

DESTINATION WEST

WEST AUCKLAND HERITAGE CONFERENCE


20 OCTOBER 2019



Sunday 20 October 2019

10am to 3.30pm

Titirangi Wall Memorial Hall

 waitakereranges

 whauLB

**Whau
Local Board**

**Waitākere Ranges
Local Board**
Auckland Council



Destination West is the theme of the fourth West Auckland Heritage Conference and once again the conference will showcase some of the incredible stories from the area's past.

This event just gets better every year and it seems that we will never be short of incredible stories to tell and a history worthy of discussing. What these stories also tell us is that what makes this area special and why people choose to come 'out west', hasn't really changed over the many years, so whether your family has lived here for generations, you are new to the west or just fascinated by history, this conference has something for everyone.

Lunch and break times are a great opportunity to catch up with fellow enthusiasts and exchange knowledge and recent discoveries or have a look at the display boards and videos in the main hall.

The West Auckland Heritage Conference is an annual event proudly delivered by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board with support from the Whau Local Board and is part of the region wide Auckland Heritage Festival. The conference is a collaborative effort by many in the community and council.

Sandra Coney, Heritage Portfolio Lead, Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Schedule

9.30am	Doors open, tea and coffee available
10.00am	Mihi and welcome
10.10am	Keynote presentation by Graeme Murdoch – <i>He Haerenga Tāwhito – early Māori ancestral journeys in West Auckland</i>
10.45am	Keynote presentation by Robyn Mason – <i>Sailing West into history: the mystery and the myths of Henry Swan – the hermit of Henderson Creek</i>
11.30am	Keynote presentation by Isaac Mclvor and Larry Paul – <i>The Rescue of The Daring</i>
12.15pm	Lunch
1.00pm	Afternoon sessions at three locations: Te Uru, Titirangi Library and Titirangi Community House
2.30pm	End event by Keynote poet Sam Sampson – <i>1969: A Constant Flow of Light</i>
3.00pm	Blessing and closing with wine and nibbles



Venue locations

- 1** Titirangi War Memorial Hall
– Registration, key note speakers and lunch. 500 South Titirangi Road
 - 2** Titirangi Library
 - 3** Te Uru Learning Centre – level 3 (downstairs, via stairs or elevator)
 - 4** Titirangi Community House
- P** Parking
- Entrance

Cover image: Doris Morgan on Tom Pearce's Rex Acme Speed King at Waiatarua, on the way to Piha, circa 1935. Private Collection.

Morning keynote presentations

Location: Titirangi War Memorial Hall

10am

He Haerenga Tāwhito – early Māori ancestral journeys in West Auckland

Graeme Murdoch

Graeme Murdoch's presentation will discuss early Māori ancestral journeys undertaken in West Auckland by Kupe mai Tawhiti, Toi Te Huatahi and Rakataura of the Tainui waka, as remembered in local traditions and place names.

Location: Titirangi War Memorial Hall

10.45am

Sailing West into history: the mystery and the myths of Henry Swan – the hermit of Henderson Creek

Robyn Mason

Auckland's oddest architectural relic stands in a grassy hollow beside Central Park Drive in Henderson. Marooned in a swathe of green, the partially buried Swan's Arch keeps vigil to the secrets of its maker – Henry C. Swan 'the hermit of Henderson Creek' – the English solicitor-sailor who for 30 years lived nearby aboard his Charles Bailey yacht Awatea at the beginning of the 20th century. He was an inspiration to a local girl who became a world recognised scientist, provided the basis for one of Maurice Shadbolt's finest novels, and his mysterious life generated an urban legend. Local historian Robyn Mason sorts fact from fantasy in the story of Mr Swan.

Location: Titirangi War Memorial Hall

11.30am

The Rescue of The Daring

Isaac Mclvor and Larry Paul

Isaac Mclvor is conditionally enrolled as a doctoral student at the University of Waikato. He recently left his position as Archaeologist at Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. In this position, Isaac played a leading role in managing the archaeological site of the wrecked 1863, New Zealand built, schooner named Daring, at Te Oneone Rangatira (Northern Muriwai), South Head. Isaac will present on the collaborative project that had the purpose of preserving this nationally significant piece of New Zealand maritime heritage, including its identification, recording, excavation and relocation. Larry is the project coordinator and social media member of the Daring Rescue Group as well as the skipper of the classic yacht Waitangi, having sailed on her since she returned to New Zealand from Melbourne in 2003.



View of Auckland Tramping Club members on a launch off Onenunga, 1942. Photographer: Isabel Hooker, J. T. Diamond Collection, Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections.

Afternoon sessions: Creative Journeys

Creative Journeys session 1 – Location: Te Uru

1.00pm

'A way through' Colin McCahon's Gate III

Andrew Clifford

Spend some quality time with one of Colin McCahon's biggest works on its last day at Te Uru as part of the McCahon centenary exhibition, *'A way through' Colin McCahon's Gate III*. Te Uru Director, Andrew Clifford will introduce this unique exhibition, based entirely on a single painting, and discuss the history and significance of this major work, which has not been seen in Auckland since it was first shown in 1971. The piece is currently on loan from the Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection. McCahon and his family were based in Titirangi in the 1950s, and he established a studio in Muriwai, where he continued to paint large-scale works inspired by the raw landscape of the west coast.

Creative Journeys session 2 – Location: Te Uru

1.30pm

Walking with McCahon

Finn McCahon-Jones

Finn McCahon-Jones is a curator and artist. Walking is an important means of exploration for him, and often serves as an archaeological process. Finn is also the grandson of painter Colin McCahon. In conversation with Te Uru Director, Andrew Clifford, Finn will talk about his grandfather's journey works, many produced in Muriwai, as well as his own tracing of those paths.

Creative Journeys session 3 – Location: Te Uru

2.00pm

Ballast revisited – Bringing the stones home

John Edgar

Renowned sculptor John Edgar will discuss his 2009 project “*Ballast*”, which was inspired by the story of emigrants leaving their homeland, the voyage through unknown seas and the arrival in a new land. John connected with his Scottish roots during a visit in 2005. He collected stone from historic quarries in Scotland, and created these sculptures which echo the land, the Saltire and the compass. Stone was traditionally used as ballast on boats, keeping them stable on a journey. Like the emigrants on board these boats, the stones left Scotland for New Zealand. Here they were altered, both physically and culturally, and returned to Edinburgh for exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland in 2009. The stones have now returned to New Zealand, completing the cycle.



Image: Colin McCahon painting Gate III. Dominion post (Newspaper). Alexander Turnbull Library.

Afternoon sessions: Rest Stops

Rest Stops session 1 – Location: Titirangi Library

1.00pm

Lopdell House and William Bloomfield

John Walsh

Hotel Titirangi – now called Lopdell House – was one of the most glamorous New Zealand architectural projects of the inter-war years. A bit too ambitious, as it turned out – the hotel opened just as the Depression deepened – but its enduring quality is evident in its restored state. The building's architect also has a compelling story. William Bloomfield was probably the first registered architect of Māori descent. He studied in the United States, worked in the UK, was a fighter pilot on the Western Front in the First World War, had a taste for business adventures, and designed Auckland landmarks such as the Station Hotel, General Buildings and Queens Arcade. As an architect, he was fluent, versatile and, as Lopdell House demonstrates, very talented.

Rest Stops session 2 – Location: Titirangi Library

1.30pm

The story of the Swanson Railway Station Project

Meredith Youngson

The Swanson Railway Station Project began at the end of 1993 when a group of Swanson residents got together to save the historic Avondale Railway Station from demolition. The process of acquiring the Station and the railway land in Swanson, then moving the station to the site took nearly two years of dedicated effort. The restoration of the station and formation of Swanson Station Park took a further five years. Youngson will talk about the challenges and the triumphs of being involved in this project, and what it has meant to the Swanson community then and now.

Rest Stops session 3 – Location: Titirangi Library

2.00pm

Whispers in the Wind

Barbara Harvey and Gayle Marshall

Harvey and Marshall's book *Whispers the Wind* tells just a few of the many stories that lie buried in Waikumete Cemetery. It is the culmination of many hours of research by Lisa Truttman on behalf of "Friends of Waikumete". Waikumete is not just a park/burial place. It is a repository for so much history, tales of tragedy, heroism, as well as dastardly deeds... it encapsulates society of the time 1881 – 1918. "Our book is intended as a guide to walking in the cemetery, to find the graves that feature in the book and to learn more about this often-overlooked jewel in our midst." The presentation will include snippets from some of the stories in the book.



Image: Horse and Truck of Timber from Piha Mill, 1920.
Photographer: Louis Marusich. J.T. Diamond Collection,
Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections.

Afternoon sessions: Heading West

Heading West session 1 –

Location: Titirangi Community House

1.00pm

Who were Piha's kauri bushmen?

Sandra Coney

From 1910 to 1921 a 100-strong team of bushmen cut out Piha's remote kauri forest, which had been protected from the sawmillers by the wild coast and rugged terrain. For two decades Sandra Coney has been researching who the men were, where they came from, and what happened to them after they enlisted for WW1, and will share her sometimes surprising results. She will paint a picture of Piha village as it existed in the years before the subdividers and holidaymakers came along to once again change the landscape from forest to bach community.

Heading West session 2 –

Location: Titirangi Community House

1.30pm

A Wrong Step in the Dark: the death of Rev David Hamilton

Lisa Truttman

Some journeys into the wild bushlands of the Waitākere Ranges in the 19th century ended in heartbreaking tragedy. Such was the case for the young Presbyterian Reverend David Hamilton, when a July ride from Avondale in 1873 to the timber milling settlements in the ranges and along the Manukau coast, along with his lack of "bush sense", eventually brought his untimely end. Local historian Lisa Truttman relates his last journey to the final resting place in a small churchyard in the Whau.

Heading West session 3 –

Location: Titirangi Community House

2.00pm

"Mr Waitākere" – by his son Peter Beveridge

Peter Beveridge

At his retirement as Chief Ranger, Bill Beveridge had worked in the Waitākere Ranges for 34 years. Bill has been part of this landscape his whole life, born in Parau 1925. He established the Arataki Visitor Centre, rangers house, toilets, depot and nursery as well as the Nature Trail. He trained many cadets fresh out of high school, teaching skills as well as sharing values of hard work in all weathers. His son Peter Beveridge grew up there as well and will share anecdotes of the life of the man known as "Mr Waitākere".

End Event at the Titirangi War Memorial Hall

2.30pm

1969: A Constant Flow of Light

Sam Sampson

Fifty years ago Colin McCahon painted onto the front of Maurice Shadbolt's studio bar – As there is a constant flow of light we are born into a pure land. This may not have been McCahon's most seminal work, or even in the pantheon of great McCahon paintings, but its utilitarian value and sheer chutzpah (painted spontaneously onto a studio bar) is quite remarkable.

Sam Sampson was born in the same year this work was painted, and grew up, and still lives in his childhood home, not far from the Shadbolt house. In a series of new poems, and in a poetic exchange with C.K. Stead, he responds to McCahon's text while highlighting the importance of his local environment.

3.00pm: Closing and time to network with drinks and nibbles.

Displays

Journeys West

There were varied reasons for people to travel to West Auckland, and many ways that they got to their destinations. Using historic photographs from the Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections, this display shows how and why people came to West Auckland: recreation and leisure – spending holidays on the West Coast, swimming or surfing at the beaches, picnics and walking through the beautiful Waitākere Ranges; employment opportunities through the clay, logging and dam industries; the modes of transport – trains, horses and carts, cars, trucks, boats and ferries; and accommodation for those who chose to stay.

Provided by Raewynn Robertson – senior librarian at the West Auckland Research Centre.

Bookstall

Take time to check out our bookstall, run by the West Auckland Historical Society. On display are books by today's presenters and on West Auckland Heritage topics.

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

Central Auckland Research Centre

Central City Library, Level 2, 44-46 Lorne Street, Auckland Central

09 307 7771

Library.CentralHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
aucklandlibraries.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/discover/
library](http://aucklandmuseum.com/discover/library)

Avondale/Waterview**Historical Society**

c/- 19 Methuen Road, Avondale

09 828 8494

historian@avondale.org.nz
avondale.org.nz

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@gmail.com

Te Toi Uku Clayworks Museum

8 Ambrico Place, New Lynn

09 827 7349

info@portageceramicstrust.org.nz
portageceramicstrust.org.nz

West Auckland Historical Society

Mill Cottage, 35 Sel Peacock Drive,
Henderson

09 836 5917

info@westaucklandhistory.org.nz

Location	Titirangi Community House	Titirangi Library	Te Uru
Theme	Heading West	Rest Stops	Creative Journeys
1.00 pm	Sandra Coney – <i>Who were Piha's kauri bushmen?</i>	John Walsh – <i>Lopdell House and William Bloomfield</i>	Andrew Clifford – <i>'A way through' Colin McCahon's Gate III</i>
1.30 pm	Lisa Truttman – <i>A Wrong Step in the Dark: the death of Rev David Hamilton</i>	Meredith Youngson – <i>The story of the Swanson Railway Station Project</i>	Finn McCahon-Jones – <i>Walking with McCahon</i>
2.00 pm	Peter Beveridge – <i>"Mr Waitākere" – by his son Peter Beveridge</i>	Barbara Harvey and Gayle Marshall – <i>Whispers in the Wind</i>	John Edgar – <i>Ballast revisited – Bringing the stones home</i>

A special thank you to:

Mark Allen	MC
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Gai Bishop	West Auckland Historical Society
Andrew Clifford	Director Te Uru
Sandra Coney	Heritage portfolio, Waitākere Ranges Local Board
Sharon Davies	PA Liaison to Waitākere Ranges Local Board
Robyn Mason	West Auckland Historical Society
Raewynn Robertson	Auckland Council Senior Librarian Local History
Lisa Truttman	Historian
Mica Plowman	Auckland Council Principal Heritage Advisor West


...and all the presenters who generously shared their research and stories with us.



Image: Automobile Association signpost outside the Hotel Titirangi, 1930s. Photographer: George Haydock. J. T. Diamond Collection, JTD-10A-02541. Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections.



Image: Maisie Eggleton at
Huia Camp with the Auckland
Tramping Club, ca 1931,
Sir George Grey Special Collections.

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