

Abel Tasman / Discovery Miscellany--October 2019

This miscellany happens to be going out at the same time as the 3-month Tuia Encounters 250 commemorations begin. Tuia 250 marks the history of Polynesian voyaging, and the arrival of James Cook's voyage of discovery off the east coast of the northern island of New Zealand in 1769. More notes on the commemorations are included below.

1 **NEW BOOK** on Abel Tasman

Henry Van Zanden: 1642 Abel Tasman, 235 pages. An A4 paperback volume, heavily illustrated with colour photographs, course reconstructions, and reproductions of historic charts and paintings, and a bibliography (p.232-233).



The author, who lives in Sydney, has written several books relating to early European voyages in the context of Australian history, published under his Australia Discovered imprint--website: australiadiscovered.com.au

This new book covers Abel Tasman's whole life and voyages of exploration, starting within the context of European history, Dutch exploration and commercial expansionism. The New Zealand content (p.87-128) includes analysis of whether Tasman's crew actually landed in Wainui Bay; the origins of the Ruamahanga skull (a 17th-century female European skull); and the mystery of the Spanish helmet.

New Zealand sales: A small number of copies are available from the coordinator of this miscellany (based in Golden Bay/Mohua) at NZD \$70 per copy plus New Zealand postage (where necessary); **enquiries to** Penny Griffith at: tasman1642.nz@gmail.com

Other sales: directly through australiadiscovered.com.au

2 **Thoughts on the "small white flag" of 19 December 1642**

We have been contacted by Harko Brown of the education staff at Waitangi Treaty Grounds, where the new (2016) Te Kōngahu museum includes material relating to Tasman's voyage.

Harko is also actively involved in empowering young people through teaching skills in traditional Maori games, and has brought that perspective to wondering about the significance of the "small white flag" held by a warrior standing in one of the waka, as described in Tasman's journal on 19 December 1642.

Cultural performers may use a *wakawaka* or feathered spear (see photo) to welcome visitors at gatherings for traditional games (*hakari*) as a symbol of peace. Maybe the "small white flag" was a *wakawaka*?

And perhaps the large number of waka observed--unusually many for any one iwi at the time--can be explained by it being a peaceful gathering for traditional games (*hakari*)?



The subsequent fate/life of the Dutch sailor who was taken onto the waka can also be reviewed from a cultural perspective. Retribution protocols would not necessarily require his life to be taken if he was still alive when they reached the shore. Maybe it's time for DNA to step in?

This is a summary of some key points made by Harko. Anyone who would like to contact him direct to continue a discussion about his thoughts can do so by email at: harkobrown@gmail.com

3 Further investigation into Te Ra, the last remaining Maori sail

There's only one remaining example of a customary Māori sail remaining in the world. Her name is Te Rā and she's been a guest of the British Museum for more than 200 years. She has been documented by others, but this new Otago University project will use cutting edge technology to unlock more of her secrets.

Here's a link to The Spinoff article about the project: <https://thespinoff.co.nz/atea/atea-otago/31-08-2019/te-ra-the-sail-last-of-its-kind/>

4 News from Westerkwartier

Westerkwartier is a new municipal administrative region in the Netherlands, created (January 2019) by the amalgamation of several smaller administrations. One of the small towns in Westerkwartier is Lutjegast, Abel Tasman's birthplace. Some related items of interest to New Zealand and Australia follow:



❖ **Mr Ard van der Tuuk installed as Mayor of Westerkwartier:** Tasmanians and residents of Golden Bay/Mohua remember Ard's warm presence and that of his delegation from Grootegast as part of the December 2017 First Encounter 375 commemoration of Tasman's voyage and the first meeting of two worlds.

Ard was installed as Mayor on Wednesday 2 October after a complex selection process that began in February, culminating in a Royal Decree. That process is described here, together with a link to the installation ceremony:

<https://ris2.ibabs.eu/Agenda/Details/Westerkwartier/00114f2e-6624-4549-b1bd-17ea36ee2fc4>

❖ New friendship sign in Lutjegast

During the selection period the interim Mayor Koos Wiersma and visiting Kingborough councillor, Steve Wass, unveiled a new friendship sign at the entrance to Lutjegast.

The photo shows the sign being unveiled on 12 June, and those with good eyesight will read that it records a friendly town relationship with both Tasman District (New Zealand) and Kingborough (Tasmania, Australia).

We certainly look forward to a continuing friendship on both sides of the world.



5 Maritime & Other Notes

- ❖ Dead Reckoning: Drake Passage and the 18th century misadventures of HMS *Wager* and her reluctant crew, by Alan Bellows: <https://www.damninteresting.com/dead-reckoning/>
- ❖ When Pirates studied Euclid, by Margaret Schotte: <https://aeon.co/essays/how-european-sailors-learned-celestial-navigation>
- ❖ Heritage New Zealand--Archaeological Reports Digitised: Over 7500 archaeological reports from the 1950s onwards are now available online, plus a spreadsheet. <https://www.heritage.org.nz/protecting-heritage/archaeology/digital-library>

6 Tuia Encounters 250: A few links

As anticipated, the 250th anniversary of the first onshore meetings of 1769-70 between Maori and Europeans (on the British voyage led by James Cook) has triggered considerable debate about how historical events are marked. Tuia 250 also celebrates the voyaging heritage of Pacific people that led to the settlement of Aotearoa New Zealand many generations before.

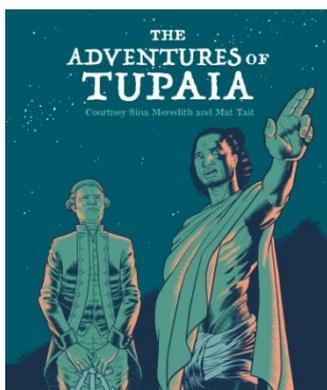
Reflecting the need to better understand these early dual strands of shared history, a recent announcement that teaching New Zealand history will become compulsory in schools from 2022 has drawn a positive response.

Tuia 250 has a budget of over \$25 million dollars, \$9 million dollars of which was distributed to community groups to develop activities. So it's not possible here to do more than refer to a few specific items of interest (hopefully) to our readers. (A Google or YouTube search under 'Tuia 250' or 'Tupaia' will produce plenty of references!)

The central event is the *Tuia 250 Voyage*, a flotilla made up of two waka hourua from Aotearoa, three tall ships including the *Endeavour* replica from Australia, and a va'a tipaerua from Tahiti. They will sail the coast to engage with communities, iwi and hapū for three months from October to December.

- ❖ The Official Website for Tuia 250 is <https://mch.govt.nz/tuia250> (Ministry for Culture and Heritage). It lists all the main events, and has links to the regional community committees and programmes. It's a feast of events, especially in the North Island.
- ❖ 'Move over, James Cook: Māori and Pacific voices on Tuia 250', by Alice Webb-Liddall (The Spinoff, 7 October 2019): <https://tinyurl.com/y6fgzydx>
- ❖ *Tupaia's Endeavour*, an important 3-part documentary from Maori TV, available on demand: <https://www.maoritelevision.com/shows/tupaias-endeavour/on-demand>
- ❖ 'Te Hoiere' is the waka (canoe) of Ngati Kuia, one of the Te Tau Ihu (top of the South Island) iwi, which will be part of the November welcome to the flotilla at Ship Cove (Cook's favourite anchorage) in the Marlborough Sounds: <https://tinyurl.com/yxt4bca3>

Two interesting books:

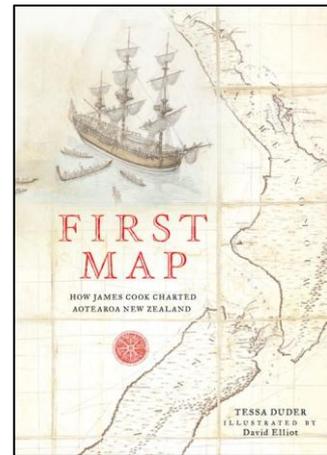


- ❖ *The Adventures of Tupaia*, by Courtney Sina Meredith & Mat Tait (illustrator). 64p., hardback. Allen & Unwin NZ; ISBN: 9781988547145; <https://tinyurl.com/y5h7ume6>

A mix of verse, prose, images, including some comic-book sequences. Publisher's designation: for children, teenage, educational.

- ❖ *First Map: How James Cook charted Aotearoa New Zealand*, by Tessa Duder & David Elliot (illustrator). 112p., illustrated hardback. HarperCollins NZ; ISBN 9781775540946; <https://tinyurl.com/y5g6wvud>

Large format; serious text (for 16+ years) with subtle illustrations. The dustjacket reproduces Cook's chart on the inside.



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- ❖ **And, to end, an inspiring story of 69-year-old Ian Taylor**, founder of Dunedin-based animation research business ARL, and 2019 Innovator of the Year. Ian was brought into Tuia 250 to help create the video logging of the coastal flotilla movements, but his personal goal is to bring to life the great voyaging achievements of his Pacific ancestors, who sailed across a third of the planet to reach these shores... centuries before Cook (or Abel Tasman for that matter!).

Here's the link to Ian's story:

<https://thespinoff.co.nz/atea/11-08-2019/the-man-hijacking-the-cook-commemorations-to-tell-the-story-of-polynesian-exploration/>

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