

*To encourage and support study, research, publication,  
and interest in history, particularly in Canterbury,  
and to promote awareness of the social value of history  
in our community.*

# Canterbury History Foundation

Newsletter  
May 2013

## E-mail Contact

In future we should like to use e-mail as much as possible in communicating with our members. This will include the Newsletter. The object, of course, is to save on postal costs. If e-mail contact is acceptable to you, please advise the Secretary at [geoff.rice@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:geoff.rice@canterbury.ac.nz).

Our **Website** at [www.chf.org.nz](http://www.chf.org.nz) has also been updated so that more information can be presented and easily found. We are grateful to George Moon for making the changes at a reasonable cost. George, a student, has a small business in web design called Kaka Creative and uses the proceeds to make donations to the Forest and Bird Protection Society.

## Executive Changes

Philippa Mein Smith has left Christchurch to take up an appointment at the University of Tasmania, Hobart.

Myra Kunowski has gone to live in retirement in Wellington.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of both to the Foundation.

Dr John Wood, Chancellor of the University of Canterbury and former NZ Ambassador to the US, and Dr Bernadette Devonport, former principal of Marian College, have been co-opted on to the Executive.

## Did You Know?

When the government in 1920 began to plan 'main' or state highways in response to the growth of motor traffic, it envisaged a *concrete* road running from Kaitaia to Bluff.

## The AGM

This will be held on Monday, 17 June at the newly restored Ilam Homestead. Drinks may be bought at the bar from 5 pm and we commence the business of the evening at 5.30. Nibbles will be provided. At the conclusion of the meeting, two thesis students in History, Greg Hynes and Anna Jensen, will talk about their research. Greg is working on propaganda in World War I, and Anna on attitudes to gender in late 19<sup>th</sup> century New Zealand. These presentations are an opportunity to introduce members to our Student Researchers in History Appeal Fund that the Foundation is about to commence in association with the History Department and the University's External Relations Office.

## Diary Note

The annual Jim Gardner Lecture will be given on Sunday afternoon, 21 July at Villa Maria College. This year's topic is an historical reflection on New Zealand society in comparison with the United States. Associate-Prof. Peter Field is the Lecturer.

The Rhodes Medal, recognising services to History in the community, will also be presented.

More information will follow.

## A New Enterprise

Frieda Looser has presented a wide range of UC Continuing Education courses on European and Canterbury history, and led study tours to Britain, over the past sixteen years.

In 2013, Frieda has established her own business, and as Frieda Looser History Ltd

is leading a history study tour to Western Scotland in September 2013. She is also offering evening courses and occasional Sunday afternoon sessions at Ilam throughout the academic year.

To be added to the mailing list for upcoming course information, please email [frieda.looser@gmail.com](mailto:frieda.looser@gmail.com) or leave a message on Ph. 323 7165.

### **Memoir of Jim Gardner**

Geoffrey Rice has prepared an excellent account of Jim's accomplishments as an historian, drawing on information from family and colleagues. The booklet is free and available to members of the Foundation and anyone else interested.

Kindly send \$2.40 in stamps to cover mailing costs and a return address to the Secretary. The address is P.O. Box 29 070, Christchurch.

### **Diversification at Wigram**

A Canterbury Cultural Collections Recovery Centre has been opened in a new building extension at the Air Force Museum. An additional 6400 square metres has been made available. It is a most welcome facility in view of the displacement of so many heritage collections as a result of the earthquakes. Part of the building can be used for such events as conventions and exhibitions. But the Centre also offers valuable storage for archives and artefacts and workspace for their repair and conservation where necessary.

Funding was provided by the Air Force Museum Trust Board, the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, the Earthquake Appeal Trust, Lotteries Grants Board and other donors.

### **Christchurch Uncovered**

Members will be aware that the demolition of so many buildings in the city has given archaeologists rich opportunities to find out what evidence of Christchurch's past lies underground. An enormous amount of work has been carried out on sites

occupied by Maori, churches, factories, shops and private dwellings. Much has also been learnt about the original infrastructure of the city. Many treasures have been discovered, which surely deserve to be exhibited as soon as conservation work has been completed.

In the meantime the archaeologists are using a blog to publicise their activities and announce their finds to the wider public.

Go to <http://blo.underoverarch.co.nz>. Tell others about this fascinating project, which is one of the positives coming out of the earthquake experience.

### **Oral History Project**

The Ministry of Culture and Heritage has been collecting the reminiscences of long-time (aged in their 80s and 90s) Christchurch residents. The project carries the title 'Remembering Christchurch', and is led by the oral historian, Alison Parr. The idea is to recover full-life histories, from childhood to the present. The earthquake experience is included but is only part of the material gathered.

### **Fairfax Photo Archive**

Members may recall reports that Fairfax was in talks with the Ministry of Culture and Heritage over the removal of its photograph archive (5 to 8 million items) to the United States for digitisation. Under Protected Objects legislation, the export required the Ministry's permission.

The Foundation's executive approved a letter to the Minister opposing expatriation of the collection for several important reasons. These included the possible sale of part of it on the international market, the importance of maintaining free or modestly priced access to the material, and the local value of most of the images.

In the event, the sending of the letter was overtaken a day later by word that the company had reached an agreement with MCH. The arrangement is that the Minister reserves a power of veto over the sale of originals that come within the Act.