



CANTERBURY HISTORY  
FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER  
November 2023

Dear Members

We trust that this newsletter finds you well. We wish to thank all those members who have paid their subscriptions and arrears, as this income enables us to support more worthy projects in our region. For those as yet unpaid, we are still happy to receive your bank transfer.

Since the AGM in September there have been some changes to the Executive Committee. We have said farewell to Paul O'Connor, our retiring Chair, who is taking on additional duties at the Air Force Museum connected with the arrival of the Orion aircraft. His role as Chair has been taken up by Jean Sharfe, one of our longest-serving Executive members, and organiser of the afternoon tea at the Gardner lectures. We also welcome two new members to the Executive: Emily Rosevear, who works at the Teece Museum of Classical Antiquities at the Arts Centre, and Craig Thornhill, who is head of History at Christchurch Girls' High School and currently President/Kaiārahi of the NZ History Teachers' Association.

The University of Canterbury is now in the midst of its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Associate Professor Chris Jones has given a public lecture about the fifteenth century genealogy now known as the Canterbury Roll, together with Madi Williams, a Canterbury History graduate, who has

drawn comparisons between the roll and Māori whakapapa.

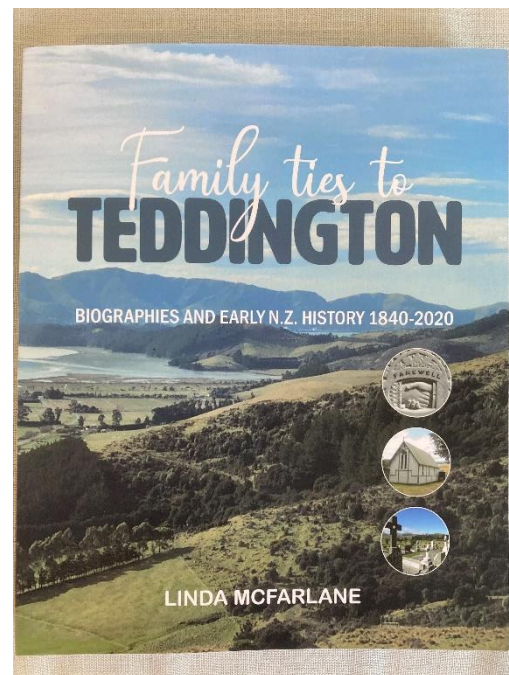
Foundation member Dr John Wilson has written *A New History: the University of Canterbury, 1873-2023*, which is to be launched in December. He and Chris Jones appeared in a panel discussion about the new book at The Piano on 25 August with Vice-Chancellor Professor Cheryl de la Rey.

Also appearing on this panel was Margaret Lovell-Smith, whose book *I Don't Believe in Murder: Standing Up for Peace in World War I Canterbury* was launched on 31 August at the University Book Shop. This publication was assisted by a grant from the Foundation.

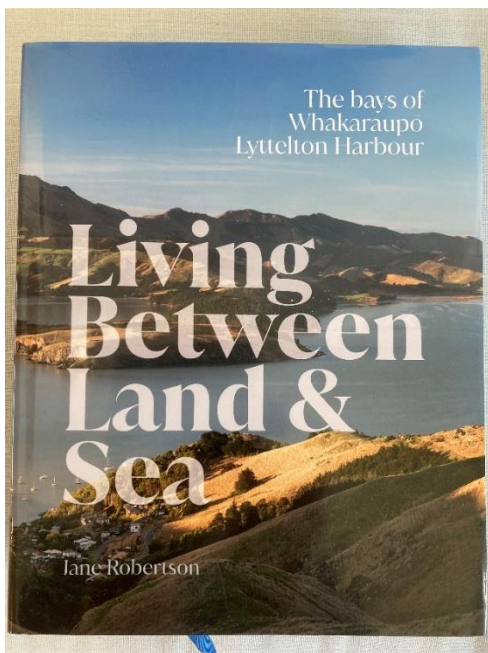
Two more recent publications were also assisted by grants from the Foundation.

Linda Macfarlane's book *Family Ties to Teddington* meticulously reconstructs the lives of 118 local people buried in the graveyard of St Peter's, Teddington, including members of the pioneering Gebbie and Manson families. This was a limited edition but some copies may still be available from:

[familytiestoTeddington23@gmail.com](mailto:familytiestoTeddington23@gmail.com)



Jane Robertson's previous book *Head of the Harbour* was also in part about Teddington, so this corner of Canterbury has now been well-covered. That book was supported by the Foundation, and so has her latest, *Living Between Land and Sea: the Bays of Whakaraupo/Lyttelton Harbour*. This was launched at Governors Bay on 9 October. Proceeds from the launch were dedicated to the restoration of the Governors Bay jetty, recently reopened to the public. Jane was previously lecturer in History at the Teachers' College.



One of our oldest members, former opera-singer Edmund Bohan, has published a further addition to his acclaimed Inspector O'Rorke series of historical novels set in nineteenth-century Christchurch. *Turn On, Old Time* is, however, set mostly in the Balkans and England, and ties together many loose threads from the previous books in the series. The character of Colonel Jamieson is loosely based on the real-life Canterbury landowner Colonel James de Renzi Brett, who really did command an irregular regiment of Bashi-Bazouks. Brett established the township of Kirwee and pioneered the irrigation of the Canterbury Plains. Published by Quentin

Wilson, this book is available from the University Bookshop, as are the others mentioned above.

#### NZHA CONFERENCE

The Foundation has made a grant of \$5,000 to the NZ Historical Association to support its national conference being held at the University of Canterbury 21-24 November. Professor James Belich, now based at Oxford University, will deliver the main keynote address. Foundation members wishing to attend this lecture and any part of the programme should contact the Head of History, Associate Professor Lyndon Fraser:

[lyndon.fraser@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:lyndon.fraser@canterbury.ac.nz)

#### HISTORY AWARDS CEREMONY

This year's History Awards Ceremony, funded by the generosity of the late Gerald Hunt, will be held in the John Britten centre of the university on Creyke Road on Tuesday 5 December. Foundation members are warmly invited to attend and congratulate the high-achievers of this year's History students.

By now all members ought to have received an invitation from the university. For catering purposes, please RSVP if you intend to come.

And so we come towards the end of another year of activity. It has been pleasing to see books appear that we have supported with grants. We have not made any travel grants this year, as the Honours class is very small and no applications have been received. The Canterbury Community Historian award remains suspended for lack of funds. But the Foundation is in good heart, and in good hands. The Executive Committee wishes all members and their families a merry festive season and a happy New Year.