

# THE *hidden* STORIES OF THE WEST



**Sunday 11 April 2021**  
**10am – 3pm**  
**Titirangi War Memorial Hall**

# THE *hidden* STORIES OF THE WEST

Themed “The Hidden Stories of the West”, this is an opportunity to hear storytellers and historians alike, treating you to intriguing tales of West Auckland people, places and events. Waitākere Ranges Local Board member Sandra Coney says once again the conference will showcase some of the incredible stories from the area’s past.

***“It 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 from days gone by 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 great to catch up with fellow enthusiasts and exchange knowledge and recent discoveries, and have a look at the display boards, videos and books for sale in the main hall.

This event is organised by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board with support from the Whau Local Board. The conference is a collaborative effort by many in the community and council.

## Schedule

---

<b>9.30am</b>	Registration
<b>10.00am</b>	Welcome and opening Presentation by Robin Taua-Gordon – <i>Te Kawerau a Maki – Past, present and future</i>
<b>10.45am</b>	Presentation by Michelle Edge – <i>In a box under the bed</i>
<b>11.30am</b>	Pitopito korero session 1 – <i>Places with new faces</i>
<b>12.15pm</b>	Lunch
<b>1.00pm</b>	Presentation by Sandra Coney – <i>The body in the burning bach</i>
<b>1:45pm</b>	Pitopito korero session 2 – <i>Legends of the landscape</i>
<b>2:15pm</b>	Presentation by Sir Bob Harvey – <i>A whale of a tale</i>
<b>3.00pm</b>	Closing and networking with nibbles

Cover image: Trampers performing at cave mouth, Whatipu, 1895.

Photographer: Percy Trenwith. Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections, JTD-18E-00791

# Morning Presentations

---

10:00am

## *Te Kawerau a Maki – Past, present and future*

KEYNOTE

**Robin Taua-Gordon**

Robin Taua-Gordon, Environment, Heritage and Education Manager for Te Kawerau a Maki will explain historical connections of Te Kawerau a Maki to West Auckland, discuss some of the projects that Te Kawerau a Maki have been involved in over the last 5 years and share some of the aspirations and visions of the iwi for the future.

---

10:45am

## *In a box under the bed*

KEYNOTE

**Michelle Edge**

Michelle Edge fosters and facilitates storytelling in the Waitākere Ranges and other regional parks in her role as an Interpreter with Auckland Council. *“In a box under the bed”* explores sources of stories and how to ‘unhide’ them. She will also share and show examples of creative storytelling.

---



*Women at The Gap, Piha, in the 1890's,  
then called Blowhole Bay.*

# **Pitopito Korero**

---

**11:30am**

## **SESSION 1 : PLACES WITH NEW FACES**

### ***Eden Arts at Karekare House***

**Sarah Elsby**

Sarah Elsby will be talking about the history of the Karekare House and the current residency programme run, in partnership with The Eden Arts Trust from early March to late November each year.

---

### ***Te Toi Uku***

**Rosemary Deane**

Rosemary Deane is the Curator of Te Toi Uku, a museum in New Lynn telling the stories of West Auckland commercial ceramics including Crown Lynn. She will tell us how she got to the bottom of a Crown Lynn myth just by asking the right person.

---

### ***McCahon House***

**Cynthia Smith**

Cynthia Smith, Chair of the McCahon House Trust, shares some of the hidden stories that fill the McCahon house – before, during, and after it became a museum.

---

### ***Dreams coming true***

**Claire Inwood and Nancy King**

Claire Inwood, current caretaker and Nancy King, descendant of Les Waygood and founder of the Waygood Foundation Piha, will talk about continuing a tradition of family in community, through landcare, gardens, education and the arts.

---



## ***Hotel Titirangi***

### **Jeffery Wells**

Jeffery Wells, architect and trustee at the Lopdell Trust, will talk about the heritage value of the Lopdell Precinct – from restored Hotel Titirangi to the recently built Te Uru.

---

## ***The thrum of the tide***

### **Andrew Clifford**

Historic events have often inspired good stories, songs and even contemporary art installations. Te Uru Director, Andrew Clifford, discusses the gallery's latest exhibition, "*The thrum of the tide*", which takes its inspiration from the legendary kauri dance floor that is said to be buried under five metres of sand in the Te Ana Ru 'ballroom' cave in Whatipu, having originally been installed there by local timber mill workers over 100 years ago.

---



*Waygood children and friends play in the Marawhara Stream, North Piha. The house in the background is the Waygood's bach.*

# Afternoon Presentations

---

1:00pm

## *The body in the burning bach*

KEYNOTE

**Sandra Coney**

Sandra Coney delves into one of New Zealand's greatest criminal mysteries and how it was unravelled and finds there are still surprises waiting to be uncovered. Sandra's parents were honeymooning at the small beach settlement of Piha when the cry went up that there was a fire in the Carew-Thomas bach in the valley. What looked like a tragic fire turned out to be something much more macabre.

---

*Jury in the court case visit Waikumete Cemetery, 1939.*



# Pitopito Korero

---

1:45pm

## SESSION 2 : LEGENDS OF THE LANDSCAPE

### ***Piha seabirds past and present***

**Peter Hosking**

Peter Hosking will talk about the secrets unveiled by the the excavation of the middens of the Te Ahua Pa in Piha. What does it tell us about the petrels and other seabirds that used to be abundant on the West Coast of the ranges? Why did they disappear and why are they currently returning to our coasts?

---

### ***Benson, a sheep on the run***

**Glenda Northey**

*This is a story about a sheep on the run. He was brave, adventurous and so much fun. He was a Westie through and through. He liked exploring and history too.*

Our story is a mix of the tale of Benson, his owner Clint, our amazing communities, and the history of the area which Benson uncovered on his own El Camino.

---

### ***Phillip P. Sharp***

**Raewynn Robertson**

Librarian Raewynn Robertson will show a few photos from the albums of Phillip P. Sharp, (1915–2014) who was in the Ambulance Corp in the Middle East during WWII. A long-time resident of Huia and a former caretaker of Whatipu Lodge, he had a long affiliation with the Titirangi RSA and donated his war-time photo albums to the RSA. These albums were loaned to Auckland Libraries for digitisation and some of the photos are now online.

---

### ***About walking***

**Melissa Laing**

Melissa Laing, Arts Broker for the Whau Local Board, will be talking about the 15-month programme "*About Walking*", co-presented by Te Uru that used creative walking methodologies to connect people to history and place.

---



## Wayfinding Waikumete

Christina Houghton

Artist and curator Christine Houghton will talk about her sensory walk "Wayfinding Waikumete", which investigates the lost name of Waikumete (waters of the kumete bowl), part of the "About Walking" series organised with Te Uru and part of the Auckland Heritage Festival 2020.

---

## Mad, bad and dangerous to know?

Sandra Coney

When Foster's Bay at Huia buzzed to the news that a second woman had been found dead at the ramshackle home of ex-bushman Cornelius Bartholomew Bryan.

---

2:15pm

## A whale of a tale

KEYNOTE

Sir Bob Harvey

Every year the last presentation is a very special one – sometimes poetry, music or video all inspired by our West Auckland heritage. This year it will be very special: Sir Bob Harvey and Moby Dick! Is it possible the whale which stranded in Whatipu is the elusive Mocha Dick, Herman Melville modelled his Moby Dick on??? A rollicking tale with lantern slides, shanties and the odd harpoon...

---



New Zealand Police Gazette September 3rd, 1919  
Cornelius Bartholomew Bryan – P.G.19/483



## In the main hall

---

**Displays** with selected photos from Phillip P. Sharp's war-time albums, courtesy of Research West, Auckland Libraries Heritage Collection.

**Book stall** provided by the West Auckland Historic Society.

**Video** of Waitākere historian Bruce Harvey in a video by Kristy McDonald and Michelle Edge.

## Heritage resources

---

### Archives New Zealand

Auckland office, 95 Richard Pearse Drive, Manukau, PO Box 201103, Manukau

**09 270 1100**

[auckland.archives@dia.govt.nz](mailto:auckland.archives@dia.govt.nz)  
[archives.govt.nz](http://archives.govt.nz)

---

### Arataki Visitor Centre

300 Scenic Drive, Titirangi

**09 817 0077**

[regionalparks.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/aratakivisitorcentre](http://regionalparks.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/aratakivisitorcentre)

---

### Auckland Council Archives

**09-301 0101**

[archives@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:archives@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)  
[aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

---

### Auckland Libraries

#### Sir George Grey Special Collections

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

**09 377 0209**

[Specialcollections@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Specialcollections@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

---

### Research Central

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

**09 307 7771**

[Library.CentralHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Library.CentralHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)  
[aucklandlibraries.govt.nz](http://aucklandlibraries.govt.nz)

---

### Research North

Takapuna Library, The Strand,  
Takapuna

**09 486 8460**

[Library.NorthHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Library.NorthHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

---

### Research South

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

**09 261 8637**

[Library.SouthHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Library.SouthHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

---

### Research West

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

**09 892 4966**

[Library.WestHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Library.WestHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

---

### **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](http://avondale.org.nz)

---

### **Huia Settlers Museum**

1251 Huia Road, Huia

**09 811 8971**

info@huiamuseum.org.nz

[huiamuseum.org.nz](http://huiamuseum.org.nz)

---

### **Oratia Folk Museum**

527 West Coast Road, Oratia

**09 813 1334 or 09 818 7816**

stephen@theoratiapfolkmuseum.org

[www.theoratiapfolkmuseum.org](http://www.theoratiapfolkmuseum.org)

---

### **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@portageceramictrust.org.nz

[portageceramictrust.org.nz](http://portageceramictrust.org.nz)

---

### **Te Uru**

420 Titirangi Road, Titirangi

**09 817 8087**

info@teuru.org.nz

[teuru.org.nz](http://teuru.org.nz)

---

### **West Auckland Historical Society**

Mill Cottage, 35 Sel Peacock Drive,  
Henderson

**09 836 5917**

info@westaucklandhistory.org.nz

---

*Military truck stuck in mud, El Alamein, 1942*

*Phillip P. Sharp Albums, Auckland Libraries Heritage Collection. TRS-A02-24-02*



## A special thank you to:

<b>Mark Allen</b>	MC
<b>Robin Taua-Gordon</b>	Keynote Speaker
<b>Michelle Edge</b>	Keynote Speaker
<b>Sir Bob Harvey</b>	Keynote Speaker

### *The organising committee:*

<b>Sandra Coney</b>	Heritage Portfolio, Waitākere Ranges Local Board
<b>Andrew Clifford</b>	Director Te Uru
<b>Gai Bishop</b>	West Auckland Historical Society
<b>Raewynn Robertson</b>	Auckland Council Senior Librarian Local History
<b>Sharon Davies</b>	PA to Waitākere Ranges Local Board
<b>Annalily van den Broeke</b>	Event Organiser Art Ants

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

*Eru Thompson blessing the pou depicting Hinerangi at Te Ahua Point, 2011.  
Koringa Joe to the left.*





*Tramway engine at Pararaha, c1915.  
Photographer: Albert Percy Godber.  
J.T. Diamond Collection, JTD-05C-01079-1  
Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections*

