

O'Dwyer, 2020

Historian says removing Hamilton statue 'momentous'

Ellen O'Dwyer · 17:02, Jun 12 2020

CHRISTEL YARDLEY/STUFF

People gather to watch the statue of Captain Hamilton being removed from Civic Square.

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The Captain John Hamilton statue was taken down by Hamilton City Council on Friday after kaumātua Taitimu Maipi told *Stuff* he would remove it during a protest march on Saturday.

O'Malley, an expert in the New Zealand Wars, said debate had raged for some time about the fate of the Captain Hamilton statue.

"It is significant, it's encouraging that Hamilton City Council acted speedily on the requests of Waikato-Tainui to address their concerns around the statue," he said.

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O'Malley said the Captain Hamilton statue was an interesting case because it was relatively recent, but it pointed to



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But O'Malley said the removal pointed to a wider trend where the country was facing up to its past.

Discussing historical symbols - including statues, street names and place names - was important, even if uncomfortable.

In general, colonial statues told people very little about history, O'Malley said.

SUPPLIED

Historian Vincent O'Malley said the removal of the Captain Hamilton statue was "momentous".

"A lot of the older monuments that were erected around the New Zealand Wars failed to



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"I think it's useful to have a dialogue around what we do with these symbols from the past."

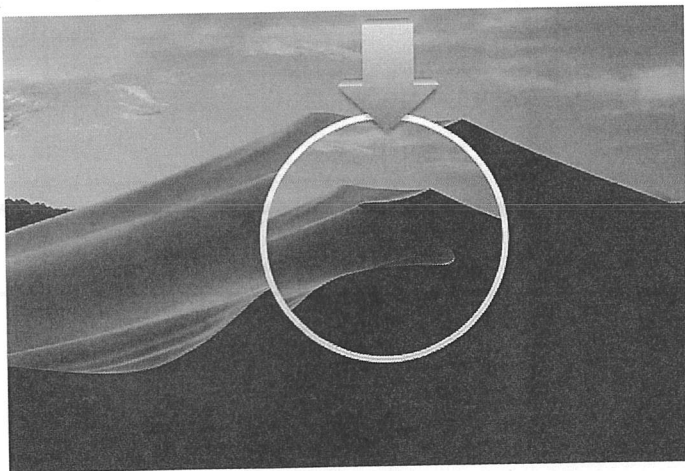
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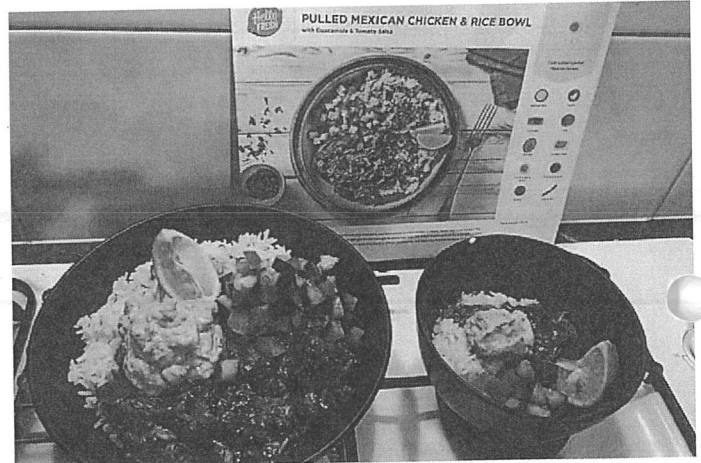
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