

CANTERBURY HISTORY FOUNDATION

Newsletter
October 2014

The AGM

As advertised, this was held on 15 September at the University Staff Club, Ilam Homestead. John Cookson, Vice-President, presided as chair of the Executive.

The meeting approved an important change to the constitution which permits the Foundation to avoid the cost of a full audit every year. Instead this will take place every third year, with a Review by a qualified accountant in the intervening years. The Charities Commission has set Reviews as an alternative to audits which bear heavily on small charities like the Foundation.

We were grateful for the generous discount on the audit fee that Ainger Tomlin allowed us in the current year.

Two recent Gardner Lectures have not appeared in print. In answer to a question, it was explained that this depends on the Lecturer's willingness to provide a copy of the text. In response to a suggestion that their Powerpoint presentations might be added to the website, it was pointed out that there could be difficulties in getting publication of some images.

The retiring members of the Executive – John Cookson, Chris Jones, Frieda Looser, Sarah Murray and Jean Sharfe – were all re-elected.

Shona Mann Bequest

A very generous \$10,000 has been received out of the settlement of Shona's estate.

Many will remember Shona as a well-regarded high school History teacher in Christchurch, active as an officeholder in the Historical Association and a longtime supporter of the Foundation.

Community Historian

Kim Newth, a freelance journalist who lives in Rangiora, has been appointed Community Historian for 2014. She writes regularly for the *Avenues* magazine.

After gaining a first-class degree at Waikato, Kim completed the Diploma of Journalism course at Canterbury and was awarded the Robert Bell Scholarship for the most promising student. She has since been a finalist in the Qantas Media Awards.

Kim's project is to interview a number of surviving World War Two veterans who live in the Canterbury area. The aim is to collect information relating not only to their combat experiences but also to document, as Les Cleveland for one preferred, the 'popular culture of military life' – for example, how Kiwi servicemen related to each other, to their officers, to civilians they encountered.

The material collected will be made available to future historians by deposit in a local public archive.

Kim was inspired to take on this topic by the project undertaken by the Institute of Professional Photographers. The idea is to write up brief biographies from the recorded interviews which will complement the portraits of veterans that the photographers have been producing.

It is hoped that a small travelling exhibition will result from this work, a very satisfactory form of publication.

The RSA, together with the IPP, have given their full support to Kim.

John Ritchie

Prof. Ritchie who died on 29 September was an original member of the Foundation. His compositions reflected his affection for Christchurch as a distinctive place.

Student Historians

Three History thesis students who received assistance from the Foundation spoke about their research at the AGM.

Maree Shirota presented two papers at conferences in the UK in July. Her work analyses the Canterbury Roll (previously known as the Maude Roll), a large 15th century manuscript held by the Canterbury University Library since 1918. Copious marginal notes on the manuscript open windows into the unstable political situation in England at the time of the Wars of the Roses.

Kimberley Hayes worked in Wellington on primary sources for her thesis on Sandra Coney, a prominent voice in New Zealand's second wave feminist movement. Coney has deposited voluminous files of correspondence, conference speeches, research notes for her many books, and a wide variety of ephemera such as pamphlets and posters not readily available elsewhere.

Troy Gillan was given a travel grant to attend a conference in Brisbane in July. His thesis looks at post-Second World War reconstruction in Germany and Japan, with special reference to the Nuremberg and Tokyo war-crimes trials. The American-led reform initiative to demilitarise and democratise Germany and Japan had the aim of creating peaceful democratic states that would no longer pose a threat to their neighbours. This initiative was built on a particular conception of the two pre-war regimes as criminal regimes which had victimised their own people as well as the countries they had occupied.

Troy's thesis is based partly on the Northcliffe Papers held at Canterbury, gifted by Mr Justice Northcliffe who acted as a judge on the Tokyo tribunal. The papers form the most complete surviving set of archives from the international judges involved.

Together, the three presentations indicated the important work being done at the MA level now that funding of PhDs in History is generally quite inadequate. For this reason the Foundation means to make its appeal to alumni and others for funds an ongoing project.

'My Anzac Day'

An international project, including Turkish researchers, has been started to explore the meaning and history of Anzac Day commemorations around the world. Its timing is explained by the approaching centenary of the Gallipoli landings.

People are being invited to answer a questionnaire on their observance of Anzac Day over the years and their interest in it as a public event. Go to <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/anzac-remembered>

The Australian War Memorial (Canberra), the Historial on the Somme and several other archives have expressed interest in receiving the questionnaires for deposit.

'Simply, the purpose of the study is to find out what these ceremonies mean to the people attending. My Anzac Day invites you to add your voice to History'.

Papers Past

This well-known and well-used resource developed by the National Library continues to add new material (*The Press* is a fairly recent addition), though it is not as generously funded by the Library or government as it once was.

The project is these days called the Collaborative Newspaper Digitisation Programme to make the point that much depends on the assistance and funding outside bodies can provide.

The Programme requires those wishing to get a newspaper title into the Papers Past website to meet half of the digitisation costs. Each page costs around 80 cents to digitise but partners have to put up a minimum run of one year. 'An issue of a four-page newspaper could be digitised for the price of a cheese scone!' says the manager of the Programme.

Further enquiries can be addressed to greig.roulston@dia.govt.nz 04 4623919.

Art and Place

The Christchurch Art Gallery's collection can be searched online by map. Click the map and paintings depicting, say Akaroa or Lyttelton, will appear. The gallery wonders whether this is a world first.