

# Phanzine

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## Editorial

As the new editor of *Phanzine*, one of my first and most pleasant tasks is to thank the previous editor, Margaret Pointer, for her fabulous work editing the newsletter. And even better than that, I get to celebrate the fact that in September this year Margaret won a Copyright Licensing New Zealand Writers' Award for her forthcoming history of Niue. Congratulations, Margaret!

The CLNZ awards are welcome recognition of the continued importance of books in this digital age. So it is appropriate that there is a bit of a book theme in this edition of *Phanzine*, including our regular end-of-year roundup of some of the best books PHANZA members have read during the year; and, in what may become a semi-regular feature, an article on 'books that made a difference' (in this case, to Bronwyn Dalley). There is also an article by Paul Diamond on finding unexpected connections, both in books and online; and an update on that Mecca for book-lovers, the National Library.

Margaret's win also got me thinking about the funding



Margaret Pointer at a talk in October for Turnbull Library staff about her research for a history of Niue – either side of Margaret are Diane Woods and Paul Diamond of the Turnbull (Paul was also one of the judges for the CLNZ Writers' Awards).

Photo: Alexander Turnbull Library

avenues available to historians. While her award was for writing, there are also a number of awards for research which I discuss in an article in this issue. Plus, we have news for you from Auckland, Manawatu and Canterbury, and some thoughts on museums.

Next year, of course, we will mark an important anniversary. No, not the centenary of the First

World War – the 20th anniversary of PHANZA! Stay tuned for some special features in *Phanzine*, and perhaps special PHANZA events.

So, I hope you are looking forward to the year ahead, and have a very enjoyable break over the Christmas/New Year period. Kia pai tō koutou wā whakatā, me ngā mihi nui o te tau hou ki a koutou!

—Ewan Morris

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PO BOX 1904, THORNDON,  
WELLINGTON



Mt Albert Road, Mount Albert, Auckland, showing a row of bungalows. Frederick George Radcliffe, 1863–1923. New Zealand postcard negatives, ref: ½-006183-c, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

### *Our Auckland correspondent Andrew Gregg on bungalows, the Unitary Plan and the WW1 centenary*

A lot has been happening up here over the last few months that will be of interest to PHANZA members around the country. Unfortunately there's too much to convey in this short column so I'll have to confine myself to some highlights.

For two weeks in October, Auckland Council's annual Heritage Festival offered the public the opportunity to celebrate the distinctive heritage of this region. This year the festival consisted of around 240 events and activities organised by over 180 groups and organisations, including libraries, historical societies, museums and galleries. We had just about everything: seminars, exhibitions, guided tours, workshops, performances, music and dance, films, commemorative services, even horse rides. The festival was a spectacular event with attendance demonstrating the passion

for heritage within the community.

During the first weekend of November, we also had the Bungalow Festival. A celebration of the Californian-style home that flourished in the suburbs of Mt Albert and Mt Eden during the 1920s, this festival was all about raising awareness and appreciation of bungalows. Mt Albert and Mt Eden have among the highest concentrations of bungalows in New Zealand, so the guided tours provided by local architects gave fans just what they wanted – an opportunity to gush over this popular form of built heritage. Fantastic!

Speaking of built heritage, a new protection measure recently came into effect for all buildings constructed in Auckland prior to 1944. The measure, in force since 30 September, arises from the official

notification of the Super City's Proposed Unitary Plan. The Unitary Plan is the new rulebook being developed for Auckland and is designed to replace all existing district and regional plans across the region by 2016. While currently inoperative, the Proposed Unitary Plan imposes one small but significant measure right now - all developers must obtain resource consent before demolishing any pre-1944 building. The protection offered by this measure is far from perfect, but it is better than nothing. And until the Council can undertake proper surveys of

*“Mt Albert and Mt Eden have among the highest concentrations of bungalows in New Zealand.”*

historic or special character heritage across Auckland, forcing the Council's Heritage Unit to assess properties proposed for demolition is a start. Whether officers will have the time and resources to adequately assess buildings brought to the unit's attention for heritage value is, of course, another issue entirely.

In other news, Auckland Libraries has just confirmed that the 1925-1945 issues of the *New Zealand Herald* will be available on Papers Past early to mid-2014, and indexing of the *Auckland Star* Biographical Clippings (1948-1997) has now reached the letter 'K'.

Auckland Council has also just launched its *Our Boys, Our Families* research guide. Assembled as part of World War One centenary commemorations, this guide helps people - particularly those without extensive experience - to carry out independent research into those who took part in the war, from soldiers on the front line to nurses on hospital ships and those who remained at home. It includes a general introduction to the First World War, tips for good research practice, lists of resources at Auckland Libraries and the Auckland Council Archives, case studies, a reading list and research prompts. Developed by Auckland Libraries, the Auckland Council Heritage Unit and Auckland Council Archives, *Our Boys, Our Families* owes a debt of thanks to former councillor Sandra Coney, chair of the WWI Centenary Political Steering Group. Auckland Libraries is now investigating the option of creating an online repository that will allow researchers to digitally submit their First World War research, so that it can be recorded and made accessible to others.



A family receiving the result of the ballot for Class B reservists under the NZ Military Service Act, 1918. This image is used on the cover of *Our Boys, Our Families*.

7-A14534, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries.

And finally I can report that Auckland Museum's First World War centenary programme is gathering real momentum. Its first exhibition, due to open in June 2014, will examine New Zealand's occupation of Samoa in 1914, looking at the event from multiple perspectives: German, Samoan, British and New Zealand. Following that, the museum hopes to launch an international touring exhibition of Michael Parekōwhai's centenary-related work. Alongside these specific exhibition projects, the museum continues its redevelopment work for the Cenotaph database. The enhanced Cenotaph database will be launched in late 2014 and will see the existing database become a comprehensive online hub for the stories of military service personnel. To find out more, check out the Auckland Museum website.

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## News from Palmerston North

### *Margaret Tennant tells us about an annual meeting of history groups*

History groups from the Manawatu–Rangitikei areas meet annually for a catch-up and reporting session at the historic Caccia Birch House in Palmerston North. The range of groups attending is an indicator of the historical constituency in the area and the forums through which they engage with historical issues. They include the Palmerston North Heritage Trust which organised the meeting, and which has a particular brief for the protection of archives and education in their use. Among the other groups at the meeting were Historic Places Manawatu–Horowhenua (which has succeeded the former Manawatu Branch of the Historic Places Trust); editors of the *Manawatu Journal of History*; the Palmerston North, Marton and Feilding Historical Societies; the Feilding and Palmerston North Branches of the Genealogical Society; the Massey University History Programme; the New Zealand-Pacific librarians from the Palmerston North City Library; Te Manawa Museum Society and Bulls Museum; and the Feilding Community Archive. In previous years Wanganui historians have also attended the meeting. One advantage of the provincial location is the relative ease of getting the various societies together in this way.

While the range of groups attending was impressive, the historical scene is not as strong in the area as this listing suggests. Within Palmerston North itself there is an overlapping constituency between groups and an ageing membership of most of them. After the history groups' meeting the Palmerston North Historical Society decided to disband because of a declining active membership, and because of a sense that some of its activities have been overtaken by other groups: the *Manawatu Journal of History*, which publishes local material, and the work of the Public Library, Heritage Trust and Museum Society in arranging public lectures, for example.

But there are also positive developments. Local History Week, organised by the Palmerston North



Caccia Birch House, Palmerston North. Palmerston North City Library, 2011BD\_IMCA-DigitalMaster\_006156

City Library, continues to go from strength to strength, with a series of lectures, walks and workshops. These included a panel on 'My Top Research Tips', which was very well attended, and another on the scanning of photographs: local historians are interested in the development of research skills. (A presentation in October by Emerson Vandy from the National Library on Papers Past was inspired

by his earlier presentation to the 2012 PHANZA seminar, and also drew a good crowd in Palmerston North.) The *Manawatu Journal of History* publishes annually and has no shortage of material, which the former academics involved with the journal can help to shape and edit.

And one particularly exciting development has been the emergence of the Earle Creativity Trust, intended to inspire creative work in the Manawatu–Rangitikei areas: [www.temanawa.co.nz/earle-creativity-and-development-trust.html](http://www.temanawa.co.nz/earle-creativity-and-development-trust.html). Retired Massey University Food Science professors Richard and Mary Earle have generously established the Trust, which makes grants of up to \$30,000 to projects in the areas of history and literature, and to music, in one year; and to sciences and the visual arts in alternating years (\$60,000 in all per annum). For 2013, the history/literature awards included two history projects, one on the street names of Feilding, and another on the history of Palmerston North's Centrepoint Theatre.

Each provincial centre has its own dynamic in terms of historical activities, and in Palmerston North the mix is assisted by a strongly supportive City Librarian and Archivist, by the proximity of the Massey History Programme and its head, former PHANZA member Kerry Taylor, and by the usual mix of genealogists, local historians and museum associates. The addition of the Earle Trust, with the possibility of research funding for local history projects every second year, is a very welcome one.

## Canterbury heritage and WW100

*We report on a meeting of heritage-minded people in Canterbury*

Geoff Rice attended a meeting of Cantage on 20 September. Cantage is an informal group of people involved in heritage organisations such as libraries, archives and museums in the Canterbury region that meets to share information about common issues (<http://cantage.wordpress.com>). The meeting took place at the Cultural Collections Recovery Centre based at the Air Force Museum, Wigram. It included a tour of the centre, which is a hub for collections or facilities affected by the earthquakes.

The focus of the meeting was on the looming First World War centenary. Information shared at the meeting included:

- ▶ The Anglican Diocese will be holding a conference for secondary schools in 2014, with keynote speakers including Jock Phillips and Glyn Harper.
- ▶ The Methodist Archives has a project looking at Army Chaplains.
- ▶ Christchurch City Libraries are revamping their

online resources and putting digitised war diaries and journals online. They are also running a daily tweet (@100chch) of life 100 years ago, based on information from Canterbury newspapers on Papers Past.

- ▶ Christchurch City Council will be relaunching Heritage Week in October 2014 - the theme of the week has not yet been decided.
- ▶ *Antarctic* journal will be running a special issue on links between the Antarctic and the First World War - they are interested in receiving articles.
- ▶ A number of local museums and historical societies are gathering information and artefacts relating to the war experience in their areas.

The meeting also discussed the idea of a one-day 'World War One fair', including workshops (for example, on care of historic photographs) and an 'Antiques Roadshow'-style opportunity to have objects examined by experts.

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## The museum scene in New Zealand

*Margaret Pointer reflects on how overseas visitors view our museums*

In November I did a road trip in the North Island with overseas visitors who are keen museum-goers. It was interesting to look through their eyes at what was presented, for this was their first visit here. Just before they left the country they were reflecting on what they had learnt and reeled off an impressive list that included New Zealand's war history, mining on the Coromandel, the Tarawera eruption and loss of the pink and white terraces, the role of the 28th Māori Battalion, the first European settlers to Wellington, pre-European Māori, New Zealand's flora and fauna and the introduction of other species, the 1931 Napier earthquake and subsequent rebuilding in art deco style, the *Wahine* disaster, the Treaty of Waitangi and taking the cure at thermal spas.

It seemed that everywhere we went there were people and institutions keen to tell part of the national story, and everywhere it was well presented and informative. Our visitors loved the fact that they could go to Te Papa and Wellington Museum of City and Sea several times and view a few of the exhibits at a time as there was no entry fee. They were happy to pay in other places, such as the Rotorua museum,

for we all recognise that museums need funding. The only place our friends were somewhat bemused was the Auckland War Memorial Museum, where international visitors only are charged a \$25 entry fee, while New Zealanders from outside Auckland are invited to make a \$10 donation and Aucklanders have free entry.

That said, we had some wonderful experiences. The highlight was the Rotorua museum, Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa, housed in the old Government Bath House, itself a stunning historical building. Te Arawa's story, from the ancestral journey from Hawaiki to Aotearoa through to the involvement of local people in the 28th Māori Battalion, was absorbing. We then learnt about the history of the Rotorua spa and its curative treatments. We looked out from the viewing platform over Lake Rotorua, then descended to the mud bath basement.

Local, regional and national museums are a treasure and so are the people who work tirelessly to maintain and enhance them. We saw how important they are, not only for international visitors, but for our own understanding of who we are.

# Research awards

## *Ewan Morris sets out some options for historians seeking funding for their research*

Historical research, unlike scientific research, does not require laboratories or expensive equipment. Still, for independent historians of modest means it can be a costly business. Travel and accommodation expenses for research trips, paying for photocopying or images, and the costs of purchasing and maintaining equipment such as computers, can all mount up – and that's without even thinking about paying yourself a wage while you do the research.

So where can you go to get funding for historical research? Below are some suggestions. I have only included awards for research – not writers' awards, grants for publishers, prizes for published work or scholarships for university study, for example. Unless indicated otherwise, all awards are made annually.

### **New Zealand History Research Trust Fund**

*Administered by:* Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

*Value of award:* One award of \$60,000 and several smaller awards of up to \$12,000 each.

*Description:* Financial assistance to carry out research projects that will significantly enhance the understanding of New Zealand's past.

*Application due date (2013):* 15 October.

*Further information:* [www.mch.govt.nz/funding-nz-culture/ministry-grants-awards/new-zealand-history-research-trust](http://www.mch.govt.nz/funding-nz-culture/ministry-grants-awards/new-zealand-history-research-trust)

### **New Zealand Oral History Awards**

*Administered by:* Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

*Value of award:* Variable.

*Description:* Financial assistance for the recording of interviews relating to the history of New Zealand, including its close connections with the Pacific.

*Application due date (2013):* 26 April.

*Further information:* [www.mch.govt.nz/funding-nz-culture/ministry-grants-awards/new-zealand-oral-history-awards](http://www.mch.govt.nz/funding-nz-culture/ministry-grants-awards/new-zealand-oral-history-awards)

### **John David Stout Fellowship in New Zealand Studies**

*Administered by:* Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies, Victoria University of Wellington.

*Value of award:* Salaried fellowship for 12 months.

*Description:* A fellowship, based at the Stout Centre, open to researchers in any area of study relating to New Zealand society, history or culture.

*Application due date (2013):* 1 October.

*Further information:* [www.victoria.ac.nz/stout-centre/research-opportunities/jd-stout-info](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/stout-centre/research-opportunities/jd-stout-info)

### **Friends of the Turnbull Library Research Grant**

*Administered by:* Friends of the Turnbull Library.

*Value of award:* Up to \$10,000.

*Description:* An award for researchers who plan to make significant use of the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library.

*Application due date (2013):* 15 October.

*Further information:* [www.turnbullfriends.org.nz/researchgrant.html](http://www.turnbullfriends.org.nz/researchgrant.html)

### **National Library awards**

The National Library Research Fellowship has been suspended for the past few years, while the Library has been undergoing redevelopment. There is currently no word on when or if the award will be restarted. However, there are a number of other awards relating to the National Library, including:

- ▶ Lilburn Research Fellowship for scholarly research on some aspect of New Zealand and music, using the resources of the Archive of New Zealand Music or other Turnbull Library collections;
- ▶ Friends of Dorothy Neal White Collection Research Grant, a biennial grant for a researcher who intends to make use of the Dorothy Neal White collection or National Children's collection; and
- ▶ Jack Illott Oral History Education Operating Fund, which awards grants to promote the use of oral history as a means of documenting New Zealand's past.

*Further information:* [natlib.govt.nz/about-us/scholarships-and-awards](http://natlib.govt.nz/about-us/scholarships-and-awards)

### **CLNZ/NZSA Research Grants**

*Administered by:* Copyright Licensing New Zealand/ New Zealand Society of Authors.

*Value of award:* Two awards of \$3500 each.

*Description:* Assistance to writers to undertake research for a fiction or non-fiction writing project. One award is Wellington-based and linked to the Stout Centre at Victoria University; the other allows research to be undertaken anywhere in New Zealand.

*Application due date (2013):* 26 June.

*Further information:* [www.authors.org.nz](http://www.authors.org.nz)

### Canterbury Community Historian Award

*Administered by:* Canterbury History Foundation.

*Value of award:* \$5000.

*Description:* An award to enable completion of a significant historical project for publication. The project must be of significance to people in Canterbury and draw on sources in or near Christchurch.

*Application due date (2013):* 15 October.

*Further information:* [www.chf.org.nz/content/community-historian](http://www.chf.org.nz/content/community-historian)

### Auckland Libraries Research in Residence Scholarship

*Administered by:* Auckland Library Heritage Trust.

*Value of award:* \$1000.

*Description:* A one-year residency at the Sir George Grey Special Collections, Central City Library, Auckland.

*Application due date (2013):* 14 June.

*Further information:* [www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/EN/heritage/sirgeorgegrey/researchinresidence](http://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/EN/heritage/sirgeorgegrey/researchinresidence)

### Auckland Museum Research Grants

*Administered by:* New Zealand Society of Authors (NZSA) and Auckland War Memorial Museum.

*Value of award:* One national grant of \$3500 plus four weeks of funded accommodation at the Michael King Writers' Centre; and two local grants of \$1500 each.

*Description:* Grants for fiction or non-fiction writers to use the resources of the Auckland Museum Library. The national grant is open to members of the NZSA or the Auckland Museum Institute/Friends of the Museum. The local grants are open to Auckland regional members of the NZSA or the Auckland Museum Institute/Friends of the Museum; one of the awards is also open to any Auckland resident.

*Application due date (2013):* 16 December.

*Further information:* [www.authors.org.nz](http://www.authors.org.nz)

### Lottery World War One Commemorations, Environment and Heritage Committee

Lottery funding is not available for individual research projects. But if you are involved with a community group that needs funding for a historical research project, the group can apply for funding for research, writing and publication costs. There are two funding rounds per year.

*Further information:* [www.communitymatters.govt.nz/Funding-and-grants---Lottery-grants---Lottery-Environment-and-Heritage](http://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/Funding-and-grants---Lottery-grants---Lottery-Environment-and-Heritage)

§ And finally: read Margaret Tennant's article in this issue for exciting news of a new award available for research in Manawatu-Rangitikei history.

## National Library update

### *Marguerite Hill reports back on a meeting with Alexander Turnbull and National Library staff*

On 30 September, PHANZA committee members Margaret Pointer and Marguerite Hill met with Rachel Essen, Ruth MacEachern and Chris Szekely of the Alexander Turnbull and National Library. We raised several issues PHANZA members had brought to us about their experiences of using the National Library since it reopened.

Members have raised concerns about the lack of published collections available to browse on the shelves. Other library users have also raised this concern and the Library is working on adding to the current published collections available on the first floor. Library staff have been keeping track of frequently requested books and these will be added to the open shelves. The Library has asked PHANZA members to point out subject areas or important volumes that are currently missing from the shelves. The PHANZA committee will soon be sending out a survey to members asking for their thoughts on a variety of issues - we will ask you to send suggestions then.

The problem of managing the Katherine Mansfield secure reading room door was also raised. No one is really happy with the current situation, including the Library. Internally, discussions have been under way for some time and it's hoped that a reconfiguration of lines of sight will help. Obviously, security is the reason behind the door, especially as the rest of the floor is now open to researchers with food, water and ink. We'll keep you posted about this.

The Library's new opening hours were also discussed. The Library now opens to the public at 10am, which means a long wait for researchers who arrive in Wellington for the day, order an item in-house and then have to wait for it to be retrieved. Unfortunately, it's not likely that online ordering of Tapuhi items will be available any time soon. Instead, Chris asks researchers to contact the Library in advance and to order your items by email [alexander.turnbull-library@dia.govt.nz](mailto:alexander.turnbull-library@dia.govt.nz) or web form <http://natlib.govt.nz/questions/new>.

One item of good news to note is that the telelift book retrieval system is now back up and running, which has reduced retrieval time.

Our next meeting with the Library staff will be in March 2014. Please email the Secretary at [secretary@phanza.org.nz](mailto:secretary@phanza.org.nz) if you have any questions you would like us to put forward at that meeting.

## ‘Only connect’

*Paul Diamond on serendipitous discoveries in libraries and archives – analogue and digital – that exemplify E M Forster’s injunction to ‘Only connect’*

Learning about the collections of the Turnbull and National Libraries is a big part of my work as Curator, Māori at the Alexander Turnbull Library. Another part of the role is helping build collections of published and unpublished materials. Material relating to Māori in overseas publications is harder to find than New Zealand-published material, which comes to the Library via Legal Deposit.

Other librarians’ brains are a good source of information about Māori content published overseas. New books displays in libraries are one way to find out what librarians have spotted, and the shelves of new Māori books and serials on the top floor of Wellington Central Library are among my favourites. This is where I noticed a book about language revitalisation published earlier this year in California. *Bringing Our Languages Home: Language Revitalization for Families* includes 13 autobiographical accounts of language revitalisation, including Irish Gaelic, Mohawk, Kawaiisu, and . . . Māori. Ngāi Tahu language advocate Hana O’Regan contributed an essay (‘Māori: My Language Story’), which follows on from and updates Hana’s 2001 book, *Ko Tahu, ko Au: Kai Tahu Tribal Identity*.

Referrals from researchers and historians are another good way of hearing about new titles. When I visited the anthropologist Dame Joan Metge recently, she showed me a new anthropology text published in the United States: *Up Close and Personal: On Peripheral Perspectives and the Production of Anthropological Knowledge*. It’s not immediately obvious that this includes two essays about Māori: ‘Building Bridges: Māori and Pakeha Relations’ by Dame Joan, and ‘Anthropology, Ontology and the Māori World’ by Dame Anne Salmond.

When I was making radio features on Māori topics for Radio New Zealand I interviewed Dame Judith Binney about her new edition of *Legacy of Guilt: A Life of Thomas Kendall*. Anyone who has read Judith’s books knows her footnotes contain interesting parallel narratives. One that caught my eye was a reference to Kenneth Webster (1906–1967), an England-based antique dealer and collector of New Zealand and Pacific material. The Alexander Turnbull Library purchased a significant portion of Webster’s manuscript collection, as well as his own papers, after his death.

*“The process of finding out about books like these is an analogue searching journey of connections – over cups of tea, glasses of wine, and via conversations and shelf browsing.”*

Judith’s footnote talked about how Webster stole material from English archives and collections, and in one case posed as a representative of the New Zealand Government as he was loading material from a British museum into a truck. When the first edition of Judith’s book was published in 1968, a letter from Kendall was

missing a drawing sent with the letter to illustrate the missionary’s description of Māori religion. After Webster’s death this emerged, and Judith was able to include it in the subsequent edition. I’ve been intrigued about Webster ever since I saw Judith’s reference, so I was grateful to Roger Blackley at Victoria University for pointing me to a chapter on Webster in a book published in Paris in 2006 (*Provenance: Twelve Collectors of Ethnographic Art in England 1760–1990*).

The exhibition of Māori collections is one focus of research and writing by Roger’s colleague Conal McCarthy, director of Victoria University’s Museum and Heritage Studies programme. Conal’s essay, ‘Carving Out a Place in the Better Britain of the South Pacific: Māori in New Zealand Museums and Exhibitions’



► Portrait of Kenneth Webster. Negatives of the Evening Post newspaper, EP/1959/2159-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

is part of a book recently published by Manchester University Press about the diverse roles played by museums and their curators in moulding and representing the British imperial experience (*Curating Empire: Museums and the British Imperial Experience*).

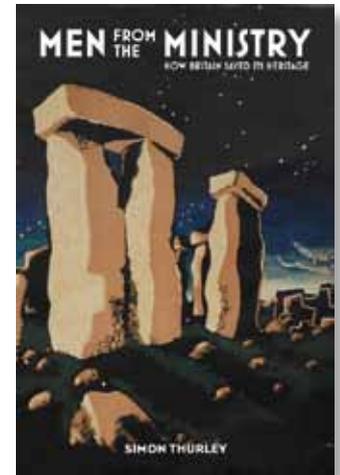
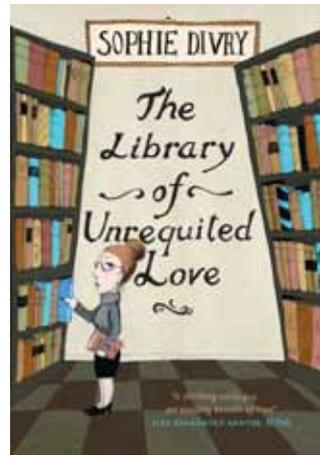
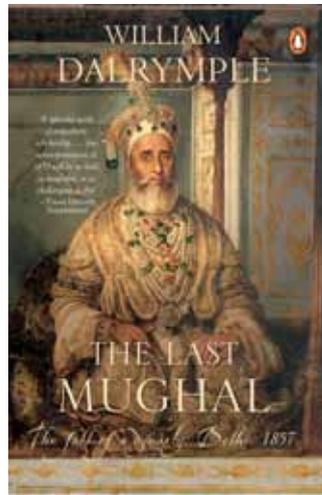
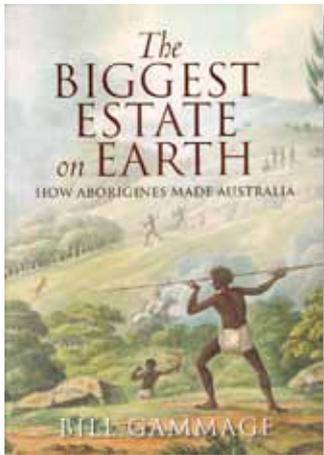
All the titles I've mentioned are, or will soon be, available for researchers to consult in the National Library collections. The process of finding out about books like these is an analogue searching journey of connections - over cups of tea, glasses of wine, and via conversations and shelf browsing.

It's a different story in the online world, as writer David Herkt argues in an astonishing essay on the Public Address website. Herkt believes we need a new language to describe the process of finding

information online, particularly from online historical sources. 'We are coming to the stage where the connection is everything. But we need new words to describe just what it is that [is] happening when we move upon these lines of linkage, when we follow the clicks. "Browsing" is a verb which conveys little.' To illustrate his point, Herkt outlined a remarkable searching journey, starting with the first ever live-to-radio broadcast from an outdoor location: the song of nightingales from the garden of British cellist Beatrice Harrison at Foyle Riding, near Oxted, in Surrey, at midnight on 18 May 1924. Herkt's description of where this led him is exhilarating and well worth a read: <http://publicaddress.net/notesandqueries/nightingales-bombs-beethoven>.

## Books for the holidays!

Firestick farmers, imperial interventionists, library lovers and monuments men: members look back on some good books they've read during the past year



Australian historian Bill Gammage is better known for his military history, but in *The Biggest Estate on Earth: How Aborigines Made Australia* (2011), he has produced a thoughtful piece of environmental history that has garnered all sorts of prestigious awards. Fascinated by early settlers' painting and their comments about the park-like nature of much of Australia, he explores how Aborigines used fire to burn away the 'fuel load' of dead branches, fallen leaves and minor scrub to open up small areas to attract grazing prey such as kangaroos and wallabies. This selective, rotational land management suited plant seeds that need fire to germinate while reducing the risk of catastrophic fires of the type that ravaged the Blue Mountains in October this year. Think of it as farming while not being farmers.

—Gavin McLean

William Dalrymple's *The Last Mughal* (2006) is exemplary in the way it casts light on a controversial event (the mutiny of 1857, AKA the first Indian war of independence) using previously unexplored archival sources, including Persian and Urdu language writing. Dalrymple uses these sources to recreate the story of Delhi, in particular, through that year and to explain the catastrophe that befell the city, its culture, its people and its monuments. It's far from 'post-colonial' in its sensibility but it does lay to rest the notion that 'the British may have been imperialists

but at least they brought law and order'. It makes a pair to Dalrymple's most recent book, *Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan* (2012), which looks at the disastrous British intervention in Afghanistan in the 1840s. In both cases Dalrymple is not afraid to draw parallels with present day circumstances, although measured in doing so. He points out the seeming unwillingness of 'interveners' in both eras to thoroughly inform themselves about the societies in which they were intervening.

And while his subject matter may seem remote from New Zealand history, that same empire that was so absorbed and expansive in India also had New Zealand within its orbit. Early New Zealand papers reported fully on events in India, including the Afghan War and 1857. Many soldiers in the New Zealand Wars had had experience in India, as did a fair number of officials. What happened in India therefore contributed to the shaping of relations between Māori and Pākehā in colonial New Zealand.

—Malcolm McKinnon

I found Sophie Divry's *The Library of Unrequited Love* (2013) by chance when buying a birthday gift for a friend. I took it home and read it before wrapping it. I don't usually do that but it is a slim volume and I could not resist it. It is a soliloquy by a librarian in a French regional library. Arriving early at work to get organised for the day, the librarian finds that

one of her readers has been locked in overnight. She begins talking to the reader and before long she has launched into a philosophical discussion on the nature and importance of libraries and of reading. She talks of ‘silence reigning over shelves full of intelligence’ and ‘the murmuring silence of reading to oneself’. But now people want to be entertained, they don’t want to make the effort that is required for reading. She sees herself as a dying breed: ‘I feel like the Maginot Line of public reading’. The worst aspect of her changing library is that ‘the books are all in the stacks and you have to fill out a request slip . . . instead of looking at the books, being able to pull them out and handle them’. Exactly my view! I want to be able to browse. When the librarian wonders how long it will be before she is moved to a deeper level in the building and ‘on the ground floor they’ll open a café’, I felt sure she had visited our own National Library. A delightful and thought-provoking book for everyone who values libraries within our society.

—Margaret Pointer

I currently find myself a member of that curious species, the heritage bureaucrat. So it has been something of a busman’s holiday (albeit an enjoyable one) to read Simon Thurley’s history of the Ancient Monuments Department of the UK Office of Works (the ancestral body of today’s English Heritage and its Welsh and Scottish equivalents). The book’s title may be sexist (though largely accurate for the male-dominated world it portrays), but *Men from the Ministry: How Britain Saved its Heritage* (2013) has the admirable aim of drawing attention to the achievements of the government agency charged with preserving Britain’s historic places. It also discusses the sometimes fraught relationship between this agency and non-governmental heritage advocates, as the latter gradually evolved from ‘posh pressure groups’ to more broadly-based organisations.

The world of Stonehenge and country estates may seem very different from contemporary New Zealand, but some of the issues still resonate. Debate on an Ancient Monuments Bill in 1913 was polarised between those, like the Duke of Rutland, who feared ‘interference with personal liberty’ under the guise of protecting historic places, and others like Lord Curzon who believed such places should be protected because ‘every citizen feels an interest in them although he may not own them’. Sound familiar?

—Ewan Morris

## Books that made a difference

### *Bronwyn Dalley recalls books that got her excited about feminist and public history*

My name is neatly printed on its title page – ‘Bronwyn Dalley, July 1985’. Nowadays I just scrawl an illegible signature and abbreviated date inside the cover, but that careful claiming of this volume marks its place in my life as an historian. I was halfway through my history honours year at Massey University, and I already knew I wanted to be an historian. This was my first purchase of a history book that wasn’t a set text, and at \$18.95, it was a serious investment for a postgraduate student getting by on a bursary and tutoring work. But its content – and the context of that content – mattered. *The Sexual Dynamics of History: Men’s Power, Women’s Resistance* is a collection of essays produced by the London Feminist History Group. The book was a call to arms: for women to research and write – discover or reclaim – their histories. I wrote some angry assignments that year after reading the book, then went on to further postgraduate work focusing on women’s history; I became interested in crime and sexuality, topics covered in a couple of the essays; I decided to do my doctoral study under Otago historian Barbara Brookes who had a chapter in the collection.

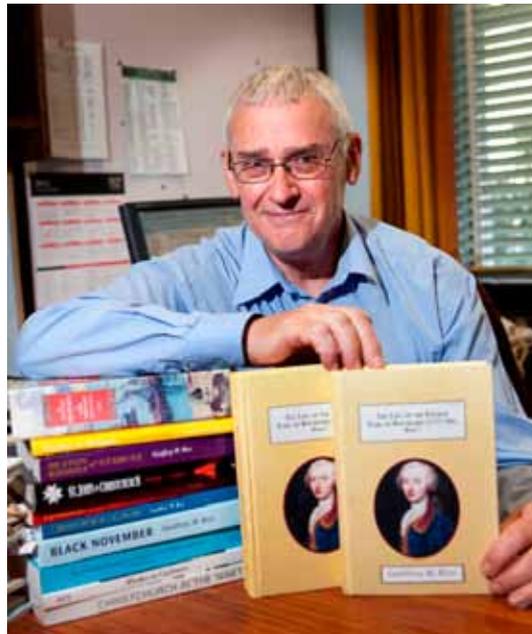
This book, both as a physical object and a collection of ideas, helped shape my path. Some of the arguments in the essays no longer resonate with me – the book is embedded in its time and place – but the basic premises still hold: for systems and strategies of power and resistance to be analysed; for history at and of the margins to be considered; for a broader recognition of what constitutes history. And there’s its direct link with the work that has made and continues to make the most difference to me as an historian – Raphael Samuel’s *Theatres of Memory: Past and Present in Contemporary Culture*. Its generous embrace of perceptions of the past and the varying ‘stuff’ that forms history and historical research speaks to me of the vibrancy of public history; and it cautions me to remain open to the myriad ways that people engage with and make meaning of the past. Give yourself a holiday treat – read this book, and if you’ve already done so, read it again.

## New committee member

*We welcome Geoff Rice to the committee*

Geoff Rice (pictured right) is a retired independent historian who was formerly Head of History (2006–10) at the University of Canterbury, where he remains an Adjunct Professor. He taught the first honours course in Public History at a New Zealand university from 1995 to 2009 (on and off).

Though his early research and all of his teaching lay in European history, his recent books have been about the local history of Christchurch. The second edition of his account of the 1918 influenza pandemic in New Zealand, *Black November* (2005) was short-listed in the History section of the 2006 Montana New Zealand Book Awards.



Geoff Rice. Photo: University of Canterbury

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## PHANZA Executive Committee

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This issue was edited by Ewan Morris.

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