

# Ngāti Pāhauwera Digitisation Project

The Ngāti Pāhauwera Development Trust has initiated a Digitisation Project to digitise photographs from the Iwi and preserve them for the future. Recently, four team members travelled to Wellington to train with some of the best the country has to offer at the National Library, Te Papa and Archives New Zealand.

They had a whirlwind week where they learned about appropriate recording storage and filing methods, software and equipment used by these National organisations, research and funding tips and what other Iwi are doing in this space. They were also very lucky to have a 'back of house' tour at Te Papa.



Figure 1: Bonny and Gaye with Ngāti Pāhauwera material lodged at National Archives



Figure 2: Te Papa Maori Collection (L:R Bonny Hatami, El Maadi Te Aho, Gaye Hawkins, Rita Morrison)

The back of house tour at Te Papa was extremely interesting with carving, weaving and many other treasures being stored, perhaps never coming out for display. Unfortunately we were cut short due to flooding in Wellington. We could have stayed for many more hours.

The team were made to feel extremely welcome by each of our guides and facilitators, no matter which organisation they were from.

It was absolutely an information overload but the team came back home with many ideas to make this project a success.

*Some of the strongest things to come through during the week were:*

- *that this is extremely important work*
- *that we should learn from others where possible*
- *that these organisations are here to help*
- *there are Pāhauwera EVERYWHERE!*

As our kaumātua and kuia pass on, so too do their memories and recollections of who are in photographs. Time is of the essence to get as many photographs digitised and details recorded. We intend in the future to encompass other media into the project such as video, oral histories and research.

Archive Project Manager Rita Morrison who came back to Wairoa after 30 years working in archives and museums in Australia, heads the project. Ngāti Pāhauwera Development Trust Ltd are currently preparing the processes and systems to ensure that these taonga are handled and recorded correctly. If you have any queries about this project, then please do get in touch. If you would like to be involved or have any questions, please contact Rita Morrison [Rita@npdt.co.nz](mailto:Rita@npdt.co.nz) or 0210472727



Figure 3: Close up of tōki in storage found at Mohaka

### ***Interesting Facts***

- Te Papa has a 600 year old pounamu tōki that was found at Mohaka. The pounamu did not originate at Mohaka but it was used there.
- Of thousands upon thousands of items held at Te Papa, 70% of items held at Te Papa have no provenance (notes on origination)
- People sometimes just drop things off to the National Library, but often the library does not have the space to store them. Best to ask first.
- Many iwi are starting to create their own collections or mini-museums, which they link in to the National Library, Archives or Museum.

### ***Links***

National Library and Alexander Turnbull Library <http://natlib.govt.nz/>

National Archives <http://archives.govt.nz/>

Te Papa Tongarewa (National Museum)

<http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/>

[www.ngatipahauwera.co.nz](http://www.ngatipahauwera.co.nz) or check out our facebook page