



Issue 1, Winter 2009. Kōrero from www.theprow.org.nz

Your Story Workshops

The first two of a series of workshops on contributing stories to www.theprow.org.nz will be held at the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) library in Hardy Street, Nelson, on 29 April and 13 May, 2009.

The first workshop on Wednesday April 29, between 3 and 5pm, will be for members of the public. Bring along an idea and we'll talk about ways to develop it. If you have a story which needs a little work, we can make some suggestions and we'll show you how to submit completed stories to the website.

A second workshop will be held for teachers at the NMIT Library between 4 and 6pm on Wednesday 13 May. We'll talk about ways you and your classes can develop stories and how to submit them to the website.

Numbers for these workshops are limited and registration is required. For more information and to register, contact Nicola Harwood, phone 546 0406 or email her at info@theprow.org.nz

Workshops will be held in the Tasman and Marlborough Districts in the coming months. If you wish to be notified when dates are confirmed, email: info@theprow.org.nz

Share your History

We want your story! If you have a story of local interest to tell, perhaps about a place, a person or an event, then consider submitting it to the Prow. The site has a template for you to load your story. Go to 'Add a Story' (<http://www.theprow.org.nz/not-signed-in>), create a username and password and follow the instructions provided. You can add text and also load up to two images, which we will insert in your story.

As well as information about how to add a story, there are some writing guidelines on the website. Stories will be checked before being approved for the site, and we will try to list further sources related to your story. If you have problems adding a story, contact us (info@theprow.org.nz) or attend a workshop. We look forward to reading your contributions.

A Team Effort

Each fully researched story on www.theprow.org.nz is the work of a team of local writers and librarians who bring their different skills and expertise to create a resource which entertains, informs and provides the tools to research and explore further.

The Prow's writers are Joy Stephens, Karen Stade and John and Hilary Mitchell. Karen and Joy are both journalists who are also experienced at writing historical stories.

“In researching the stories, we used a range of resources from dusty tomes written in dry language to rambling, but compelling first hand accounts of events. After gleaning the key facts, it was then a matter of writing a concise story which gives enough information, but also inspires the reader to explore further, using the sources in the bibliographies. It was very satisfying to be involved in this project which makes the stories from our regions widely accessible,” says Joy.

Hilary and John Mitchell contributed Maori stories from their books: *Te tau ihu o te waka: a history of Māori of Nelson and Marlborough*.

Once each story was researched and written, a team of librarians including Nicola Harwood and Susan Price from the Nelson Public Libraries and Cathy Vaughan and Louise Gribbon from the Tasman District Libraries did what librarians do best - find and list information sources in bibliographies.

“We have many tools to help us find all kinds of resources on a subject - books, magazine and newspaper articles and images, both online, and in print. We often compile lists of resources on local subjects for individuals who request information, but now they are available for everybody.

“If local people don't have a computer at home, they can use the free public internet access in any public library in Tasman, Marlborough or Nelson through the Aotearoa People's Network”, says Nicola Harwood, Prow project manager and information services team leader for the Nelson Libraries.

Staff from the Marlborough District Libraries and top of the South museums also checked local stories and contributed a selection of resources available on relevant subjects. Finally, to ensure that the stories are as correct as they can be, local history expert, Dawn Smith double-checked the stories and their references.



Some members of the Prow team, from top to bottom: Nicola Harwood, Joy Stephens, Karen Stade and Cathy Vaughan.

Local history at fingertips

The Prow was a great one-stop resource for two Year 10 social studies classes, says Waimea College social sciences teacher, Tim Wright.

“We had done a couple of background lessons on the Wairau Affray, so the class had a bit of knowledge. In the past, I would have given the students a list of websites and they might have spent a whole lesson looking for information. But it was all there in the story on the website.

“The story was written at about the right level- the language was good and not massively dumbed down- and for one class there was enough information there for them. Another class were able to extend themselves and their knowledge by using the links,” says Tim.

“Having local stories online gives the material we study some relevance and some status. I am sure I’ll use the website more with my social studies classes.”

~~~~~  
Teachers, we would love to hear how you and your classes have been inspired by [www.theprow.org.nz](http://www.theprow.org.nz) and if you have any ideas and suggestions to motivate other classes. Email us at: [info@theprow.org.nz](mailto:info@theprow.org.nz)



*Mr Tim Wright, Sasha Adams and Angus Graves explore the Prow. Sasha is a descendant of the Guard family and they checked out the Marlborough Sounds whaling story to find out more about her ancestors’ lifestyle.*

### **Prow stories in the Pipeline**

Separation of Nelson and Marlborough  
Marlborough’s wine history  
Nelson Pottery  
Marlborough’s 1923 Flood  
The Wreck of the Queen Bee  
Anzac Day Snippets

To suggest future stories to be researched and written for [www.theprow.org.nz](http://www.theprow.org.nz), email [info@theprow.org.nz](mailto:info@theprow.org.nz)

**Please pass this newsletter on to anybody who may be interested in [www.theprow.org.nz](http://www.theprow.org.nz). If this has been passed on to you and you would like to be on our database, or if you wish to be removed from our database, email [joy@wordpower.co.nz](mailto:joy@wordpower.co.nz)**