

## 2020 – TALK SERIES

Now that some degree of normality has returned, your Committee has rearranged the Talk Series for the remainder of this year.

We hope you will write them into your diaries – with the expectation that the normal setting will be in the Hocken Seminar room, at 5.30pm, to be preceded by light refreshments.

### 15<sup>th</sup> July – Signing of the Treaty in the South

In order to gain maximum support for the newly minted Treaty, the Governor, William Hobson, despatched *HMS Herald*, under Captain Nias, and with Major Bunbury as his personal representative, to the east coast of Aotearoa, from the Coromandel to Ruapuke, in May/June 1840.

Ōtākou kaumātua Edward Ellison will present an extended version of the very important presentation he made on Waitangi Day this year. After much research he has been able to provide convincing background to our understanding of the process by which the Treaty of Waitangi was taken around the southern South Island and the signatures of significant Māori leaders obtained.

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The McCahon 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition is to be opened by August 15<sup>th</sup> for public viewing.

It is possible that Peter Simpson will be able to come to Dunedin to talk to both the Dunedin Public Art Gallery and at Hocken. This has yet to be finalised, but your Committee believes it can best serve the needs of the Friends by arranging for them to attend an Exhibition floor talk by the Pictorial Collections Curator, Robyn Notman.

You will be advised as soon as possible when this will take place.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> September – History of Otago Museum

Rosi Crane, Honorary Curator, History of Science, at the Otago Museum, will speak on the history of the Museum, with which the history of the Hocken Collections has been interwoven. It is appropriate that we should celebrate the 113<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Hocken Deed of Trust in this way.

This event will be held in the early evening at the Museum itself. The exact time and place will be advised.

### 18<sup>th</sup> November – AGM and Talk

We expect that the business of the Friends will be done promptly, and that we will then gather for a talk by Mike Hamblyn on the history of Newbold's Bookshop. This has been his particular interest for some time, and what he has to say will be of interest to many whose memories of Dunedin go back a few decades.

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Already we have some plans made for 2021. For example, Sue Wootton, this year's Katherine Mansfield Fellow, will speak early in the year about her experiences in this significant role. She will share with us especially the celebration that is planned to take place at Menton in September of this year. Since 1970, the Fellowship has allowed a New Zealand writer to live and write for three months or more in southern France. They have access to the writing room in Villa Isola Bella where Katherine Mansfield once lived and worked

Your Committee is taking extra steps to ensure that the Talks programme is widely disseminated. But there is nothing quite so persuasive as the personal invitation – and if you are able to encourage friends and associates to join with us that will help to keep the work of the Hocken Collections before the Dunedin public.

## HOCKEN NEWS

By the end of May, the Hocken was once again fully open and available to the public. Staff had all returned to the Hocken by Monday 25 May. This was due in part to the thorough contact tracing systems that the Hocken has always had in place.

Staff continued to provide service and work on collections from home and during the transition back to the building.

Fallout from COVID 19 has included a freeze on filling staff vacancies for the rest of 2020. Hocken now has six vacancies, plus one staff member is taking Parental Leave as of August. The University Library Client Services are now providing some staffing support to Researcher Services. In addition University Shared Services are providing reception office support on Mondays.

A positive aspect to being in lockdown was the imaginative ways staff were able to keep in touch with projects, services and colleagues and have access to professional talks, national networks and discussions held via Zoom.

May New Zealand Music Month activity - especially the Spotify playlist - and Hocken's engagement through social media channels was well-received.

Due to the successful high-resolution scanning service that was provided, one U.K. researcher was so appreciative that they sent the Hocken a generous donation.

Ali Clark has formally resigned, having worked with Hocken Collections since 2003. She has made an outstanding contribution, not just to Hocken Collections, but in a unique way through her writing of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History of the University of Otago. A farewell function was held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, a few days prior to her departure.

Archives colleague David Murray assembled some statistics: over the years Ali has made 963 accessions, representing 559 linear metres (shelves) of archives. To this should be added the work she has done on backlog collections that

had already been accessioned years ago but never properly arranged and described.

Ali was one of those who used the lockdown time to good effect. Sifting through the latest additions to [The Hocken Blog](#) one finds a contribution made by her late in April.

It's all about the installation of a submarine cable between Wakapuaka (Cable Bay, near Nelson) and New South Wales in 1876. It 'brought a new world of communication to New Zealand. People had already been able to send telegraph messages for a few years within the country. The first telegraph line appeared in 1862, linking Lyttelton and Christchurch, and in 1866 a cable went in under Cook Strait, linking the South and North Islands. Auckland was connected to points south by 1872. Once the new line to Australia opened, New Zealanders could send cablegrams around the world across an extensive network of overland wires and undersea cables.'

This is yet another example of the quality of the work being done by Hocken staff. [The Blog](#) (<https://blogs.otago.ac.nz/thehockenblog/>) makes fascinating reading, and deserves to be read on a regular basis. A great deal of first-rate original research is being done, as a matter of course, and in this way (as with this particular piece) the history that we take for granted is being uncovered and illustrated.

The article itself is well presented – a great variety of source material has been used to make this (for its time and place) spectacular advance in communication comprehensible. And yet. When one considers the matter in relation to our own times, 1876 is about 100 years before the final stages of the emergence of satellite transmission!

### **FOHC MEMBERSHIP**

*Subscriptions: Individual: \$30 per annum; Life Member \$250 Joint: \$30 per annum; Joint Life Member \$300*

*Friends are reminded of that subscriptions are due, and to note that cheques can no longer be accepted.*

*Online payment: Westpac 03 0903 0393175 000 - "Subscription" in Particulars field, surname/initials in Code/Reference fields.*

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