

Local history research guide

How to research local history

Are you researching a local place, organisation, person or historic Auckland event?

To help with your research, your Auckland Libraries membership gives you access to the:

- [library catalogue](#)
- [online resources](#)
- [research services](#)
- [heritage collections](#).

Follow our local history research guide to help you find the information you're looking for.

Researching well-known people

Are you researching an Aucklander or a local public figure? Here are some pointers to help you get started.

Search the library catalogue

If you are researching a well-known person, there is likely to be a variety of resources available in the [library catalogue](#). Use the 'Refine by' menu to filter your search results.

Auckland Libraries also provides access to a range of online databases. You can search for resources in these databases using our [article search](#).

- When using article search, you may see a 'Research Starter'. This provides a short biography and other resources to look up.

Browse online resources

For researching people, try these online resources:

[Kura Heritage Collections Online](#)

Explore the wealth of Auckland Council Libraries' heritage collections in our online database.

[Literature Resource Center](#)

Information on literary figures from different time periods.

Ask an expert

As your research progresses, you may need to:

- [contact a research librarian to ask a question](#)
- come and see one of our specialist research librarians at [Research Central](#), [Research South](#), or [Heritage Collections Reading Room](#).

Find out more about our [research services](#).

Auckland heritage institutions

Within Auckland, there are a number of other heritage institutions that may be able to help with your local history research.

- [Auckland Council archives](#) - cemetery records, Auckland Council staff records, registers and licences issued by Auckland Council
- [Auckland War Memorial Museum](#) - exhibitions on New Zealand history, natural history and military history, and pre-eminent Māori and Pacific collections
- [Archives New Zealand](#) - New Zealand government archives and national treasures

Researching places in Auckland

Do you want to know the history of your street, suburb, community, local church or school? Looking for information on a building or public place? Here's how you can find the information you're looking for.

Search the library catalogue

Start by searching the [library catalogue](#). Use the 'Refine by' menu to filter your search results.

Items for library use

Many local history items are reference only. You will need to visit the library or research centre that holds these items.

Auckland Libraries also provides access to a range of online databases. You can search for resources in these databases using our [article search](#).

Browse online resources

When researching the history of a place or building, try these online databases:

[Index Auckland: local history, arts and music](#)

Local history references from Auckland newspapers and journals. This is now part of the Auckland People and Events collection in Kura Heritage Collections Online.

[Local History](#)

Oral histories, newspapers, images and archives for North Shore, West Auckland and Rodney. Browse these records on Kura Heritage Collections Online.

[Footprints](#)

Images, drawings and printed material relating to South Auckland and North Waikato areas from the 1870s to present day. This is now under the Photographs collection in Kura Heritage Collections Online.

[Manukau's Journey - a Manukau timeline](#)

A detailed chronology of significant events from the history of South Auckland. This collection can now be viewed in Kura Heritage Collections Online.

[Auckland street names](#)

Street names in the former districts of the wider Auckland region, their origins and name changes.

[Auckland Crown Grants](#)

Search for the original purchasers of the land in the Auckland central business district, section and lot numbers, area, and year, from 1850 to 1859.

Ask an expert

As your research progresses, you may need to:

- [contact a research librarian to ask a question](#)
- come and see one of our specialist research librarians at [Research Central](#), [Research South](#) or [Special Collections Reading Room](#).

Each research centre has a unique collection and areas of speciality. They hold historical NZ Government publications, manuscripts, mahere, ephemera and oral history resources.

Find out more about our [research services](#).

Some community libraries also have significant local history collections such as the [East Coast Bays Library](#), [Birkenhead Library](#), and [Pukekohe Library](#).

Auckland heritage institutions

There are heritage institutions that hold collections and resources that may be useful to your research:

- [Auckland War Memorial Museum](#) - exhibitions on New Zealand history, natural history and military history, and pre-eminent Māori and Pacific collections
- [Archives New Zealand](#) - New Zealand government archives and national treasures
- [NZ History Federation](#) - lists museums and historical societies.

You can also check out [Auckland Council archives](#) to find:

- early maps of Auckland
- historic district plans
- former district and city council records
- building and property records
- rating and valuation records.

Researching businesses and organisations

Are you looking for information on a business, church, school or club? Need historical news about a local organisation? Check out these tips.

Search the library catalogue

Start by searching our [library catalogue](#). Use the 'Refine by' menu to filter your search results.

Auckland Libraries also provides access to a range of online databases. You can search for resources in these databases using our [article search](#).

Browse online resources

When researching companies and organisations, try these online resources:

[Index Auckland: local history, arts and music](#)

Local history references from Auckland newspapers and journals. You can now view these records under the Auckland People and Events collection in Kura Heritage Collections Online.

[New Zealand Card Index](#)

Local and national newspapers, New Zealand periodicals, books and scrapbooks from the 1950s to 1996.

[Bush Index](#)

Auckland City Council History Index covering local government from 1871 to 1970 and local government clippings from 1973 to 1996. This is now under the Index Cards collection in Kura Heritage Collections Online.

[NZX Company Research](#)

Information on New Zealand's listed and delisted companies including financials, announcements, and annual reports.

[Knowledge Basket Newztext](#)

Key news and business publication articles, Radio New Zealand newswire, and New Zealand Herald classifieds from 1960 to current day.

Ask an expert

As your research progresses, you may need to:

- [contact a research librarian to ask a question](#)
- come and see one of our specialist research librarians at [Research Central](#), [Research South](#) or [Heritage Collections Reading Room](#).

Find out more about our [research services](#).

Council archives

[Auckland Council archives](#) has business records relating to building and property, and health information records of business that were inspected or reported to local health authorities.

Researching historic events

Are you looking for information about a historic event? Here are some sources to help you out.

Search the library catalogue

If you are researching a historic event, there is likely to be a variety of resources available in the [library catalogue](#).

Auckland Libraries also provides access to a range of online databases. You can search for resources in these databases using our [article search](#).

- When using article search, you may see a 'Research Starter' for some historic events. This provides a short overview of the event and other resources to look up.

Browse online resources

When researching an event, try these online databases:

[The Treaty of Waitangi Collection](#)

Academic content on the Treaty including previously out-of-print works

[Index Auckland: local history, arts and music](#)

Local history references from Auckland newspapers and journals. These records are now under the Auckland People and Events collection in Kura Heritage Collections Online.

[Ephemera Index](#)

Cards, posters, tickets, programmes, brochures and flyers from all over Auckland from the 1840s to present.

[Heritage Images](#)

A rich and diverse database of historical images and maps.

Newspaper and magazine archives

To access digital archives, go to [Family and local history online resources](#). Under 'All resources', select 'Newspapers'.

While some newspapers and magazines are digitised and can be found on [Papers Past](#), those that aren't digitised can be viewed on microfilm at our research centres.

These include copies of the New Zealand Herald, Auckland Star, New Zealand Truth, Auckland Weekly News, and New Zealand Women's Weekly. Ask your local research librarian for assistance if you're unfamiliar with using microfilm.

Ask an expert

As your research progresses, you may need to:

- [contact a research librarian to ask a question](#)
- come and see one of our specialist research librarians at [Research Central](#), [Research South](#) or [Heritage Collections Reading Room](#).

Each research centre has a unique collection and areas of speciality. They hold historical NZ Government publications, manuscripts, maps, ephemera and oral history resources.

Find out more about our [research services](#).

Donate your research

Feel free to share the results of your research with us.

Your materials and findings might be of help to future kairangahau. Contact your local [research centre](#).