

We Love Our History

The multifaceted history of the University of Otago – its buildings, programmes and colourful student life – is the subject of two very different projects by Otago staff members Ali Clarke (from the Hocken Library) and Sarah Gallagher (of the Department of Women's and Children's Health).

Ali Clarke's fortnightly blog, [University of Otago 1869-2019 – Writing A History](#), covers a wide range of topics from the history of buildings and departments to halls of residence. The University's Vice-Chancellors and staff, clubs and societies, and student life are also detailed.

The posts come from snippets that she 'finds along the way' as she writes a new history of the University of Otago that will be published to celebrate the institution's 150th anniversary in 2019. One of our favourites is the entry '[When Hollywood came to campus](#)'.

Sarah Gallagher's Student Flat Names Project documents the colourful and varied names of student flats in Dunedin; alumni may recognise some of the more well-known, such as 'Brucie's Beenjamin Butchery', 'Le Chat Noir' and 'Hotel California'.

Sarah's research began as a project for her Master of Library and Information Studies degree, and was the subject of an exhibition featuring photos and information about the flats.

One of the more recent items on Sarah's blog is the entry on [Harry Potter-themed flats](#). And you may just find that one of your own student flats is featured on the project's [Flickr](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), or [blog site](#).

Both project co-ordinators always welcome your contributions – Ali says that the University of Otago 1869-2019 blog is a great way to connect with people who have an interest in the history of the University. Readers are welcome to add further details or comments to the blog. She also welcomes emails and letters, and is keen to locate interesting photographs.

Sarah too welcomes any additional details about her featured Dunedin flats.



Sarah Gallagher and Ali Clarke. Sarah's primary research tool is her smartphone, which she uses to photograph flats, document their details, and manage the Dunedin Flat Names' social media accounts. Ali is pictured here with her main research tool - archival material at the Hocken Library.