

# CANTERBURY HISTORY FOUNDATION

## Newsletter

August 2015

### Gardner Memorial Lecture

The 2015 Lecture was given by Dr Chris Jones, a medievalist in the University's History Department, on Sunday 26 July, to an audience of about 90 people. His topic was Magna Carta, which this year is having its 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

While John remains the 'bad' king of historical memory, Dr Jones was able to show that the original charter had little effect even in John's lifetime. Magna Carta was revived and modified by his successors as they struggled to maintain a working relationship with their barons. Magna Carta's modern history as a charter of English liberties dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The University of Canterbury Library happens to possess New Zealand's oldest printed copy of the charter dated 1531.

Chris Jones' lecture will be made available to members on application to the Secretary. Further information to follow.



L to R: Dr John Wood, Mrs Kate Foster, Professor John Cookson, Dr Chris Jones

### Rhodes Medallist

The A.C. Rhodes History Medal for 2015 has been awarded to Mrs Kate Foster. The Medal recognises those who have made an outstanding contribution to History in the wider community.

Kate Foster is a direct descendant of Sir John Hall, an early Canterbury runholder and prominent colonial politician. She continues to live at Terrace Station, Hororata, the original family property.

The site includes the old homestead with farm buildings, and a planned Victorian garden. A place of high historical value, Kate has been its most important guardian over many years.

She has also been very effective in engaging public interest in the history of Terrace Station and its settler family. She has been an excellent guide at the regular open days. Researchers have been made welcome to consult records and artefacts held in the homestead.

With Jean Garner, Kate produced *Letters to Grace* (2011), a vivid portrayal of domestic life in early Canterbury based on the retrieval of letters written by women of the Hall family to relatives in England.

### Diary Note

The AGM of the Foundation is to be held on Monday, 14 September at 5.30 pm.

Further information, together with reports, will be circulated before the meeting.

### New Zealand Historical Association

The Association is holding its biennial conference in Christchurch, 2-4 Dec. The Foundation has offered a grant of \$5,000 towards costs, which will make it a principal sponsor.

Further information from [nzha.org.nz](http://nzha.org.nz). Non-members can 'drop in'.

### **Member's Book**

Bruce Alexander, with Larry Wordsworth, has published *One Hundred Fathoms Square*, an account of their part in the cadastral survey of Tonga in the 1950s. At the time chains and links were the standard units of measurement.

Available for \$35 + \$5 postage within NZ from [bnalexander@paradise.net.nz](mailto:bnalexander@paradise.net.nz)

### **Memorial Seats**

The Foundation has provided plaques for two seats placed on the east side of the History (now Karl Popper) Building on the University campus. The 'In Memoriam' inscriptions read:

WILLIAM JAMES ('Jim') GARDNER  
1915-2012

Notable New Zealand Historian  
UC History Department 1948-76  
Reader in History 1968-76  
ONZM 2007

NEVILLE C. PHILLIPS  
1916-2001

UC History Department 1946-66  
Professor of History 1949-66  
Vice-Chancellor & Rector 1966-77  
Professor Emeritus

A brief unveiling ceremony was held on 13 July, attended by several Life Members. Helen Gardner represented her family, and a message was read from Jock Phillips.

### **Travelling Exhibition**

Canterbury Museum has organised a 'Canterbury and the First World War' exhibition which over the next two years will travel to libraries in the Selwyn, Hurunui and Waimakariri districts.

The exhibition is presently at the Leeston Library, 19 Messines St, Leeston until 27 Oct.

On display are photographs, letters and military items belonging to two soldiers, Arthur Elderton from Amberley and Charles Ivory from Oxford. Audio entries

from the diary of a 16 year-old Cashmere schoolgirl, Alison MacGibbon (née McLeod) tell of life during the last months of the war and the spread of influenza through Christchurch. There are also items from the Museum's Sir Heaton Rhodes collection.

### **Latest Grants**

Helen Thomas (\$2,000) – to assist publication of a biography of Henry and Jane Holland. They were the parents of Prime Minister Sid Holland. Henry was a prominent Christchurch businessman, mayor and MP. Jane was involved in many community organisations.

Hilary Low (\$2,000) – towards publication of a new edition of William Smart, *The Westland Goldfields* (1890) based on Smart's diaries.

Christchurch Antique Bottle & Collectables Club (\$1,000) – for an update of its 1990 book which has been much sought after as a record of many, long-forgotten Christchurch small businesses.

Philippa Graham and John Wilson (\$2,000) – towards publication of a book on South Island Maori rock drawings. Philippa was our 2005 Community Historian.

Cust Museum (\$300) – to cover costs incurred in undertaking oral history interviews of two World War II veterans who live locally.

Maree Shirota (\$500) – a grant out of the Friends and Graduates Fund to enable this student to attend a conference in Australia.

### **Shona Mann Bequest**

The Executive has decided that in memory of Shona her bequest should be used to support History in schools, and the History Teachers' Association has been invited to make a recommendation.

They have suggested that a fund be set up to assist teachers' professional development, principally by subsidising conference costs of those whose schools have limited funds. The criteria for grants have been approved by the History Department, the History Foundation and the History Teachers' Association.

