

# GUARDIANS KAITIAKI OF THE ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY

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### ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2015 – JUNE 2016

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#### **Preamble**

The Guardians Kaitiaki of the Alexander Turnbull Library for the 2015 – 2016 year were Helen Tait (Chair), appointed 2012 and reappointed 2015, Helen Walker, reappointed in 2013, Robyn Kamira, and Professor Paul Tapsell, appointed in 2012, whose last meeting was 23 July 2015, and Professor Raewyn Dalziel, reappointed in 2012 who completed two terms in July 2015. New Guardians Kaitiaki appointed from August 2015 were Dr. Aroha Harris, Dr. Jock Phillips, and Dr. Sydney Shep

The Guardians met on three occasions during the year under review: 23 July and 12 October 2015 and 25 February 2016. The Chief Librarian and the National Librarian were in attendance at all meetings. Major topic papers were presented at each meeting by relevant specialist staff. Deputy Chief Executive, Information and Knowledge Services Branch, Department of Internal Affairs, attended the July and October meetings. The Guardians appreciated meeting with the Minister Responsible for the Alexander Turnbull Library – the Hon. Peter Dunne, following each of their meetings, during the year.

#### **Role of the Guardians Kaitiaki**

The *Purpose of Guardians* as set out in Subpart 3 Section 17 of the National Library of New Zealand Act 2003 is:

To provide assurance to the people of New Zealand that –

- a) the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library are held in perpetuity; and
- b) those collections are –
  - i) provided with separate and suitable accommodation; and
  - ii) preserved, protected, developed, and made accessible for all the people of New Zealand in a manner consistent with their status as documentary heritage and taonga; and
- c) the character of the services distinguishing the Alexander Turnbull Library as a research library is maintained

The *Function of Guardians* intended to achieve this purpose is set out in Subpart 3 Section 18 of the National Library of New Zealand Act 2003:

1. The function of the Guardians is to advise the Minister on any of the following matters:
    - a. the capacity of the Alexander Turnbull Library to acquire documents to be used for the purposes of research, scholarship, or mātauranga Māori, or by other libraries and the people of New Zealand:
    - b. the provision of services to enable access and research using the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library:
    - c. the appropriate and adequate protection of the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library:
    - d. a decision made by the Chief Librarian under section 15 to make documents from the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library available for public exhibition:
    - e. the means to maintain –
      - i) the identity and status of the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library:
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- ii) the character of the services distinguishing that library as a research library:
- f. the adequacy and suitability of the housing and preservation of the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library:
- g. other matters relating to the Alexander Turnbull Library.

The Guardians have continued to receive regular reports from the National Librarian and the Chief Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library, and papers from specialist staff on matters of current concern within the Guardians' purpose. Major areas of focus during the year were the finalisation of the review of the library's collection policy and collection plans, documentary heritage, progress on the Archives Exhibition project, replacement of the library's manuscript cataloguing system, and, throughout the year, continued concern regarding pressures on the library's budget.

The appointment of three new Guardians during the year provided an opportunity to review the programme of work, and to gain new perspectives as to priorities and areas of concern. At the first meeting with new Guardians in October, the areas of focus identified were:

- the security and protection of the collections in the Alexander Turnbull Library
- digitisation as an asset to researchers
- maximising the digital research potential of the collections for ease of access and to support the creation of new knowledge
- professional development opportunities for upskilling staff through interaction and joint programmes with other institutions
- public engagement opportunities for access to collections through both digital portals and physical exhibitions
- how we value and care about history as a nation
- leadership in institutions which hold our memory and history

Consultation on the National Library's Positioning for the Future programme began in the year under review. Many of the issues identified in the initial discussions with new Guardians were amplified in considering input into the programme. The Guardians' submission, the outcomes of the programme, and the implications for Alexander Turnbull Library will be a key focus of the 2016 – 2017 year.

The annual reports of the National Librarian and the Chief Librarian, Alexander Turnbull Library for the year ended June 2016 are attached to this report to give an operational and management overview.

### **Holding the Collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library in Perpetuity**

All meetings during the year focused on the review of the National Library's Collection Policies and the specific collecting plans for material types. The Guardians' initial concern was that the role of Alexander Turnbull Library was not sufficiently clarified, but this was well provided for in later iterations, and there is now confidence that the policy is clear and comprehensive, and will give comfort to potential donors.

### **Provision of Separate and Suitable Accommodation**

Although preparation for the display of the Treaty and other documents has been an Archives New Zealand project, Guardians have been concerned that its location within the National Library building will also reflect on both the National Library and Alexander Turnbull Library. Initial concerns relating to appropriate involvement of mana whenua have been allayed, as have concerns regarding protection of collections while physical work is undertaken in the building.

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## **Preservation, Protection, Development and Provision of Access Consistent with Status as Documentary Heritage and Taonga**

Concern has been expressed in previous annual reports about the financial pressure of collecting and providing access to material in both analogue and digital formats. Digital is not a replacement for analogue. The heritage and legal responsibility of the Alexander Turnbull Library requires collection, management and provision of access to both. This pressure has increased dramatically, as other institutions, which do not have the same heritage and legal mandate, offer collections to the Turnbull Library, which will otherwise be disposed of, as the institutions move to greater provision of their services from digital resources. It is important to the nation's documentary heritage that this material is not lost, but safeguarding it places a large additional burden on already severely stretched budgets. Cost is not just in protection and storage, but in the provision of the metadata which will make the collections accessible.

Providing improved access to, and increased awareness of, the depth and breadth of the Alexander Turnbull Library collections for all New Zealanders is a critical aspect of the library's role. Guardians have been very impressed with the range and quality of exhibitions in the Turnbull Gallery (a full list is attached as an Appendix to the Chief Librarian's report). Guardians have appreciated the insights into the collections provided in presentations by curators of these exhibitions, and through the excellent public programmes which have been run through the year, and reiterate the recommendation in previous annual reports that efforts be made for the exhibitions and the programmes to travel.

### **Documentary Heritage**

Guardians have appreciated the opportunity to comment on the UNESCO draft statement on documentary heritage, and see this as a field in which it will be important for the Alexander Turnbull Library to maintain a leading role.

### **Maintaining the Character of Services Distinguishing the Alexander Turnbull Library as a Research Library**

A major milestone of the year was the long awaited replacement of the library's management system for unpublished material – an essential foundation of the operation of the library.

Work on rights management will continue to be important in improving access to resources for creative re-use. The capability of new technology greatly expands the availability of collections, but to obtain full value from this access, efforts to provide for and encourage creative re-use will.

### **Resources**

The Guardians dealt with two specific concerns in relation to resources: more appropriate decisions could be made if funds were assured through multi-year appropriations, particularly of collections budgets, to avoid rushed or pressured decisions at the end of a budget period e.g. when funds may have been set aside for the purchase of a major work, and where negotiations may not have been concluded, leaving the funding in danger of being lost.

A second area of concern, raised previously, related to capitalisation of staffing costs associated with digitisation. Concern that this could bring pressure of competition on capital expenditure on the library's collections. Guardians were satisfied in the interim both that the digital assets created will be protected as crown assets, and that expenditure will be clearly differentiated from, and therefore

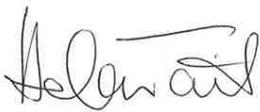
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not in competition with, expenditure on physical collections, but will be keeping watch to confirm that this is achieved in practice.

### **Appreciation**

The commitment of the Chief Librarian and staff working within tight financial limits is commended. New technologies as well as traditional skills and experience are constantly applied to ensure that the library's collections are shared and made accessible as widely as possible, and priorities are reviewed to focus on the most effective planning for, and responses to, user requirements.

Guardians have contributed energetically and thoughtfully. New Guardians have brought new perspectives and insights, and a particular debt of gratitude to Professor Dalziel must be noted for her outstanding contribution to Guardians' meetings and to the Alexander Turnbull Library over two terms as a Guardian.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Tait', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Helen Tait, Chair

On behalf of the Guardians Kaitiaki of the Alexander Turnbull Library

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## **The National Librarian, National Library of New Zealand 2015/16 Annual Report to the Guardians Kaitiaki of the Alexander Turnbull Library**

I am pleased to present the National Librarian's 2015/16 Annual Report on the performance of the functions and exercise the powers delegated to the Chief Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library, as required under the National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) Act 2003.

The year has been both rewarding and challenging as we have continued to focus on addressing key cost pressures and adjusting to major shifts in systems.

October 2015 marked the *50<sup>th</sup> anniversary* since the National Library Act of 1965 was passed bringing together the then three state libraries (Alexander Turnbull Library, the General Assembly Library and the National Library Service) into one new national Library of New Zealand. As part of the celebrations, a series of public events took place including; hosting an open day and lectures were held by Dr Aroha Harris, Chris McDowall and Damon Salesa. The main event was a gathering of friends and supporters of the National Library to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was also an opportune time to look forward to what the future holds for the National Library, and how it can continue to enrich the cultural and economic life of New Zealand and its interchanges with other nations.

In December 2015 I took a paper proposing a new direction of travel for the National Library to the Department's Executive Leadership Team, and subsequently to the Minister. With their support, we have begun a process of testing and consultation on our proposed strategic directions with our stakeholders, with a view to produce a new strategy by the end of 2016.

Our initial testing and engagement has confirmed the very real need for the National Library, mainly through the Alexander Turnbull Library, to continue in its purpose to collection, protect and make accessible the documentary heritage of New Zealand and the Pacific. I look forward to the discussions to come with the Chief Librarian, Guardians Kaitiaki and others on how we best can make a difference to New Zealander's lives.

## **Preserving the collections**

The Turnbull continued its efforts to protect and preserve the collections during the year, including preservation of at risk audiovisual items through digitisation. Audiovisual preservation is an increasingly important aspect of managing our documentary heritage due to the fragility of carriers and rapid obsolescence of digital formats.

The move of the Library's microfilm store from its location in Palmerston North to the library's offsite facility in Wanganui highlighted the continual need to manage our physical storage needs. The Information and Knowledge Services Branch within the Department of Internal Affairs engaged property consultants to assist with the development of options to address issues with the existing portfolio of National Library and Archives NZ buildings, in particular known issues with the North Island property portfolio. An indicative business case has recommended a shortlist of options which have been approved by the Department's Executive Leadership Team. While mainly focused on the needs of Archives New Zealand, the progress of the business case has potential in future to greatly improve the Turnbull's offsite storage capacity.

## **Developing the collections and making them accessible**

The Library continued to acquire collections of note during the year. A particular stand out is recently purchased collection of Sam Hunt, the pre-eminent New Zealand poet, performer and personality. The collection covers six decades of Hunt's career as a performing poet within New Zealand, and is an excellent addition to the collections.

In February 2016 the Alexander Turnbull Library's new collection management system, Tiaki went live. I congratulate the Chief Librarian on the successful implementation that saw nearly a century's worth of catalogue records moved to the new platform. This was a major project for the Library, and replaced the much outdated TAPUHI system, which remarkably had more than 20 years of service. The new system offers a much improved workflow for staff to arrange and describe collection acquisitions, and a better set of discovery tools for researchers. The new system enables customers to access services using their *Real Me* account.

The Turnbull Gallery exhibitions have continued to perform well, attracting around 8,000 visitors in the last year. A highlight being the exhibition '*Not one more acre*' which was a commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Māori land March.

As the Chief Librarian notes in his report, we were disappointed to learn during the year that a portrait purchased by the Alexander Turnbull Library in April 2013 was a forgery. The painting entitled Hamiora Maioha signed by Gottfried Lindauer was closely examined using forensic techniques and concluded it was unlikely to be an authentic work of Lindauer. The painting remains in the library's collections, with the attribution to Gottfried Lindauer removed. New purchasing practices are in place to help ensure that this outcome is not repeated.

During the year we also reviewed the National Library's Collections Policy. The Collections Policy serves to inform decisions about what is collected and made part of the General Collection, Schools Collection and Alexander Turnbull Library collections. It guides the scope of legal deposit, and it also assists decisions about deselecting items from the General and Schools collections (in contrast, Alexander Turnbull Library collections are kept in perpetuity). Since 2003 the Library's Collections Policy has undergone several minor changes, but this was the first major review and update since then.

The major change in the revised Collections Policy is that the Library is moving to give preference, where appropriate, to collecting born-digital formats. The revised policy also provides greater transparency in the Library's collecting intentions, and provides more future-focused principles that are intended to drive continuous improvement.

### **In Conclusion**

As with the previous year, 2015/16 has been a year of challenge and complexity. I would like to acknowledge and thank Chris Szekely for his effective stewardship and leadership of the Alexander Turnbull Library over the last year. I would also like to thank the Guardians Kaitiaki for their valuable advice and guidance throughout the year, and the assurance they provide to the people of New Zealand that the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library are held in perpetuity.

Bill Macnaught  
National Librarian

## **Alexander Turnbull Library Annual Report, July 2015 – June 2016**

This report presents several key activities of the Alexander Turnbull Library for the period July 2015 – June 2016. The collections of the library continued to grow with a number of significant acquisition highlights. Access to the collections was promoted through numerous and diverse initiatives, such as exhibitions, publications and lectures. The library reading rooms continued to be patronized, while distance enquiries and requests for images remained significant. The successful implementation of the new collection management system was a particularly important milestone.

### **Preserving the collections**

The scope of work carried out by the collection care team expanded during the year with the dominance of two major projects: training for the implementation of the Turnbull's new collection management system, and the Archives Exhibition Project. This latter project relates to the physical move of iconic documents from the Archives New Zealand building in Mulgrave Street, Wellington to a purpose-built gallery in the National Library. A number of Turnbull Library staff have had direct involvement with this initiative, particularly in relation to preservation matters.

A third project in the final quarter of the year overseen by the collection care team was the move of the library's microfilm store from its location in Palmerston North to the library's offsite facility in Wanganui.

Over 800 items received full preservation treatment, while a further 1710 items underwent stabilization treatment. One item of particular interest that required meticulous repair was a 17<sup>th</sup> century bound commonplace book. The manuscript contains an eye witness account of the execution of King Charles 1, and has attracted scholarly interest from Britain and Australia.

Nearly seven hundred at risk audiovisual items were preserved through digitization. These included 89 New Zealand and Pacific cassettes, with Maori and Pacific music from the 1970s and 1980s. Cassettes are among the library's most vulnerable material due to their old magnetic format.

### **Developing the collections**

Over 78,000 items and discrete collections were acquired during the year, a significant increase over the previous year. Among the acquisition highlights is the archive of New Zealand poet, Sam Hunt. The archive covers six decades of Hunt's career from 1966 to 2013 and includes journals and diaries, manuscript poetry drafts, correspondence, photographs, posters, ephemera, newspaper articles and published items.

The library also received a collection of photographs, papers and newspaper clippings relating to Edgar James 'Cobber' Kain (1918-1940), a New Zealander who joined the Royal Air Force in the late 1930s and served with no 73 Squadron as part of the RAF Advanced Air Striking Force in France 1939-1940. He gained considerable fame as a fighter ace before his death in a flying accident in June 1940. The collection was presented by Kain's niece, and supplement a collection of photographs donated by his sisters in 2001.

A collection of over 220 original cartoons of trade unionist and politician Sir Tom Skinner (1909-1991) was acquired containing works by several major editorial cartoonists. These include Minhinnick, Lodge, Scales, Gibbard, Lonsdale, Evans, Heath and Bromhead. This was Sir Tom's personal collection, which he assembled himself by acquisition directly from the cartoonists. It covers 1964 to 1979, and provides a remarkable record of his career and achievements, and of relations between the New Zealand government and the Federation of Labour. The collection greatly augments the holdings of the New Zealand Cartoon Archive in works by Gordon Minhinnick especially, as well as complementing the collection of Tom Skinner manuscripts already held by the library.

Another acquisition of major significance was a large collection of over 11,000 photographs by Les Cleveland. Cleveland (1921-2014) is regarded as one of New Zealand's leading documentary photographers, particularly for his photography of the 1950s and 1960s. The collection notably depicts the buildings and people of the West Coast and Wellington, as well as images relating to mountaineering and World War II. Many of the images are unlikely to have been seen before and will be of considerable research value to social historians.

### **Making the collections accessible**

#### **Research services**

Onsite usage of the library's reading rooms continues to be noteworthy. Nearly 70,000 visits were recorded to the Turnbull Library reading rooms. This includes visitors to the Turnbull Gallery and Lilburn Room. While still substantial, this is a drop on last year's number of 73,000. Reading room enquiries were slightly down on last year's figure of 13,000, as were the number of items requested for use: 54,000 items this year compared to last year's 57,000. Conversely, the number of written enquires increased from more than 6,700 last year to 8,200 this year. It is believed that there is substantial online use of the library's digital collection resources. However, gathering reliable metrics to demonstrate this usage continues to be an ongoing frustration.

#### **Online catalogue records**

Nearly 15,000 new descriptive records were created to enable access to collection items. This is a commendable figure as several core members of the arrangement and description team were reassigned to implementing and administering the new collection management system.

The collection management system, which sits on eMU software, has been named Tiaki by the library, and replaces the old TAPUHI system. The modern platform allows the library to operate to international archival descriptive standards, and will support greater efficiencies in collection management workflows and practices.

Most Turnbull staff had a touch point with the system during its implementation, as project members, trainers, testers or users, as did a number of colleagues across the National Library and the Department of Internal Affairs. The project represents a once-in-a-generation milestone for the library.

#### **The Turnbull Gallery**

Six exhibitions were shown in the Turnbull Gallery during the year, attracting a combined audience of over 7,000 visitors. The concept of a lightning exhibition was piloted with Museum and Heritage Studies students from Victoria University. *Cuba Character* was a

student-curated exhibition that mined the Turnbull collections for content relating to Wellington's Cuba Street. The show ran for four weeks over August and September.

The most successful exhibition of the year was *Not one more acre: the Maori Land March 40 years on*. Curated by Paul Diamond, the exhibition centred on a selection of images from Christian Heinegg's photo essay of the Maori Land March. The show attracted over 2,000 visits, as well as good attendances at the public programme events. Among the event highlights was a special screening of the documentary *Matakite* at Nga Taonga Sound and Vision, and a public panel discussion featuring Land March veterans. New Land March material was added to the collections as a result of the exhibition, including an oral history interview with filmmaker Geoff Stevens.

A full listing of exhibitions with some additional comment is provided as an appendix to this report. The Turnbull remains grateful to the Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust and Base Two Design for their ongoing exhibition sponsorship.

### **Exhibition loans**

Eighty items from the Turnbull collections were lent to 13 galleries and museums around New Zealand and Australia, and were seen by over 360,000 visitors. Of particular note was the loan to Christchurch Art Gallery. Twelve items were borrowed for inclusion in their opening suite of exhibitions after a five-year closure due to earthquake damage.

### **Publishing**

Thirty-eight Turnbull-related blog posts were published on the National Library website during the year. The blog as a whole, including essays published in previous years drew a readership of over 30,000 views. Two Turnbull essays in particular stood out as popular: firstly, a post by Research Librarian, Helen Smith, *Digging for treasure in the photo archives*, which looked at aspects of her personal family history and connections with Pitcairn Island; and secondly, an essay titled *TAPUHI takes a bow* by Head of Curatorial Services, John Sullivan which reflected on the good service of the Turnbull's previous collection management system.

The National Library blog remains an excellent way of promoting the collections and services, and providing staff with a platform to share expertise and knowledge of the collections.

### **Outreach**

#### **National Preservation Office**

The Turnbull's Preservation Office (NPO) continued to provide advice and assistance to community groups and agencies on care and preservation of documentary heritage collections. Eight workshops or training courses were delivered during the year, four in collaboration with National Services Te Paerangi of Te Papa Tongarewa.

Sometimes workshops are a result of sustaining relationships. For example, a preservation and digital photography workshop with Ngai Tuhoe ki Waikaremoana in early 2016 built on a relationship established in 2011 when the NPO provided preservation assistance to Department of Conservation and Ngai Tuhoe to relocate collections from the Aniwanuiwa Visitor Centre.

The NPO coordinated visits to the library by iwi and hapu groups, particularly those that have Letters of Commitment with the Department of Internal Affairs. As a result of a visit by Department representatives to Te Uru Taumatua in Taneatua earlier in the year, members from Ngai Tuhoe's Te Wharepuri visited Wellington to meet with staff from the library and Archives New Zealand. The NPO organized a multiday programme that included accessing expertise in the collection care, curatorial, imaging services, and arrangement description areas.

The NPO participated in a powhiri with Ngati Haua and Te Kauwhanganui Trustees at Rukumoana marae followed by a hui in the Te Kauwhanganui building. This was attended by representatives of the library, Archives New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa and Heritage New Zealand to discuss respective roles in advancing the preservation aspirations of Ngati Haua and Te Kauwhanganui Trustees. This is another long-term relationship, with the NPO having worked with Te Kauwhanganui since the mid-1990s.

The NPO Field Conservator and the library's Senior Sound Conservator were involved in providing onsite disaster response and salvage following the Te Wananga o Rauwaka Library fire in Otaki. The immediate response and salvage have ensured the recovery of unique collections.

Forty-four preservation enquiries were received, and bi-monthly conservation clinics continue to deliver one-on-one advice. The NPO publications continue to be popular with reprinting of four of the current suite of publications. The online versions of these publications received 3215 unique page views.

### **Inaugural curatorial lectures**

With the recent appointment of four new curators in the wake of several retirements, a summer series of inaugural curatorial lectures was run over February at the National Library in Wellington. The long form lectures covered topics such as the Gutenberg bibles, the life and times of art collector Rex Nankivell, the music of Douglas Lilburn, and art as archives. The series proved popular and some of the lectures were reprised in Christchurch and Auckland. A combined total of some 650 people attended the series. The lectures were recorded for permanent retention in the collections.

### **Other matters, activities and highlights**

#### **Forgery**

The library was disappointed to learn that a painting it had acquired in 2013, ascribed to Gottfried Lindauer was proved to be a forgery. The work underwent a forensic analysis which revealed that a pigment used in the painting could not have been available to the real Gottfried Lindauer. The matter was referred to the Police for investigation, but no suspect was identified. The painting was purchased for \$76K and remains in the library's collection.

#### **Capitilisation of digital assets**

A new financial treatment for digital items was introduced during the year following accountancy advice. Staff costs associated with acquiring born-digital items, and items digitized for permanent retention were transferred from the library's operating budget to the Crown Asset Fund. The Department's Financial Advisers have undertaken to provide transparent financial reporting to ensure that the Turnbull collection budget is not compromised.

### **World War One commemorations**

The National Library continues to acknowledge the centenary commemoration of World War One in a number of ways, with the Turnbull Library taking an active role. *A Worms Eye View* was an exhibition curated by Denise Roughan mounted in the Turnbull Gallery that looked at soldiers' art from World War One. The exhibition was supported by a number of events including a public talk by Lilburn Fellow Chris Bourke, who discussed his research into New Zealand music during the Great War. Turnbull staff published several World War One-related articles on the National Library blog. These included posts by Oliver Stead, John Sullivan, Gillian Lee, Peter Atwell, Matt Steindl and Chris Szekely. Images freely provided from the Turnbull collections featured in the third series of Great War Stories mini documentaries aired on Television 3, and were also used in the Wellington City Council's public ANZAC audiovisual display at the War Memorial Carillon at Pukeahu Park.

### **Poet Laureate**

Appointing the Poet Laureate and overseeing the laureate programme is the responsibility of the Chief Librarian. CK Stead's two-year term as Poet Laureate was announced on 11 August, with a formal inauguration two weeks later on New Zealand Poetry Day. The award was presented by Hon Maggie Barry, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage at a ceremony held at the National Library's Auckland Centre. Stead's first year as Laureate was characterized by a series of substantial blog posts, which whet the appetite for his new book, *Shelf Life: reviews, replies and reminiscences*.

In addition to the inauguration and book launch, two other substantial events were also organized by the National Library's Public Programmes Team. The first of these was part of the International Arts Festival. *A Circle of Laureates* was an evening event held at the National Library in Wellington on March 10th, that brought together all of the Poets Laureate from the last twenty years, including those appointed by Te Mata Estate Winery. The late Hone Tuwhare was represented by his son, Rob. The event attracted an audience of over 250 people.

The second event was a weekend in Hawke's Bay where the Laureate was presented with a tokotoko carved by Jacob Scott at Matahiwi marae. This was followed by an evening of poetry at the Havelock North Events Centre, where Stead was joined by fellow poets, Gregory O'Brien, Chris Price and Paula Green. The marae presentation and the evening readings were recorded for placement in the Turnbull collections.

### **Staffing matters**

In July, Marian Minson, retired from her role as Curator of Drawings, Paintings and Prints, after 36 years of service with the library. Four new curators were appointed. They were Anthony Tedeschi, Curator, Rare Books and Fine Printing, Michael Brown, Curator, Music, Shannon Wellington, Curator, Manuscripts, and Oliver Stead, Curator, Drawings, Paintings and Prints.

Melinda Johnston, Research Librarian, Cartoons, also left the library, and was replaced by Hannah Benbow. Eva Weber, the Chief Librarian's Personal Assistant was another resignation, replaced by Ruby Yee.

Other departures included Mark Crookston, Leader of the library's Digital Collection Strategy Team, and Mereana Taungapeau, Programme Adviser, Maori. It is of concern that both of

these positions, along with other key posts from the previous year remain vacant due to budget constraints.

### **Condolences**

The Turnbull acknowledges the passing of Graham Fortune in March 2016. Mr Fortune was the current Chair of the Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust, and a longstanding friend and supporter of the library.

### **Concluding remarks**

The Turnbull collections continue to grow and to be accessed by researchers and more general audiences. Key access points are the reading rooms, the library catalogues, exhibitions, publications, public events and online channels. The implementation of a new collection management system was a major achievement which positions the library to more fully operate to international standards of archival practice and support efficiencies. While mounting financial pressures that have impacted on staffing and operational resourcing, the core functions of collection development, preservation and arrangement and description have been maintained to a reasonable standard. As always, thanks are due to the Friends of the Turnbull Library for their continued support, and the financial assistance received from the Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust.

Chris Szekely  
Chief Librarian, Alexander Turnbull Library  
July 2016

## APPENDIX

### The Turnbull Gallery Exhibition Programme, July 2015 – June 2016

#### *Tell tails: Artists respond to the Turnbull collections*

25 May – 14 August. Artists: Christine Hellyar, Maureen Lander, Jo Torr

Using their research into historic images and manuscripts in the Turnbull collections, artists Jo Torr, Maureen Lander and Christine Hellyar created an installation of new artworks. The exhibition drew an immediate favourable response, including an excellent review by Jill Trevelyan in *Art New Zealand*. Issue 155, Spring 2015.

#### *Cuba character: stories from the street*

17 August – 11 September 2015

This was a lightning exhibition curated by Museum & Heritage Students from Victoria University. The focus was on one of Wellington's most famous locations: Cuba Street.

#### *Not one more acre: The Maori Land March 40 years on*

14 September – 4 December 2015. Curator: Paul Diamond

*Not one more acre* commemorated the fortieth anniversary of the Maori Land March. Its main focus was on a series of colour photographs taken by Christian Heinegg. The exhibition had an extensive public programme and attracted interest from television, radio and newspapers. Over 2,000 visitors saw the exhibition.

#### *Measured works: surveyors' views of early European settlement in Wellington*

7 December – 26 February 2016. Curator: Mark Bagnall

This exhibition explored the beginnings of the city of Wellington through the plans, artworks and writings of early surveyors. The public programme included a mana whenua session, and well-attended walking tours.

#### *A Worm's eye view: soldiers' art in World War One*

20 May 2016. Curator: Denise Roughan

Through the soldiers' own drawings and descriptions, made from what one called a 'worm's eye view' on the battlefield or while convalescing, this exhibition presented a candid view of soldiers' lives and their surroundings.

#### *Zombies on the Horizon: experimental Music in Aotearoa*

23 May – 19 August. Curator: Matt Steindl

*Zombies on the horizon* explored the rich culture of experimental music in Aotearoa, showcasing many of the Turnbull's seldom-heard musical taonga. In association with the exhibition, the library hosted a series of free lunchtime concerts, with performances from some of the country's finest experimental musicians.