

journals relating specifically to New Zealand have been separated out within the Mitchell Marsden collection, but there is other New Zealand material to be found in sequences that are mainly concerned with New South Wales and elsewhere. Because of the time that would have been needed to select the New Zealand material, and because there are sound arguments for not being able to approach an understanding of Marsden without his Australian context, many of the records of Marsden as landowner, litigant, clergyman, and magistrate, have been copied for the Turnbull.

For many years Sydney was the centre of Methodism in the South Pacific. Official papers of the Methodist Church of Australasia – Department of Overseas Missions, which was based on Sydney, are now in the Mitchell as well as important holdings of private papers of Methodist missionaries in the Pacific and New Zealand. Among these is a journal, 1830–82, of James Watkin (1805–1886) which includes 1840–44 entries, made at the mission at Waikouaiti, established at the request of Johnny Jones, the well-known whaler. The difficulties of proselyting one aspect of European life while another was in full swing not very far away are enlarged upon. Other Methodist material held is the diary, 1818–25, of Walter Lawry (1793–1859) which covers Lawry's departure for Tonga; a visit to the Bay of Islands in July 1822; and his sojourn in Tonga, 1822–23.

One of the large family collections held in the Mitchell is that of the King family which, in three generations, has had some contact with New Zealand. Philip Gidley King (1758–1808) was Lieutenant-Governor of Norfolk Island when Tuki and Huru were kidnapped to instruct convicts in the penal colony in flax dressing. Accounts of this affair and the return of the two men to New Zealand is given in papers held in both the Mitchell and National libraries. Philip Parker King (1791–1856) was a friend of Governor FitzRoy and Sir James Everard Home. Each of the men wrote to King and an interesting aspect of Home's letters, 1844–45, is his change in attitude to FitzRoy from relative sympathy to exasperation. The third generation of the family to be reminded of this country's existence was Philip Gidley King (1807–1904) who received many letters from G. W. Rusden (1819–1903) during, and just after, the Bryce v Rusden hearing, 1886.

The magnificent Macarthur collection contains a reference to New Zealand in a letter, 10 May 1810, written by G. Blaxcell (1777–1817) to John Macarthur in London, which encloses a copy of an earlier letter written 6 November 1810 '... in consequence of a report which prevails here that the "Boyd" has been cut off by the natives of New Zealand and every person on board massacred . . .'. Fifty-five years later John Macarthur's fourth son James (1798–1867) received a letter from Invercargill by a Duncan Macarthur which began: 'Sir, You may