

True tales of Thames told in The Treasury's new book

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Geraldine Dunwoodie, left, and Robyn Revell with the new book, *True Tales of Thames*, to be launched on August 20.

The stories of 100 Thames families have now been told in The Treasury's new book.

The Coromandel Heritage Trust has been collecting stories from Thames people for several years for the book, *True Tales of Thames*.

The book will be launched at The Treasury in Queen St at 2pm on August 20 as part of the town's celebrations of 150 years since the discovery of the Thames goldfields.

Editor of the book, Geraldine Dunwoodie, said the book presented an opportunity for family stories and photographs to be brought to light.

"The big thing is that you get the stories that aren't in the history books," she said.

"There's some stuff that comes out that's really quite important, that has never been heard of before, and photos that haven't been seen before.

The stories preserve the history of early Thames families through to modern day.

The trust is still calling for any stories or photographs for any area within the Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki districts.

They have published two similar books, telling the tales of the Coromandel's Eastern Seaboard and Waikino-Waitekauri areas.

They are currently collecting stories for the next book, *True Tales of the Coromandel, Western Seaboard*.

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"All the books that we are publishing, we will continue to keep in print, they will be available," Dunwoodie said.

The team of volunteers at The Treasury have also been preparing for a photographic exhibition, *Growing with Gold*, which will be held at The Treasury.

The exhibition will open on August 3 and be open to the public from 11am to 3pm on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays for a gold coin donation.

It will show 150 years of life in Thames, with a focus on the earlier years.

The Treasury collects records for the Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki Plains, protecting and preserving material donated to it in their Queens St premises.

Members of the public are invited to bring historical family memorabilia to the archive for long-term preservation.

This includes old photographs, maps and plans, illuminated addresses, medallions and medals, certificates, diaries and letters, manuscripts, books, genealogies and family stories.

"The national archives collect government records, we collect records of the towns and people, so it's much more personal," Dunwoodie said.

"The value of what we're doing won't be known for another 100 years."

The books are available online: www.thetresury.org.nz or email: info.thetresury@gmail.com. All proceeds go to The Treasury.