Against the Grain

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International Dateline-More Special Materials from New Zealand

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Several titles of historical and/or research interest which have come out recently warrant particular mention. Three of them refer to the Collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library and are now available in microfiche from the National Library of New Zealand. First is the Bibliographies Index on Microfiche, which enables improved access to books, magazines and newspapers throughout New Zealand. It was completed over the last 75 years and gives references to about 150,000 individuals from New Zealand and the Pacific. The index contains some 20,000 cards, and is presented on 272 microfiche. Second is the New Zealand Biographical Clippings 1890-1988, which can provide the reference source material for the Biographies index and contains information about 100,000 New Zealanders. It consists of 240 volumes of approximately 3600 pages of clippings from New Zealand newspapers covering the period 1890-1988, primarily from 1921 and are presented on close to 550 fiche. The third is Niupapa 1842-1933: Maori Newspapers on Microfiche which contains periodicals published predominantly in Maori or for Maori readership by Iwi, government and religious groups. Niupapa or periodicals were taken from the collections of a number of libraries and museums to make the most complete sets of each more accessible. This collection of 35 titles are presented on close to 400 fiche. Each of these titles on microfiche has an accompanying guide. For more information, please email <shop@natlib.govt.nz>.

The publication Te Ara Tika: Guiding Voices Maori opinion on libraries and information needs documents the research which was completed on phase II of a bicultural research project undertaken by Chris Szekely. This second phase of the project concentrated on seeking the views of Maori on libraries and information needs. The areas of needs identified range from access and information literacy issues, Maori libraries and Maori staffing, focusing on the young, to intellectual property issues and the appropriateness of Maori information being available in libraries. According to the author, the report initiates the accountability process and the implementation of it will make a difference to the Maori people. For more information, please email the New Zealand Library and Information Association at <natlb@netlink.co.nz>.

There is excitement in the air about another very important long-awaited publication The Dictionary of New Zealand English which was launched in Wellington in July. This major work published by Oxford University Press is a result of over four and a half decades of scholarship and dedication to the subject. According to the author Harry Orsman, the project began in 1951 as a PhD. 📚