

FACILITATION

FMD, University of Waikato

Issue No: 9 - March 2003

Invited Comment from Sue Pharo, Librarian : Interim Information Commons

What is an Information Commons? It's a whole new way of looking at academic libraries and their important role on campus. It combines digital and print resources and makes them seamlessly and quickly available. Expert staff are on hand to help from a library, technology and information literacy perspective, plus student services. Different learning styles are provided for by taking into account that some people like to work alone, some in group-study areas and other varied collaborative conference and work areas. A variety of university services are usually involved. Basically an Information Commons is a **one stop shop for most student and staff needs, including coffee!**

Why is ours to be Interim?

We are moving quickly this year to have an IC up and operating on Level 1 of the Central Library by the beginning of second semester. It's a pilot project for us to learn more about what our needs are at Waikato. It's also partly in response to the need for space for allied services on campus, for example Security and TLDU. It's possible because the Library's major analysis of its collections last year means some low use resources can be held in storage. We plan to have approximately 120 computers, a shared help desk, tables, individual and group carrels and a mix of seating plus printers and scanning facilities. A mini version of what we need for the future.

2005+?

The interim pilot project will pave the way for a purpose-designed facility with a variety of study spaces, up to date technology and quality expertise to support the scholarly use of information resources. There will be different seating configurations and group/whanau study spaces. We will have access to a range of software applications as well as the electronic resources of the University Library in this central location.

Our Information Commons will be a physically attractive heart for the university.
Our vision is for a leading edge, integrated learning facility.

New UniSafe Staff Member

Johnny Foy commenced his role as Parking and Security Assistant here on Monday 24th March. He will mainly be based in the car parks helping Tom with various parking issues and acting as a deterrent to vehicle theft. He will also help Terri and Mike in the office with the overflow of cardax work in particular the data entry and sales to the students.

He has recently completed his second degree, a Bachelor of Media Arts at Wintec. Johnny also completed a Bachelor of Social Sciences Degree at Waikato University in 1996. He previously worked for the Inland Revenue Department and worked here on Campus for Waikato Print. Johnny is an avid movie buff and enjoys reading and writing as well as cricket, basketball, tramping, fishing and martial arts. Johnny is looking forward to the challenges of the Security and Parking position and hopes to become a valued member of a formidable team.

If you haven't met Johnny yet feel free to drop into the office or if you see him in the car parks please introduce yourself and make him feel welcome.



Hey it's not Christmas already!!

It was certainly the aroma of Christmas up at the Crèche last Friday with the strong scent of pine. Shar, Stephen, and Steve Cunningham removed pines growing at the back of the Crèche in front of a very interested audience. Unfortunately the trees weren't big sellers so before it becomes a major tree removal they had to go. The area will be replanted this Autumn with native shrubs.

Pictured left-right – Stephen Chambers & Shar Te Mara



Below - Steven Cunningham



And now for something completely different.....

Family History Research

A fascinating journey? Or, in the words of a friend of my younger son, 'just live people talking about dead people!'

Two years ago I was given a copy of my late uncle's unpublished memoirs of the west coast of Auckland during the pioneering days of the 1800's and early 1900's. In them he related the feats and hardships of kauri logging and establishing farms in the Waitakere Ranges, and of the mill railway which ran over the steep hills and along the rugged coast to the wharf at Whatipu at the Manukau Heads. He also described in considerable detail the settling of the land by my great-grandparents at Karekare, and the Maori people who had lived there for centuries.

However, there was little information about where our ancestors had come from - simply a reference to Worcester, England, and Calcutta and Darjeeling in India. It was then I decided to find out more about why they had decided to leave their homes and families and all that they were familiar with, and to travel half way around the world to a new and undeveloped land. On my father's side I now have details of twelve generations back to the early 1600's in Herefordshire and Kent, and on my mother's side eight generations in Lancashire and Warwickshire, England and later in Ontario, Canada. At present the Legacy database holds details of some 1200 individuals in 370 families. Most of this research has centred on three main sources - parish baptism, marriage and burial records pre-1837, civil birth, marriage and death registrations from 1837, and, very importantly, the ten-yearly English censuses beginning in 1841. Other useful references were trade directories, various taxation records and wills and probate.

There is also an enormous amount of information on the internet, but "sifting the wheat from the chaff" is time consuming. The local Mormon Family History Centre at Temple View also has a wealth of information, and microfilms can be borrowed from overseas. The important tactic in research is to always to work back from what you know; never work forward in time unless you are absolutely sure your starting point is the correct one. Also, try to verify facts such as dates and name spellings from at least two independent sources.

In researching my family in England, there was a gap of about sixty years where there was almost no information in England, this being the middle and later 19th century. Because my uncle had mentioned India, I decided that this was where they may have been at that time. By chance, I discovered that the British Library had a section called The India and Oriental Collection. I wrote to them and found they had about 80% of European baptism, marriage and burial records, a number of wills, and many volumes of annual trade and residents' directories spanning almost 200 years. From that, the main missing links were found and the broad picture of my family for the last 300 to 400 years was clear. The emphasis now is finding out what everyday life was like in England over the centuries, and similarly in India during the British Raj (mid 1800's to mid 1900's). So the journey continues - I do not find it just about "dead people". Eventually, I hope to follow my uncle's example, and write a book for those in future generations who may want to know something of where they came from. I do not profess to be anywhere near being an expert in researching one's genealogy or whakapapa, but would welcome any enquiries.

John Badham



FMD Website

With the assistance of Patty Chaipanich and Sheeba Luthera (Waikato Print, Print & Web Designers), we have spent the past few months going through the process of updating the FMD website. This site is now live, and can be accessed at <http://www.waikato.ac.nz/fmd>. As well as making the site more attractive we hope it is more informative. Any feedback is welcome.

FMD Social Club Update

Thursday 17th April: Join us for a Hot X Bun morning tea on the Thursday before Good Friday. There is an Easter raffle selling now. This will be drawn at the morning tea on 17th April.

SATURDAY 10th MAY - WAIHEKE ISLAND BUS TRIP: The bus trip to Waiheke Island is scheduled for the 10th May. Remember to put your name on the board in the FMD tearoom - first in first on. Cost is \$30 each which includes lunch. The bus will leave the FMD courtyard at 7.30am and be back late. It will stop for an evening meal in Auckland before heading home. Pay your \$30 asap to secure your seat and there will be NO refunds. Pay by no later than 18th April.

Canned Drinks: There will be no more canned drinks available to buy due to the dishonesty of some people. People have not been paying for their drinks and money has also been stolen.

Raffles and Lotto numbers: There will be no lotto or raffle for the week of Easter 21st April to 25th April. These will resume the following week.

Raffle/Lotto number winners:

28/2 - Meat pack no. 24 = Phil Jensen

1/3 - Lotto bonus no. 18 - Marie Moir = \$40, bonus no. 40 - Huri Nelson = \$10

7/3 - Meat pack no. 4 = Peter Duggan

8/3 - Lotto bonus no. 15 - Alan Jury = \$40, bonus no. 32 - BJ = \$10

14/3 - Meat pack no. 35 = Mike Anderson

15/3 - Lotto bonus no. 6 - Peter Ban = \$40, bonus no. 4 - Heather Docherty = \$10

21/3 - Meat pack no. 31 = Bill Liddle

22/3 - Lotto bonus no. 40 - Huri Nelson = \$40, bonus no. 21 = Daphne = \$10