

Researching Local History

A Basic Guide

Prepared by the
Local History Services Team
Waitakere Library & Information Services
2009

Researching Local History

Some basic guidelines

*A sense of place
A sense of time -
This is the essence of me*

Why?

Why learn about our local heritage? Understanding our landscape and the stories told about it, understanding the forces and experiences of the past that have shaped the development of our communities, helps us to understand ourselves and the world in which we live; it helps us to celebrate who we are and to feel connected to others.

Building and sustaining a strong community is something that the Waitakere City Council thinks is important, and the Waitakere Library & Information Services Local History Service is an integral pathway to achieving this. To support you in your learning we have developed library resources and will provide staff with expertise to help you.

Where?

The main local history research and information centre is the J. T. Diamond Reading Room on Level 2 at the Waitakere Central Library, 3 Ratanui Street, Henderson.

Please phone 09 836 8000 ext 7505 or 09 839 2260 for more information and opening hours. Email: localhistory@waitakere.govt.nz

To get in-depth assistance please phone ahead and make an appointment

TIP

Before you begin researching your topic think about -

- New Zealand and world events that might be an influence
- How different people may have reacted to these events
- Some reasons why these events may have occurred

This will help you to make sense of your research and to place it into the bigger picture of New Zealand, Pacific and World history.

General Background Information

Your local library is a good place to start looking for general information. Try these:

- *New Zealand book of events*. A chronological account of our history.
- *New Zealand's heritage*. An easy to read general history.
- *Bateman New Zealand encyclopedia*. A one volume quick reference book.
- *An Encyclopedia of New Zealand*. 3 vols. Useful for more in-depth NZ history.
- *Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand* (electronic version):
<http://www.teara.govt.nz>. Quick and easy access to brief facts.
- *New Zealand yearbooks*. Yearbooks started in 1899 and give excellent social and statistical information, as well as essays and summaries of many topics. The 1990 volume is particularly recommended for its comprehensive coverage.
- *New Zealand History on the Net*. www.nzhistory.net.nz/ .

[Please note: Waitakere City Council and Waitakere Library and Information Services do not control the content found on any external sites given in this guide. We recommend children have a parent, guardian or teacher supervising their use of the internet.]

How to write your essay:

For tips on how to write an essay go to:<http://members.tripod.com/~lklivingston/essay/>
or put in the words: **essays technique** in the search box of the library catalogue.

How to reference your essay:

For information on how to record your sources used in your research go to:

<http://www.cite.auckland.ac.nz/>

Choose one style, for example, APA and use it for all of your referencing.

For information on how to write a bibliography go to:

<http://teenlink.nypl.org/bibliography.html>

West Auckland Information

The Local History Room on Level 2 at Waitakere Central Library has information about West Auckland including:

- Books on the history of West Auckland.
- Local newspapers such as the *Western Leader* and its predecessors.
- Maps.
- Research vertical file information collected from newspapers and magazines and filed by person and subject. (Ask staff for assistance and access)
- Photographs. (Ask staff for assistance)

Books with the numbers: 993.23 on the spine are about West Auckland history

Some key books about West Auckland:

Fire on the clay: the Pakeha comes to West Auckland by Dick Scott 993.23 SCO.

Easy to read, eloquently written and well illustrated. At the back is a note on sources used and a good index.

Once the wilderness by John T. Diamond (2nd edition, published by V. H. Wilkinson, 1966). 993.23 DIA

A classic book. This pioneering publication and Dick Scott's *Fire on the Clay* are the two key publications on West Auckland history. *Once the Wilderness* has chapters on early settlement, key industries, and Maori history.

Once the wilderness by John T. Diamond (3rd edition, published by Lodestar Press, 1977). 993.122 DIA

This book is much less detailed than the previous edition, so it is more like an illustrated history.

Look for more books in our library catalogue or ask staff for help

New Zealand History and Maori History

The Reference Room on Level 2 at Waitakere Central Library has information about:

New Zealand in general

Maori (Pukapuka Collection)

Plus general in depth reference books like New Zealand Yearbooks

Look for the following resources in the Reference Room:

- Maori Land Court records - contain genealogies (on microfilm)
- Government and official publications and reports
- *The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*. Comprehensive information on famous people in New Zealand. Available in five volumes and on the internet: <http://www.dnzb.govt.nz>.

Ask our Maori Services Librarian/Kaiwhakahaere

for help and more information on Maori research, phone 839-2260

Using the Library Catalogue

Before you begin, **brainstorm** what you want to know. Ask the questions - what, why, who, when, where, how?

Make a list of the subjects you want to research. This will include people's names, places and topics. For example:

- **Name:** CORBAN - a well known Henderson family
- **Place:** HENDERSON - a local suburb
WAITAKERE - our city
WEST AUCKLAND - our area
- **Topics:** WINE - an important local industry
VINEYARDS - a complementary search for the subject 'wine'; also
VITICULTURE - the cultivation of grapes
WINERIES - the business of producing wine

The library catalogue can be searched on the Internet at

<http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/cnlser/libs/index.asp>

Select the 'Search the Catalogue' option.

Because you are doing serious research, use the **Subject** search option. Click on the dropdown arrow and select Subject

Waitakere Library & Information Services
Ngā Kākano Mātauranga o Waitākere

Home | My Info | Te Reo | eResources | Can't find it? | Join the Library | Help

Welcome to the Catalogue

For help and search tips, please click [here](#)

Search

Criteria: Searching for [] [Go] [Go Kids]

→ **Guided Search** Takes you through a step by step method of finding simple results.

→ **Advanced Search** This search provides a more in-depth approach to finding detailed results.

→ **Good Reads**
• Coming Soon...

Home | Contact Us

The catalogue provides additional subject headings to help you find other helpful information about your topic. For example:

The subject search *Corban* will find:

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Home | My Info | Te Reo | eResources | Can't find it? | Join the Library | Help

Start Over | Extended Display | Limit / Sort Search | Search As Words | (Search History)

Other Resources

SUBJECT: corban | Waitakere Libraries | System Sorted | Sort | Search

Only Show What's In

Add To Cart | Save All

| Num | Save | SUBJECTS (1-4 of 4) | Year | Entries Found |
|-----|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------|---------------|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Corban Assid Abraham 1864 1941 | | 2 |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Corban Family -- See Corbin family | | 1 |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Corban Winery Estate | 1991 | 1 |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Corban Winery Estate History | 2002 | 1 |

Add To Cart | Save All

Start Over | Extended Display | Limit / Sort Search | Search As Words | (Search History)

Home | Contact Us

Selecting *Corban Winery Estate History* will find:

The screenshot shows the Waitakere Library & Information Services website. The search results for 'Corban Winery Estate History' are displayed. The main title is 'The Corban Estate : celebrating 100 years, 1902-2002.' The publication information is '[Waitakere, N.Z. : Corban Estate Arts Centre, 2002]'. The rating is 'not yet rated'. The location map table shows various library locations with call numbers and statuses. The description is '1 v. (unpaged) : ill., ports. ; 21 cm.' The note contains several paragraphs of text. The subject headings are 'Corbin family.', 'Corban Winery Estate -- History.', 'Vineyards -- New Zealand -- Waitakere -- History.', and 'Wineries -- New Zealand -- Waitakere -- History.'.

| Location map | Volume | Call number | Status | Message |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| Glen Eden non fiction | | 641.22 COR NZ | IN TRANSIT | --- |
| Massey non fiction | | 641.22 COR NZ | MISSING | --- |
| New Lynn non fiction | | 641.22 COR NZ | MISSING | --- |
| Waitakere Central Local History | | REF 641.22 COR NZ | LIB USE ONLY | --- |
| Waitakere Central Local History | | REF 641.22 COR NZ | LIB USE ONLY | --- |
| Waitakere Central non fiction | | 641.22 COR NZ | DUE 12-04-06 | --- |
| Waitakere Central Restricted Access | | REF 641.22 COR NZ | LIB USE ONLY | --- |
| Waitakere Central Restricted Access | | REF 641.22 COR NZ | LIB USE ONLY | --- |
| Waitakere Central Restricted Access | | REF 641.22 COR NZ | LIB USE ONLY | --- |

| Description | 1 v. (unpaged) : ill., ports. ; 21 cm. |
|-------------|---|
| Note | "September 2002". "The production of this document would have not been possible without the assistance of following people: Dick Scott (author of "A stake in the country" the Corban family history), Miriam Ataya Downey, Helena Ataya, Assid K. Corban, Miriam Corban, Brian Corban, Graham Hunt, and, also to the following photographers for helping to preserve a visual record of the winery, vineyard and family members: Khaleel Assid Corban, Dr Corban Assid Corban and Marti Friedlander"--Rear cover. "Supported by Corbans, Corban Estate Arts Centre, Waitakere City Council, Westprint"--Rear cover. Title from cover. "This report is an interim report from the Officers Working Party convened to assist the Steering Group meets it's designated brief"--Introduction. "Objective: To advise council on options for the future use of the property known as Corban Winery Estate"--Introduction. |
| Subject | Corbin family. Corban Winery Estate -- History. Vineyards -- New Zealand -- Waitakere -- History. Wineries -- New Zealand -- Waitakere -- History. |

Click on any of the blue subject headings to find more information about your topic.

| Subject | Corbin family. Corban Winery Estate -- History. Vineyards -- New Zealand -- Waitakere -- History. Wineries -- New Zealand -- Waitakere -- History. |
|---------|---|
|---------|---|

Remember: Staff are here to help you, that's our job and we enjoy doing it.
You only learn by asking.