

Newsletter May 2018

2018 Gardner Memorial Lecture

This annual event, together with the presentation of the Rhodes History Medal, will take place on Sunday 22 July at 2pm in the Central Lecture block of the University of Canterbury

Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Rice will speak on the 1918 flu pandemic. He is an international authority on the subject, having given papers recently at conferences in Madrid, Singapore and Melbourne. He will address the question: 'Why did Wellington suffer nearly double the death rate of Christchurch in the 1918 influenza pandemic?'

Michael Hanrahan of Ashburton is this year's recipient of the Rhodes Medal. He has been a key promoter of History and Heritage in the town. Members will be given further details nearer the time.

City Council's 150 Years (1868-2018)

The Christchurch City Council assumed full municipal powers in June 1868 under the Municipal Corporations Act of 1867. Previously Christchurch had been governed since 1862 by a town board subordinate to the Provincial Government. The Foundation thought the sesqui-centenary of the event was worthy of commemoration and its proposal of a series of lectures has been taken up by the City Council.

The programme of four lectures will run on Fridays, 15 June to 6 July. John Cookson will speak on the 'Era of local self-government to c. 1940', Geoffrey Rice on the 'Quiet revolution' achieved in public health, 1870-1910, Lyndon Fraser on migrant communities in the city and Te Maire Tau on Ngai Tahu in the city.

The lectures will take place in the First Floor Function Room of the Council Building at 12 noon.

The Foundation has also prepared a slide show of historical photographs, mostly drawn from the Council Archives, to run in the foyer of the Council Building during the three weeks.

History of Addington

John Wilson has added to Christchurch's rich stock of suburban histories with his *Local Lives: A History of Addington*. This substantial book (320pp.) covers the whole period of Addington's existence from its origins as a working-class community to the trauma of the recent earthquakes. Lavishly illustrated, many of the maps and photographs are published for the first time. The book is published by the Addington Neighbourhood Association from whom copies can be obtained at the pre-publication price of \$40 until 25 June.

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John Wilson commenced this work as one of our Canterbury Community Historians. The Foundation has also assisted publication with a grant.

Conference: Reflections on the Commemoration of World War One

The Foundation is a major sponsor of this international conference which will be held in Christchurch on 22-23 November. The venue will be the new City Library Building, Tūranga, in Cathedral Square.

The programme comprises over 30 presentations covering a wide range of subjects, including 'The Forgotten Lives of the Women of the Indian Troops', 'Trench Art from the Western Front', 'The Canterbury Labour Movement and the First World War', 'Soldiers' Culture in the Aftermath of the War', 'Reflections on Ideas of the Enemy in Australia'.

Scholars are coming from Europe and North America as well as Australia and New Zealand. The idea behind the Conference is to take stock of how the centenary of World War One was commemorated around the world and the impact of the war on social memories and societies over the hundred years.

Other Foundation Grants

The first grant has been made from the Shona Mann Bequest which is dedicated to assisting History teachers with their professional development. In this case the money was put towards the expenses of a teachers' field trip to Banks Peninsula organised by the Canterbury History Teachers' Association. The history of the Peninsula serves as a valuable classroom topic.

Another grant was given to Philippa Graham to assist the publication of her book on Canterbury Maori rock drawings. This book is now with the printers. Philippa commenced the work as a Community Historian some years ago.

Ashburton Field Trip

This took place on 18 March. As usual, people were ably marshalled by Frieda Looser who has become indispensable on these occasions. Our sincere thanks to her for the enjoyment they provide.

Frieda reports that the weather was perfect, especially for the spectacular views of the Rakaia Gorge and mountains. The journey halted at the picturesque village site of Barrhill, no sooner founded by the runholder in the 1870s than bypassed by the railway. Its few remaining buildings are the Anglican Church, schoolroom and library, not to mention the splendid tree avenue leading to the village green.

The visit to Ashburton began at the new Museum which sets very high standards with respect to its public displays and archives room. It is also the product of strong collaboration between the council and local historical society. Then it was on to the Plains Railway Museum, the highlight of which was a ride behind the historic K88 steam locomotive.

'The consensus was unanimous that our only regret was for those who missed this outstanding heritage treat'.

Heritage Workshop

Last year the City Council conducted an on-line survey of public interest in heritage issues and concerns. The results were reported in the last Newsletter.

The ultimate aim of the discussion is to formulate a Heritage strategy, and the next step is an all-day workshop at Ferrymead on 23 May. All respondents to the earlier survey have been invited to attend. The Foundation means to send a representative who will undoubtedly emphasise that Heritage requires a strong underlay of historical work.

James Cook Fellowship

Prof. Katie Pickles of the Canterbury History Department has been awarded a prestigious Royal Society James Cook Fellowship. The title of her project is 'The Heroine with a Thousand Faces'. Her object is to take a number of 'exceptional individuals' with a view to exploring women's changing roles and status over the past 200 years with particular emphasis on New Zealand. Katie points out that in this country the heroic 'man alone' and the ANZAC soldier remain as entrenched national stereotypes.

Fresh Look at the Provincial System

Anyone who did New Zealand History at university will remember W.P. Morrell's *Provincial System in New Zealand* (1932, reprinted in 1964). Historians have neglected the politics of the colonial society for many years, so it is good to have another comprehensive treatment of Morrell's subject.

The new book is by a young scholar, André Brett and is entitled *Acknowledge No Frontier: The Creation and Demise of New Zealand's Provinces, 1853-76* (Otago U.P., 2016). Brett lists about 450 items in his bibliography, indicating well how within a lifetime there has been a huge expansion of available sources and writing on New Zealand History.

