

A good place to be

Auckland Museum People 1929–1989

by Ian Thwaites

Chapter One

Memories of museum colleagues, 1970–1989.

Chapter Two

The Auckland Museum Library, 1970–1989; tributes to staff, volunteers, readers, donors, plus major library accessions and events.

Chapter Three

Enid Evans. Museum Librarian, 1946–1970, plus tributes to her staff and volunteers, with a list of major library accessions and events.

Chapter Four

Some notable Auckland Museum personalities, including councillors, presidents, institute members, benefactors.

Chapter Five

People and events, 1929–1949.

Chapter Six

People and events, 1950–1980.

Chapter Seven

A Staff List, 1929–1989, containing tributes to many early staff members, and including lists of attendants, shop and coffee lounge personnel, student assistants and volunteers.

During these years Auckland Museum gathered together a fascinating group of talented and interesting people.

This is my tribute to them.

About the book

Unfortunately, the achievements of many Auckland Museum personalities of the past have been little documented. Information about Gilbert Archey, Baden Powell and Lucy Cranwell is, deservedly, not difficult to find. Many others, however, have languished in relative obscurity: names such as Vic Fisher, Pat O'Brien, Zoe Lloyd, Jeanne Goulding and honorary staff members including George Humphreys-Davies, J.D. Richardson and W.K. Hounsell.

My first aim, therefore, has been to bring back memories of these servants of the museum and to place their achievements on record. The time frame of the book is from November 1929, when the First World War Memorial building was opened, to the end of 1989 when I took early retirement.

I have fond memories of working with library and other museum colleagues, and they are the subject matter of my first two chapters. Auckland Museum has always been able to call upon a splendid reservoir of willing and talented volunteers and it has been my pleasure to write about them also. They and others, including regular visitors, readers and donors, are not forgotten in this book.

Enid Evans was greatly respected, not only as Auckland Museum Librarian, but throughout the library profession. She deserves a chapter to herself. And in attempting this, as with my own years (1970–89), I have summarized the Evans era, listing her staff, volunteers and events which occurred during her time as librarian, 1946–70.

Chapters 4-6 owe much to the splendid past annual reports of the museum. In these chapters I have highlighted events of the years 1929–80, while also recording the achievements of many council members, volunteers, benefactors and other museum personalities.

Chapter 7 is an annotated list of museum staff from 1929–89, recording, in particular, the achievements of those who came before the 1970s. In addition to scientific and administrative staff, attendants and shop and coffee lounge personnel can be found here, plus information about student assistants and volunteers.

Everyone listed in chapter 7, and indeed, almost everyone else in the book, has an entry in the extensive index.

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About the author

Ian Thwaites was Auckland War Memorial Museum Librarian, 1970–89. In his retirement, he has written extensively about Auckland social history, especially relating to the years 1920–1960. He wrote the first major monographs on New Zealand bookplates, *In Another Dimension: Auckland Bookplates, 1920–1960* and *Biographical Journeys: 100 Favourite Bookplates*. Ian also contributed several major articles to the *Auckland–Waikato Historical Journal*.

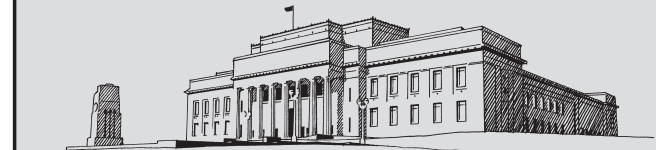
With former museum library staff member Rie Fletcher, Ian compiled: “We Learnt to See” *Elam’s Rutland Group, 1935–1958, a Biographical Journey with Auckland Artists; 75 Years of Bookplates: Auckland Ex Libris Society, 1930–2005*; and *Drawn from Experience*—a biography of Auckland artist Ron Stenberg.

Another publication was *In Affectionate Remembrance*, which tells the story of the lives of the four remarkable sisters of pioneer Auckland theologian, artist and teacher Rev Dr John Kinder.

His current projects include: a sequel to *Biographical Journeys*, the completion of a project documenting films shown in Auckland during the 1930s and 1940s, and a book of essays on subjects as diverse as Auckland amateur theatre groups, Kinder family history, and two spectator sports of the 1930s–1950s: professional wrestling and motorcycle speedway.

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- 502 pages, soft cover
- 150 illustrations
- an extensive index