



MUSEUM MUSINGS

News from Okains Bay Maori & Colonial Museum

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Te Papa Visit: Taonga Māori Assessment

Matiu Baker and Dougal Austin from Te Papa Tongarewa as part of an Expert Knowledge Exchange organised by National Services Te Paerangi (the outreach arm of Te Papa Tongarewa) visited our museum this month. Both Matiu and Dougal have a wealth of experience working with taonga (though they were quick to point out that their experience combined is less than that of our museum's founder Murray Thacker).

The aim of the visit was to undertake an assessment of the taonga Māori collection in order to prepare a statement of its significance. While their report is still pending, our Te Papa experts agreed that the collection is unequivocally of National significance and rivals those held in New Zealand's large metropolitan museums.

Many thanks to Dougal, Matiu and the National Services Te Paerangi team, Sharon Henderson for the wonderful kai, Te Rūnanga o Koukourarata for their tautoko, Helen Brown for her arranging, guiding and hosting and last but in no way least, Murray (especially, for his wealth of knowledge generously given) and Gillian Thacker who provided their expertise and time. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou.



Left to right: Matiu Baker (Te Papa), Helen Brown (Board), Nigel Hampton (Board Chair), Gillian Thacker (former Board member and Manager, Thacker whānau), Murray Thacker (Museum founder and patron) and Dougal Austin (Te Papa).

The Kahui Korowai (consisting of people with various skills and specific interests in the museum exhibits) are looking forward to initiating new projects and enhancing the existing displays. They meet bi-monthly to advise and assist the Board.



Centre: Mrs Joan Miller



Waitangi Day had both a formal ceremony and fun family day enjoyed by all.



The Harris Cottage was opened on Waitangi Day by the eldest living Harris descendant, Mrs Joan Miller, wearing the brooch belonging to Adeline Harris, who arrived in Okains Bay in the 1850s. The Social and Family History of Okains Bay from 1850 – 1915 was a winter project of 3 local women. Because of the restricted area in the Harris Cottage, the time frame concentrated on the first two generations of families. There is a time line of major events from 1850 to the present day and Rolls of Honour for both World Wars. A map locating past and present dwellings in the Bay will be of interest to past residents.

Other additions to the museum are an original Victorian telephone box wonderfully restored by Gillian and Bob Boughton and a new koruru carving on the waka shed by David Limbe.