

Abel Tasman/Discovery Miscellany--June 2019

1 Remembering Hekenukumai Busby (1932-2019)

Greatly respected master navigator, carver, and builder of ocean-going traditional waka, Sir Hekenukumai ("Hec") Busby recently passed away at the age of 86. He is greatly respected for his achievements in renewing and inspiring awareness of the navigation skills of the earliest Polynesian voyagers and was knighted earlier this year.



His first double-hulled waka *Te Aurere* made its maiden voyage in 1992 and Sir Hec went on to assist in building many other traditional ocean-going waka around the Pacific, some of which will travel around New Zealand as part of this year's Tuia 250 Encounters commemoration. Read more about Sir Hec in an article from the *New Zealand Listener*: <http://tinyurl.com/yxacxby7>. (Image from *Nga Taonga Sound & Vision* collections; retrieved 2/6/19)

2 Netherlands Ambassador welcomed to Golden Bay/Mohua

Her Excellency Mira Woldberg was formally welcomed by Manawhenua ki Mohua in a powhiri at Onetahua Marae on Tuesday 28 May. Ms Woldberg is aware of the significance of the 1642 first encounter between the people of her country and the people of Aotearoa New Zealand, and was committed to renewing that connection as soon as possible in her posting.

Bad weather affected her travel arrangements, but she was also able to visit the national monument with representatives of the Department of Conservation who care for it, and meet with members of the Dutch community. We look forward to her future visits. The photo shows Ms Woldberg at Onetahua Marae with locals Anja van Holten (*left*) and Sacha Horton (*right*).



3 Pounamu ceremony in Lutjegast, 22 September 2018

The December 2018 Miscellany described the ceremony at which the pounamu gifted at Pohara in 2017 was installed in its new home in Lutjegast. A video (59 minutes) of the ceremony is now available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nw8Ltg5idY&> The proceedings are in Dutch and English, but for English-language viewers there is no mistaking the warmth of the occasion and what is being expressed.

A global museum website contains up-to-date information on the Lutjegast Abel Tasman Museum: <https://www.gluseum.com/NL/Lutjegast/243368229414576/Abel-Tasman-Museum> and includes reference to recent local government changes. Lutjegast (formerly part of Grootegast municipality) now falls within a larger administrative area called Westerkwartier.

4 Did stones found in Southland arrive with early Tahitian voyagers?

Shaped volcanic blocks found at Tautuku in South Otago, the Catlins, and Stewart Island in 1939 and the 1960s support the theory that early Polynesian voyagers sailed direct from Tahiti over 4000km of open water. Read more in this *Otago Daily Times* article by David Loughrey: <http://tinyurl.com/y3bp3ae7> (Image by Anne Harlow/Otago Museum)



5 Tuia 250 Encounters--Enrol **NOW** to sail on a waka or a sailing ship

Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage Chief Executive Bernadette Cavanagh announced the *Tuia 250 Voyage* on 27 May. **Applications close on 16 June; details here:** <https://www.tuia250.nz/tuia-250-voyage-trainee/>

The flotilla will travel to 15 sites around the country October-December 2019, with voyage legs ranging from overnight to 15 days. The programme has places for 450 New Zealanders, with 220 allocated by region to ensure the opportunity is open to all.

6 Australian & New Zealand Map Society News

- (a) Access to Digitised Australian and New Zealand Map Collections: an interactive map locator for Australian and New Zealand digitised map collections is now available: <http://tinyurl.com/yy2smepd>
- (b) 49th Annual Conference: "Mapping in Action" (Canberra, 24-25 September 2019). How maps and spatial science help us interact with, interpret and understand society, the environment, history and science. Call for papers and more information here: <https://www.anzmaps.org/2019/05/15/4135/>

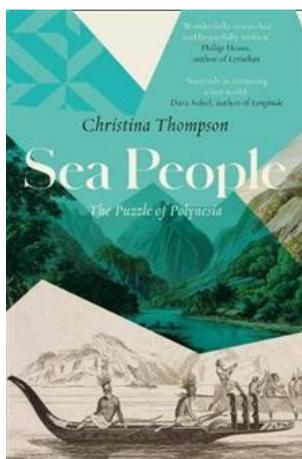
7 Descendants of Abel Tasman make contact

At various times references have been made to New Zealand descendants of Abel Tasman through his daughter Claesjen. We have recently been contacted by the next generation of descendants in the Norton family.

Anyone with a particular wish to contact the family can do so via me at this email address: tasman1642.nz@gmail.com. The family are looking forward to being part of the 400th anniversary commemoration.

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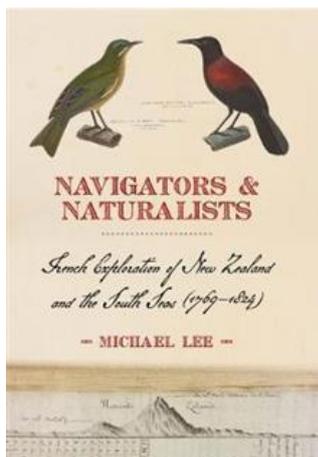
## NEW BOOKS



### **Christina Thompson: Sea People; In Search of the Ancient Navigators of the Pacific.** (HarperCollins UK)

A well-researched and beautifully written investigation of Polynesian navigation and how others came to understand it. By the author of *Come on Shore and We will Kill and Eat you all: A New Zealand story* (2008), also a compelling read. The author was interviewed on Radio New Zealand on 10 April; you can listen to it here: <http://tinyurl.com/y46to8ld>

384 pages; ISBN 9780008339029. Also in ebook and audio formats. Publisher's info: <http://tinyurl.com/y62tnl6z>



### **Michael Lee: Navigators & Naturalists; French Exploration of New Zealand and the Pacific (1769-1824)** (David Bateman)

A scholarly account of French explorations, beginning at the same time as Cook. The author draws on previously untranslated primary sources, and increases awareness of the huge contribution made to European knowledge of New Zealand. The author was interviewed on Radio New Zealand on 27 November 2018; you can listen to it here: <http://tinyurl.com/yxalsod9>

480 pages; ISBN 9781869539658. Publication info: <http://tinyurl.com/yxebqryq>

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