

J. T. Diamond Reading Room, Floor 2, Waitakere Central Library

3 Ratanui Street, Henderson

Private Bag 93109, Waitakere City 0650

Hours 9 - 8 Monday - Thursday
9 - 5 Friday, 10-4 Saturday and Sunday

Phone: 09 839 2260. Email: info@waitakere.govt.nz

A Guide to Researching West Auckland Local History at Waitakere Central Library



Ewen Gilmour hitch-hiking on State Highway 16.
Photographer unknown, 1990s. Western Leader Collection.

WAITAKERE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Ngā Kākano Mātauranga O Waitākere



Waitakere City Council
Te Taiao o Waitākere

Waitakere Library and Information Services

Local History Collections

The J. T. Diamond Reading Room provides access to Waitakere Library and Information Services local history and special collections such as local newspapers, photographs, books, publications oral histories and archival material covering the Western districts of Auckland City, with an emphasis on the area contained within the boundary of Waitakere City. The key subject areas are the Waitakere Ranges, the clay and pottery industries and West Auckland social life.

Books & Newspapers

Check the library catalogue for books in the local history collection, they will be marked: 'Waitakere Central Local History'. Borrowing copies of these books may be available from your local library or the non-fiction collection at Waitakere Central Library, Henderson.

Check www.localhistoryonline.org.nz for indexed articles in the *Western Leader*. Also check for west Auckland content in Auckland City Library's *Auckland Index* and *New Zealand Card Index*. The local History staff can provide information about other local publications.

In the main Henderson Reference Room, also on level 2, are copies of the *New Zealand Herald* from 1863 on microfilm. Selected New Zealand 19th and early 20th century newspapers can also be searched online at the National Library's website *Papers Past* <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>

Research Vertical Files & Archives and Special Collections

Ask our staff about our extensive research vertical files on local topics and personalities. We have a growing visual archive and manuscript collection.



'Girl surfer'. Isabel Hooker, Piha, 1944. J. T. Diamond Collection 4K 3134

This material is gradually being processed and described. Access to this rich collection is provided in part through www.localhistoryonline.org.nz, in-house guides and staff knowledge. Please ask our ask staff for information and assistance.

The J. T. Diamond Collection. This is our single largest manuscript collection (30 linear meters), consisting of the research papers, personal library and photographs of self taught archaeologist and West Auckland historian John (Jack) Thomas Diamond, M.B.E. (1912-2001). The collection reflects his interests in Maori history, early settlement and the timber

and clay industries. A highlight of this collection is the extensive visual archive, containing over 10,000 images (prints and negatives) taken by J. T. Diamond or collected or copied by him over his research career. Negatives are being scanned and forms the bulk of the images in **Local History Online's Waitakere Images Collection** see www.localhistoryonline.org.nz

A printed finding aid is available for this collection of several thousand images of the Western districts which cover from the 1890s through to the 1980s. The majority of the images cover the Waitakere Ranges and the pottery and ceramic industry. Please ask staff for more information about this collection.

Photographs

We have a general print and several photograph collections which are gradually being processed and digitised. Of particular note is the **Frank Morris Collection**, several hundred glass plate negatives and prints of Henderson in the 1920s-1940s, and the **Bert Jones Collection**, over 500 glass plate negatives from the Edwardian era primarily of Whatipu. Please ask staff for more information about these collections.

Also look for West Auckland images in Auckland City Libraries *Heritage Images Online*, the Auckland Museum online catalogue and in National Library's *Timeframes* see <http://timeframes.natlib.govt.nz>

The Waitakere Oral History Collection Te Pataka Korero o Waitakere

This collection contains over 200 audio cassettes and an expanding video archive of recordings of Waitakere identities that help to make up the multicultural city of Waitakere.

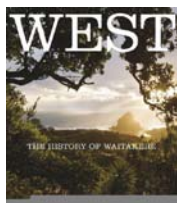
The collection contains a number of project recordings such as the **Crown Lynn Oral History Project**, and the **Going West Archives**. Finding aids are available, please ask staff for assistance.

Digital recording equipment can be loaned by the public to record your family or community's story. Please ask at the J. T. Diamond Reading Room information desk or email info@waitakere.govt.nz



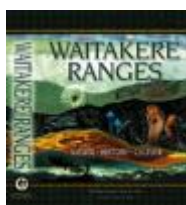
Listening to the phonograph. Alfred Grundy, 1902.
J. T. Diamond Collection, (19 K) 1364.1

West Auckland in Print – General books about the West



West: the history of Waitakere / editors, Finlay Macdonald and Ruth Kerr; [foreword by Dick Scott]. Auckland, N.Z: Random House New Zealand, 2009. [993.23 WES NZ](#)

The most recent general history on the region with many subjects covered for the first time in print and in one publication such as settlement, industry, arts, social services, civic history and national politics. Many of the illustrations are from the Library's local history collection and have never been in print before. Excellent chapters written by Bruce Hayward on the geology of the West and Te Warena Taua on Te Kawerau a Maki, Linda Tyler on the visual arts, Helen Schamroth on fashion and textiles, and Tara Jahn-Werner on the performing arts. (Indexed)



Waitakere Ranges: ranges of inspiration: nature, history, culture / editors, Bruce and Trixie Harvey. Waitakere City, N.Z: Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, 2006. [919.323 WAI NZ](#)

A lavishly illustrated and comprehensive source for information on the Waitakere Ranges particularly regarding their flora, fauna, reforestation and conservation. There are chapters on settlement and industry; timber, clay, orchards and the wine industry. There is an 'An Overview of Historical Publications 1990-2005' by James Bade (p.335-340), and 'Signatures of Place' includes Peter Simpson's chapter on the Waitakere Ranges and the visual arts. Pages 467-508 cover writers in the Waitakere Ranges including a chapter by Murray Gray on the Going West Literary Festival. (Glossary and index).

Fire on the clay: the Pākehā comes to West Auckland / Dick Scott. Auckland [N.Z.]: Southern Cross Books, 1979. [995.722 S42](#)

Engaging, eloquently written and well illustrated *Fire on the Clay* is still the best concise general history on West Auckland. Commissioned by Ceramco Ltd (the parent company of Crown Lynn) to acknowledge its 50th anniversary it particularly well covers the ceramic and pottery industry including the legacy of studio potters. (An updated general summary of the clay industry and its significance to West Auckland is covered by Robyn Mason's chapter 'Fire in the West' in *West: the history of Waitakere*). (Indexed)

Once the wilderness / by John T. Diamond, John T. (John Thomas), 1912-2001.

Auckland, N.Z.: V.H. Wilkinson, 1966. [993.23 DIA NZ](#)

Jack Diamond's classic text. The first significant publication on West Auckland. A useful brief survey of West Auckland history and many of its characters. An index has been compiled by Lisa Truttman. The information is in part based on resources in John T. Diamond's extensive personal library and research papers which are now part of the Library's collection.

The 1977 3rd edition shares the title of the earlier work but is primarily a visual record with extensively edited text.

West Auckland remembers: a collection of historical essays for the 1990

commemoration / edited by James Northcote-Bade. Auckland [N.Z.]: West Auckland Historical Society, 1990. [993.23 WES NZ](#)

Eclectic mix of topics covered. Of note is Graeme Murdoch's essay on the Māori place names of the Waitakere ranges, John T. Diamond and Bruce Hayward's chapter on pre-historic sites in West Auckland, and Essie Hodge (née Bishop) writing about early Titirangi. (No index)

West Auckland remembers. Vol. 2 / edited by James Northcote Bade. Henderson [N.Z.]: West Auckland Historical Society, 1992. [993.23 WES NZ](#)

A slightly fuller volume of essays from the 1990 publication. Of particularly note are Graeme Murdoch's chapter on Wai Karekare, John T. Diamond on the brick and pottery industry, three chapters on Henderson including the establishment of Henderson's Mill, and a delightful essay on Te Atatu compiled by Joy van der Star about her mother Violet Mabbett, grand-daughter of Leonard and Sarah Pauling. (A copy of the diary of Leonard Pauling is available in the Local History Special Collections). (No index)

A pictorial history of West Auckland / compiled by Jean Garriock, Clive Sleeman, Stephen Crane for West Auckland Historical Society. Henderson [N.Z.] : The Society, 1991. [993.23 PIC NZ](#)

Black and white illustrations (mainly the late 19th and early to 20th century) covering Maori and early settlers, industries (logging, gum digging, orchards, farming, potteries), transport, settlements, services and recreation. Photographs are from the collection of the Library, the Society, and private collections, the Huia Museum, the Auckland City Library, Auckland Museum and the Alexander Turnbull Library. (No index)