

Bob Tulloch

Title of talk: Tauranga Five Decades of Change.

Description of talk:

When I came to live in Tauranga in 1974 the population was 38,000. Now it is approaching 170,000. I realised nobody had produced a book on Tauranga or the Bay of Plenty . I was encouraged by the famous photographer Brian Brake so apart from my regular work photographing weddings, families and commercial jobs I recorded events like surf lifesaving carnivals, Citrus festivals, major rugby matches, theatre productions, landscapes and aerial photographs.

Four books followed selling 11,000 copies.

Without realising it I was recording the City's history. Along the way there were opportunities to photograph special events like the opening of the first Harbour bridge and the anniversary of the Battle of Gate Pa. I felt it important to recognise the people who had been responsible for many of the major changes to Tauranga so these portraits also have become part of the City's history. Photography became my professional life but the early beginnings as a hobby have never left.

Biography

Aged 81 Bob grew up in the little Maori village of Ruatahuna then aged nine he moved to Christchurch with his widowed Mum and three sisters. Photography for Bob started as a hobby taking surfing photos. While on his OE an opportunity presented itself in Victoria Canada where he took over a fellow Kiwi's studio.

On returning home to NZ he made a choice to live in Tauranga to start up his own business. He was married to Lena for 44 years, has 5 children and 10 grandchildren. In 1975 he joined The NZ Professional Photography Association and was elected National President in 1986.

As a result of winning many national awards he was awarded Master of Photography, Fellowship of the NZIPP and Life Membership.

He served a Term as a City Councillor representing Mount Maunganui and Papamoa.

His business interests include founding Tulloch Photography, a professional photo lab, a retail photo shop and a photo gallery. His photography hobby has been photographing Bay of Plenty and All Blacks rugby matches.

