposited with the Heritage Collection at Hamilton City Libraries.

We are now at the stage of matching up all these items with the acquisition records we have and identifying previous owners, lenders, donors and other sources. This will allow us to identify items for disposal and where there is provenance to seek the most relevant heritage institution.

The staff of Te Whare Taonga o Waikato Museum & Gallery have been through and selected collection items of interest to them. Archives, documents and records of the Society have been placed with the Community Archive at Hamilton's Central Library. Local history

and NZ publications wanted by the Library have been transferred there. The Waikato Health Memorabilia Trust has sought a range of items such as a photograph of Dr Hockin to go on display in the Hockin Building at Waikato Hospital, as well as chemist's bottles and chamber pots! Woodlands Estate staff have chosen furniture, clothing and linen to go into their collection. The Ernest and Marion Davis Library in Grafton collects historic medical instruments and will be the recipient of a medical chest and a typewriter with a medical connection. Te Aroha & Districts Museum Society have requested some kitchen scales. Tuakau & Districts Museum Society have also identified several items wanted for their collection. Another rewarding transaction is that we have been able to return a Plunket book to the family of a man who was buried at Hamilton Park cemetery in 2016 after the President's research tracked down the funeral director who contacted his family in Australia, and his daughter in law will collect it when she visits Hamilton next month.

We acknowledge the time and efforts of everyone who has been working on this process.

## Other Organisations

### **“A History in Stitch”**

*(From the Tapestry Trust's website)*

“The Tapestry Trust of New Zealand Inc is bringing the rich history of Aotearoa New Zealand to life through a stunning series of embroidered panels. This long-term project is made possible through the dedication of embroiderers from across the country, including members of the Association of New Zealand Embroiderers' Guilds (ANZEG). This is a project initiated and developed by The Tapestry Trust of New Zealand Inc. to create more than a hundred embroidered panels depicting the history of Aotearoa. We are a charitable trust supported in our endeavour by members of the Association of New Zealand Embroiderers' Guilds (ANZEG), and other keen stitchers, who give their time to stitching the panels for us. This is a long term project and will change and adapt as events in the future shape our rich history still further.

“At the end of 2008 Fred Haslam, an Otago businessman, approached the then President of the Otago Embroiderers' Guild with the idea of stitching tapestries telling the story of New Zealand. He had recently seen the Bayeux Tapestry and was keen to see the history of New Zealand in stitched form. The Trust was formed with Barry Clark, Fred Haslam, Jeanette Trotman, Margaret Kennedy and Margaret Erskine as trustees. A designer was found and the History Department of the University of Otago provided 123 suggestions for topics and events that could be the basis of the panels.

“New Zealand materials were sourced and purchased. The fabric was woven by Stansborough Mills in the Wairarapa from wool grown by sheep they have specially bred. It was then spun by Mosgiel Woollen Mills in Milton and returned to Stansborough for weaving. Applications for funding then began. The Association of New Zealand Embroidery Guilds (ANZEG) has supported our efforts by giving us space at bi-ennial conferences to explain ourselves and by allowing us to have an article in each copy of Threads magazine. Many members of the organisation have stitched on the panels for us and we are very grateful for the time they have given.

“Fred passed away at the end of 2010 but his vision is still with us. We envisage that The Tapestry Panels of New Zealand, when complete, will tell the story of these islands in embroidery.”

For info and images of their work, visit <https://tapestrytrustnz.org.nz/>