

Research Notes

A pilot project for the proposed 1990 Historic Records Search was carried out in the Wairarapa during April and May this year by Diana Meads. She identified a variety of documents and photographs held in private hands, and by businesses and community organisations. This material reflects the rural nature of the district, including records of farms, saw mills and women's institutions. It also extends to such disparate topics as Cook Islands administration in the 1920s and gold mining in Collingwood in the 1930s.

The Turnbull Library was involved with the project, with Sharon Dell, Keeper of the Collections, providing liaison and advice. It is proposed that the information gathered will be entered on a database in the Library, from which a register will be produced. The New Zealand 1990 Commission is to decide on the feasibility of a nationwide historic records search in 1990.

Dr Nelson Wattie is the 1989 Fellow at the Stout Research Centre, Victoria University. He is working on New Zealand fiction prior to 1914, and has been using the Library daily since he arrived at the beginning of August.

Professor Marvin Sundstrom, Department of Geography, University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, is currently working in the Library. He is in the preparatory stages of a work on Sir James Hector, and is investigating Hector's contribution to New Zealand science.

Wharehuia Hemara, the Kaitiaki o nga Korero Maori librarian at the Turnbull, travelled to the United States and Canada on a James Cook Bicentennial Scholarship, funded by Blackwells Publishing, Oxford, from August 1988 to March 1989. He has completed a report on the different tribal archives he visited and their relevance to New Zealand.

In 1988 the Manuscripts and Archives Section launched a programme to collect the papers of selected women writers. The first results of this drive are the papers of Fiona Kidman. The collection is a comprehensive one, including drafts of novels, short stories, scripts from radio and television plays, correspondence, newspaper clippings and tapes. Her involvement in the New Zealand Writers' Guild, New Zealand Book Council and PEN are recorded. A feature of the collection is the tapes of interviews with New Zealand literary figures collected during her time working for the Concert Programme in the early 1970s. These are the only remaining copies.

Grants have recently been made from the Endowment Trust's funds to assist with the publication of Kate Buckland's *Rainbow and Tussocks* (John McIndoe, Dunedin), based on the Kate Buckland diaries; and Frances Porter's biography of Jane Maria Atkinson, *Born to New Zealand* (Port Nicholson Press/Allen and Unwin, Wellington), based on the Richmond-Atkinson papers. Both collections are held in the Turnbull's Manuscripts and Archives Section.