

Phanzine

Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand/Aotearoa

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Editorial

By the time this issue of *Phanzine* reaches you, many of us will have returned to our homes from the biennial NZHA conference, this time held in Christchurch. I am really looking forward to the conference and the buzz that accompanies such a gathering. I am also looking forward to visiting a city that I have to confess I am very unfamiliar with and I hope I find time to visit some of the areas I have read so much about since the earthquakes.

In this *Phanzine* Michael Kelly turns his telescope on heritage issues in Auckland and, as he says, the issues are pertinent for all our urban areas. In fact, on my list to do before early December is to make a submission to the Wellington City Council in response to their medium density housing proposals for my part of the city.

Two research tools that most of us use frequently - Te Ara, the online encyclopedia of New Zealand, and Papers Past - feature in this issue. One of our members has raised concerns about whether Te Ara will continue to be updated and the CEO of Culture and Heritage has responded. Emerson Vandy from National Library has



These cards, made by Belgian and French women to sell to the troops, are from the box of treasures my grandmother brought with her to New Zealand.

given us a glimpse at changes we can expect in the New Year as the Papers Past website undergoes a revamp.

I close with Christmas and New Year greetings to you all courtesy of two lovely 100 year-old silk postcards from my late grandmother's collection (see above and back page). My grandparents emigrated from Scotland to New Zealand in the early 1920s

in search of new opportunities after the horror years of the war. These cards, made by Belgian and French women to sell to the troops, are from the box of treasures my grandmother brought with her to New Zealand. They are in excellent condition and I am sure she would be delighted to know we were still enjoying them.

—Margaret Pointer

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PO BOX 1904, THORNDON,
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Te Ara, the online encyclopedia of New Zealand

Simon Nathan wrote to Phanzine with some serious concerns about the future of Te Ara



Te Ara, the online Encyclopedia of New Zealand, is one of our national treasures – a reliable, easily accessible source of accurate information on almost everything to do with New Zealand. Building the website from scratch took almost a decade. At a ceremony to mark the completion of the final theme last year, the Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage, Maggie Barry, said that this was not the end – a small group would maintain and update the site, incorporating new information as it came to hand. But less than a year later the small residual Te Ara group was abruptly told that their jobs were disestablished, and that they must leave by the end of October. Apparently there are higher priorities within the Ministry for Culture and Heritage which, incidentally, has just moved to expensive new premises in the Wellington CBD.

I would like to join with many others in paying tribute to Nancy Swarbrick, Caren Wilton, Kerryn Pollock, Emily Tutaki and Melanie Lovell-Smith who have kept Te Ara and the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography running over the last year, including upgrading census and other data, answering queries, and updating some of the older entries.

In my opinion, the decision by the management of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage to downgrade the maintenance of Te Ara is breathtakingly foolish and short-sighted. In one swipe they have removed virtually all of the institutional memory of the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography and Te Ara. Presumably the managers within MCH can see

other uses for the relatively small amount of funding involved, but they overlook the fact that this is one of the government's most important websites, with users ranging from school children to overseas visitors and investors.

To maintain its usefulness and credibility as a dynamic information hub, it needs a minimum level of maintenance and updating. If MCH does not see this as one of its core functions, it should hand responsibility for the Te Ara website, and the funding that goes with it, to an organisation that can do it effectively. It is simply nonsense to maintain that staff in other areas of MCH, already fully employed, will have the time or ability to keep a website as complex as Te Ara up to date.

I worked for Te Ara from 2004 to 2008 as science editor, as part of a team that created over 200 articles on all aspects of natural and applied science in New Zealand. I am proud of what we achieved, but have been increasingly concerned that changes in knowledge mean that many of the articles need to be reviewed and upgraded. It would be a tragedy if the content of Te Ara gradually became fossilised and out-of-date, which completely undermines the whole purpose of having it available on the web.

This is an issue of concern to all PHANZA members because Te Ara and the DNZB are widely used as immediate reference in all sorts of research. If you share my concern, you could email Maggie Barry (maggie.barry@parliament.govt.nz), commenting on the wisdom of the decision taken in her name.

In response

A response to Simon's article was requested from the CEO of Ministry for Culture and Heritage

Thank you for the opportunity to outline the Ministry's commitment to Te Ara, the well-recognised and widely used online encyclopedia detailing uniquely New Zealand stories.

The Ministry for Culture and Heritage will absolutely continue to refresh and develop Te Ara. After many years of investment in building this renowned resource we are backing its future one hundred per cent.

Te Ara is an essential tool for providing information to many thousands of people including students, librarians, historians and visitors to New Zealand, as Simon Nathan notes. Additionally, Te Ara contributes greatly to the Ministry's priority of fostering an inclusive New Zealand identity.

Maintaining the Ministry's highly regarded research and publishing capability and ensuring this work continues to reach our diverse audiences is a priority. While the Ministry was funded to build Te Ara, we need to sustain it through existing resources and be smart about how we operate. To do this we have taken an objective look at where we are now and where we want to position ourselves.

To guarantee Te Ara and our publications have an enduring future in the fast changing publishing world, we need to be flexible about the way we work.

Where previously there were several different teams focusing on different projects, we have now created a single Research and Publishing Group. We believe this will give us the flexibility to ensure resources are deployed to the highest-priority needs for quality research and publishing work.

This new group is one of the largest teams of researchers, writers and web publishers in the country. It includes people who contributed to building Te Ara. We are about to recruit people to further add to our skill base. And, as has been the case in the past, we will bring in specialist expertise as needed.

Building partnerships is also really important. We will partner more with universities, iwi, museums and other cultural sector agencies, the authors and experts who helped build Te Ara and people like yourselves. This is both to ensure we are accessing the expertise we need and also to attract additional resources for our work.

As well as maintaining Te Ara with regular revisions and updates, we aim to deliver a range of other

quality content, including Te Taiwhakaea Treaty settlement stories, First World War and oral history work, and content to support the 125th anniversary of universal suffrage in 2018 and the 250th anniversary of Cook's landing in 2019.

Where previously there were several different teams focusing on different projects, we have now created a single Research and Publishing Group.

All of this work touches the lives of many, many New Zealanders and Te Ara will remain at the centre of it.

I believe we have an excellent reputation in research and publishing. I want to see this continue and grow from strength to strength by working in new ways and in partnership with others.

My commitment as Chief Executive of Manatū Taonga is to ensure great New Zealand content is readily accessible to diverse audiences and we are well placed to meet the future challenges of a rapidly changing publishing environment. The proof of this will come through the continued vitality and use of Te Ara over the next decade.

I appreciate how important Te Ara and other quality publications are to your community. I would look forward to the opportunity of attending one of your meetings where we can talk further about strengthening our relationship in the future.

*Nāku noa, nā
Paul James, Chief Executive,
Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage*

§ Editor's note: Thank you Simon for bringing this issue to the attention of PHANZA members and thank you Paul for your response. Maybe in 2016 our committee could invite Paul to speak at a meeting.



Symonds Street Cemetery, with Mt Eden in the background, by Daniel Manders Beere, 1833–1909: Negatives of New Zealand and Australia. Ref: 1/2-096098-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

News from the North

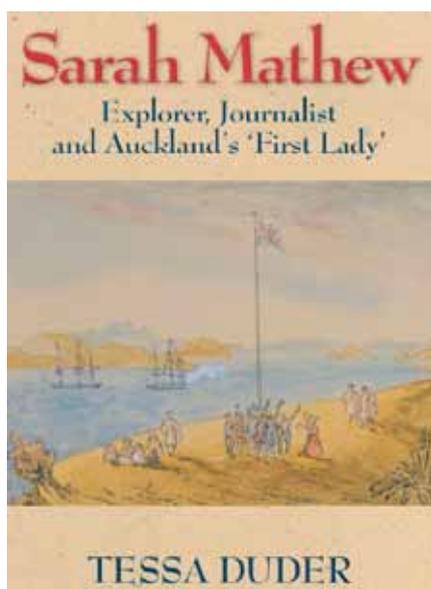
David Verran brings us up to date with events in Auckland

On 18 September 2015, Auckland celebrated 175 years since Governor Hobson's officials hoisted the British flag over Auckland, the new capital of New Zealand/Aotearoa.

As part of those celebrations, there was both a book launch and a Heritage Festival.

Tessa Duder launched her *Sarah Mathew; explorer, journalist and Auckland's first lady* (published by David Ling). The front cover depicts a watercolour featuring the flag being raised and Sarah Mathew was included in that picture. Her husband was Felton Mathew, acting surveyor-general. Much of her papers are held at Auckland Libraries.

The Auckland Heritage Festival grew out of previous Auckland City and North Shore City Council heritage festivals, and has now become an Auckland wide event with over 180 events this year. That stretched from 26 September to 11 October 2015, and events included public performances, films, demonstrations, workshops,



displays, exhibitions, talks, seminars, tours and walks. I provided two walks of Symonds Street Cemetery and spoke on Ewen Alison, of the Devonport Steam Ferry Company, at the Browns Bay Library.

In August Auckland had hosted a Family History Expo as part of family history month, with people coming from across New Zealand. During that month, Auckland Libraries ran a series of 75 public

talks on family history resources and even a 12 hour 'Lock-In' at Auckland Central Library between 8pm Friday and 8am Saturday for the more ardent amongst family historians.

This year's Mayoral Sir John Logan Campbell lecture in the old Auckland Town Hall building was given by Graeme Murdoch. His topic was the history of Auckland's volcanic cones, including Maori traditions and place names. Another speaker was unable to speak at the last minute and it's hoped that there will be a follow up soon.

On 19 October 2015, Councillor Alf Filipaina, Chairman of the Unitary Plan Committee of Auckland Council, issued a statement affirming Council's strong commitment to heritage protection. The Unitary Plan provides a town planning and land use document, along with a single resource management plan, for the whole of Auckland and replaces a number of district and regional plans.

➤ See heritage article, page 6.

News from the South

Marguerite Hill reports on events in Christchurch

Over 70 events were held during BECA Heritage Week in Christchurch, which ran from 9 to 26 October. Events included French Fest at Akaroa, this year celebrating the 175th anniversary of organised European settlement. There were also guided tours of various local heritage spots, including Riccarton House, Ōtamahua Quail Island and Linwood Cemetery. A colleague gave great feedback about the Ōtamahua Quail Island tour. There were also several special events around the anniversary of the sinking of the Maquette (on 23 October 1915), including a play performed by students of St Margaret's College, a commemorative service and public talks.

Despite the best of intentions, I only managed to attend one event, Comings and Goings: the Future of Cathedral Square, which was a public forum about the future of Cathedral Square. The forum was run by Christchurch Civic Trust and was chaired by former mayor Garry Moore. The panel included several architects, a Ngāi Tahu representative, a former journalist from the *Press*, a representative from Restore Christchurch Cathedral Group, a representative from the New Zealand Transport Agency and another architect representing a property developer. Development seems to have stalled in Cathedral Square, mainly due to uncertainties around the future of Christ Church Cathedral and delays due to insurance and other commercial considerations with the privately-owned buildings around the Square. The new Central Library has been finalised and will be a great start to the redeveloped space, having



Cathedral Square in 2013. Photo: Jocelyn Kinghorn CC BY-SA 2.0

been designed to bring the public square into the building as well as have appeal from various heights and angles.

There was a lot of discussion about what kind of space Cathedral Square should be. The meaning of Cathedral Square has changed for many Christchurch people and these varying ideas were explored by the speakers. Several of the architects talked about how public squares are used in other cities, including options for how the edges of the square should be utilised by commuters, shoppers, residents and tourists, and how old and new buildings can sit happily together. One architect spoke as much as a parent as an architect, talking about how her children use the current available public spaces in

Christchurch city and how there needs to be greater understanding of these adaptations and changing uses.

Landscaping and public artworks were also discussed, as was nostalgia for Cathedral Square as a gathering place for locals as well as tourists. As there is a strong feeling among locals that they have been excluded from discussion about the future of the city, this was a rare opportunity to discuss a number of issues and there was spirited discussion about the Cathedral, public transport, parking and plans for other city heritage spaces.

As a new-comer to Christchurch, it was interesting to see people reflecting on the historical meanings of Cathedral Square and thinking about its future.

As there is a strong feeling among locals that they have been excluded from discussion about the future of the city, this was a rare opportunity to discuss a number of issues.



Demolition of heritage home Epsom 2007. In the centre of the image a large Victorian mansion is being demolished. All photos by Lynn Grieveson.

Heritage: Housing heritage and intensification

Michael Kelly discusses the issue of residential heritage, focusing on Auckland but warning that it is an issue all urban dwellers will be facing.

New Zealand is not a large country, but we have a relatively low population for our land mass. On the other hand, most people want to live in cities - including immigrants - and the most desirable place to live is of course Auckland, where the jobs are. It's also an exceedingly expensive place to buy a house.

Auckland's footprint is massive relative to its population. It reflects a time when land was plentiful enough to allow a house on a piece of land; not the quarter acre of myth but a front and backyard and dwelling. Maintaining that arrangement required subdivisions to be formed further and further from the city centre. As traffic grew, this made commuting disconcertingly lengthy and tedious, exacerbated by poor public transport. Recent attempts to improve public transport notwithstanding, this is still the situation in Auckland. It's a large city with

swathes of suburbia and everyone drives. It's just not sustainable.

Internationally, most cities of Auckland's size are vastly more intensified and hold a far larger population. This is going to be Auckland's future. It can grow but that growth will have to be more up than out and this is going to have a big impact on the city. Intensification can be undertaken in a number of ways and it does not have to be confined to the central city. Auckland is a kind of conurbation with a number of centres. However, the majority of that intensification is going to take place in and around central Auckland and while this will have its benefits, it will also have its downsides.

On the one hand it allows many more people and more cheaply to live close to the city centre or to transport hubs, reducing transport costs and the

consequent impact on the environment and allowing easier access to the attractions offered by the city. On the other, it leads to less intimate and visually appealing neighbourhoods and, more particularly, the loss of character and heritage as properties are subdivided or houses demolished for multi-unit housing.

To some extent this will be seen by other Aucklanders as an exercise in mass nimbyism by the well-heeled, but much more is at stake than that.

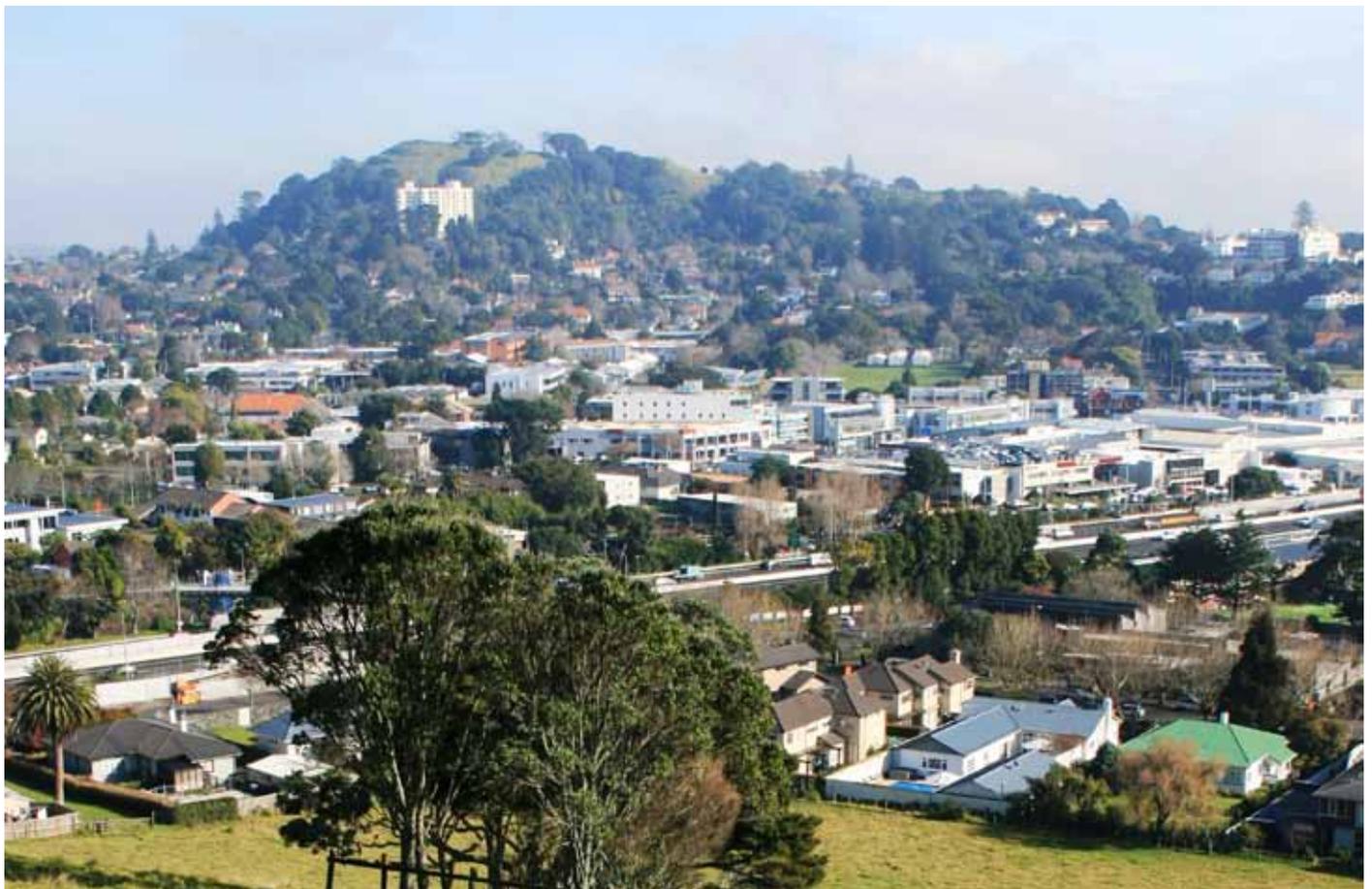
Auckland's older, inner-city suburbs are amongst its more important heritage assets. Certainly no city in New Zealand can match the consistent quality of Auckland's timber-built domestic heritage. In suburbs such as Parnell, Ponsonby, Mt Eden, Epsom, Westmere and Point Chevalier, street after street contains Victorian and early 20th century houses of quality and character that add much to their environment. Many are well looked after by owners clearly proud of their assets. And assets they are;

many are worth millions thanks to the Auckland housing market going bonkers.

Many of those houses are covered by an interim blanket demolition control instituted by the Auckland Council to protect the city's pre-1944 houses. It requires owners to get a resource consent if they propose demolishing their house. In August 2015, the Auckland Unitary Plan Independent Hearings Panel, after strong lobbying by developers, recommended that the overlay should be removed. It argued that the blanket protection wasn't targeted properly and its removal would have no great effect. Then, in October, a plan to extend Historic Heritage Area status to parts of other suburbs, notably Onehunga, was shelved, in what was seen as a reaction to the Hearings Panel's earlier recommendation. Finally, what are known as the central isthmus suburbs - Point Chevalier, Epsom, Mt Eden, Mt Albert, Glendowie and St Heliers - have been identified as places where the council intends to rewrite the rules so that parts of what were previously 'single-house zones' (one or two storey houses in a landscaped property) will be rezoned as 'mixed-house' so that townhouses or apartments of up to three storeys can be constructed.

Naturally, all of these affected suburbs contain interest groups - heritage advocates and residential associations - that are strongly motivated to defend

Mt Eden from Mt Hobson





Villas in Pember Reeves Street, looking towards Sky Tower

their suburban character. Each suburb is different and most contain groups of houses or whole streets that are unique to that area. To some extent this will be seen by other Aucklanders as an exercise in mass nimbyism by the well-heeled, but much more is at stake than that.

The Character Coalition was set up to represent more than 60 interest groups making representations on the unitary plan. While the Coalition does not oppose intensification, it has seven key 'bottom lines':

- ▶ Interim blanket demolition controls on pre 1940s buildings where the case for demolition has to be proven, rather than as at present where the case for retention must be made.
- ▶ All demolitions of pre-1940s buildings require consent and must be publicly notified.
- ▶ Any replacement building must satisfy a design code, requiring sympathetic design, scale and materials to be used.
- ▶ Local Plans to recognise differing characteristics and issues of each area, to ensure private and public sector development proposals are consistent with local aspirations. Regarding development proposals, Local Plans can change and raise conditions of compliance, public notification requirements, and other standards.
- ▶ Adequate council resources to be allocated to the

identification and assessment of heritage and character of an area, as the local Area Plans are completed, and before intensification rules are applied to an area.

- ▶ Adequate budgets and resources applied within council to build up an experienced and knowledgeable heritage department.
- ▶ Continuing engagement with interested community groups on how to best preserve our heritage.

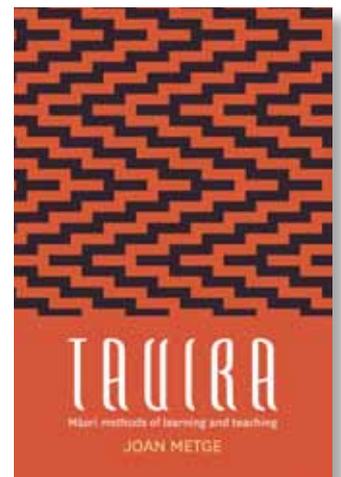
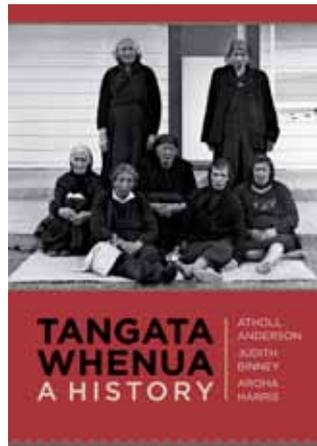
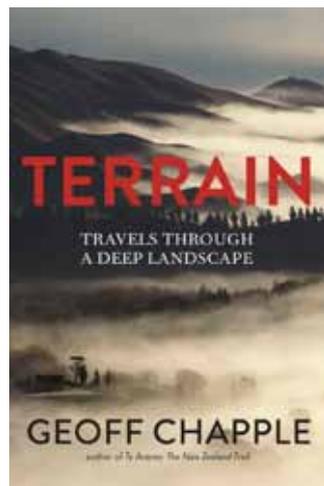
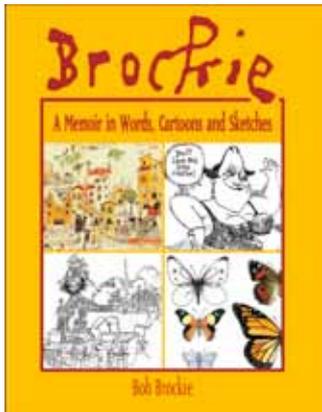
None of these seem unreasonable, but they might be to those who want to see Auckland intensify more quickly, or who feel that having the means to live in one of its leafy suburbs should not make you immune to change. Nothing is decided yet, so there is much more debate to come.

It's not all bad for heritage in Auckland. Residential 1 Zones in suburbs such as Ponsonby, Herne Bay, Grey Lynn, and Parnell remain protected under what will become known as 'historic character zones'. Some of these areas have been expanded. Many more previously unprotected houses are proposed for protection after a huge assessment exercise by the Council.

As the country's population grows and the bid for a more sustainable way of living continues, this is a battle that may be coming to other New Zealand cities.

Books for Christmas

Christmas suggestions from some of our readers



Objects and memory are the common threads in my two books for Christmas.

§ The book I would like to receive (if I haven't bought it for myself already!) is Stephen Deed's *Unearthly Landscapes: New Zealand's Early Cemeteries, Churchyards and Urupa* (Otago University Press), which is about to hit the shops at the time I'm writing this. As someone who is fascinated by memorials, and who likes wandering through cemeteries to read the stories told by the gravestones, this book sounds custom-made for me.

§ The book I would give someone else is *Germany: Memories of a Nation* (Allen Lane, 2014) by Neil MacGregor, who is about to step down as Director of the British Museum. As in his earlier *History of the World in 100 Objects*, MacGregor deftly interweaves the stories of particular objects and the larger historical processes those objects represent. You don't need any previous knowledge of or interest in German history to become enthralled by this journey through the histories and memories that have formed the modern German sense of nationhood.

—Ewan Morris

§ *Brockie: A memoir in words, cartoons and sketches* by Bob Brockie (New Zealand Cartoon Archive 2015).

§ *Terrain: Travels through a deep landscape* by Geoff Chapple (Random House, 2015).

—Simon Nathan

I would like to receive:

§ Bridget Williams Books' massive *Tangata Whenua*

§ Philipp Blom's *Fracture: Life and Culture in the West, 1918-1938*

I would like to give:

§ Joan Metge's *Taurira: Māori methods of learning and teaching*

§ Nicholas Stargadt's *The German War: Germany under arms 1939-1945*

—Jeffrey Paparoa Holman

The new book of interviews of Christchurch people by Rosemary Baird had caught my eye. I'm from Canterbury and my mother has given me a book about Christchurch heritage every Christmas since 2011!

—Amanda Mulligan

Tracking Travelling Taonga by Rhys Richards (Paremata Press, 2015) is a book I just found out about that would be a great Christmas

present to add to your 'books for Christmas' article. I haven't even seen it let alone read it, so can't offer any review, but the topic is one that has been waiting to be addressed.

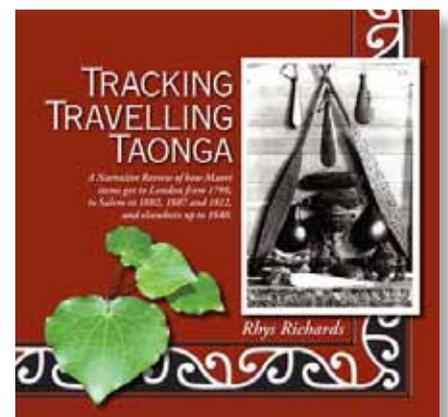
—Rachael Egerton

My favourite history reads from the year are:

§ *Tangata Whenua: An Illustrated History* by Atholl Anderson, Judith Binney, and Aroha Harris (Bridget Williams Books, 2015). Much more than just pretty pictures!

§ *No Simple Passage: the Journey of the 'London' to New Zealand, 1842 - a Ship of Hope* by Jenny Robin Jones (Auckland: Random House, 2011). In lighter vein but still fascinating.

—Eileen Barrett-Whitehead



YOU ARE VIEWING Newspapers

Big changes ahead for Papers Past

By Emerson Vandy, Digital Services Manager, National Library of New Zealand

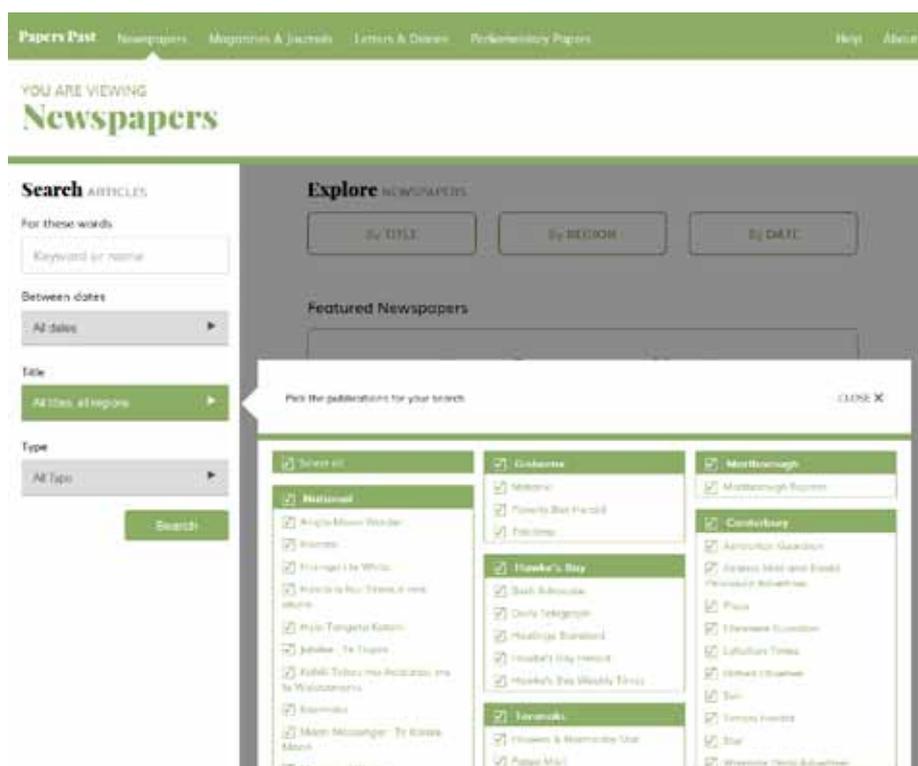
Papers Past, the National Library's site for digitised newspapers, is getting closer to launching its brand new beta website.

The new site brings a number of major changes that bring the service into the present and get it ready for future developments.

- ▶ People will get a cleaner, more modern interface that resizes to work nicely on any desktop or mobile device.
- ▶ The new Papers Past provides more than just newspapers, by bringing letters and diaries, magazines, and parliamentary papers into the site for the first time.
- ▶ The search tools have been improved, making it easier to search groups of papers, pick date ranges, and scan results.
- ▶ The underlying tech has been improved to make it able to grow with more material and more users.

These changes have made it a busy year for the Papers Past team. We've been prototyping, user testing, working on back-end and front-end development, design, and kept the existing site updated with amazing additions like the first Pacific and Māori-language papers and extensive coverage of the First World War.

When it goes live, the Papers Past beta will be available alongside the old site, letting people



Reviewing PHANZA's Constitution

PHANZA President Ewan Morris updates members on the review of PHANZA's Constitution, and the next steps in the process.

try it out, compare it to Papers Past classic, and provide feedback that helps the team polish it up before it replaces the existing site. In particular, feedback on the functions and the usability will be very helpful for the project - please don't be shy about getting in touch via the feedback form on the beta. There will be updates to the beta as we fix things so feel free to check in on the new site now and then too.

Once it's out there, that's not actually the end of the story. The new platform will make it easier to update Papers Past with new features and new types of text items, and simpler to try out new ideas for the future. We intend to be doing more of this. The team already has more than a few ideas on the cards - there have been many requests for text correction features over the years, and while the beta won't enable this out-of-the-box, it puts in place some of the main things needed to deliver this in a future update.

We look forward to seeing you on the new site in the new year.

Earlier this year, the PHANZA committee sought members' feedback on some questions and proposals about changes to the Constitution. There was a good discussion of the Constitution at our Annual General Meeting, and 17 members took the time to fill in a survey. Many thanks to all of you who contributed your views - your comments have been very helpful.

Feedback from members will play a significant role in shaping the proposed Constitutional changes that will eventually be put to the next AGM. On some issues there has been a clear consensus, while on others views have been divided. The committee is not approaching the analysis of member feedback as a simple numbers game: sometimes a single cogent comment can be very persuasive, and if a significant minority of members has concerns about a particular proposal, the committee needs to consider their views seriously.

Here are a few areas in which members' comments have raised questions for the committee to think further about:

- ▶ There were mixed views about creating a new category of associate membership for people who are new to the historical profession. Even some members who supported the idea in principle had questions about how it might be applied in practice, and particularly about how associate members would 'graduate' to full membership.
- ▶ Differing views were

expressed about the proposal that there should be no limit on the number of members who could be elected to the committee at an AGM. Some felt the current limit of seven elected and three co-opted committee members should be sufficient, while others suggested the maximum number of members could be increased but that there should still be a limit on numbers.

- ▶ A number of members were concerned about the proposal that committee members other than the President, Treasurer or Secretary should be allowed to have signing authority for PHANZA's bank account. These members felt that limiting signing authority to office holders is a prudent means of ensuring financial responsibility.
- ▶ A majority of those who completed the survey favoured including dispute-resolution procedures in the Constitution, but a number of members felt this was unnecessary and overly bureaucratic.

One of the most difficult issues for the committee to consider is how the Constitution can better provide for participation in decision-making by members who cannot attend AGMs because they do not live near Wellington. Some non-Wellington members would, quite understandably, like to be able to vote in PHANZA elections and on other matters. However some members commented that

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PHANZA Executive Committee

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Eileen Barrett-Whitehead (Treasurer), freelance historian treasurer@phanza.org.nz

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David Young, freelance historian

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This issue was edited by Margaret Pointer.

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► continued from page 11

PHANZA is a small organisation with an all-volunteer committee, so any changes to voting procedures should not be too onerous for the committee to administer.

There are real challenges with allowing voting by email or other means that do not require members to be present in person at AGMs. There would need to be a cut-off date for nominations to positions on the committee or for any motions that were to be voted on – it would no longer be possible to take nominations or motions from the floor of the meeting. The committee would also need to keep records of all votes received from members not present at the meeting, in case the outcome of a vote was ever challenged. The committee is keen to think creatively about how members living outside Wellington can participate in decision-making, and we would welcome your thoughts on this.

One recent development the committee will need to take into account is the release by the Government of an 'exposure draft' of an Incorporated Societies Bill. Based on recommendations from a Law Commission review, the Bill

would replace the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, which is the legislation under which PHANZA operates. Submissions on the draft Bill are due by 30 June 2016, and the PHANZA committee will consider whether we should make a submission. More importantly, we will take the proposed law changes into account in developing our proposals for the Constitution. For example, the draft Bill includes a requirement that incorporated societies have dispute-resolution procedures (something PHANZA currently lacks) in their constitutions.

Based on feedback from members, the contents of the draft Incorporated Societies Bill and examples from other organisations, the committee will now prepare amendments to the PHANZA Constitution. A revised Constitution, showing the proposed amendments, will be circulated to members for further comment. The committee will then finalise the amendments, which will be voted on at the 2016 AGM. Any amendments to the Constitution approved by the AGM will be notified to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies and will then become official.

