

same day as Janet Wilkinson, better known in later life as Janet Paul, the difficulties of completing so lengthy a programme had been compounded by the disappearance of most males 'for the duration'. Ruth was at first working on the pre-1840 settlement maps with Ruth Fletcher, an experienced survivor but herself about to depart to Broadcasting. For the eager young recruit, the task was a progressive unfolding of exciting panoramas, largely in manuscript. The chains had already been unlocked from the official records in the Police cellars, but six weeks after her first day the discovery, to her, of the Old Land Claims files in the Lands and Survey Department safe was the subject of an enthusiastic memo to Heenan whose close interest in the Branch was heightened by the fresh exhilaration of one with an approach as original as his own. The tightly packed folders copied from them, with associated notes, were to be the core of her scholarly armoury for the next forty years.

It was but one of a range of sources which she was to master within the next two years. But what took her beyond the reach of a keen intelligence and an emotionally charged curiosity? How did she do it? Who taught her—or for that matter any of the others? Casual references in the past by the present writer to a Beaglehole kindergarten sparked a forthright response. Yes, he was an occasional respected presence but transmitted little except encouragement. Techniques, sources and something of the basis of judgement were learned by each lively intelligence from older colleagues; in Ruth's case, she later claimed, from Ruth Fletcher and Frank Lingard. Others confirm this continuous pooling of knowledge which I (as a putative historian in the wings on an associated project) can endorse in acknowledging my own debt at this period to Bob Burnett.

Despite the difficulties of wartime travel, even within New Zealand, Ruth's apprenticeship included two visits to new territory. The first to Gisborne in 1943 led to significant meetings with local historians, the inevitable conflicts of detail and an abortive assault on Maori Land Court records, all summarised in a thirteen page memo. A year later in February 1944 it was to Auckland and places north. The prime purpose was to search Justice Department Court records at Russell for which Heenan prepared the ground with his colleague B. L. Dallard. These files were the only disappointment of the trip but at least it was possible to examine some Land Court records in Auckland to the extent of picking up points overlooked by Percy Smith.

However, the Bay of Islands and places west were the focal centres for the events in the twenty-four-month-old paper chase. March the first was but one significant day when under the