



Yours Faithfully...cul8r: Preserving Personal Letters as Archives

RECORDS AND ARCHIVES WEEK 1-7 May 2009

**Archives & Records Association of
New Zealand (ARANZ)**

Otago/Southland Branch

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



About Records & Archives Week (RAW)

The Archives and Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ) has selected *Yours Faithfully ... cul8r: Preserving Personal Letters as Archives* as the overarching theme for Records and Archives Week 2009. Records and Archives Week (RAW) is a national annual event held in the first week of May. The week's events this year are intended to raise the profile of personal letters as archives, their social and historical significance, and their preservation.

ARANZ's Otago/Southland Branch has organised events centred on the power of letters to connect us to the past in very immediate and personal ways. They deal with the values and ubiquity of correspondence, how it touches all our lives, including the ways in which letters have changed in form and mode of delivery, from the formality of 19th century business letters to the 'anarchy' of today's text language.

About archives, archivists and archiving

Individuals and groups seeking information about archives, archivists' activities, and archiving issues are welcome to attend events organised during this week.

For information about particular archival collections held in Dunedin, contact the institution that holds the type of records you are interested in.

For further information about ARANZ, contact: John Timmins, 473-0107 xtn 7853

Events

Lunch time seminar series

Epistolary Perspectives A series of lunchtime talks exploring different aspects and themes relating to preserving personal letters as archives.

Speakers will touch on various themes including:

- How archives are vital to our sense of personal and national identity and help protect our rights and entitlements as citizens.
- Why correspondence is one of the most valuable records for archivists and records managers to preserve.
- How the way we correspond with each other is changing. If anything, a richer archive of personal experience is being created than ever before, but it is shifting from formal letter-writing to email, text messaging, blogs and social networking sites.
- Why we need to be aware of the risk of these records being lost to future generations.

Held 4-8 May, 12.10-1pm, in the Hocken Collections Seminar Room, University of Otago, Anzac Avenue, Dunedin. Free admission. For details of the programme see over.

Exhibition

City of Letters A collaborative exhibition featuring **selected letters and personal archives**, which tells us about people, and their lives. Items come from archival institutions in Dunedin, including the Hocken Collections, Presbyterian Archives Research Centre, the Dunedin City Council's collections, and Archives New Zealand's Dunedin Regional Office.

Held 4-29 May, at Archives New Zealand, 556 George Street, Dunedin. Monday to Friday, 9.30am-5pm

Epistolary Perspectives

A series of lunchtime talks exploring personal letters as archives.

Monday 4 May:

[Dr Angela Wanhalla](#), History Department, University of Otago.

'Intimate Archives: Interracial intimacy in New Zealand's colonial archives.'

Tuesday 5 May:

[Philip Temple](#), Writer and Historian.

'The Letters of Maria Blumenthal.'

Wednesday 6 May:

[Dr Ali Clarke](#), Hocken Collections and Independent Historian.

'Writing Home About Baby: Childbirth in Nineteenth Century New Zealand.'

Thursday 7 May:

[Dr Donald Kerr](#), Special Collections Librarian, University of Otago

'Publishing *Contributions*: Dr Hocken's First Literary Venture.'

Friday 8 May:

[Professor Tom Brooking](#), Department of History, University of Otago.

'Avenues of Influence: From Advocates to Uncrowned Kings'.

Seminar Series held at:

Hocken Library Seminar Room, University of Otago, Anzac Avenue, Dunedin

Monday 4 May – Friday 8 May, 2009, at 12.10pm -1pm

City of Letters

Exhibition featuring personal letters as archives selected from six local archival institutions in Dunedin.

Letters can be much more than mere artefacts of a bygone age. They are the embodiment of the people who wrote them and breathe life into their worlds, allowing us to glimpse their joys, sorrows, desires, and everyday concerns.

Material in this exhibition includes the naming of Dunedin, the story of a missionary called to serve in India, war letters from France in 1918, divorce correspondence showing what remains at the end of a loving relationship, a touching letter from a husband to his wife on the eve of a fatal duel, and a fascinating selection of personal letters from the Hocken Collections.

Contributing institutions are:

Archives New Zealand, Dunedin
Dunedin City Council Archives
Heritage Collections, Dunedin City Libraries
Hocken Collections, University of Otago
Otago Settlers Museum
Presbyterian Archives Research Centre

Monday 4th – Friday 29th May, 2009

Free admission.

Held at:

Archives New Zealand Dunedin Regional Office
556 George Street, Dunedin Tel: (03) 477-0404

Hours: Monday –Friday, 9.30am-5pm

Exhibition Guided Tours and Floor Talks by exhibition co-curators discussing themes in relation to the exhibition.

Free admission. Bookings advised.

Wednesdays 13, 20, 27 May, at 12.15-12.30pm

Held at:

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