

THE PEOPLE OF THE WEST

West Auckland
Heritage Conference

8 October



Sunday 8 October 2017

9am-5pm

**Council Chambers, Henderson Civic Centre
6 Henderson Valley Road, Henderson**



Welcome to The People of the West, the second West Auckland Heritage Conference. This event is organised by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board with support from the Whau and Henderson-Massey local boards. The conference is a collaborative effort by many in the community and council.

The west has a diverse and proud history, and has had a wonderful range of people and larger-than-life characters from tangata whenua to settlers, entrepreneurs, adventurers, artists and escapees from the restrictions of settled city life.

Today we're going to hear about how these various peoples made their mark on the area, in diverse ways, from place names to yarns and legends of the west.

This year, we have been lucky to have some extra events around the conference, including walks, book launches, exhibitions and Sir Bob Harvey's evening of local films.

The board thanks all those involved in putting it together and hopes everyone has a great weekend.

Sandra Coney, Heritage portfolio, Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Schedule

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| 8.30am | Registration opens |
| 9.30am | Mihi and karakia followed by opening address by Sandra Coney |
| 9.45am | Keynote presentation by Graeme Murdoch: <i>Nga tohu tupuna o Hikurangi – Traditional Ancestral Landmarks of West Auckland</i> |
| 10.30am | Morning tea |
| 11.00am | Morning sessions |
| 12.00pm | Lunch |
| 1.00pm | Keynote presentation by Moyra Elliott: <i>The Leading Ladies</i> |
| 1.30pm | Lunch sessions |
| 2.30pm | Afternoon tea |
| 3.00pm | Afternoon sessions |
| 4.00pm | Keynote presentation by Robert Brassey: <i>The Last Flight of Texas Tornado</i> |
| 4.45pm | Blessing and closing with wine and nibbles |

Cover image: Daffodil farm, Titirangi, c 1947. From left: Ann Hodge, Miss Shaw, Lynn MacLean. Mia Stein Collection.

Keynote presentations

Nga tohu tupuna o Hikurangi – Traditional Ancestral Landmarks of West Auckland

Graeme Murdoch

Graeme's talk looks at those traditional Māori place names of west Auckland that relate specifically to named Māori ancestors associated with the district over many centuries down to the present.

Henderson Council Chamber, 9.45am

The Leading Ladies

Moyra Elliott

The Leading Ladies is a recount of New Zealand's first studio potters. There were several who started in the 1920s and 1930s, all were women and they began well in advance of the mid-century pottery culture that was male dominated. Two of these women pioneers were local, Briar Gardner of the Clark Brick and Tile family in New Lynn and Olive Jones who lived in Onehunga. However, five early women will be covered in this talk, although there were more than this - pottery was a popular profession for some and hobby for many in this period. There is a concurrent exhibition of their work at Titirangi's Te Uru Gallery.

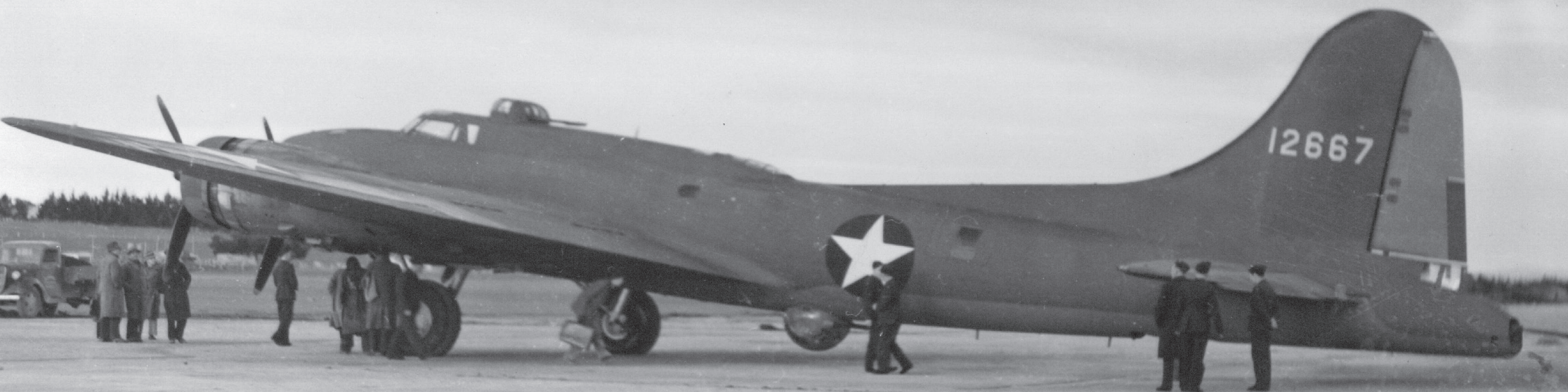
Henderson Council Chamber, 1.00pm

The Last Flight of Texas Tornado

Robert Brassey

At 12.25 am on 9 June 1942 a loud explosion was heard across much of Auckland. It was the sound of a USAAF Boeing B17-E Flying Fortress heavy bomber exploding after crashing near Whenuapai Air Base. All 11 occupants of the aircraft were killed in what was, at the time, New Zealand's worst aircraft disaster. There has been much speculation about the nature of the secret mission that the aircraft was on, and the cause of the crash, which was attributed to pilot error. This presentation will focus on recent research on this tragic event and the results of the recent investigation of the crash site.

Henderson Council Chamber, 4.00pm



The only known photo of the USAAF Boeing B17-E Flying Fortress in New Zealand. Air Force Museum of New Zealand.

Presentations

Morning sessions

Theme: Gathering stories

Online Cenotaph: Researching Local Service Personnel

Claire Lanyon

Discover a connection to those who served for New Zealand using Online Cenotaph, developed by Auckland War Memorial Museum. Come along to hear stories of west Auckland service personnel and learn how to contribute information and images to Online Cenotaph for future generations to explore.

Manukau Room, 11.00am-11.25am

Hidden History of Moire Road

Dianne Sisley

Moire Park, with its historic walkway, hides its history as a one hundred-acre farm which the Maxfield and McWhirter families held for 73 years, beginning in 1892. This is a tale including gumdiggers, a drowning, burglaries and a farm cottage dating to the 1850s, where the mysterious Captain Lawson settled. It's also a story of Victorian picnics on lace tablecloths, later a gentle farmer George McWhirter who singlehandedly cleared all the land, building his own metal road using his converted Brengun carrier. This history will be related by his granddaughter, incorporating a family photographic collection dating from 1907.

Manukau Room, 11.30am-11.55am

Theme: Digging the dirt

Henry Atkinson: Engineer, Water-giver and Titirangi Icon

Fiona Drummond

Henry Atkinson is one of Titirangi's best known identities, surveying the village in various guises from his deserving pedestal outside Lopdell House. Yet how much is really known about this visionary man? Around 150 years ago he made his first of several gifts to the city: an idea for a water storage dam, and the land

to build one. His first idea was to locate it in Oratia. But then he sold and gifted land in Titirangi, where the current water treatment plant is located. Today, as local residents grapple with the concept of the development of a new water treatment plant, we must wonder what Henry is thinking.

Waitematā Room, 11.00am-11.25am

Claiming Natural Resources of Waitākere

Ivan Pivac

Ivan will discuss the history of the kauri forest in the Waitākere Ranges: the milling, gum digging and associated industry.

Waitematā Room, 11.30am-11.55am

Theme: Oratia then

Pears, Poison and Patriots: Tales from Wild Oratia

Zarah Burnett

In 2013 historical research for the Oratia Local Area Plan identified several heritage themes relating to the occupation and settlement of the area. Zarah will share the broad results of this study along with the lesser known tales of marauding musicians, disorderly conduct, war heroes, vandalism, escapees and murder which created notoriety in the valley of the long-linging sun.

Whare Kai, 11.00am-11.25am

The Shaws of Karekare and Oratia

Colin Davis

About 1873-74, Elihu John Shaw, know as John, and his wife Sarah and their family moved to and settled at Karekare, along with his brother Silas and his family. John's first wife died in 1861 leaving him with a one-year-old daughter. He remarried the presenter's great-great grandmother widow Sarah Slade, nee Hunt, who had three living children aged between seven and two. They had a further ten children most of whom married and settled in the west. From original research, the story delves further into John's reasons for moving to Karekare, and his land transactions at Karekare and later at Oratia.

Whare Kai, 11.30am-11.55am

Lunch sessions

Theme: People in the ranges

Kei konei tonu āhau – Māori in Waitākere

Rasheeda Woolford

Rasheeda (Ngati Maniapoto) is a specialist in Māori heritage at Auckland Council and grew up in the Waitākere Ranges. She will be exploring Māori identity in west Auckland, drawing from her knowledge of the area's Māori history as well as her own contemporary understanding of what it means to be Māori out west.

Manukau Room, 1.30pm-1.55pm

Some Personalities of the Waitākere Ranges Interior

Sandra Coney

The presentation will discuss four households of the interior of the Waitākere Ranges around the turn of the century. The Huguenot-descended Byle family, the Jamaican gum digger Martin Saunders, and theosophist Frederick Judson on the West Coast Road, and William Nutting, who bestowed the name Simla on a high point of the ranges near Anawhata where he tried to establish a farm.

Manukau Room, 2.00pm-2.25pm

Theme: Finding stories

The Archaeology of the Waterview Connection Project

Glen Farley

The recent opening of the Waterview Tunnel has seen the conclusion of a multi-year construction project. Archaeological monitoring of the work identified features relating to the occupation and development of the area over several hundred years. Glen Farley will discuss elements ranging from Māori settlement to colonial ventures such as brick making, flour milling, tanning and quarrying.

Waitematā Room, 1.30pm-1.55pm

Up the Creek, a Personal Essay

Paula Morris

A personal essay of growing up in Te Atatu South. Written as part of the Outside the Square arts project funded by the Henderson-Massey Local Board.

Waitematā Room, 2.00pm-2.25pm

Theme: New stories

The Storytellers

Makanaka Tuwe

The Storytellers is an exegesis* accompanying nine visual outputs developed and facilitated by Makanaka Tuwe as part of Kora, The Third Culture Research Project. Kora is a creative project that developed and created content about New Zealand African youth identity. Content includes photography, poetry, videography and digital media components of stories and experiences that relate to identity, migration and representation. People involved in the project were raised and live in west Auckland.

*Published as part of Unitec's Master of International Communication programme.

Whare Kai, 1.30pm-1.55pm

The Stories of the Pacifica Mamas and Papas - Their contribution to Pacific Art and Culture in New Zealand

Jarcinda Stowers-Ama and Tuaratini

The Pacifica Mamas and Papas are a west Auckland-based collective of respected Pacific elders (artists, mentors and cultural leaders) who were pivotal in contributing to Pacific arts and culture in New Zealand. Jarcinda and Tuaratini take us on a journey spanning 30 plus years, sharing the oral histories of these key people, using music, drums, dance and storytelling to explore the group members' lives, obstacles and triumphs.

Whare Kai, 2.00pm-2.25pm

Afternoon sessions

Theme: Oratia now

You Can't Make Heritage

Dave Harré

Heritage cannot be created. Time is outside human control. Dave will describe the story of an Oratia House: Albionvale.

Waitematā Room, 3.00pm-3.25pm

Parker Road: The Heritage of a Street

Graeme Gash

Graeme Gash and Stephen Roke are residents of Parker Road in Oratia. On the back of Parker Road's recent opposition to a water treatment plant in its midst, they have undertaken a project to document the road's residents via photography and video interviews, in the process creating a valuable visual and oral record for future generations of the families involved. Drawing upon the legacy of seven generations of the Gash family in west Auckland, with six of them in Parker Road, Graeme discusses how historical social attitudes have re-emerged in a renewed sense of community and communally-owned heritage, to a backdrop of Stephen's stunning images.

Waitematā Room, 3.30pm-4.00pm

Theme: Beginnings

Love and Food from the 1950s to the 1970s: The Family Photographs of Bob Raw

Robyn Mason

Bob Raw was 12 years old in 1942 when his family moved from Waterview to a house in Golf Road, New Lynn. He was to live there for the next 50 years. As a teenager Bob took up photography and recorded with style, grace and humour the life of his family and community, compiling a social history archive described as a national treasure. As part of an upcoming publication, Robyn Mason will discuss the story of this unsung west Auckland documentary photographer.

Henderson Council Chamber, 3.00pm - 3.25pm

The Great Air Sea Rescue

Sir Bob Harvey

In 1935 Hazel Bentham got in trouble while swimming off Karekare beach. The epic air sea rescue that followed founded the Karekare Surf Life Saving Club. Who better to tell that story with gusto than Sir Bob Harvey, who earned a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in January 2013 for his 58 years with Surf Life Saving New Zealand. Dubbed 'the first knight of lifesaving,' he is the first person to receive a knighthood for lifesaving in more than 100 years.

Henderson Council Chamber, 3.30pm-4.00pm

Theme: Inspiration found

Dawn Chorus

Lisa Prager

Lisa arrived in Titirangi in 1963 with her family, refugees from America, escaping the madness of Los Angeles where the smog was thick and the water unsafe to drink. Her dad left his job at the water department, bound for a new world. At four-years-old, she went to sleep in a grey cubist painting and awoke in Rousseau's wonderland. The bush crackling with the dawn chorus changed her life forever.

Whare Kai, 3.00pm-3.25pm

Lois McIvor: Paint the Light

Naomi McCleary

Lois McIvor bestrode the Titirangi arts scene for 35 years, from 1953 to 1988. A colourful and imposing figure with a commanding presence and matching voice, she was an influential teacher and a passionate artist. She lived in Wood Bay and painted and exhibited throughout her professional life with complete and utter focus and commitment. To hold to that self-belief and determination throughout her life as a woman artist, in a society and time which continued to prioritise and elevate the work of male artists, is a story of both tenacity and passion. She is remembered for her luminous and evocative landscapes inspired by the Waitākere Ranges and the Manukau Harbour.

Whare Kai, 3.30pm-4.00pm

Displays

The Men That Built Scenic Drive

Friends of Arataki

The history of the construction of Scenic Drive and the hard times and conditions the men endured while constructing this beautiful scenic road.

The Construction of the Upper Huia Dam

West Auckland Research Centre

The Upper Huia Dam was constructed between 1925 and 1929. Consisting of hundreds of images, the Clarry Mills collection documents the hard labour involved in excavating and building a water supply source essential for the growing city of Auckland. Ray Allen, who worked in the quarry supplying the Nihotupu and Upper Huia dam works, voices his memories of the site, the work and the men who laboured on site, building this monumental structure by hand, shovel and wheelbarrow. The exhibition is on display at the West Auckland Research Centre at the Waitākere Central Library, level 2, until 19 January 2018, home of the photos of the Clarry Mills Collection.

Henderson Stories: Voices of Our Community

West Auckland Research Centre

Selected narratives and images were drawn from oral history interviews and photographic documentation of 13 people in the Henderson community of shopkeepers, workers and elected representatives to create a 30-minute audio visual project. The subjects share their experiences and aspirations of serving the community in their respective fields.

The Story of Piha Mill

Protect Piha Heritage Society

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 the First World War 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*.

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

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Mica Plowman – Auckland Council Principal Heritage Advisor West

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Sandra Coney – Heritage portfolio, Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Shane Henderson – Chair and heritage portfolio, Henderson-Massey Local Board

Sharon Davies – PA to Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Sir Bob Harvey – Writer and Presenter



The bush home of Martin and Agnes Sanders. Joseph Hibbs. 1895. J.T. Diamond Collection. JTD-04A-00117-2. West Auckland Research Centre. Auckland Libraries.

