

TALK SERIES 2018

The last in our series of 2018 talks will be given by James Beattie, an environmental historian. Garden history is his subject. Please note the date, **28th November**, in your diary. As always the venue is the Hocken Seminar Room. Refreshments and chat at 5.15 pm, followed by the talk at 5.30pm.

Since the last issue of *F&J* there have been three talks, on varied but always fascinating subjects. While our primary audience is found within the Friends themselves, it is always our hope and expectation that a wider public will find their way to the Library.

The Talk Series is an important means of presenting the treasures of the Collections – but it is also makes a contribution to our understanding of our own particular part of Aotearoa New Zealand. We hope to see you next time.

On 1st August Takerei Norton and Helen Brown, members of the Ngāi Tahu Archives Team spoke about some of the innovative projects on which they are working. This was part of the 20th anniversary celebrations of the **Ngāi Tahu Treaty Settlement**. There was as large an audience as we have seen for some time – many of them *tangata whenua* from around the immediate area.

Two particular topics were introduced. The first was Volume 1 of *Tāngata Ngāi Tahu – People of Ngāi Tahu*, edited by Helen Brown and Takerei Norton, the principal speakers. This substantial book contains 50 short lives/tributes to Ngāi Tahu people, beginning with Karetai. It is a major contribution to our shared history, handsomely presented, profusely illustrated, and well worth a place on your shelves.

The second was an introduction to *Kā Huru Manu*, the Ngāi Tahu cultural Mapping Project. One aspect of this major archival project has been the assembling of the many hundreds of known references to traditional place-

names in this part of Murihiku. Each records not only an historic event or the celebration of a local landmark, but is a reminder that they all carry the *mana* that is inherent in the very process of giving a name.

(Website: <http://www.kahurumanu.co.nz/>)

On 2nd September, the date of the Friends' annual celebration of the establishment of the Hocken Collection, at the Railway Station function room, Barbara Brookes and Angela Wanhalla spoke on the recently published **He Reo Wahine: Māori Women's Voices from the Nineteenth Century** by Angela, and Lachy Paterson.

The book is an introduction to the experience of Māori women in colonial New Zealand through Māori women's own words, speeches and evidence, letters and testimonies. Historical literature on Māori women is remarkably thin, but *He Reo Wahine* utilises the archives to explore the feelings, thoughts and experiences of Māori women. It is a uniquely important work.

Most recently, on 19th September, Laurence Fearnley, spoke on **The pleasure of researching and editing an anthology of New Zealand mountaineering writing**. With Paul Hersey, she was the recipient of the first Hocken Collections Research Scholarship.

The title of the talk was emphasised again and again as Lawrence related incidents and described people. She made the point that the book is not an anthology about successful first climbs, but about the people involved, and their reaction to their challenging and even daunting environment.

Another emphasis was on the 'ordinariness' of those early mountaineers, in the literary sense. They simply described what they saw, and their reactions, in their own language. Their words have an immediacy about them, simple and homely even, rather than grand. Lawrence clearly enjoyed their 'company'.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE EXHIBITION

September 19th, recently celebrated as the 125th anniversary of the achievement of the right to vote for women, was also an occasion to draw attention to the Hocken's important collection of material on this subject.

To honour the occasion, Hocken mounted an exhibition entitled *Sisters Communing*, drawing connections between art, and other items relating to women gaining the vote. The exhibition takes its title from one of Hocken's most treasured artworks, Jacqueline Fahey's *Sisters Communing*, which celebrates the artistic, domestic, social and political lives of New Zealand women. In describing the intention of the exhibition, Andrea Bell, the Curator Art – Pictorial Collections, said it is based on "an inclusive approach to feminism and the diversity of women's experiences across time." Works range from a collection of Suffragette badges owned by Lady Anna Stout, to artist Doris Lusk's painted still life *Flower Study* (1940) and Robyn Kahukiwa's bold and powerful *Mana Wahine Maori* (1993).

A further opening up of this dialogue is to be seen in an exhibition at the Blue Oyster Project Space, a not-for-profit art location at 16 Dowling Street. This presents new artworks created in response to selected Hocken collection items, and examines the relevance of women's suffrage in Aotearoa today. Robyn Notman, Head Curator – Pictorial Collections, says: "From collective action to personal reflection and individual expression, these two exhibitions will offer a wealth of approaches to women's rights, achievements, opinions and shared experiences across generations".

Friends are urged to visit these two significant exhibitions - the former is open till November 3rd.

CATHERINE FULTON

One of the early leaders in the women's suffrage movement in Otago was Catherine Henrietta Elliot Valpy. Born in England in 1829, the third daughter of William Henry Valpy, a former judge with the East India Company, she came to Otago in 1849. Her strong religious beliefs led her to become involved in various social, political and religious movements concerned with the moral and social welfare of the young people. These included the Otago Benevolent

Institution, the Otago Industrial School, and the Dunedin branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of which she was the first president.



Catherine Fulton

Catherine Fulton was an ardent advocate of women's suffrage, her political sympathies being echoed by her husband, James Fulton. A landholder in West Taieri, he was a prominent politician, supporting women's suffrage and the temperance cause. After his death in 1891, Catherine managed the stud farm, and continued to pursue her many interests until her own death on 6 May 1919.

Hocken Collections includes photocopied, typescript and original diaries and a typescript copy of Catherine's autobiography. The diaries contain brief notes relating to the weather, the running of the property and Catherine's daily activities.

ANNA STOUT

It so happens that one of the Library's significant archival holdings relating to this matter came into its possession exactly 70 years through a bequest from Lady Anna Stout's personal collection.

Anna Paterson Logan was born Dunedin in 1858, daughter of Jessie Alexander Pollock and her husband, John Logan. John was clerk to the superintendent of the Otago Province. Anna Logan was brought up in a questioning family, with a keen sense of social and personal duty. She was educated at the Girls' Provincial School, and in 1876, aged 18, married Robert Stout, a 32-year-old barrister and member of the House of Representatives. Robert became attorney general in March 1878, and was premier from 1884 to 1887.

Anna Stout's beliefs were strongly influenced by her husband's agnosticism. Her philosophy was that women should have equal rights with men and be free to develop their intellectual abilities to their highest capacity. Women had a right to take part in the life and work of the colony, though she initially believed that most women would exercise this right through their influence on husbands and children.



Anna Stout

She was involved in the founding of the New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union in 1885. In April 1892 she was elected president of the Women's Franchise League in Dunedin. The International Council of Women approached her to preside over a New Zealand branch. She finally agreed to accept the presidency on the condition that Kate Sheppard became secretary and did the work. When the National Council of Women of New Zealand was founded she became a vice president with Kate Sheppard as president.

She helped found the Southern Cross Society, a Wellington organisation. This society aimed at educating women politically, promoting their independence and equality, and improving the living conditions of women who worked for wages. Anna's agenda was to achieve gradual social and political change. In 1899 Robert Stout became chief justice and his wife's voice was largely silenced.

From 1909 to 1912, Anna was in England, where her children were studying. The British suffrage movement was going through a period of intense activity on the streets and in Parliament. As a

representative of women voters, she was an object of curiosity, though of use, to British campaigners. She aligned herself with the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), the militant wing of British suffragism, founded by Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst. She wrote articles in *Votes for Women* and in the *Englishwoman* which were republished as leaflets and pamphlets by several suffrage associations. Because New Zealand was a world leader in women's suffrage, its example was looked to by both supporters and opponents of the vote.

In 1917 she was involved in the revival of the National Council of Women in this country, and after the war became a member of the League of Nations Union of New Zealand. She died on 10 May 1931 at Hanmer Springs, aged 72.

The thirty or so items in the Lady Stout bequest are principally from the later period – during and after her time in England. There is, however, the classic *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* by Mary Godwin (first published in 1792), and a copy of Edith Grossman's 1893 novel, *Hermione*, set in New Zealand. The material isn't one-sided – there is a copy of Lady Emily Maud Simon's *Women's Suffrage; Some Sociological reasons for opposing the movement* (1907).

The majority of the items, in terms of bulk, are official papers – Women's Rights Convention Proceedings, Great Britain Parliamentary Debates Fabian Women's Group papers; Women's Tax Resistance League; even the Gisborne Women's Political Association Presidential Address from 1894.

Alongside such essential reading as Emmeline Pankhurst's *Why We Are Militant* (1913) and Lady Constance Bulwer-Lytton's personal experiences *Prisons and Prisoners* (1914), there are works on women and employment, and women in the medical profession. But the chief value of the bequest is that it represents Anna Stout's own character and involvement - scrapbooks, letters, newspaper clippings, lantern slides, and her work with the Southern Cross Society. She was of her time, and she is of ours.

EXHIBITIONS

The recent exhibition *Primary Care*, which ran from 30th June to 25th August attracted much attention, with 1280 visitors counted. Curated by Andrea Bell, this selection of artworks, photographs, ephemera and archival materials considered aspects of

physical, spiritual, community, mental and public health.

Preparations are well under way for the next show 'Hand in Hand: photographers and painters alike', curated by Dr Anna Petersen. The exhibition opens to the public on Saturday 24th November 2018, and will be on display till Saturday 26th January 2019.

Ralph Hotere's triptych 'Rain' has been reinstalled in the Hocken foyer. It will be on display until at least mid-2019. The banners were formerly installed in the Richardson Building (formerly the Hocken Building) and will be familiar to many Friends.

A reminder to Friends that the Gallery is convenient to visit, and not too physically demanding. As often as not there's parking on Anzac Ave opposite the main door, and there's the lift to the Gallery.



Early September marked the 60th anniversary of the Burns Fellowship, and was also the start of the inaugural NZ Theatre Month. The Hocken invited former Fellows visiting Dunedin for a celebratory breakfast in the foyer on September 7th. It was a popular event, and several Fellows indicated their interest in eventually transferring their papers to the Hocken. Staff organised a display of material featuring dramatic and theatrical works by Fellows drawn from across the collections. It provided a snapshot of the breadth and depth of the Collection and the way it documents the creative work of the University of Otago's arts fellows. A rich resource has been created for researchers now and into the future.

MĀORI LANGUAGE MONTH

Come and have a look and listen to *He Kohinga Pao* in the Hocken foyer (until the end of September) to celebrate the month of Te Wiki o te Reo Māori. *He Kohinga Pao*

showcases video of Māori showbands and is a display developed by Louise Kawene-Doig as a part of her PhD. This is a 'slice' of her multimedia exhibition celebrating nostalgia, memories and Māori music of the 1960s.

Papers Past

Over the past year Auckland War Memorial Museum has worked with The National Library, Auckland Libraries, and The Hocken Collections to digitise three of Auckland's earliest newspapers. The papers are some of the first to exist in Aotearoa New Zealand and are a great representation of the country's early history and colonial life. The papers are historically significant, having started just after the Government moved to Auckland from Russell in the 1840s. The three newspapers - *New Zealand Herald and Auckland Gazette*, *The Auckland Chronicle and New Zealand Colonist*, *The Auckland Times* - are now available on The National Library's Paper's Past website (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>).

Hocken contributed by providing scans of newspapers not otherwise available. Scanning was done on site, as these newspapers were too fragile to send to Wellington to be scanned. This is a great example of national cooperation and highlights the standard of the work that can be achieved here.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Lawrence Fearnley's talk on September 19th was, in some respects, a formal celebration of the success of the inaugural Fellowship established by the Friends. In October your Committee will take further steps towards setting up the next one.

FOHC MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions: Individual: \$30 per annum; Life Member \$250 Joint: \$30 per annum; Joint Life Member \$300
Cheques to: Friends of the Hocken Collections. Online payment: Westpac 030903 0393175 000 - "Subscription" in Particulars field, surname/initials in Code/ Reference fields.

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