

Flotsam & Jetsam No. 102, October 2023.

The Way of the Future, Computers and AI.

We live in an fast-moving and varied electronic world which has just received an enormous boost this year with the development of AI or Artificial Intelligence. It is most likely that we have left the now familiar world of computers as we understood them and entered a new era. Linked computer systems and the “Cloud” have enabled a transformation in information sharing that has boosted the start-up of AI.

Who would have thought that those of us who saw and tried to programme Sinclair ZX 80s, or the Atari software and computers for personal games, or the Commodore 80, would now be living in the age of more sophisticated and speedier computers which could accomplish a multitude of tasks? From using AI to monitor and predict our movements, or banking transactions, our food purchases, our personal contacts and even possessing the capability to scan facial recognition to even ensure that you are who you think or say you are!

“The University of Otago has a long history of association with computers and teaching computer studies. In 1966 the university established its Computing Centre and installed an IBM 360/30. The computer was available to staff and students conducting research, and for university administration. Brian Cox, an Otago graduate who had completed a PhD at Cambridge before returning to Otago as a lecturer in the Department of Mathematics, was

appointed to run the centre. He had obtained experience with early computers in the UK while working on complex calculations for his thesis. The Faculty of Commerce realised early on that students aiming at careers in the business world would benefit from learning about this quickly evolving technology, and Cox helped teach some commerce courses. Then, in 1968, the first academic computing courses were offered in the Faculty of Science, as part of the advanced applied mathematics papers.

From these 1960s beginnings, Otago has experienced the parallel development of computing as an academic subject in both science and commerce. There has been considerable cooperation, with combined first year courses, but each field has developed its own specialty. Within commerce, information science focuses on the practical application of information technology in business, while in science, computer science is more centred on the technical and scientific elements of the workings of computer technology. Students can major in either subject for both BSc and BA degrees, and information science can also be a BCom major.

For many years, computer science – which became a full major in 1978 – was taught from the Computing Centre, which had a double life serving the IT needs of the university as well as teaching. While this ensured the best use of resources at a time when computers were very large and very expensive, it also had flaws. Should a computer break down, completing the

payroll definitely took priority over academic needs once it was back in service! In 1984 the two functions were finally separated with the establishment of the Department of Computer Science, Cox becoming the foundation professor.”¹

The years of launching new phases were fairly rapid – 1966, 1978 and 1984. Much, of course, has happened since then, but it could be argued that the adoption of AI and its world-wide links provide a new jumping off point for the studies of computerisation.

Should we be concerned? There seemed little of real concern in the '70s and '80s when personal computers were just that. By and large unless a user distributed material on the internet or divulged it to friends by email then most users seemed assured that what was in their personal files in their computer would remain there, only for their eyes.

Once emails and email hubs proliferated by 2000 there was awareness that mail could be intercepted and read by a third party. Despite precautions by service providers material was sometimes intercepted or leaked. Today, with the proliferation of service providers and various programmes, greater speed and accessibility of systems and the idea that almost all people have, or have access to a computer, we need to be more aware that all this modernisation comes with risks.

Our home office world now faces new possibilities and new challenges. At a glance we can gather information on a topic from world-wide sources. Then we have to choose which of the sources is reliable. Recently there have been revelations of tracking users, deliberate misinformation transmission, hacking of bank accounts and copying of personal files with sensitive details. Against that, there are many possibilities open for new ventures, and more balanced accounts based on a variety of source materials.

¹ Ali Clarke, 'A Tale of Two Departments', writing a history, 24 November 2013, www.otago150years.wordpress.com/2013/11/24/a-tale-of-two-departments/. Accessed 3 October 2023.

Hocken Librarian's Report

Catherine Hammond took up the role of Hocken Librarian in June 2022. Catherine's first year focused on relationship-building, implementing recommendations in the Hocken Review, including Māori staff development, and increasing digital capabilities and outcomes. She was supported by a Matariki Network Universities' grant to attend the 4-day Active Learning Institute at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire in July 2023.

New appointments

The following permanent appointments were made in 2022/23, with several of them new or reshaped roles developed to deliver on key Hocken review recommendations. These include two substantive new Māori roles, the development of a Digital Capture Unit team within Hocken Collections, and two roles that bring together the management of Hocken Published Collections and the University's Special Collections.

- Jacinta Beckwith, Head Curator Māori
- Rauhina Scott-Fyfe, Māori Archivist
- Hope Wilson, Curator Art
- Kirstie Ross, Head of Published & Special Collections
- Alexander Ritchie, Liaison Curator Published & Special Collections
- Richard Munro, Senior Imaging Technician
- Tanya Findlater, Imaging Technician
- Holly Fletcher, Collections Assistant
- Isla Thomas, Collections Assistant

Collection Access and Engagement

In 2023 Hocken longer opening hours were reinstated to Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, remaining closed Sunday and Monday. In 2022/23 staff supported 6,502 researchers in person and by distance, with a total of 25,860 items used on-site. Hocken's liaison work with University staff and students in support of teaching and learning: in 2022/23 there were 1488 participants in 109 classes taught at Hocken and an additional 53 participants in 5 classes held at the University Library's Special Collections.

In 2022/23 the following exhibitions were presented in the Hocken Gallery, attracting 6,607 visitors:

Joe L'Estrange: Painter (5 Nov 2022 to 26 Feb 2023). The first major exhibition in a public gallery of the Ōtepoti Dunedin-based painter whose work includes portraits, domestic subjects such as flowers and cats, and local landscapes and urban cityscapes, especially the areas of Corstorphine, Concord and Caversham.

Sorawit Songsataya: Nirun (18 Mar to 17 Jun 2023). Multi-media exhibition from the 2022 Frances Hodgkins Fellow takes its title from the Thai word for eternal, exploring (im)permanence, motion, the cyclical and the accumulative nature of 'home' at varying scales.

Bev Moon: Fortune (12 Aug to 21 Oct 2023), Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland-based artist Bev Moon's mixed media work, *Fortune (a knitted yum cha for my mother's 90th birthday)* forms the centrepiece of the show which includes archival material from Hocken Collections, and the New Zealand Chinese Heritage Charitable Trust and private collections.

In 2022/23 the following books were published:

Joe L'Estrange: Painter (128pp). Exhibition catalogue, with text by Catherine Hammond, Megan Dunn, Robyn Notman, and Dr Robin Skinner.

Nirun (123pp). Accompanying Sorawit Songsataya's 2022 Frances Hodgkins Fellowship exhibition, with text by Catherine Hammond, May Adadol Ingawanij, Madison Kelly, Moewai Marsh, Mya Morrison-Middleton, Robyn Maree Pickens, Riar Rizaldi, Hanahiva Rose, and Ashley Thompson.

Pōkai Whenua Pōkai Moana (88pp). Hocken's first bilingual publication, and the first major monograph on 2020/2021 Frances Hodgkins Fellow, Bridget Reweti (Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi Te Rangi). Writing by Suzanne Ellison, Nic Low, Rauhina Scott-Fyfe, Ane Tonga, Dr Nina Tonga, and Matariki Williams.

Events hosted by Hocken Collections included the 2023 University Arts Fellows Welcome, Te Vaka Cook Islands Oral History Project event,

Ngāti Mutunga Te Rangihiroa event, a reading for *The Waste Land* by Professor Paul Tankard, the Friends of the Hocken Award performance of *Establishment* by Emily Duncan, and a Zine-making workshop in October 2023.

The Hocken team play active roles in their professional communities and in publishing and presenting talks to community and professional groups. In 2022/23 Hocken Librarian Catherine Hammond made presentations to the University of Otago Professional Staff Conference; School of Arts, Otago Polytechnic; Friends of the Hocken; LIANZA; Friends of the Dunedin Public Library; Southern Heritage Trust; and Toitu Otago Settlers Museum. Media interviews were given with the Otago Daily Times, OAR FM, and the University of Otago Magazine.

Collection Management and Development

In October 2023 Hocken Collection's digital delivery platform, Recollect, will be upgraded from its Snapshot site with over 50,000 images scheduled for release on a redeveloped public interface. Keep an eye out on Hocken's website, Face book and twitter for updates on go-live or check our site from the 16th October onwards.

<https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/>

You will still have access to the Snapshot images within the redesigned site. For those researchers who previously had Snapshot 'Member' logins you will need to create a new login for this new site. We apologies for any inconvenience.

A project to digitise collection items significant to Kāi Tahu is underway beginning with the James Herries Beattie Papers with Alumni funding support and guided by an Advisory Group from local runaka and Ngāi Tahu Archives. Approximately 25,000 pages will be digitised by NZ Micrographics Services in Sept/Oct 2023 funded by an Alumni grant. The development of the Digital Capture Unit this year at Hocken will allow this enhanced programme of digitisation to continue.

Significant acquisitions for 2022/23 included the purchase of Sorawit Songsataya's video work *Shoulders of Giants* (2023) from the Frances Hodgkins Fellowship exhibition *Nirun*. Hocken Collections manage an active loans programme. In 2022/23, 155 works were lent to 11 exhibitions. Loan highlights include 35 items to Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum for the collaborative early Aotearoa photography exhibition with Hocken and Alexander Turnbull Library in 2024.

Donors play an important role in supporting the collections through donations of material or funds. Generous Alumni grants this year have enabled long-term support of the Māori Archivist role and digitisation of Kāi Tahu material. The digitisation of the Keith and Knola Jeffery Maps Collection will be made possible this year by a gift from their estate. A new acquisitions exhibition will open in the Hocken Gallery in November 2023 along with an associated donor's event in December 2023.

Catherine Hammond
Hocken Librarian
10 October 2023

Annual Report to Friends of The Hocken Collections for 2023 by the FOHC Chair.

It is my pleasure to report to you on the highlights and activities of the Friends of the Hocken Collections in our 32nd year.

Award 2023

In late 2022 the applications for the Award were considered by a panel of the committee led by Dr Claire Matthewson. A meticulous process was followed with two meetings. The successful idea was presented by Dr Emily Duncan with her proposal "Establishment" to use the Hocken Library and members of the community to seek information about popular "establishments" including cafes and restaurants popular in Dunedin's past. Thank you to those of you who made donations towards the Award work this year.

Committee meetings

Your committee is grateful for the opportunity to meet at the Hocken Library from February to November 2023. It has been a good year with the Friends Awards progress and the planning of the programme of talks as well as members sharing in the programme of the Hocken Library. No lost time due to Covid though care has been taken. Short meetings of your committee take place on the talks nights and a longer meeting at other times. My sincere appreciation to our volunteer members and Hocken staff for their contribution. Please talk to any committee member if you would like to join the committee.

Talks

March - Autograph books. Did you have one? Anna Blackman, with Kate Guthrie who wrote the blog for the Hocken website and of course did the research. Thank you, Kate, for bringing these treasures to our attention in the age of social media. How things have changed! Good audience participation but publicity could have been better.

May - Catherine Hammond - Hocken Librarian - title of talk "Future Hocken: Living Collection". The Review from 2021 - update and plans. The strategic direction following the review was the main message from Catherine with an emphasis on partnership with Kai Tahu and valuing the heritage of our communities. Good publicity from the *Otago Daily Times* and on websites organised by Anna and Sarah.

July - David Grant - the Biography of Jim Anderton, a detailed talk about the creation of the biography. With the sub title "Necessity or Folly" David's talk explained Jim Anderton's dramatic exit from the Labour Government in 1989 and its consequences.

The book is available at the University Book Shop and the Dunedin Public Library.

September - Deed of Trust celebration at Port Chalmers with Sarah Gallagher speaking about the Hotere Studio as she has researched it in detail for Heritage New Zealand. This celebration of the Deed of Trust included a successful lunch at the historic Carey's Bay Hotel with the public

Talk at the Port Chalmers Town Hall attended by numbers of local people as well as Friends' members. It was pleasing that Catherine Hammond the Hocken Librarian was able to explain the importance of the Deed of Trust to the University of Otago who manage the trust document for the people of New Zealand. The international reputation of the Hocken is also valued. Sarah Gallagher a member of our Friends Committee was able to show her expertise as a Heritage professional and researcher with the story of the Hotere House and the Sculpture Garden. A walk through the Sculpture Garden was a highlight of the afternoon. It has been noted that Committee member, Rev. Donald Phillipps was the celebrant of the marriage of Ralph Hotere and Cilla McQueen, by the dinner table in the house.

October 7 - presentation of "Establishment" by Friends of Hocken Award winner Dr Emily Duncan at Hocken Library.

November - AGM and a celebration of the gifts of Charles Brasch to Hocken Library over many years. Alan Roddick will share his knowledge, friendship and life of Charles Brasch with us.

Flotsam and Jetsam

The Friends Newsletter has been produced by editor George Davis for this year. A variety of interesting articles and news is shared with our members. One highlight was the material about Dr Joseph Mellor and notably the 100th edition was produced this year which was a milestone. Thank you, George.

Website

Thank you, Sarah and Anna, for your efforts with the vagaries of the site. It is a

work in progress. There are some inspiring pieces of information. The back issues F and J are there except for the 2023 copies that are still with members only.

General

My appreciation to you all for participating in this year with no closures for Covid. The committee have planned ahead, discussion is robust, and meetings have been decisive. The minutes are expertly kept by Mark Hughes. The finances controlled by Carol Melville are in capable experienced hands. Not easy with changes in legislation.

With best wishes

Louise Croot MNZM

'ESTABLISHMENT' A PUBLIC READING EVENT AND RESEARCH PROJECT

DESCRIPTION

Event Title: *Establishment*

Date/Time: Saturday 7th October 2023 at 2pm (duration approx. 90 mins). **Venue:** Seminar Room, Hocken Collections, Anzac Avenue.

Event Type: New play reading.

Admission: FREE

Establishment is a series of monologues researched and written by playwright and dramaturg Dr Emily Duncan, which explore and celebrate a range of 20th century food venues and the people who dined and worked there. This project is made possible by the [Friends of the Hocken Collections Award 2022](#). In addition to the Hocken Collections, Dr Duncan has consulted Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, the McNab Room at Dunedin Public Library, and the National Library.

• Talk Series - 2023

When?	Topic / group
5 th – 15 th October Dunedin Heritage Festival	Emily Duncan’s presentation of: ESTABLISHMENT Hocken Library – Seminar Room display
15 th November 2023	AGM@5.30pm FOHC Chair’s Report and Report of the Hocken Librarian. Then a Talk Series @ 6.15pm <u>Speaker:</u> Alan Roddick, will speak on Charles Brasch 50 years on from his death – primarily as a poet, but also as a diarist, as a collector and benefactor.

Plans are in place for the 2024 programme of talks and activities. Do check our website for information: see www.hockenfriends.org.nz

STOP PRESS

George Davis the current *F & J* editor is stepping down after two years to spend time on research and writing. He extends heartfelt thanks to Hocken staff and *F&J* friends who have given time and advice to him in that time.

We are looking for a new editor. The position is voluntary and requires attendance at the Friends Of Hocken Committee meetings – about 6 times per year.

Applications should be sent in the first instance to Mark Hughes, the FOHC Secretary; mark.hughes@otago.ac.nz

Funding of the Friends of the Hocken Collections Award

The Friends of the Hocken Collections Inc. is currently fundraising for the \$10,000 needed for the Award described above. If you would like to make a donation towards this, you may do so online, by direct credit transfer, to **WESTPAC Bank 03 0903 0393175 000**. (Please use [your surname] as Reference and “Award” as Code.)
FOHCs Charities’ Commission number: CC20114.

If making a donation to this account in person at a Westpac Bank branch, please advise the Friends Treasurer, Carol

Melville, of your contact and deposit details.

FOHC MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions for 2022-2023: Individuals: \$30 per annum; Family: \$35 pa; Students: \$10 pa; Life: \$300; Life (Joint): \$350 pa; for Corporate Sponsor rates, please contact Carol Melville carol.melville@xtra.co.nz
NB these increases in subscriptions applied from 1 July 2022.

F&J is prepared by George Davis for the Friends of the Hocken Collections P.O.Box 6336, Dunedin North 9059 - georgedavisnzer@gmail.com

Current exhibition

Bev Moon : *Fortune*

Saturday 12 August – Saturday 21 October 2023.

Receipts was provided.

With any donation-related queries, please contact Carol on 021 617 466 or email carolmelville@xtra.co.nz

A family feast lovingly made from knitted wool will be revealed when the exhibition *Fortune* by Bev Moon opened on Saturday 12 August at Hocken Collections. Moon's work is exhibited alongside archival material from the Hocken Collections and New Zealand Chinese Heritage Research Charitable Trust. Auckland-based artist Bev Moon (Cantonese, Taishanese) explores cultural constructs through drawing, sculpture, painting, and textiles.

