



NEW STORIES ~ OF THE ~ OLD WEST

West Auckland
Heritage Conference

Sunday 2 October 2016
9am-5pm
Titirangi War Memorial
Hall, Titirangi



Welcome to *New Stories of the Old West*, the first heritage conference organised by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board. The conference is a collaborative effort by many in the community and council.

The West has a diverse and proud history, reaching from the stories told by Māori of the formation of the ranges, their settlement of the area, to the arrival of Pakeha settlers and their industries, the long-held arts traditions, and the diverse range of larger-than-life characters. These themes and many more will be explored today. We will also discuss how to go about researching the West's history. The day will culminate in the first-ever re-enactment in voice and music of a historical journey by missionaries up the West Coast.

The board hopes this day will be the beginning of a tradition for the West and thanks all those involved in putting it together.

Sandra Coney

Chair, Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Schedule

Registration from 8am

- 9.30am** Mihi and karakia by Keith Williams, Te Kawerau a Maki, on the importance of heritage from a Māori perspective, followed by opening address by Sandra Coney
- 10.00am** Key note presentation by Mica Plowman: *The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area state of the environment: Heritage lost and found*
- 10.30am** Morning tea
- 11.00am** Morning sessions
- 12.30pm** Lunch
- 1.30pm** Key note presentation by Gai Bishop, Vivien Burgess and Grant Cole: *Henderson: Heart of the West*
- 2.00pm** Afternoon sessions
- 3.30pm** Afternoon tea
- 4.00pm** Key note presentation by Sir Bob Harvey with Rewi Spraggon and Riki Bennett: *The journey*
- 4.30pm** Blessing and closing with wine and nibbles

Morning sessions summary

Theme: Ask the experts

Location: Titirangi War Memorial Hall

11.00am-11.20am *Recording the stories of people and place* by Sue Berman

11.30am-12.30pm *Resources for researching - a panel session with experts*, with Lisa Truttman, Vivien Burgess, Smita Biswas, Keith Stuart

Theme: Family connections

Location: Titirangi Library

11.00am-11.20am *A Karekare childhood* by Kirsty Cameron

11.30am-11.50am *A Laingholm history* by Wayne Mackenzie

12.00pm-12.30pm *The Shaws of Karekare* by Colin Davis

Theme: Saving heritage

Location: Lopdell House – Seminar Room

11.00am-11.20am *Swanson Heritage Trail* by Anko Hanse

11.30am-11.50am *Another chapter in the history of the Glen Eden railway station* by Janet Clews

12.00pm-12.30pm *Swanson heritage project* by Fiona Whyte

Theme: Digging the dirt

Location: Te Uru – Learning Centre

11.00am-11.20am *Construction of water supply dams in the Waitākere Ranges before 1929* by Harvey Stewart

11.30am-11.50am *California comes to New Lynn* by Finn McCahon-Jones

12.00pm-12.30pm *Heavy clay moments* by Myfanwy Eaves

Afternoon sessions summary

Theme: Cultural icons

Location: Titirangi War Memorial Hall

2.00pm-2.20pm *From the festival: Tales from 20 years of the Going West Books & Writers Festival* by Naomi McCleary and Robyn Mason

2.30pm-2.50pm *Te Uru turns 30 – A brief history* by Andrew Clifford

3.00pm-3.30pm *History of Hōani Waititi Marae* by Carolyn Morgan and Charlie Moore

Theme: Into the hills

Location: Titirangi Library

2.00pm-2.20pm *Exhibition Drive – Making the grade* by Fiona Drummond

2.30pm-2.50pm *Tracks and trails of the Southern Waitākeres and their history* by Bruce Harvey

3.00pm-3.30pm *Atkinson Park and life at Paturoa Bay* by Lynnette Sollitt-Morris

Theme: People and places

Location: Lopdell House – Seminar Room

2.00pm-2.20pm *Hetana Hamlet and the dashed hopes of Norman Mackenzie Smith* by Sandra Coney

2.30pm-2.50pm *I did not want to be Mrs Colin* by Lynda Tyler

3.00pm-3.30pm *Don Buck of Don Buck Hill* by Marianne Simpkins

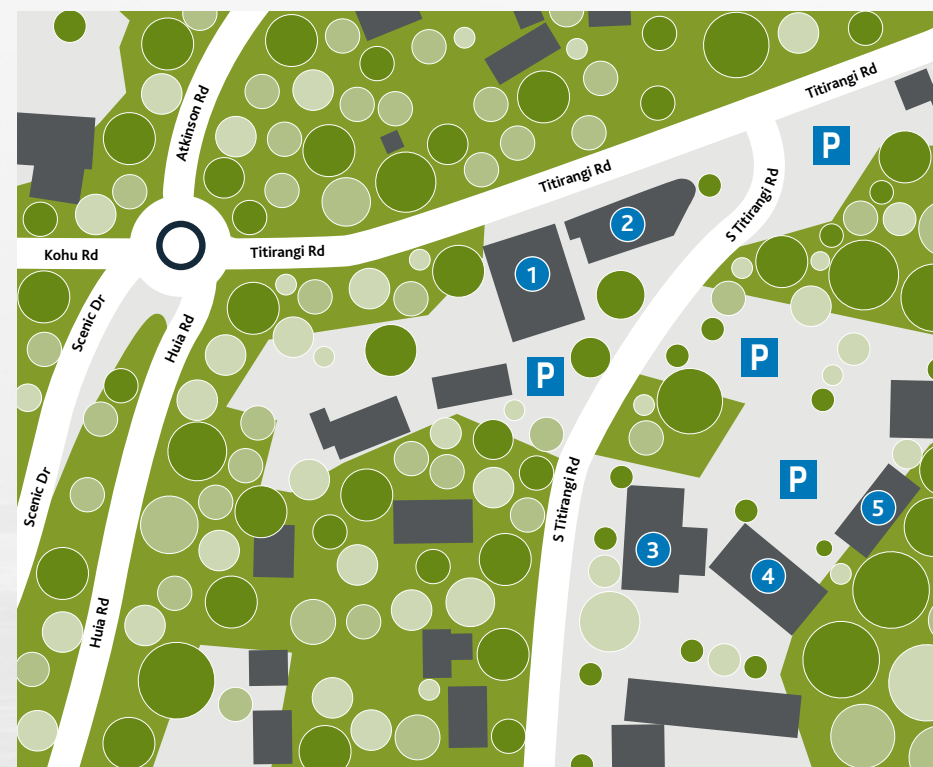
Theme: Gathering stories

Location: Te Uru – Learning Centre

2.00pm-2.20pm *Archiving Pacific community stories* by Smita Biswas and Jarcinda Stowers-Ama

2.30pm-2.50pm *Te Mo Kohatu* by Pita Turei

3.00pm-3.30pm *A well-stocked mind: Inside Jack Diamond's manuscript collection* by Erica O'Flaherty



Venue locations

1 Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery
– Learning Centre, level 3 (downstairs)

2 Lopdell House
– Seminar Room, level 1 (upstairs)

3 Titirangi Library

4 Titirangi War Memorial Hall

5 Titirangi Community House

P Parking



Pa Bethell, Lavinia Perry and Mrs Marie Perry with the dog, Anawhata Jack, on Anawhata Road, c1930. Photographer unknown. West Auckland Research Centre, J.T. Diamond Collection, JTD-03K-05700.

Presentations

Morning sessions

Theme: Ask the experts

Recording the stories of people and place

Sue Berman

Do you have an interest in recording your family or community stories? In this session Auckland Libraries' Oral Historian Sue Berman will introduce the value and foundations for creating a successful oral history interview in this How do I? quick tips session. The talk will be illustrated with sound recordings drawn from the Auckland Libraries West Auckland Research Centre collection.

Titirangi War Memorial Hall, 11.00am-11.20am

Resources for researching - A panel session with experts

Vivien Burgess (West Auckland Historical Society), Smita Biswas (West Auckland Research Centre), Keith Stuart (Auckland Council Archives) and Lisa Truttman (Avondale/Waterview Historical Society).

Titirangi War Memorial Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm

Theme: Family connections

A Karekare childhood

Kirsty Cameron

In the early 20th century, Molly Cowan's father worked in the West Coast bush, driving the train that hauled logs between Karekare and Whatipu. In a memoir written for her granddaughter, Kirsty Cameron, Molly recalls living at Karekare, and starting school as a four-year-old, travelling by horseback with her six-year-old brother to follow the teacher around the schoolhouses at Piha, Karekare and Whatipu.

Titirangi Library, 11.00am-11.20am

A Laingholm history

Wayne Mackenzie

A seventh generation Laingholm resident, Wayne writes about history for the *Laingholm Roundabout* magazine and has a substantial collection of Laingholm images and documents. He will explore Laingholm's varied history.

Titirangi Library, 11.30am-11.50am

The Shaws of Karekare

Colin Davis

The presentation will cover the story of Elihu John Shaw, known as John Shaw, who bought land at Karekare in the mid-19th Century. About 1873-74 John and his wife Sarah and their family settled at Karekare along with his brother Silas and his family. The story covers their early life, why they moved to Karekare, John's land purchases and their children.

Titirangi Library, 12.00pm-12.30pm

Theme: Saving heritage

Swanson Heritage Trail

Anko Hanse

Swanson was founded in 1854. Many historic buildings and places remain in the village and surrounding area. Additional stories of the past can be told via newer structures that have replaced the old, including through street names. Anko's presentation is about the first phase of creating a heritage walk, which has identified about 25 buildings and places in and around the village centre.

Lopdell House – Seminar Room, 11.00am-11.20am

Another chapter in the history of the Glen Eden railway station

Janet Clews

A presentation and video by the former Mayor of Glen Eden, on the saving of the historical Glen Eden Railway station, specifically when it was under threat by the railways, who thought they owned it.

Lopdell House – Seminar Room, 11.30am-11.50am

Swanson heritage project

Fiona Whyte

Swanson is on the cusp of transformation. To ensure growth recognises the character and heritage of the area, Boffa Miskell has been leading a team including urban designers, heritage architects and a historian to document the heritage of Swanson, including the heritage that has meaning for local people. The work will result in guidelines for future development. Fiona will discuss the project and what it means for Swanson.

Lopdell House – Seminar Room, 12.00pm-12.30pm

Theme: Digging the dirt

Construction of water supply dams in the Waitākere Ranges before 1929

Harvey Stewart

Using photos, this presentation will follow the development of the Waitākere Ranges as a source of water for the rapidly growing city of Auckland from 1900-1929. During this time five significant dams were built together with their associated pipelines. Access to these was by bush tracks, narrow-gauge bush railways and a barge across the Manukau Harbour.

Te Uru – Learning Centre, 11.00am-11.20am

California comes to New Lynn

Finn McCahon-Jones

This paper will follow the launch of Californian designer Dorothy Thorpe's range of tableware she designed in 1965 for Crown Lynn. This range was presented at an event at 246 Queen Street, above Crown Lynn's flagship store. More than 400 people saw the range for the first time when it featured in a fashion parade as part of the presentation ceremony for the 1965 Crown Lynn design award winners. At the time Crown Lynn had 600 staff, and was producing over 10,000,000 pieces a year.

Te Uru – Learning Centre, 11.30am-11.50am

Heavy clay moments

Myfanwy Eaves

Heavy clay objects are those large earthenware pipes and tiles that were used to supply fresh water or drain away excess. The ability to take clay and make these pipes was a response to the Auckland 'frontier' life, sometimes to make land workable, sometimes to make a living; either way the result was that earthenware pipes can still be found around Auckland, with some still operative. In the Cultural Heritage team, we ask these questions of every resource consent: how will this proposal affect what we know about the place, the site?

Te Uru – Learning Centre, 12.00pm-12.30pm

Afternoon sessions

Theme: Cultural icons

From the festival: Tales from 20 years of the Going West Books & Writers Festival

Naomi McCleary and Robyn Mason

Going West Books & Writers Festival celebrates the authors of Aotearoa, and has gathered an extraordinary archive of audio and image. Join co-founder and director of two decades Naomi McCleary, in conversation with Going West archivist and sometimes programmer Robyn Mason, as they divulge tales of the festival's colourful, and occasionally riotous, cast.

Titirangi War Memorial Hall, 2.00pm-2.20pm

Te Uru turns 30 – A brief history

Andrew Clifford

Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery (formerly Lopdell House Gallery) opened in November 1986. To mark the 30th anniversary, Te Uru is embarking on a year of heritage research to unpack the growing collection of stories, which has accumulated in our archives, from humble beginnings as a local arts and cultural centre to our present status, operating from new purpose-built facilities as a leading gallery in the region.

Titirangi War Memorial Hall, 2.30pm-2.50pm

History of Hōani Waititi Marae

Carolyn Morgan and Charlie Moore

Carolyn and Charlie will introduce a project, still in its early stages, to present the story of Hōani Waititi Marae from its inception in the early 1970s to the present. It was conceived as a pan-tribal urban marae, which now provides a cultural base for Māori living in West Auckland, a place where values find expression and the wider West Auckland community can learn about and experience Māori culture.

Titirangi War Memorial Hall, 3.00pm-3.30pm

Theme: Into the hills

Exhibition Drive – Making the grade

Fiona Drummond

Exhibition Drive is today a much loved walking track in the Titirangi region, though 100 years ago it was a famous motor car through-road, opened for the 1914 Auckland Exhibition. Fiona Drummond will share the influences that shaped this road over 100 years, using images from her book. For participants interested in writing and marketing their own book, Fiona will share her processes on this.

Titirangi Library, 2.00pm-2.20pm

Tracks and trails of the Southern Waitākeres and their history

Bruce Harvey

Bruce will talk about the names of tracks in the southern Waitākeres, their meanings and associated history, including Māori heritage, milling in Whatipu and Huia, and the Orpheus disaster.

Titirangi Library, 2.30pm-2.50pm

Atkinson Park and life at Paturoa Bay

Lynnette Sollitt-Morris

Founded in 1910, and formally opened in 1914, Atkinson Park in Titirangi was once a popular tourist destination. Lynnette will relate the history of Atkinson Park and of the close-knit semi-rural community of Titirangi Beach and Paturoa Bay that developed from about 1920.

Titirangi Library, 3.00pm-3.30pm

Theme: People and places

Hetana Hamlet and the dashed hopes of Norman McKenzie Smith

Sandra Coney

Sandra will discuss Hetana Hamlet, a land development under a 1902 Liberal Government scheme to house people on low incomes. Soldiers returning from WW1 were encouraged to join. The scheme has particular resonance for 2016 Auckland, where working people still struggle to get a roof over their heads. Hetana Hamlet was one of three such hamlets located in the New Lynn/Glen Eden area. The case of Norman McKenzie Smith illustrates how leaseholders struggled as New Zealand slid into the Depression. Hetana Hamlet and the scheme are all but forgotten today, but the early 20th century subdivisions still shape the suburban landscape in parts of West Auckland.

Lopdell House – Seminar Room, 2.00pm-2.20pm

I did not want to be Mrs Colin

Linda Tyler

Anne Hamblett (1915-1993) married the younger artist Colin McCahon (1919-1987) in 1942. In 1953 they moved to French Bay where she was able to sustain the family and supplement their income with illustration work. Linda will talk about Anne's life as an illustrator, resident of French Bay and what it meant to be married to Colin the artist.

Lopdell House – Seminar Room, 2.30pm-2.50pm

Don Buck of Don Buck Hill

Marianne Simpkins

Francisco Rodriguez Figuero arrived in Auckland in 1882 and died in 1917 aged 47. In that time 'Don Buck' as he was soon known, was both lauded as a humanitarian and condemned as an opportunistic vagabond. He described himself as a viticulturist but was best known for running his kauri gum diggers camp. There has been little to support the many theories. After 40 years of research Marianne has teased fact from fiction and compiled a comprehensive picture of his life, death and subsequent identification of his grave at Waikumete Cemetery.

Lopdell House – Seminar Room, 3.00pm-3.30pm

Theme: Gathering stories

Archiving Pacific community stories

Smita Biswas and Jarcinda Stowers-Ama

Archiving local Pacific stories is one of the key priorities of Auckland Libraries' strategic document Te Kauroa. It aims to broaden the collection to reflect the diversity of Auckland. Smita will talk about how Auckland Council Libraries supports communities like Pacifica Arts Centre (PAC) to archive their history and make it accessible for future generations. Libraries and PAC continue to work on projects to preserve the art, history and culture of Pacific communities. These collaborative projects have created trust, connection and access to the rest of the library, especially for our local Pacific communities.

Te Uru – Learning Centre, 2.00pm-2.20pm

Te Mo Kohatu

Pita Turei

Oral histories told with stories that link the peoples of West Auckland to the wider region.

Te Uru – Learning Centre, 2.30pm-2.50pm

A well-stocked mind: Inside Jack Diamond's manuscript collection

Erica O'Flaherty

As an amateur historian, Jack Diamond dedicated a lifetime to seeking out and documenting the history of West Auckland. In doing so, he compiled a large archive of research material that ranges in content from his 'random thoughts' to his highly detailed field diaries. This talk draws on some of the material uncovered during the ongoing project to process Jack's collection, and reveals the humour, passion, motivation and methodology inside his 'well-stocked mind'.

Te Uru – Learning Centre, 3.00pm-3.30pm

Key note presentations

The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area state of the environment: Heritage lost and found

Mica Plowman

The historic heritage data set of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA) comprises a large and diverse range of Māori and European settlement sites. But the majority of available site information is poorly located, under reported and more than 40 years out of date. To inform decision making and provide for the sustainable management of this heritage, the Auckland Council Heritage Unit in conjunction with the Waitākere Ranges Local Board has been undertaking an upgrade of the information relating to the heritage resources of the WRHA. This paper presents an overview of the project work since 2014 to rediscover the historic heritage resources of the Waitākere Ranges.

Titirangi War Memorial Hall, 10.00am

Henderson: Heart of the West

Gai Bishop, Vivien Burgess and Grant Cole

Gai, Vivien and Grant will discuss *Henderson: Heart of the West*, a long-awaited comprehensive study of a unique West Auckland town; from waka landing to sub-regional centre and administrative hub of a large New Zealand city. What made that heart beat, and what produced its special enduring character forms the focus of this book researched and written by Vivien Burgess, Gai Bishop and Grant Cole, and edited by Paul Moon.

Titirangi War Memorial Hall, 1.30pm

The journey

Sir Bob Harvey with Rewi Spraggon and Riki Bennett

The first European contact on the Waitākere West Coast was in December 1821. A group of 20 missionaries and others, led by Samuel Marsden and the Reverend John Butler, missed the CMS Schooner, The Active, at Huia. Without transport they set out to walk along the west coast, meeting Māori and sweating in the heat. It was quite a gruelling journey, but all survived. Sir Bob Harvey with Māori artists and musicians Rewi Spraggon and Riki Bennett will recreate this long journey, with early maps, images and the sounds they heard on their way. A must-see performance!

Titirangi War Memorial Hall, 4.00pm

Displays

Protect Piha Heritage Society: The story of Piha Mill

The Piha Mill, 1910-1921, was the last major kauri milling operation in the Waitākere Ranges. Four posters trace the story of the mill including its establishment by Dr Frederick Rayner and the transfer of equipment from an earlier mill at neighbouring Karekare, the impact of WW1 on the workforce and maintenance of the iconic coastal tramway. The posters' headings are: *The peace of Piha Valley is shattered by saws*; *Giant trees and tough wiry men*; *Troubles at mill*; and *The end of the line for the Piha Mill*.

Friends of Arataki present the Pou Project

This panel describes the Pou Heritage Trail, initiated by Friends of Arataki. It will describe the pou and interpretation panels that have been erected at significant historical sites in the Waitākere Ranges.

Dalmatians out West

This display, curated by the West Auckland Research Centre, features images of the Dalmatian community in West Auckland, including early settlers, transport, weddings, social occasions, sport, music and dance, horticulture and viticulture.

Heavy clay industry of New Lynn and Avondale

Images of the heavy clay industry in New Lynn and Avondale from the West Auckland Research Centre's collections.

WW1 soldiers from West Auckland

This display will show images and research on WW1 soldiers who have a connection with West Auckland.

Waitākere Branch NZ Society of Genealogy

Learn about Waitākere Branch NZ Society of Genealogy and view research about some local families.

Heritage resources

Archives New Zealand

Auckland office, 95 Richard Pearse Drive, Manukau, PO Box 201103, Manukau
09 270 1100
auckland.archives@dia.govt.nz
archives.govt.nz

Arataki Visitor Centre

300 Scenic Drive, Titirangi
09 817 0077
regionalparks.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/aratakivisitorcentre

Auckland Council Archives

GPT Building, 4 Waipareira Ave, Henderson
09 892 4870
archives@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Auckland Libraries

aucklandlibraries.govt.nz

Central Auckland Research Centre

Central City Library, Level 2, 44-46 Lorne Street, Auckland Central
09 307 7771
Library.CentralHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

North Auckland Research Centre

Takapuna Library, The Strand, Takapuna
09 486 8460
Library.NorthHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Sir George Grey Special Collections

Central City Library, Level 2, 44-46 Lorne Street, Auckland Central
09 377 0209
Specialcollections@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

South Auckland Research Centre

Manukau Library and Research Centre, Level 1, 3 Osterley Way, Manukau

09 261 8637

Library.SouthHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

West Auckland Research Centre

Waitākere Central Library, Level 2, 3 Ratanui Street, Henderson

09 839 2260

Library.WestHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Auckland War Memorial Museum Library

Auckland War Memorial Museum

09 306 7070 ext 7084

library@aucklandmuseum.com

aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/library-info-centres

Avondale/Waterview Historical Society

c/- 19 Methuen Road, Avondale

09 828 8494

historian@avondale.org.nz

sites.google.com/site/avondalehistory/

Huia Settlers Museum

1251 Huia Road, Huia

09 811 8971

info@huiamuseum.org.nz

huiamuseum.org.nz

Oratia Folk Museum

527 West Coast Road, Oratia

09 813 3884 or 09 818 7816

ianmolyneux@clear.net.nz

oratia.org.nz/oratia-folk-museum/

Protect Piha Heritage Society

CM Box 3, Piha

021 660 275

protectpihaheritage@vodafone.co.nz

Te Toi Uku Clayworks Museum

8 Ambrico Place, New Lynn

09 827 7349

Sandra@portageceramicstrust.org.nz

portageceramicstrust.org.nz

West Auckland Historical Society

Mill Cottage, 35 Sel Peacock Drive, Henderson

09 836 5917

info@westaucklandhistory.org.nz

Heritage conference advisory group

Annalily van den Broeke – Event Organiser

Beverley Rogers – Auckland Council Civic Events

Gai Bishop - West Auckland Historical Society

Graeme Murdoch – Historian

Irene Shepherd – Auckland Council Civic Events

Justin Kary – Senior Specialist Local Board Communications

Keith Williams – Iwi Advisor

Lisa Truttman – Historian

Mica Plowman – Auckland Council Principal Heritage Advisor West

Raewynn Robertson – Auckland Council Senior Librarian Local History

Rebecca Kunin – Event Organiser

Sandra Coney – Chair, Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Sharon Davies – PA to Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Sir Bob Harvey – Writer and Presenter

Back cover: This mighty kauri once stood at Nihotupu, on the flat valley near where today you park to walk to the Upper Nihotupu Dam. It was near Mander and Bradley's mill and was spared from the bushman's axe because it was so huge. After a visit by the Governor, David Boyle, Earl of Glasgow in 1896, it was named the Glasgow Tree. It had a girth of 52 feet and was 80 feet to the first branch. After a fire went through in the late 1890s, the tree slowly died, so permission was gained from the Earl to cut it down. There was no saw long enough in Auckland, so one was specially brought in from Northland to perform the sad task.



Giant kauri tree, Nihotupu bush. Girth of the tree is 52 feet (just under 16 metres), 1890s. Photographer unknown. West Auckland Research Centre, J.T. Diamond Collection, JTD-08F-05174.