

## ARCHIVES REPORT FOR SYNOD

2021 was the year of “the move”. Actually, another move. The archives have moved many times in living memory. Riccarton to Hereford Street, and then out the window in containers to the Grange Street warehouse. Then, after delving into the containers two 10 ton track loads went to the Canterbury Cultural Recovery Centre at the Air Force Museum, where, with many other displaced museums and archives the work went on. Meanwhile a marquee went up in Grange Street where more work went on.

Then it was off again, coalescing the Wigram and Grange Street material into Grove Road, along with the mobile shelving that had been rescued from Hereford Street. The archives stay there was longer than in previous years, but 2021 promised much when the Office and the Archives would be back together again.

This move had to take into account the fact that the staff still answered answers to queries and the public face of the archive, and the volunteers wanted to continue for as long as possible. However packing onto pallets meant the material once boxed and shrink wrapped would not be available for some considerable time, and somehow space needed to be created to accommodate the pallets. Enter Edwin Boyce and Scott Walters who took down the first run of mobile shelving and there was space in the middle of the room. Add Amy Ryan on a part time contract, packing boxes by the hundreds, more shelving reduced to flat pack and the process was on the way.

Then came lock down, and back to the card table in the living room and the need to explain, via emails to all over the world lock down, lack of access and the packing. It did have its upside though. The transcription of some Baptism Registers and their digitization means they have been added to the national Putake project <https://putake.recollect.co.nz/> There, with other items from Dioceses and Hui Amorangi around New Zealand and the Pacific they can be accessed via subscription. Other items were added to Pumotomoto <https://kinderlibrary.recollect.co.nz/>. This has begun to address a long held wish by many archives to have their resources more widely available. It certainly has benefits for the items as well, decreasing the wear and tear.

Back to the move. Delays required more help. Although the number of pallets was growing more muscle was required and so Hugh Williams was employed on another part time contract. In the end there were over 70 pallets, the map cabinets and many boxes that had to be transported.

There waiting at Tuam Street, were the shelves re-cycled again, put in place by the team from Hydestor and three distinct archival spaces; an archives room, an incoming store to protect material for a period when it comes in from outside sources, and space for records that are available to researchers. In all, an archivist’s dream, just waiting for the boxes and pallets to be unloaded and so they have been – almost. Covid has interrupted the manufacturing of the additional shelving, so there is still unpacking to be completed and the map cabinets to move into the correct location.

There is also an office and people. People who drop by with a question and have a conversation. A distinct change from requests by email. Unfortunately, a change in project meant that the three previous volunteers, Colin Watson, Lynnette Moore and Sarah Lees-Jeffries decided to retire, but Hilary Allen, Dorothy Burrows, Ruth Stamler and Hank van Til have become a new team working on transcriptions for the Putake project. By the time this report is read the archives will have re-opened on the first two Wednesday afternoons each month. So after years in the wilderness, the archives are home, at least for the foreseeable future.

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