

Canterbury History Foundation



NEWSLETTER December 2022

Since the annual report which accompanied the notice for the AGM in September, we have a number of further developments to report to our members. First we should welcome our new President, elected at the AGM, when we also paid a warm tribute to Dr John Wood for his exemplary ten-year tenure of this office.



Elizabeth Chesterman (ONZM 2014) was educated at Westland High School in Hokitika and at the University of Canterbury, where she gained a BA degree, a Diploma in Social Work and a Diploma in Project Management. She was national director for Alzheimers NZ 2000-2002, before becoming chief executive of the Cancer Foundation for 20 years, retiring just recently. She was also chair of the Family Help Trust 2013-17, which she joined as a representative of Christchurch

Rotary. She took several History papers for her BA and has a deep love for the subject.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Professor W. David McIntyre (1932-2022) who died in Hutt Hospital on 11 September. He came to Canterbury from Nottingham in 1966 with degrees from Cambridge University, the London School of Economics and the University of Washington in Seattle. David was one of the world's leading authorities on the history of the Commonwealth, about which he published over 20 books. He attended many meetings of its heads of government, meeting HM the Queen on several occasions. He also made significant contributions to NZ History, most notably his superb two-volume edition of *The Journal of Henry Sewell* (1980). He served three successful terms as Head of History at Canterbury and was appointed OBE in 1992. Though he retired from the university in 1997, he continued to publish and to support the History Foundation and the Canterbury Historical Association. He was one of our first life members.

The Gardner Memorial Lecture for 2022 was delivered by Ron Crosby, a lawyer and member of the Waitangi Tribunal since 2011. His talk was about the Musket Wars in the South Island, and was based on his book *The Forgotten Wars* (2020). More than 80 people attended.

The Rhodes History Medal for 2022 was awarded to the prolific NZ historian and novelist Edmund Bohan (MNZM 2019), whose 1958 MA thesis was supervised by Jim Gardner. Ned's latest book, *Heart of the City: the Story of Christchurch's Controversial Cathedral*, was launched on 23 November.



Edmund Bohan

Once again, we wish to thank our principal donors Sally and Paul Rhodes for their continued generous support of the Rhodes Medal Prize and the Foundation itself.

Paul's concern about the erosion of the value of the prize from inflation has prompted the Executive Committee to approve an increase in the prize to \$1500.

It was also resolved that in future all recipients of the Rhodes Medal shall be awarded Honorary Life Membership.

Regrettably, owing to Covid and various other circumstances, this year's History Awards Ceremony, scheduled for early December, had to be cancelled. However, the students will still receive their certificates and prizes by post.

Our Treasurer, Jeff Field, reports that the Foundation is in a healthy financial condition, with good returns from our capital investment with Craigs Investment Partners. This has enabled the Foundation to make several grants in aid of publication this year, to Jane Robertson for her proposed history of Lyttelton harbour; to Margaret Lovell-Smith for her book on the

Canterbury peace movement during the First World War; and to Linda McFarlane for her proposed book on the families buried at St Peter's, Teddington.

Our Secretary, Geoff Rice, led four walking tours of Victoria Square during Heritage Week in October. These were well-attended, with people turning up who hadn't booked, and he sold several copies of his book, *Victoria Square: Cradle of Christchurch* (2014).

More recently Geoff has donated a set of all 20 of his books on Christchurch and New Zealand History to his old school, formerly Linwood High School, recently rebuilt and renamed Te Aratai College in Aldwins Road. He was Head Boy at Linwood in 1964.

Geoff's most recent book, *Frankish: the Rise and Fall of a Prominent Christchurch Physician: the Life of John David Frankish MD (1842-1913)* was published in December.

Implementation of the government's policy to make History a compulsory subject in New Zealand Schools has been delayed by the Covid pandemic's resurgence, but the Foundation remains committed to assisting teachers wherever possible with resources and training. The Shona Mann Bequest is dedicated to assisting History teachers.

Your continued support for the Foundation is greatly appreciated. Donations are tax-deductible and are always welcome!

The President and Executive Committee of the Foundation extend to all members their most cordial best wishes for the festive season and the coming year.

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