

# Dargaville Online

Special Edition

10 March 2010

## Special Edition

In the last issue of Dargaville Online we paid tribute to local historian Noel Hilliam. This has generated a number of letters and e-mail inquiries. As editor, I have decided that the best way to respond to these is publish a Special Edition.

Like any responsible news media, Dargaville Online does not publish articles without making sure that there is a firm basis for the story. In many instances we publish the source of the article with a hyperlink to the original. In the case of last Friday's story, we had intended to publish a picture of the certificate awarded to Noel, but left it out at the last moment as it increased the data size of the newsletter beyond our self imposed limits to cater for the many readers who are on dial up connections. It is displayed below.

With respect to the final paragraph in the article, Noel has received both national and International recognition e.g. ([http://www.kaiparalifestyler.co.nz/Of\\_Interest.cfm?NewsID=1402](http://www.kaiparalifestyler.co.nz/Of_Interest.cfm?NewsID=1402)) for his efforts over many years in locating, identifying, and recovering artefacts from many of the shipwrecks on the Ripiro Beach here in Northland. There are local legends and mythology associated with many of these – particularly some of the early ones. Did these people settle here? If so where? Who were their children and so forth. As many of these early shipwrecks are of foreign origin and occurred more than 150 years ago, it seems not unreasonable to make a reference to the origins of human habitation in New Zealand which has been going on for a considerable period of time and is the subject of research for many historians and archaeologists - both professional and amateur.

As a matter of interest, the Editor stood on a beach in Rorotonga in the early 1980's which has/had a sign on it telling visitors that from that spot in the 1500's left a great fleet of canoes for Aotearoa/New Zealand. Was the statement on the sign mythology or fact? This also raises the question as to whether these canoes actually arrived in New Zealand, and if so where did they land? Did one or more of them possibly get left on Ripiro Beach to be covered in sand and remain as yet undiscovered? Who knows the answer? Another mystery yet to be discovered about the origins of human habitation in New Zealand?

In some of the correspondence relating to this article, there has been a suggestion of implied racism on the Editor's part. For the records, I am of Scottish, French, and Anglo/Irish descent. I am proud to be able to include this knowledge of "Nga Hawaiki" in my mihi and whakapapa.

Of my own free will, over the last two years I have been studying under the Te Wananga O Aotearoa – The University of New Zealand – in an attempt to learn more of the history, culture, and language of the Maori people who certainly arrived in this country long before the better documented European settlement from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. I have enrolled, once again, for study this year to further my knowledge of this fascinating and diverse subject. I have attached a photo of my graduation from Year 1 below. At this time Te Wananga O Aotearoa has not awarded certificates for last year of study. If some people choose to believe that this is racist, then I can only respect their rights to hold an opinion which differs from my own.

I have also been accused of being a member of "One New Zealand". I had no knowledge of the existence of this organisation until receipt of the e-mail. I have never been a member of, or contributed anything to this organisation or its website. I have subsequently looked at the website links referred to in the e-mail. Like the thousands of other websites that I visit, I conclude that there are views expressed there which are the opinions of other people. It is their right in our society to hold and express their views. People contribute to many websites where a range of



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different opinions are expressed. Let us hope that we never loose the privilege of being able to do this - as long as whatever is written is legal and complies with the laws of our country. As Dargaville Online is published by a group of "amateurs" it is rewarding to see that we have such a diverse readership. We are totally reliant on input from others to contribute to the articles we publish. Thanks to everyone for their feedback.

John MacDonald  
Editor



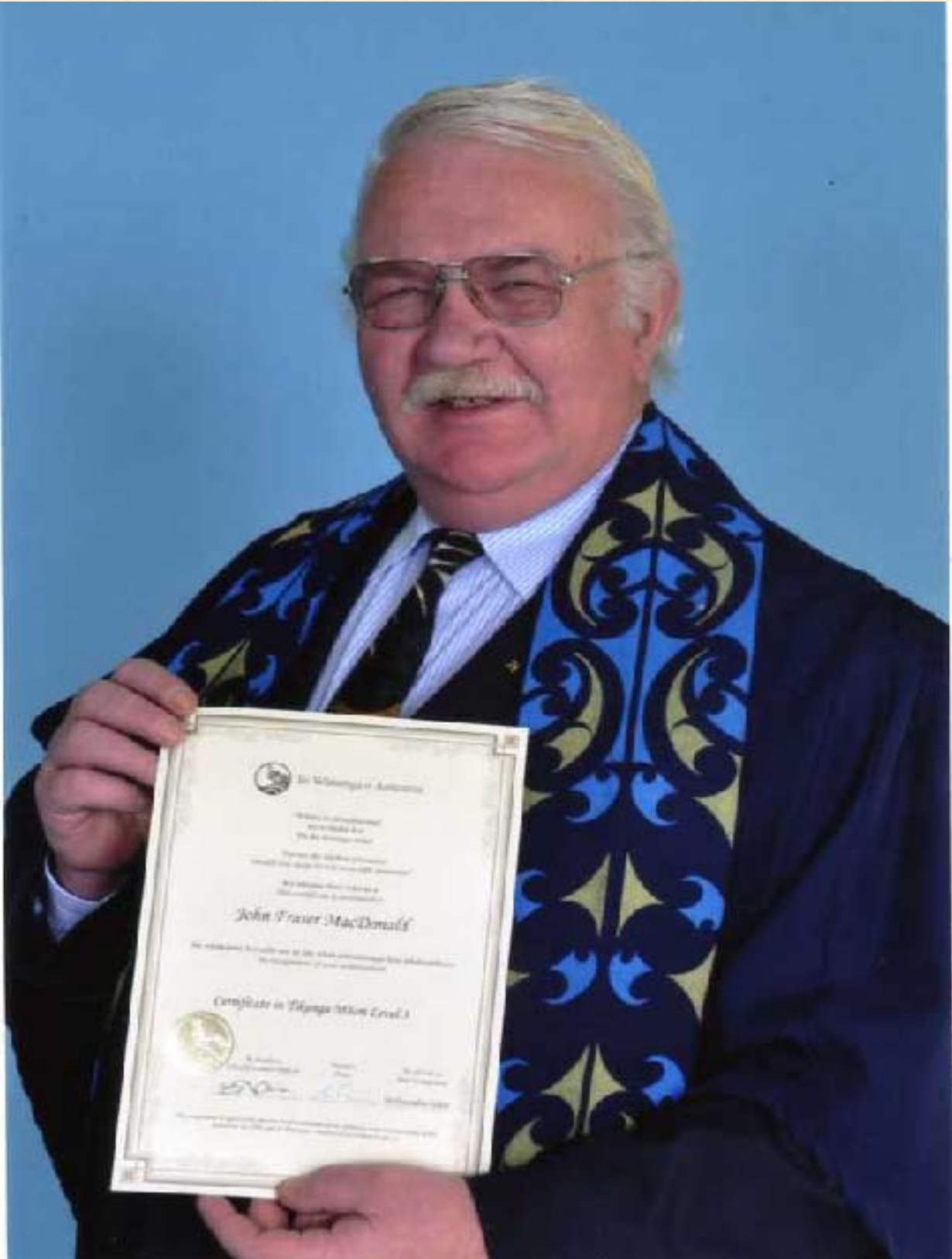
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The Editor, John MacDonald, Holding his Certificate in Tikanga Maori Level 3 awarded by Te Wananga O Aotearoa in 2009



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