



**Issue 26**  
July 2024



# Auckland Council Archives

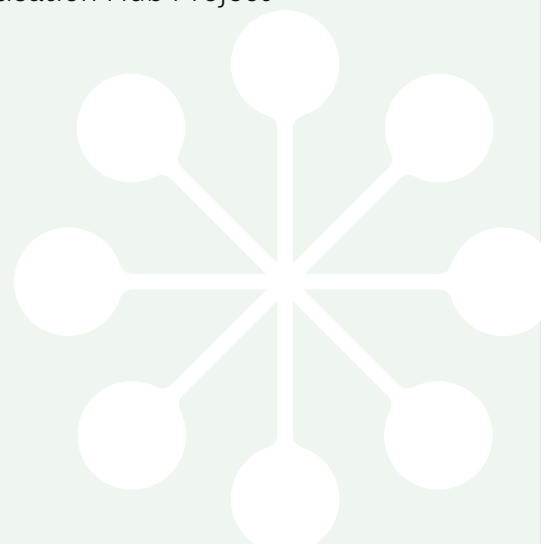
## Auckland begins at the Archives

### Kia ora

Welcome to the July 2024 issue of the Archives' newsletter. We aim to keep you up to date with our mahi at Council Archives, whilst also sharing interesting stories we uncover working with Auckland's records.

#### In this issue:

- Great news! Our main database is back online
- Archivist Heléna Lunt delves into the North Shore Heritage Inventory review of 30 years ago
- Council Archives supports the NZ Maritime Museum's Digitisation Hub Project
- We welcome a new team member
- The team visited our former colleague Keith Stuart at the Pompallier Heritage Centre and Archives



# Auckland Council Archives is Back Online!

In August 2022 all of the archives' databases were temporarily removed from the Auckland Council website for maintenance. In our August 2023 newsletter, we mentioned that the team was using and testing our new database Presto and after getting it to a point we were happy with, we were able to send out a link to a few internal customers this past May for final testing.

At this stage it does not contain all of our previously available databases, such as the family history indexes, but we hope to have these available again soon. What is back online is our main database that allows you to search through our records, view any that have been digitised and request to view any that are relevant to your research.

Check it out here:

<https://ww.archives.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/Presto/home/home.aspx>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Auckland Council Archives search interface. At the top left is the logo for Te Kaunihera o Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland Council) with the Māori name and the English name. To the right of the logo is the text "Rāpuhia ngā pūranga" and "Search the archives". Below the logo is a navigation menu with "Search", "Help", "Home", and "Contact Us". The main content area features a large image of several old, worn books with spines labeled "MINUTE BOOK" and "9 10". To the right of the image are four search input fields labeled "Search All", "Records", "Series", and "Agency", each with a search button. Further right are three "Advanced Search Links" with search buttons: "Search for Records", "Search for Series", and "Search for Agencies". At the bottom right, there is contact information: "Contact: Auckland Council Archives, 09 890 2427, archives@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz".

The screenshot shows the search results page for the Auckland Council Archives. At the top left is the logo for Te Kaunihera o Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland Council) with the Māori name and the English name. To the right of the logo is the text "Rāpuhia ngā pūranga" and "Search the archives". Below the logo is a navigation menu with "Search", "Help", "Home", and "Contact Us". The main content area shows search results for "Records" for the query "(Records.AllText (acc 052))". It indicates "1358 matches were found. 1-20 are shown." The results are displayed in a table with columns for "Records", "Start Date", "End Date", "Part of Series", "Scope Content", "Access Status", "Record", "Record ID", and "Box No Internal". The first three results are "ACC 052 Aerial Photograph of Auckland City" with start and end dates of 10.05.1968. The first result is a thumbnail image of an aerial photograph. The second result is another thumbnail image of an aerial photograph. The third result is a thumbnail image of an aerial photograph. On the left side of the results, there is a "Refine Search Results" sidebar with sections for "Series - Title", "Legacy Council", "Start Date", and "Record Format Type". The "Series - Title" section has radio buttons for "City of Auckland Map (2)", "ACC 002 (1)", "ACC 005 (5)", "ACC 009 (39)", and "ACC 011 (1)". The "Legacy Council" section has radio buttons for "Auckland City Council (1336)", "Auckland Council (12)", "Franklin District Council (5)", "Waikare City Council (3)", and "Manukau City Council (1)". The "Start Date" section has a date range selector from "DDMM/YYYY" to "DDMM/YYYY". The "Record Format Type" section has radio buttons for "Binder (1)", "Blue Print Plan (2)", "Book (6)", "Booklet (1)", "Document (26)", "File (7)", and "Index Card (1)".

# Thirty Years Since the North Heritage Review

Heléna Lunt, Archivist

*Any heritage ideas?* This call for feedback was published in the *North Shore Times Advertiser* on 24 March 1994. The article promoted the beginning of a three-month project – the North Shore City Heritage Inventory Review. The review, led by the council’s Urban Design Planner, Trevor Mackie, and consultants, Dinah Holman and James Lunday, involved the evaluation of ‘all existing registers and schedules of heritage buildings, structures, objects and places, excluding pre-European sites’ (Mackie, par. 2). Holman and Lunday worked in the community, gathering historical information and anecdotes, and visiting and researching sites – from the ‘grand old buildings’ to ‘very ordinary’ places (*Any heritage ideas?* par. 4). This year, 2024, marks thirty years since this significant project was undertaken.

Although the review excluded pre-European sites, it is important to acknowledge the long presence of people on Auckland’s North Shore (Te Whenua Roa o Kahu/Te Raki Paewhenua). The oral histories of Māori tell of events, such as the landing of the Tainui Waka at Te Hau Kapua (Torpedo Bay) in 1350 (Torpedo Bay Navy Museum ‘Torpedo Bay Timeline’ par. 8). The area, with its high vantage points and abundant natural resources, including access to kaimoana (seafood), freshwater rivers and lakes, and rich volcanic soils, attracted Māori settlements. However, the North Shore was also an area of conflict,

due to its position as the entranceway to lands further north. Raids on iwi living there saw many attacked or flee to safer areas. The population of the North Shore had reduced significantly before European settlers arrived in the 1830s. However, the Ngāpuhi Chief Patuone settled in Shoal Bay in the 1840s, and a Ngāti Paoa settlement was established nearby in 1853 (Heritage Consultancy Services for Auckland Council 11-12). By the 1880s, most of the population lived in Devonport and its close surroundings. Farming, gum-digging and timber milling were popular occupations. Industrial growth, such as the establishment of the Chelsea Sugar Refinery in Birkenhead in the mid-1880s, attracted more workers and the North Shore began to sprawl. The opening of the Auckland Harbour Bridge in May 1959 heralded a new era of expansion for the North Shore. The traffic began to flow across the bridge, connecting the city to the North Shore and bringing with it a boom in business and building, suburban and community growth.



NORTH SHORE TIMES ADVERTISER, Thursday March 24, 1994 Page 5

**INVENTORY RESEARCHER:** Dinah Holman outside a Birkenhead house which has been listed on the North Shore heritage inventory.

## Any heritage ideas?

Feedback from the public is the key in reviewing the North Shore heritage inventory.

Planners Dinah Holman and James Lunday say the public has a wealth of information and documents that will help in their research.

As well as old photographs and documents, they would like to hear about any people knowledgeable in the history of the area.

Mrs Holman says heritage has a deeper meaning than just grand old buildings.

“To be historical they must fulfil certain requirements. People have to understand that it can be something very ordinary-looking from everyday life.

“There is even a cowshed in New Zealand that is considered to be of historical significance,” she says.

To be considered for the inventory a building must represent New Zealand’s history, be associated with significant events or people or be a fine example of architecture.

However, the existence of a building, place or object on the inventory does not guarantee protection from sale or development.

The heritage inventory is being done over a three-month period and will be completed by the end of May.

In addition to researching possible additions to the inventory, Mrs Holman and Mr Lunday have set up archives at most libraries on the Shore.

“We’d like to see any old photos or copies of them. Anything of old landscapes, shopping centres or old scenes,” says Mrs Holman.

If you have any information, contact Dinah Holman on 418-1057, or James Lunday on 373-7599, ext 8593.

Image of Dinah Holman and promotion of the project in the *North Shore Times Advertiser*, 24 March 1994. Credit: Stuff Limited.

The built heritage of the North Shore was previously managed by road boards, which became borough councils as areas grew. In 1989, the five borough councils - Devonport, Birkenhead, Northcote, Takapuna and East Coast Bays - were amalgamated into North Shore City Council. The purpose of the North Shore Heritage Inventory Review was to assess the heritage listings on the separate district schemes managed by the five former borough councils and to undertake a survey to identify potential additions to the list. Key aims for the review included compiling records and condition reports for places identified as having cultural heritage value and using set criteria to assess them so recommendations could be made for listing in the 1994 North Shore City Council Proposed District Plan required under the Resource Management Act 1991 (Holman and Lunday 2). Another significant aim was to increase knowledge and awareness of the area's heritage value amongst the North Shore community (Holman and Lunday 2).

To achieve these aims, Holman and Lunday undertook various approaches including attending and presenting to council's Community Board meetings, designing and distributing two survey forms, meeting with members of the public and consulting archives and documentary material to gather information. They also made field surveys, some on foot and some by car 'windscreen,' and site visits (Holman and Lunday 4). To assess the cultural heritage value of sites, they consulted the Historic Places Act 1993, Section 23 'Criteria for Registration of Historic Places and Historic Areas,' and worked from their own evaluation criteria checklist that considered the architecture, history, importance to the community, rarity, group value or representativeness, environment and integrity of a site (Holman and Lunday appendixes 6 and 7). Successful in achieving the review's aim through these processes, Holman and Lunday created a list of sites they designated as Category A or B to be included in the Proposed District Plan. They also provided a list of recommendations in their final report, encouraging the creation of a 'heritage precinct designation on particular areas [...] incentives for protection' of sites and increased information for and support of the owners of properties containing heritage features (Holman and Lunday 6).



5 Clarence Street, Devonport Automatic Telephone Exchange Building. NSC 891/436.

Alongside the report, category lists and recommendations, Holman and Lunday produced hundreds of colour photographs of the heritage sites they surveyed. This series (NSC 891 North Shore Heritage Inventory Photographs) is held by Auckland Council Archives. Over time, locations included in some unlabelled photographs have been identified by council staff. Residents of the North Shore even assisted in response to an Auckland Heritage Festival online exhibition produced by Archives in 2017.

The series was recently digitised and more sites have been identified by Paul Chapman (Digital Archives Imaging Specialist) and James Armstrong (Team Leader Archives Management) for upload to our new online Archives' database, Presto. The photographs are important visual documentation of the sites assessed for the review. But when viewed today, they convey something more: the zeitgeist of the North Shore in the 1990s and the memories of the local environment, the suburbs, the streets and even the cars people used to drive.



23 Anne Street. NSC 891/33.



8 Grahame Street. NSC 891/84.

Reflecting 30 years on, the North Shore City Heritage Inventory Review was an important project to champion the preservation of the area's cultural heritage at a time of local government change. Holman and Lunday brought together the heritage and history of the North Shore which had been separated before the 1989 amalgamation and this greatly influenced subsequent District Plans. The success of the review is evident in the engagement of the local community. Auckland Council Archives holds multiple folders of material related to the review, including correspondence from locals and detailed, completed survey forms for heritage sites (NSC 600). Although not all feedback received was positive, the promotion of the review and the engagement with the community over a short three-month period demonstrates the dedication of Holman and Lunday to the project. They prompted the community to consider what heritage they valued and how they wanted it used, protected, and preserved in their neighbourhoods.

#### Sources:

'Any heritage ideas?' *North Shore Times Advertiser*, 24 March 1994, p. 5. Reproduced with permission from Stuff Limited.

Heritage Consultancy Services for Auckland Council. *North Shore Heritage - Thematic Review Report*. Auckland Council Document TR 2011/010, 1 July 2011. [North Shore Heritage Thematic Review Report - volume 1 \(aucklandcity.govt.nz\)](http://aucklandcity.govt.nz)

Heritage – Inventory, 1978-1989, NSC 600/3320-07 part 1, box 336 [Auckland Council Archives].

Heritage – Inventory, 1989-1994, NSC 600/3320-07 part 2, box 336 [Auckland Council Archives].

Heritage – Inventory, 1994-1998, NSC 600/3320-07, part 3, box 805 [Auckland Council Archives].

Holman, Dinah, and James Lunday. *North Shore City Heritage Inventory Review*. Report, North Shore City Council, June 1994. From Heritage – Inventory, 1989-1994, NSC 600/3320-07 part 2, box 336 [Auckland Council Archives].

Mackie, Trevor on behalf of North Shore City Council. *North Shore City Heritage Inventory of Buildings, Places and Objects*. Memorandum to Chairperson, Takapuna Community Board, 2 March 1994. From Heritage – Inventory, 1989-1994, NSC 600/3320-07, box 336 [Auckland Council Archives].

Torpedo Bay Navy Museum. 'Torpedo Bay Timeline.' <https://navymuseum.co.nz/about-us/torpedo-bay-timeline/>

# Digitisation Hub Project

Aline Curtis, Conservator / Paul Chapman, Digital Imaging Specialist



Katherine Meeten of the NZ Maritime Museum photographing a Rodney County Council minute book (Auckland Council Archives, RCC 001/3)

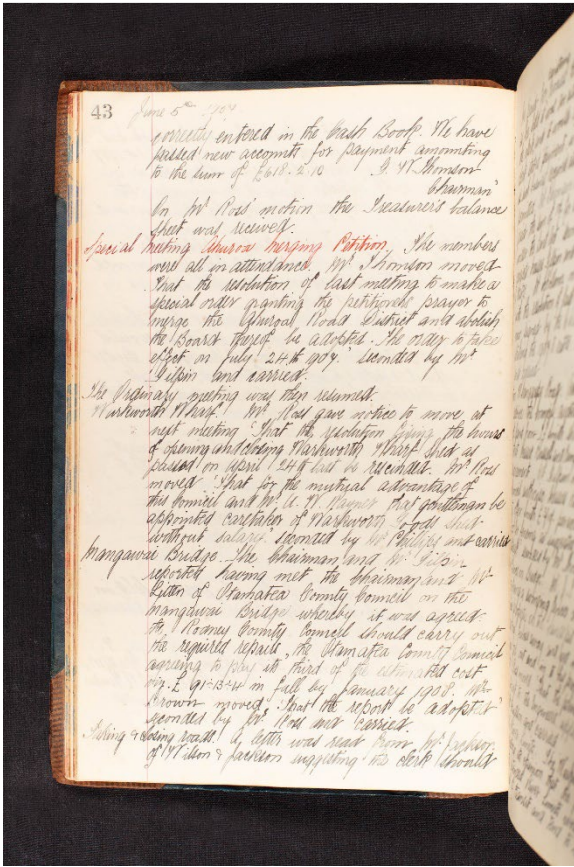
Recently, Katherine Meeten carried out a two-week digitisation project to photograph legacy council minute books for North Auckland, based in a studio generously provided by the Central City Library's Digital Research Collections Team Leader Tim Barnett. Katherine is a Digitisation Technician at the New Zealand Maritime Museum Hui Te Ananui a Tangaroa. As part of its Digitisation Hub Project, the museum is working with local cultural organisations to help digitise their collections to a professional standard. Its objective is to create networks between cultural organisations both big and small, providing support and shared experiences to care and help protect our collective taonga. Through collaboration, both volunteers and staff should gain confidence and capability to manage, record, and preserve their collections.

Victoria Joule, manager of Warkworth Museum, had contacted Auckland Council Archives in 2022 to request copies of early minute books of Warkworth Town Council and its predecessors. They were too fragile to photocopy or scan and the cost of digital photography was prohibitive before the Maritime Museum's project suggested an affordable collaboration. Prior to digitisation, the Archives team had to prepare the minute books. Our conservator Aline Curtis examined each one, producing condition assessments and identifying materials. They were documented photographically by Paul Chapman, Digital Archives Imaging Specialist, to support Aline's work. Images were captured with a colour calibration target, which is instrumental for achieving correct white balance, colour management and continuity. The books were then treated by Aline to ensure that they were sufficiently stable to withstand handling while being photographed. Once treatments were completed, 'after treatment'

documentation was undertaken, building an important visual record of the items that complements the condition reports and conservation work.



Photograph including colour target of an early twentieth-century Rodney County Council minute book (Auckland Council Archives RCC 001/3) showing before and after conservation treatment of its damaged front board.



During a fortnight's painstaking work, Katherine took digital photographs of 15 minute books, 11 created by early local authorities for Warkworth (from 1903 to 1962) and four by Rodney County Council (from 1877 to 1921). This collaboration has been very successful; we are pleased to have these books digitised and available in that format for our customers (wherever they are based). Digital preservation is fundamental nowadays, as it facilitates access to information and assists with good conservation of archives. We enjoyed meeting the Maritime Museum digitisation team. Thank you and hopefully another communal project will bring our teams together soon! A big thank you to Dan Liu, Digital Collections Lead in the Digital Research Collections team, for ensuring the smooth running of this project.

[Behind the Scenes at the Maritime Museum](#)

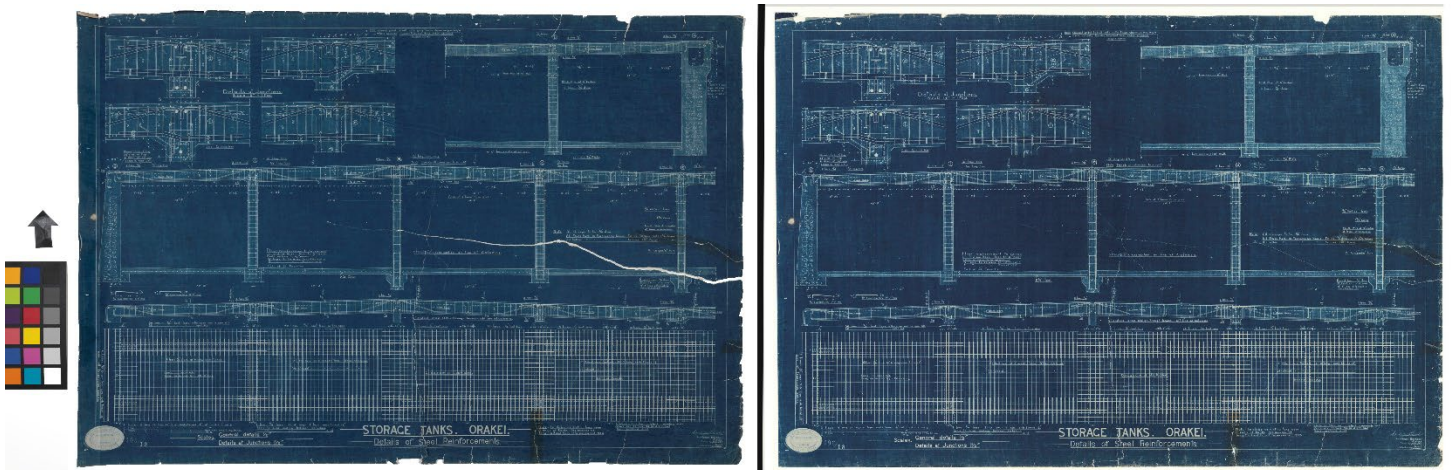
[Maritime Museum Enters Digital Age](#)

[Digitisation at the Maritime Museum](#)

Digital image of page in a Rodney County Council minute book (Auckland Council Archives, RCC 001/3)

## Conservation of Blueprint Plans

Aline Curtis, Conservator



Before treatment image at left, following by after treatment photography of WAT 002/244

Conservation treatments are one of the various activities undertaken by Aline Curtis, the conservator at council archives. They are usually required when items are too fragile to be handled, either by customers or for digitisation.

Last month, Aline focused on stabilising some early twentieth-century blueprints\* for sewage storage tanks in Orakei, some of which are now used by Sea Life Kelly Tarlton's Aquarium. The blueprints are from a series of plans once held by Watercare Services (Archives' series WAT 002). There were 25 paper blueprint plans, some lined on the back with cloth, and ranging in condition from lightly to severely damaged. The fragility of the paper was the central concern – some plans had large surface tears, folds and smaller edge tears. This damage was probably caused by a combination of poor storage conditions

and careless handling. Adhesive tape had been applied to some tears, creating yellow and brown discolouration.

After dry cleaning with soft brushes, our conservator removed every piece of adhesive tape and the glue it had left on the blueprints. On the back of each one, tears or folds were reinforced with Japanese tissue (made from long and strong vegetable fibres) of different weights depending on the extent of the damage and pasted to the blueprints using a cellulose adhesive. The tissue and paste were chosen for their neutrality and longevity and because they can be easily removed from the original documents without causing further damage.

Kept under weight for drying and flattening, the blueprints are now more stable and after their conservation treatment can be safely handled with care.

\*Also called cyanotype, blueprint was an easy photographic reproduction method, commonly used for reproduction of architectural and technical drawings from the 1870s to the mid-20th century.

### Sources

John Fitzmaurice, 'Auckland Wastewater', in *Evolving Auckland: The City's Engineering Heritage* (Christchurch: Wily Publications, 2011), pp.51-77

## Staff News



We welcome Heléna Lunt, who became the team's newest archivist in February. Heléna has a BA/Bachelor of Fine Arts conjoint degree (art history major) and a BA (Hons) in Museums and Cultural Heritage from the University of Auckland. Before joining council archives, Heléna worked as an image orders technician at Auckland War Memorial Museum, where she had also been a volunteer and held a Sheldon Werner Summer studentship, working on a large twentieth-century photographic archive of Sparrow Industrial

Pictures. Heléna was the 2022 annual Marylyn Mayo intern at Auckland Art Gallery's E H McCormick Research Library. Her work there focussed on exhibition and installation negatives and photographs. Heléna has volunteered at the University of Auckland's Gus Fisher Gallery and was awarded one of the university's summer research scholarships to assist with a publication on its art collection. In her spare time, Heléna's interests include ballet, music, and travel.



## Visit to Pompallier Heritage Centre and Archives



Last December the team visited our former colleague Keith Stuart. Since May 2023 Keith has been the Archivist/Archives Manager and Privacy Officer for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Auckland based in Ponsonby. The Diocesan Archive is constituted under Canon Law. It is responsible for the preservation and listing of records generated by the bishop and his administration and those of his predecessors. Every diocese also has obligations under the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church

to create and maintain an archive. As well as bishops' records, the Diocesan Archive holds records and information about Catholic parishes, priests, religious orders, schools, and orphanages. Keith is responsible for the archives, its reference library and a collection of artefacts that includes artworks, furniture, vestments, and historic items from Catholic missionaries.

We enjoyed seeing some a range of items held in the archive, including early printed missals used to



celebrate Mass and an example of rare nineteenth-century printing in Māori by Bishop Pompallier. Keith also gave us a guided tour of the Bishop's House. The building is listed by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga as a place of special or outstanding historical or cultural significance (Historic Place Category 1) and the tour finished on its roof with a spectacular view of Auckland and the harbour bridge.

Auckland Council Archives staff enjoying the view from the top of the Bishop's House in Ponsonby.



### Find out more



Visit: [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](https://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



Enquire: [archives@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:archives@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Phone: 09 890 2427



Write: Auckland Council, Private Bag 92300

Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142 | DX CX 10032

