



The Friends of the
Turnbull Library
Ngā Hoa o te Whare Pukapuka Turnbull



A H Turnbull, 1868-1918

NEWSLETTER

“My books and Mss I
hope will assist future
researchers after the
truth ...”

-- Alexander Turnbull, 12 July 1912,
Excerpt from letter to Captain Gilbert Mair.

Number 97
September 2024

Programme September to November 2024

Our public talks are free to all, although donations are welcome. Wellington events are held in **Taiwhanga Kawhau National Library Auditorium** on the *lower ground floor* (Aitken Street entrance). They may be accessed via ZOOM also, with details on our website.

Wednesday 25 September at 5.30pm

Charlotte Macdonald, Professor Emerita, historian and author:

‘Who's afraid of martial law?’: Aotearoa New Zealand's 19th-century adoption – and suspension – of the ‘British rule of law’

Wednesday 16 October at 5.30pm

Jennifer Ashton PhD, Auckland-based editor and author:

‘Charlotte Badger, George Bruce and the Making of History’

Tuesday 19 November at 5.30pm

Jacqueline Leckie, Assoc Professor & FoTL Research Grant 2024 recipient:

‘Imagining Indian People, Places and Connections in Whanganui-a-Tara’

And in AUCKLAND, at Takapuna Library:

Wednesday 18 September at 6.00pm

Ryan Bodman, author and researcher, speaking about his book:

‘Rugby League in New Zealand: A People's History’

Co-hosted by Friends of Takapuna Library

The Friends of the Turnbull Library Committee 2024/2025

President:	Prof Barbara Brookes	Past President:	Katherine Baxter
Secretary:	Robin Anderson	Treasurer:	Gillian Cross
Committee:			

Elizabeth Bowyer, Steve Cosgrove, Kate Fortune, Dr Don Gilling, Emma Jean Kelly, Jim Mayo, Dr Daniel Morrow, Dr Anne Phillips, Winston Roberts, Louise Sinclair, Dr Robin Skinner, Tess Tuxford, Rachel Underwood QSM. Email turnbullfriends@gmail.com

2024 FoTL programme details

Details were correct at the time of going to print, but sometimes changes are necessary. Updated information will be on our website, www.turnbullfriends.org.nz, so do check it regularly. Do note that **these events will usually also be offered on Zoom: register on our website to receive the Zoom link.**

25 September: Professor Emerita Charlotte Macdonald, 'Who's afraid of martial law?' Aotearoa New Zealand's 19th-century adoption – and suspension – of the 'British rule of law'

On several occasions in 19th-century New Zealand, the colony was placed under martial law. **Charlotte Macdonald's** presentation revisits these moments: the circumstances, debates surrounding, and consequences of such extreme actions. It takes us to important deliberations across the wider mid-19th-century empire including metropolitan England. What was the scope of 'the rule of law' and who had the power to make, and suspend that law? When governments suspend the usual rights, protections and freedoms of 'the people' – citizens or subjects – what can be at stake?



Wellington-based **Charlotte Macdonald** is Professor Emerita, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington and a well-known historian. She co-convenes the Aotearoa Gender History Network with Charlotte Greenhalgh (University of Waikato). Her new book on the 19th-century military garrison world will be published in 2025. Hear **Charlotte Macdonald** speak on **Wednesday 25 September, at 5.30pm.**

16 October: Dr Jennifer Ashton, 'Charlotte Badger, George Bruce and the making of history'



At first appearances, Charlotte Badger and George Bruce share a similar history. After being transported to New South Wales in the early years of penal settlement, they separately washed up at the Bay of Islands, living under the protection of the same rangatira, Te Pahi, in the same year, 1806. Yet, what we know about them and their experiences in Aotearoa New Zealand differs because of the records they did, and didn't, leave behind.

Auckland-based writer and editor **Dr Jennifer Ashton's** talk looks at the contrasting histories of these two characters, and how they developed. She explains that how and what we know about Badger and Bruce reflects, not just the history of the early contact period in the north, but the way in which our understanding of the past itself is made.

Jennifer Ashton completed a PhD in 2012 at the University of Auckland. In 2022, her book ***Thief, Convict, Pirate, Wife: The Many Histories of Charlotte Badger*** was published by Auckland University Press. Find out much more about this fascinating early history on **Wednesday 16 October, at 5.30pm.**

19 November: Associate Professor Jacqueline Leckie, *Imagining Indian People, Places and Connections in Whanganui-a-Tara*



Wellington's Indian heritage might bring to mind fruit shops, dairies, curry, hockey, or Diwali, but **Associate Professor Jacqueline Leckie** has produced a much more complex story: a rich and long history of Indian people that reaches back to the 19th century. Her presentation will outline her research at the Turnbull and at other archives in Wellington, to document many aspects of this history of Indian people in the capital. In part this involves certain streets and places, but equally important is how Indian people built their community with connections to Wellington going far beyond physical structures.

Jacqueline Leckie, researcher and writer based in Ōtepoti Dunedin, was a former J D Stout Research Fellow and is now an adjunct research fellow with the Stout Centre for New Zealand Studies at Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka. She is also conjoint associate professor in the School of Creative Industries and Social Science at the University of Newcastle, Australia. Join us to hear from this year's recipient of a FoTL Research Grant on **Tuesday 19 November, at 5.30pm.**

2024 FoTL AUCKLAND programme

We hope many of you will join us at this special event to be held at the Takapuna Library, 9 The Strand, in conjunction with **Friends of Takapuna Library**. Refreshments from 6.00pm and the talk starts at 6.30pm.

18 September: Ryan Bodman, *Rugby League in New Zealand: A People's History*



Ryan Bodman is a researcher and historian who was awarded a FoTL Research Grant in 2017. His book was published by Bridget Williams Books in 2023, and won the Judith Binney Award for Illustrated Non-Fiction at the Ockham NZ Book Awards in 2024. You don't have to have seen a rugby league game, or even to like sport, to be enchanted by this meticulously researched and engagingly written social history. In this talk Ryan explains the way rugby league emerged in working-class communities as a popular ball game that felt like "being part of a large family".

Always a minority sport alongside rugby, league put down strong roots and flourished throughout the regional heartlands, before emerging into the mainstream in the 1980s. Join us in Takapuna to hear **Ryan Bodman's** stories about what rugby league has meant not just to the players and their supporters, but also to entire communities. **Put Wednesday 18 September, at 6.00pm in your diary now!**

2025 FoTL Research Grant

Applications are now open for the 2025 FoTL Research Grant. Up to \$20,000 may be offered to scholars whose research project draws to some extent on the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library. The closing date is Friday 4 October, and we hope to announce the winner by the end of November 2024.

The FoTL Research Grant was established in 2003, from income derived from two large bequests, by David Bilbrough and Wesley (Bill) Secker. Thanks to additional generous donations from members, the grant was gradually increased from \$5,000 to \$20,000 four years ago.

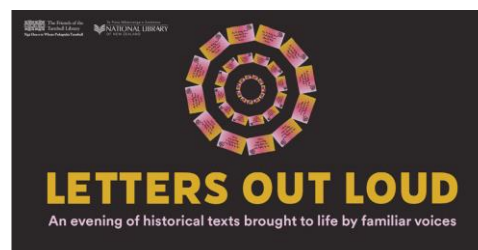
In recognition of the 21st anniversary since the first FoTL Research Grant, we invite you to **support our fundraising evening on Thursday 24 October, described below**: all proceeds go to our research fund, assisting scholars researching in the Turnbull collections.

Fundraiser: Letters Out Loud

An evening of historical texts brought to life by familiar voices:

Safua Akeli Amaama
Hera Lindsay Bird
Tania Heke
Rebecca Priestley
David O'Donnell

Ngahiwi Apanui-Barr
Adam Dudding
Karen O'Leary
Vaughan Slinn
Jo Randell (MC)



Thursday 24 October, 5.30pm

National Library Auditorium, Aitken Street, Thorndon

Tickets to this **gala fundraising event** are **\$60** – and include a souvenir programme and refreshments, offered from 5.30pm. Show starts at 6.30pm. **Book now at [humanitix](#)**. Your ticket directly supports researchers working in the Turnbull collections.

Book online: [Letters Out Loud | Humanitix](#)

Auckland Writers Festival

This year's Writers Festival was held at the Aotea Centre in May, and once again we provided sponsorship for an excellent, well-attended session (on Sunday 19 May) titled 'Prison Labour and the Making of Aotearoa New Zealand'. It featured **Jared Davidson**, author of ***Blood & Dirt: Prison Labour and the Making of New Zealand***, who is also Research Librarian at the Alexander Turnbull Library.

News from our AGM in July



At this year's AGM, held on 18 July 2024, distinguished historian and Professor Emerita at the University of Otago, **Professor Barbara Brookes** (pictured left) was elected as President with acclamation. **Katherine Baxter** remains on the committee, now serving as Past President. **Dr Dan Morrow**, previously co-opted, is now formally elected.

New committee members elected at the AGM are: **Elizabeth Bowyer, Emma Jean Kelly, Winston Roberts, Louise Sinclair** and **Tess Tuxford**.

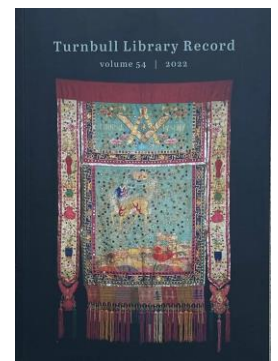
Departing from the committee were **Derek Leask** (after 11 years), and **Sheila Williams** (after 21 years). Sheila was awarded **Honorary Life Membership**, with a citation from the Committee:

Sheila Williams has had a significant connection to the Alexander Turnbull Library on several levels. Her grandfather was a colleague and friend of Alexander Turnbull; her father served as committee member and president of the Friends of the Turnbull Library (1965-1971); Sheila's own career with the library, after graduating from Victoria University of Wellington, culminated in her appointment as Chief Cataloguer. In her 28 years as an ATL staff member, Sheila worked in the original building, Turnbull House, and assisted in the transition to the new National Library building in 1987.

Sheila was later a lecturer, cataloguing and bibliography, in the Library and Information Programme at Victoria University of Wellington. She was also Assistant Editor of the NZ National Bibliography, vols 1 and 2. Sheila has been honoured as a Fellow of the Library and Information Association of NZ (1980-89). Sheila has been a valuable member of the Friends' committee since joining in July 1993.

Call for papers: *Turnbull Library Record*

We are now inviting contributions for the **2025** issue of *Turnbull Library Record*. This is the longest-running humanities journal in New Zealand, published yearly by the Alexander Turnbull Library in association with the Friends. It publishes information relating to the activities of the library, as well as articles covering a wide range of research, with special emphasis on the societies and cultures of New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Its purpose is to increase knowledge of the library's collections by showing their scope and richness, and the ways researchers are using them. Articles or pictorial essays should be between 2,000–6,000 words. Contributions not previously published are welcome. All contributions are subject to peer review. *Enquiries:* mickeith@shearwater.kiwi



Articles should have a scholarly underpinning and be written in a lively and accessible manner for an informed but not specialist readership. The deadline for submissions is Monday 2 December 2024.

'A child of the sun': Katherine Mansfield's last year

A new exhibition in Te Puna Gallery represents a brilliant collaboration between Turnbull and Katherine Mansfield House & Garden. This is a wonderful chance to see Mansfield's exquisite silk shawl (in its new custom-made case), her letters, notebooks, and some of her most treasured possessions. The exhibition runs until 9 November. The gallery is right between Home Café and the giftshop, so you can meet a friend for coffee and also browse the Mansfield shop display while you're there!

Julian Hooper: 'The Letter'

City Gallery Wellington Te Whare Toi is partnering with National Library Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, to continue to bring exhibitions to Wellington while the gallery is temporarily away from home. Wheako Pōneke Experience Wellington Tumu Whakararae **Diana Marsh** says the agreement with the library allows the gallery to continue to bring art to Wellington residents and visitors until it returns to Te Ngākau Civic Square in 2026. Te Pouhuaki National Librarian **Rachel Esson** says the National Library is pleased to be able to play an active role in supporting the City Gallery through this arrangement.

The first exhibition, **Julian Hooper: 'The Letter'**, runs until 16 November. From Tamaki Makaurā-based artist **Julian Hooper**, it celebrates and interrogates the endlessly iterative nature of the alphabet and features paintings, works on paper and a new foldout alphabet frieze that visitors can take away and put on their wall at home. Initially developed for City Gallery's building in Te Ngākau Civic Square, it is a good fit for the new location on the ground floor at the National Library.