

## CANTERBURY HISTORY FOUNDATION

Newsletter  
May 2019

### **Mosque Shootings**

Your Executive held a minute's silence at the start of its April meeting as a mark of respect for the victims of the terrorist massacre in Christchurch on 15 March. The proposed bus trip to Tuahiwi marae that weekend was immediately cancelled. It is hoped that another date in September might be arranged.

### **Don Hamilton**

Also at its meeting on 15 April your Executive acknowledged the recent death of Don Hamilton, a long-time member and supporter of the Foundation. A History graduate from Canterbury and History master at Christ's College for many years, Don was highly-regarded in the wider circles of the profession.

Don was joint author with Rodney Wells of *The Buildings of Christ's College, 1850-1950* (1991) and published a monumentally detailed history of Christ's College in 1996.

### **Gardner Lecture**

This annual event, the Foundation's 'shop window', will be held at 2pm on 21 July. Professor Tony Ballantyne, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Humanities) at Otago University, will speak on Cook's encounter with Tairāwhiti (Poverty Bay) Maori in 1769, 250 years ago.

Tony's historical work has been important for giving Imperial History a 'cultural turn' away from political and economic explanations. In 2016 he received the NZ Historical Association's award for the best book on NZ History published in the previous three years. This was for his

study of missionary interaction with Maori which can be understood as laying the foundations of the relationship between Maori and Pakeha.

### **Memorial Plaques**

Members may recall that the Foundation a few years ago arranged for seating outside the University's Karl Popper (formerly History) Building to display the names of W.J. (Jim) Gardner and Neville Phillips, both distinguished members of the History Department over many years. Two brass plaques were duly installed, but since then the effects of weathering have rendered them barely legible.

Thanks to generous donations from members of the Executive Committee, they have now been replaced with more durable marine-grade stainless steel plaques.

### **History Award**

Each year the Ministry of Culture and Heritage invites applications from researchers for grants to assist them to meet expenses.

This year our Vice-President, John Cookson, was a recipient. John is engaged in writing a comprehensive history of local government, and intends to use the grant to search for local maps and historical photographs as illustrative material.

Local Government NZ also commissioned him to write an article for the journal, *Policy Quarterly*. The theme of the May issue is localism and John provides an historical perspective.

### **Community Historian**

The Executive has decided it had sufficient funds in hand to revive this appointment after the Rata Foundation withdrew its support two years ago.

The 2019 Community Historian is Dan Bartlett who is researching Canterbury World War I pacifists and conscientious objectors. He is collaborating with Margaret Lovell-Smith to produce a book on the subject.

## *Living Among the Northern Maori*

This newly published book is a complete edition of the journal kept by Father Antoine Garin, a Marist missionary priest who lived in the Kaipara area, 1844-6. Some years ago a French Ph.D. student prepared a French edition, and it has now been made available to English-language readers. Peter Tremewan, well-known for his work on French Akaroa, has completed the translation, together with Giselle Larcombe. Their book is an example of careful, thorough scholarship, so much so that it is hard to imagine that it will ever be made redundant. Along with records in France and New Zealand, the Marist Archives in the Vatican were fully consulted.

In comparison with Church of England and Wesleyan missionaries, little attention has been given to the Roman Catholic presence. The period covered by the journal was one in which full-scale war between Maori and the colonial government occurred for the first time. Northern Maori were also challenged to decide where they stood in the conflict.

Garin was a very thoughtful observer of Maori ways and world-view, more intelligent, we can say, than his Protestant colleagues who were more dogmatic and conversionist in their approach.

In supporting the journal's publication, the Foundation wished its national importance to be acknowledged. The presence of Ngapuhi kaumatua at the launch also attested to its importance for Maori. The Canterbury University Press as the publisher deserves commendation for producing such a valuable and well-presented work of scholarship.

### **Rapaki Church 1869-2019**

This month it is 150 years since a church was erected at the Rapaki marae on Lyttelton Harbour. Donald Couch, whose family has long associations with the runanga and who has been prominent in Ngai Tahu affairs, has written an interesting history of the origins of the Maori mission and subsequent developments.

Rapaki belongs to the very beginnings of Maori Christianity in the South Island. In 1839 Taawao arrived to hold the first service and he, with Hohepa Korehi, was active throughout the 1840s as a Wesleyan missionary over a wide area. In 1865 Rev. Te Koti Te Rato became resident minister at Rapaki and under his leadership the church was built.

Taawao may well have had Ngapuhi whakapapa. Te Koti certainly did, and his marriage to Erihapeti Mohiko from the local hapu (Ngati Wheke) set up linkages between Rapaki and northern Maori that only strengthened with further intermarriage as time went on.

Rapaki provides us with a good reminder of how much the introduction of Christianity owed to Maori initiative. These indigenous leaders played a key role in assimilating new religious ideas into traditional belief systems.

### **Gordon Coates and Ruatuna**

The Foundation's Executive has made a donation towards the conservation of Ruatuna, Coates's birthplace (1878) in Northland. Ruatuna is located on the Hukatere peninsula, jutting south into Kaipara Harbour. Matakoho remains the nearest settlement.

Heritage New Zealand manages the property and has launched the appeal for funds. It classifies the property as a Category 1 historic place, therefore one of national significance.

Coates, who succeeded Massey as Prime Minister 1925-8, had a lifetime connection with the district. Historians have probably underrated him as a public man. An arguable view is that his greatest contribution was as Minister of Works (1920-5) and Native Minister (1921-8). In the former portfolio he presided over the effective beginnings of a national roading network. In the latter he worked closely with Sir Apirana Ngata, building on the relationships with Maori he had developed as a young man on the Kaipara.

**20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration:** Members will have received notices of a social function on 23 May to mark the Foundation's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.