



Bulletin

New Zealand Founders Society



Richmond Cottage - New Plymouth

**Number 78 - Report for Year
2006**

Acknowledgements

The Society's grateful thanks is extended to all our members from various branches who so willingly provided material and photographs for this 2006 Bulletin. A special mention is made of the work done by the National Secretary, Janet Robinson and the editorial team of Barbara & Glen Robertson.
Thank you all.

NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY INC

CONTENTS

Founders Society Officers	...	...	2
Branch Secretaries	...	...	2
Annual Report	...	...	3
Membership numbers	...	...	6
New members	...	...	8
Around the branches	...	...	11
NZ Federation of Historical Societies	...	...	30
Financial Statements	...	...	32
Tribute to Murray Moorehead	...	...	40
Tribute to Hector Tankersley	...	...	41
The story of Chew Chong...	...	...	42
Wairarapa Community Cooks...	...	...	49
Taranaki Founders donation...	...	...	49
Athenree & the Stewarts...	...	...	52
William Wakefield Memorial...	...	...	59
An old colonist (Mary Martin)	...	...	60



NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY INC
NATIONAL COUNCIL
(AS FROM JUNE 2006)

National President

Mrs N. Beres

National Deputy President

Mr M. Watson

National Immediate Past President

Mr W.N. Sheat

National Councillors

Mr R. & Mrs C. Hurst (National Executive)

Mr G. and Mrs B. Robertson (National Executive)

Mrs T Still (Bay of Plenty)

Mr J P Webster (Auckland)

Mr J McSweeney (Canterbury)

Mr Mel Harper (Taranaki)

Mrs K Hodson (Waikato)

Mr M. Watson (Wairarapa)

Mrs N Roberts (Hawkes Bay)

Mr M Norris (Wanganui)

Mrs N Beres (Wellington)

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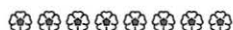
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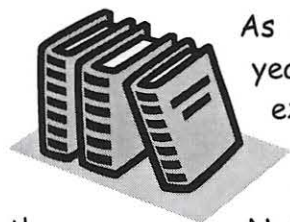
National Office : Open Monday & Tuesday 9.30-2.30 and
Thursday 9.30-3.30



THE SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF
NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY
PRESENTED BY
THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

The past year has been one of steady consolidation for the Society. We were relieved to be told that we do not have to vacate our premises when our present lease expires in June. Our rooms are comfortable, central and having one of them leased makes them more affordable, so we are pleased that we are ensconced there for another year at least.

June is Heritage Month for the Wellington Region and as a Heritage Society we belong to the Greater Wellington Regional Heritage Promotion Council and participate in Heritage Month activities. Last year the theme was "Love" and we attended the Heritage Month Opening at the National Film Archives mediaplex. This year the theme is "Music" and the Upper Hutt City Council is hosting the opening at their new Expressions of Art and Culture Centre. This theme has proved very popular and there is a multitude of exhibitions, events and happenings throughout the month. Founders' contribution includes a display on the mezzanine floor of the Central Library from June 25-29, and the opening of our rooms to the public each Tuesday from 10.00 am-12.00 noon with the offer of tea and coffee to anyone wanting access our library with its wealth of genealogical and historical material.



the
Wellington.

As a result of comments expressed at last year's National Council we have had the library expertly valued. The value is conservatively estimated at \$36,500.00. The library and our rooms will, of course, be open during the National Council's representatives' visit to

We now have our domain name and email facility with a website being developed which we hope will bring our Society much more in focus allowing our library and shipping lists to be more utilised and our Society more widely known.

Adhering to our former decision we have not awarded a Research Grant this year. Last year we gave the Award to Ian

Dougherty of Dunedin whose work on The Vauxhall Gardens, Dunedin is soon to be published.

In November 2005 we learned that the Wellington City Council was planning to restore the William Wakefield Memorial beside the Basin Reserve, prompted largely by a letter from the Founders' Wellington Branch deploring the dilapidated state the memorial was in.

Submissions were called for and both the Executive and Wellington Branch responded, opting for the placement in a more frequented public area such as the Bolton Street Memorial Gardens or the Botanical Gardens. However, the Council has opted to place the Memorial in its original position, inside the Basin Reserve, on top of the mound. In a letter to us the Council writes,

"We will be replacing the existing wooden gates at the bottom of the egress steps with new metal gates which will allow better viewing of the memorial. We will also be putting in appropriate interpretation panels beside the memorial as well as beside the gates to explain the history behind William Wakefield and his memorial."

The restoration and replacement of the memorial is expected to be completed by the end of July.



Only one application for our Research Award was received in 2005 and no award was made. The committee feels that the award needs to be advertised to a target audience, and the Ministry of Culture and Heritage has agreed

to add our Research Award to its award listing which will give it a wider and more appropriate audience.

As ever, the Branches are the backbone of the Society, and we hope by continuing publicity, the increasing importance of our website and active canvassing by existing Founders, that we can attract more members, particularly from our own families, and keep the profile of our Society high.

It is encouraging to note that the heritage movement has gained momentum and increased status, resulting in a greater appreciation of what our ancestors established and a determination to retain what they valued.

Finally we remember those of us who have passed away or who have resigned because of age or ill-health. It is with regret that we note in particular the sudden passing of Murray Moorehead on 7 November 2005. Murray had been secretary to the Taranaki Branch since 1993. Sadly our National Secretary, Janet Robinson, suffered the sudden passing of her husband, John, in March 2006. Our sincere sympathy goes to Janet and both families.

We have a very competent National Executive Committee, and together with Janet's knowledge, we will ensure that Founders continues to thrive and stay in good heart.

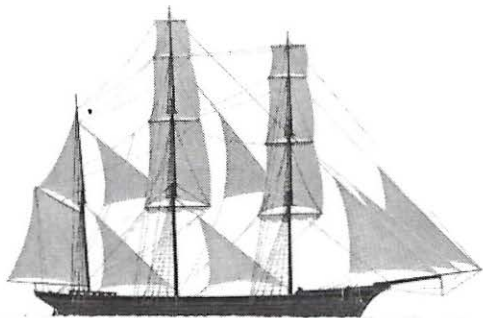
CURRENT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Honorary	286	293	278	291
Life	50	44	42	39
Senior	693	609	583	549
Junior	6	6	3	3

Associate	71	60	59	55
Hon for service	21	22	20	18
Total	1171	1127	985	955

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Auckland	74	63	50	54
Bay of Plenty	147	140	139	130
Canterbury	52	53	53	51
Hawkes Bay	172	162	165	165
Poverty Bay	28	-	-	-
Taranaki	60	64	65	61
Waikato	90	82	85	73
Wairarapa	144	126	120	122
Wanganui	143	146	120	122
Wellington	217	198	195	177
Total	1171	1127	1127	955

Neni Beres
National President



**FOUNDERS SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS IN
THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS**

Name	Area	Ship	Date	Ancestor
Auckland				
Miss K.L. Brewer	Kororaraka	Duke of Marlborough	1840	William & Mary HODGSON
	Auckland	Ganges	1863	Robert & Jane HOWIE
WAIKATO				
Mr I. White	Wellington	London	1842	Charles & Mary DIXON
	Wellington	Clifton	1842	Henry Charles & Eliza WITT
Mr E.R. Warner	Wgtn/Nelson	Whitby	1841	Richard BURNETT
	Nelson	Lloyds	1842	Sarah BURNETT
Mrs M.E. Mahon	Lyttelton	Randolph	1850	John PHILPOTT
Mr F.W. Munden	Bay of Islands	?	1837	Samuel Henry COATES
	Port Nicholson	London	1840	Samuel GIDDINGS
	Nelson	Skiold	1844	Heinz Heinrich & Dorothea BUSCH
	Invercargill	Mayflower	1863	John James*
BAY OF PLENTY				
Mrs J. Woods	Dunedin	Philip Laing	1848	Thomas BUCHANAN
Mr A.J. Muir	Auckland	Duchess of Argyle	1842	Alexander & Mary MUIR
Mrs S. Muir	Associate Member			
HAWKES BAY				
Mr A.C. Gooch	Nelson	Sir Charles Forbes	1842	Thomas MADDOCK
	Port Underwood	?	1836/7	Samuel CAVE
	Wellington	Wild Duck	1862	John GOOCH
Mrs R.A. Povey	Wellington	Duke of Roxburgh	1840	Mary Jane

	Wellington	Cuba	1840	HEBDEM George White BENNETT
Mrs R.L. Simmonds	?	?	1862	James & Mary KERR
Mr J.W. Tindall	Lyttelton	Mystery	1859	Frances WILSON
Mr R.H. Bell	Nelson	George Fyfe	1842	Henry REDWOOD
Dr IAG Abernethy	Lyttelton	Clontarf	1860	James & Maria ROUSE
	Lyttelton	Chariot of Fire	1863	Gilbert HUTCHESON
Mrs P.J. Abernethy	Wellington	Gleaner	1857	Finlay MORRISON
	Auckland	Sandford	1856	Jonathan HOLDEN
	Wellington	Alma	1857	Ann LEVER
Mr J.W. Timmer	Associate Member			
Mrs C. Tindall	Associate Member			
TARANAKI				
Mrs J.M. Mallon	New Plymouth Nelson	William Bryan	1841	James & Jane CLIMO
		Bolton	1842	Thomas BRIGHT
WANGANUI				
Mr B.F. Alexander	Lyttelton	Samarang	1852	Henry PIPER
	Lyttelton	Caroline Agnes	1855	Mary Donnet PIPER
	Lyttelton	Chrysolite	1861	Patrick & Anne O'REILLY
Mrs J. Bint	Wellington	Tory/Julia	1847	Sgt. James ATKINSON
Mrs O.M. Durrant	Wellington	Lord William Bentinck	1841	William & Mary CAINES
Mr N.G. Julian	New Plymouth	Blenheim	1842	Nicholas Henry JULIAN
WANGANUI				
Mr H.S.H. Norris	Port Chalmers	Cheviot	1862	Archibald & Annie MASON
	Port Chalmers	Chile	1862	Alexander & Elizabeth

	New	Pekin	1850	MONTGOMERY George CURTIS
	Plymouth			
Col. H.I. Jones	Nelson	George Canning	1860	Edward CARTHEW*
	Wanganui	?	1853	Henry Ireson JONES
Mrs M.E.E. Jones	Petone	Oriental	1840	Mary Ann GRIMM
	Auckland	Oriental Queen	1849	Edward & Catherine EARLE
WAIRARAPA				
Miss K.V. Woodley	Petone	Katherine Stewart Forbes	1841	Charles Joseph & Mary COTTLE
Ms S.M. Millar	Wellington	Hope	1843	Charles Robert BIDWILL
Mrs J.E. Parker	Wellington	Louis & Miriam	1848	Mrs Mary CHEW (nee WRIGLEY)
WELLINGTON				
Mrs H. Nottage	Lyttelton	William Miles	1864	Dugald & Margaret McLAREN
	Lyttelton	Gananoque	1860	Richard & James THOMPSON
Mr PCW Lightband	Nelson	Thomas Harrison	1842	George Wale LIGHTBAND
Mr R. Reddiex	Auckland	Glenclyne	1862	Edward & Janet POPE
	Wellington	Bengal Merchant	1840	William TANNAHILL
	Wellington	Bengal Merchant	1840	Elizabeth DUGALD
Mrs M.J. Watts	Wellington	Oliver Lang	1856	James William FOX
	Wellington	Jane	1841	John Octavius WESTERN
Mrs L. Hardy	Lyttelton	Randolph	1850	Lydia PHILPOTT
	Lyttelton	Randolph	1850	Martha BROWN
Mr B.B. Watts	Associate Member			



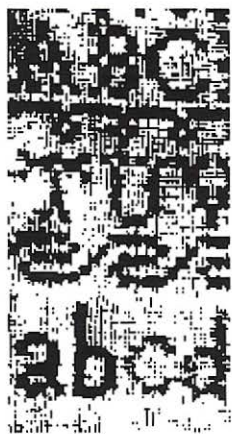


AROUND THE BRANCHES

AUCKLAND BRANCH

Since the last National Council meeting the Auckland Branch has continued its monthly meetings except for January and December. A small band of very loyal members attend each time and always offer their thanks for the efforts made to secure an interesting speaker, or give a theme to the luncheon when each member can have their say, or remember the old times. Our decision, a few years ago, to encourage members to speak has proved quite successful.

One highlight of the past year was the joint presentation, by two members, who had recently visited the Chatham Islands, illustrating their talk with postcards and souvenir book photo-graphs. As with some other talks we found the question time was longer than the actual talk because of the interest aroused.



Another most historically interesting highlight was the talk given by Vivien Caughley on her project *The New Zealand Sampler Survey*. Several members brought along samplers they

had which engendered interest from others and our speaker took the opportunity to examine and photograph them, with addresses exchanged for further contact. Everyone was impressed with Vivien's knowledge and enthusiasm for her task, which may result in a book. Already she has had articles published here and overseas. Americans are particularly intrigued and inquire about group tours to sampler collections in New Zealand.

Other talks have dealt with *What You Need on the Voyage* taken from old documents published for intending emigrants, both assisted or independent. Favourite recipes were again featured and our usual Summer Picnic on the lawn of our venue, Kinder House, made a good start to the year. The collected papers of an American serviceman who was in New Zealand during the Second World War were read and displayed by our secretary who had been sent them by distant relations.

With all these happy occasions it is sad to report the passing last year of our patron, Olive Platt, aged 102. In her memory we have proposed to compile another book of stories contributed by our members, and from those left over from our previous publication.

We look forward to more great lunch meetings. The next will be a theme of The Queen's Birthday when we ask members to bring along souvenirs relating to the Queen and reminiscence about the holiday weekends. This will be followed in July with a talk on Margaret Anne Sinclair, a New Zealand women writer of the 1900's who has been almost forgotten despite the fact that in her time she was regarded as one of the best.

We send all Branches our best wishes for now and the future.

WAIKATO BRANCH

My second year as Chairman of the Waikato Branch of the New Zealand Founders' Society has come to an end, very quickly it seems. The past year has flown by and we continued to enjoy our lively luncheon meetings held at the Te Rapa Racecourse in Hamilton.

In April 2005 we were greatly absorbed in, and inspired by, a talk given by Mr Wayne McDonald, a builder who has been a participant in the Phoenix Foundation Group giving relief support in Sri Lanka following the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004.

In June, various members spoke and displayed items from their favourite collections, and there was considerable discussion regarding having a display stand at the Waikato Winter Show. Thanks to the voluntary efforts of several members, we did mount a successful stand.

Our August meeting was a busy one with our members sharing their memories and memorabilia.

We were asked
June, for our
proposals to
Zealand flag.
was that it
changed.



by our secretary
opinions on public
change the New
The general consensus
should not be

The secretary of the group Habitat for Humanity was our guest speaker in October, giving us an insight into low-cost housing

projects organised for needy families. This talk came shortly before a house was to be constructed by women workers in Hamilton amid much publicity, and a time record of taking four days was broken by five hours!

In November we held our very happy Christmas luncheon with a great meal and with musical entertainment provided by Doug Bedgood and his chamber music trio and quartet - something different and much appreciated by those present.



Following our summer recess, we gathered again in February this year to share our holiday highlights - some were of travel, and nearly all were to do with family members - our families who are the life-blood of our connection to the Founders' Society.

On behalf of all the members, I offer our thanks to all those who work tirelessly to make our meetings run smoothly - and especially to our secretary, June, who keeps the wheels oiled, so to speak.

I am standing down as Chairman at this A.G.M. Thank you for the two happy years I have spent at the helm. I wish success to the new incoming Chairman and look forward to continuing to serve the Branch as National Delegate and committee member if the meeting so chooses.

Kaye Hodson Chairman

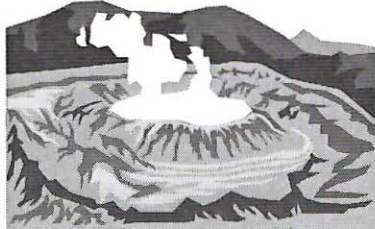
BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH

There were five luncheon meetings held during 2005; all well attended by members and with a very good variety of guest speakers.

The March Meeting and AGM was held in Te Puke. We were fortunate to have as our guest speaker Mr Graham Wells, Mayor for Western Districts, who addressed the meeting on the reason for Heritage Parks with major reference to the joint development at Papamoa.

The May meeting was celebrated with the 50th Anniversary of the Bay of Plenty Branch. This was held in Rotorua in recognition of where the Branch started. The record attendance of 100

members and catered for by the Hotel. The guest Prof. John McGraw descriptive



guests was well Park Heritage speaker was who gave a address on Eruption. We

The Great Taupo

were fortunate to have as guests the National President, Mrs Neni Beres, and members from Wairarapa Branch.

July's luncheon was a well-attended meeting in Kati Kati. This meeting was addressed by Stephen and Carol Graveson who spoke on Open Air Art and the history of the Kati Kati murals. In my absence, Vice-President, Thea Still, very ably conducted the meeting. I am very grateful and record and my thanks to Thea for taking my place at very short notice.

September saw us back in Te Puke, again with a good attendance. Our guest speaker was Mr Bill Bracks who was shortly to retire as Managing Director of *Comvita*. The interesting part about

this address was the large number of questions our members asked of Bill and his interesting answers.

Our final meeting and luncheon for 2005 was held in Tauranga with guest speaker, Mrs Shirley Skilling from the Historical Society, covering the life and work of Chew Chong, Taranaki. This was very well delivered and received with a wonderful insight to the early settlement of that area.

My grateful thanks to all members who have worked so hard during the year to make our Branch so successful. This includes our Area Representatives, Guest Speakers, Treasurer Sandy Garland, Secretary Audrey Henderson who still does all the work in an Honorary capacity with no remuneration, my Vice-Presidents Thea Still and Lew Bradly and a special thanks to all of our members who supported our meetings during the year.

TARANAKI BRANCH

Our year commenced on Sunday, 28 March 2005, with the annual commemorative luncheon. A large gathering attended and we were delighted to host our speaker, Peter Burke, ex All Black, Taranaki Rugby President New Zealand and Past-Rugby Union, who gave a most interesting address on his life as a high profile rugby player during the 1950's.



Following the luncheon, and together we several members of the general public, we attended a service at the Pioneer Memorial at Moturoa, where Father Simon Story presented an address remembering those who settled this area from 1841, and congratulating those who followed them in the development of a very vibrant Taranaki Province.

In June, Murray Moorhead, secretary and Trevor Bright, attended the National Council meeting in Wellington.

The Branch made a donation of \$2,160.00 to the Puke Ariki Museum to fund a display of photographs of the early settlers to New Plymouth which is housed in Richmond Cottage. *(see cover picture)*

On 15 November 2005, members were invited to assemble at Richmond Cottage to formally open the display of six volumes, each containing photos where available, and short biographies of settlers who arrived on the first six ships from Plymouth in 1841-42.



In October we met at Colin Johnson's private museum collection at Waitara to view a wonderful collection including model cars, numerous old gramophones and musical artefacts.

Our Christmas meeting held in November was well attended and greatly enjoyed. Our speaker, Auckland-based member Len Jury, gave an excellent presentation entitled Seduction, Sedition and Survival. He supplemented his talk with copies of old letters, envelopes, stamps, etc. and spoke of the hardships experienced by the early settlers.

On 7 November 2005 our Secretary, Murray Moorhead, passed away suddenly. Murray will be a huge loss to Founders, not only to the Taranaki Branch but his contribution at national level with contributions to the Founders' Bulletin and attendance at National Council meetings is well recognised. I thank Murray for his long and dedicated service to our Branch and we all extend

our sympathies to his wife Eleanor and hope she will continue to take part in our activities. Member and Treasurer, Ormond Greensill, has volunteered his services as Secretary, for which we are grateful.

My thanks to the Committee for their help throughout the year, this includes organising raffles, speakers, etc. Thanks also to Treasurer, Orm Greensill and we must not forget our social convenor, Beryl Lawrence who arranges venues and caterers for our functions and also prepares the most wonderful Christmas hampers, which are raffled at the November social each year.

Mel Harper,
Chairman.

HAWKES BAY BRANCH

The Branch welcomed eleven new members in 2005 and has seen an increase in the attendance at our meetings and outings. We express our sympathy to the families of those members who have passed away.

Special mention is made of the loss of Matt Forde, a long-standing member, who passed away on 28 April 2005. Matt has made a valuable contribution to the Branch with his knowledge and background as a member of a Hawkes Bay pioneering family.

The committee
cedar trees to
Takapau
many of its old
These will be
suitable



agreed to donate two Lebanon
Oruawhare, an historic
homestead which had lost
trees in a recent storm.
arriving in April when a
inscribed plaque will be

unveiled.

In June I attended the National Council meeting and AGM of the New Zealand Founders Society.

The 11th AGM was held at the Anglican Church Pukehou Central Hawkes Bay in March. Vicky McBain spoke on the history and restoration of the church followed by afternoon tea. 48 members attended.

In May we visited the
Taradale where we had a
cellars and museum.
purchased for grape
Bartholomew
present.



Church Road Winery at
tour of the winery,
The land was
growing in 1896 by Mr
Steinmstz. 66 were

The speaker of our Winter luncheon held in Havelock North in June was Mrs Alison Wright who spoke of her great-grandfather, Mr William Morris, a Master Whaler. 85 members present.

In August we held an interesting meeting with presentations by members of family stories, memorabilia and photographs. By request this will be included in the 2006 programme. 36 members were present.

A visit to the oldest prison in New Zealand and now converted to a Backpackers' Establishment and tourist attraction was made in September. A conducted tour took us through the huge kauri doors, past the solitary confinement cell block, in original condition, with its grim interior and fascinating stories.

In November we had a perfect Hawke's Bay sunny day for a mystery bus trip to Bay View. A pub lunch "Pig on the Spit" was followed by a visit to King George Hall established late 1800's and recently restored. The Reverend Deidre Lee gave an interesting talk to the 56 members on its history. This was followed by a drive along the Bay foreshore with a stop for wine and Christmas cake.

The Founders' Day Luncheon was held in Havelock North Conference Centre in February 2006 and attended by 73 members. Our speaker was Mr Patrick Parsons, Curator of the Gottfried Lindauer Exhibition, recently on display at the Hawkes Bay Exhibition Centre.

It has been a rewarding and successful year and I thank my committee for their support, especially during my absence overseas. We look forward to another interesting programme for 2006/2007.

Nanette Roberts Chairman



Hawkes Bay Committee at treeplanting
Oruawhare

WANGANUI BRANCH

In February we enjoyed a visit to the Elliotts' Garden in Roberts Avenue, Aramaho.

Our AGM was held on 20 March when Paul Melody, Historian from Bulls, spoke to us about his book *The Beach Highway* which gives a fascinating account of the early settlers.

The Alexander Library hosted members to a talk about its Founders' Collection in April.

In May we celebrated the 100th birthday of Dorothy Marks and the 60th anniversary of Wanganui Branch. We were fortunate to have the presence of National President, Mrs Beres at that meeting and festivities.

In June we travelled to Bulls to have a conducted tour of Beccles, an early 1885 house built by James Bull. Paul Melody was our guide for the afternoon.

Ron Hilton gave a talk about his visit to Cassino in Italy
Ross gave an account of his WWII memories
July.



talk about his visit and member John account of his at our meeting in

In August Mr and Mrs Arthur, a local couple, showed old films of Wanganui and district.

In September we took to the road again and had a tour of Collegiate College with a conducted tour of the new library and archives.

Members brought along items of historic interest to share with us in October.

In November we had our Christmas celebration with Felicity Campbell reading from the early diaries of Jessie Campbell and singers Christine Williams and Pam Hesketh from Amdram entertaining us. We sang Christmas carols and had a special afternoon tea. All in all we had a great time and look forward to 2006.

The Branch has had an interesting year and we are pleased to announce a growing membership (with younger ones joining us as well).

It is with sadness we note the passing of several of our members - Heather Duck, Jean Glengarry, Ray Handley, Gregor Reid, Kathleen Roache and the Reverend Colin Venimore. They are remembered with fondness and will be missed.

Michael Norris
Chairman

WAIRARAPA BRANCH

Our AGM was held at the Croquet Clubs Rooms, Queen Elizabeth Park, Masterton in March.

Our guest speaker was Jane Terpstra who gave an interesting talk on the proposed changes for our local part followed by afternoon tea.

Last April we were fortunate to view the Greek Church, where Garry Daniel gave us a history of the building, and many photos were taken. On our return to town for lunch he was able to enlarge on more of the Greek History of families who had settled in the Wairarapa.

In May, a number of members headed to Woodville to view some antique shops, then up the Saddle Road to see the windmills before returning for lunch at the Balance Bridge Café.



We enjoyed a wonderful luncheon at the South Wairarapa Workingmen's Club in June followed by a visit to the Ball-Meyer Theatre where Enid Meyer explained all they had to overcome to set the theatre up. An asset to the town and wider community.

In July we heard Zita Roseingrave at the Victoria Gallery give an interesting history of those who had set up in business of garden centres. Her grandfather, Mr Laurie Robinson, as well as Mr E. Hale were involved in the beginning of the industry. In very recent times *Robinson's* has changed hands, but still trades under the family name. Ebenezer Hale's business was in Lansdowne, and when his son Nelson took it over it was expanded and today is still functioning as Lansdowne Nursery on Te Ore Ore Road, but under new management.

August saw a number of members gather at Aratoi where the Prior family collection was on view. Also of much interest was the Masterton Intermediate School's display on the history of Masterton.

In September members headed to Kahutara to see John and Karen McCosh's Museum and Taxidermy work. So much to see

and learn. A welcome lunch of either whitebait or fresh fish was eaten at Lake Ferry. Returning to Masterton we stopped at Mr Stout's magnificent home where he told us its history of the house and grounds.

In October we were pleased to welcome some members from the Bay of Plenty Branch who joined us on our visit to Stonehenge, Wairarapa.

A small number of members travelled by train to Wellington in November where we had lunch at the restored Thistle Hotel. Then we had an interesting visit to Te Papa. We have arranged a visit to the National Film Archive in May 2006 as they were unable to accommodate us at such short notice.

Our Christmas Dinner was held at the Masterton Club in December and it was very satisfying seeing so many of our members there.

In February 2006 we celebrated Waitangi Day by visiting Henry Christensen's Pioneer museum where time seemed to rush by and then off to Mt Bruce Wildlife Reserve where we partook of afternoon tea and a browse through the Reserve.

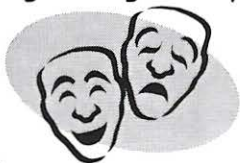
WELLINGTON BRANCH

I am pleased to present my report for 2005 as Chairman of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Founders Society.

My thanks to the committee members and secretary for their hard work and support during the year without which we would not have been able to hold many of the social functions we have

enjoyed. The fact that our finances are improving is a reflection of this hard work. My thanks also to our members for your continued support.

May - Many of us attended the National AGM and heard an interesting talk given by Bill Sheat on Early Theatre in New



Zealand.

June - The office and library were available to the public each Tuesday for Wellington Heritage month. Tea and coffee were offered to visitors by a roster of committee members.

In September we enjoyed a visit to Judy Siers' home "Chew Cottage". This was a once-only visit as Judy was about to move to Hawkes Bay. Judy talked about the history of "Chew Cottage" and served a delicious lunch after which we were able to wander through the cottage.

Late November saw us at the Colonial Cottage Museum for lunch and a tour of the museum. The Colonial Cottage is of particular interest to the Wellington Branch Zealand Founders was the "Young were involved in the the cottage to its when William Wallis



In December we had a small drinks and nibbles party at the office.

We invited the Early Settlers Association members to join us in a visit to Government House in February 2006. This proved to be a popular and most interesting visit enjoyed by all.

In March we enjoyed a guided tour of the exhibition "Shipping Out - Early Colonial Voyages to New Zealand" held in the Alexander Turnbull Library. Mr David Calquhoun, curator of the Turnbull's manuscripts spoke to us about the fascinating journals and diaries on display.

The restoration of the memorial to William Wakefield is still in the 'pipe line'. Nothing as yet seems to have been done about its restoration or moving it to a more suitable place although we do hear that the 'Basin' is where it will eventually be moved to.

We are considering charging an administration fee of \$5.00 for Honorary Members to cover postage and stationery on newsletters. We would like your comments on this proposal.

Proposed Remit for National Council:

"That members who have participated in the New Zealand Founders Society for 25 years be offered Honorary Membership."

Your comments are welcome.

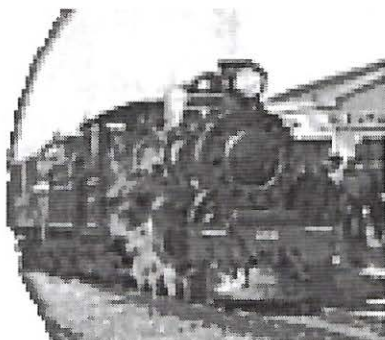
Once more I ask you to encourage family and friends who are interested in New Zealand early history, to bring them along to one of our outings. We will be delighted to meet them.

Beverly Seymour,
Chairman, Wellington Branch.

CANTERBURY BRANCH

In April the AGM was held at Millwood Botanicals, Ohoka. We had a beautiful lunch followed by a look through the gardens and saw the long time frame process of how flowers and herbs were dried and preserved in their original state. Some even tried the creams and scents available.

In recognition of the strong religious influence in founding Christchurch, Branch members visited the central Anglican Cathedral. Members enjoyed a great lunch at The Oxford on Avon Hotel then strolled to Cathedral Square for a most impressive tour of the Cathedral.



this wonderful experience.

In September members drove to Waipara, north of Christchurch where we boarded an historic steam train to Waikari for lunch. This was followed by a leisurely stroll around the little town and walkways. It was really great to have so many families and their children join in

Members dined at the Gateway Hotel on the northern outskirts of Christchurch, and then visited St Stephen's Church at Tuahiwi. The local community is dedicated to preserving their heritage and this was a special occasion to quietly reflect in the peaceful rural and church atmosphere, but so close to the city.

The Christmas function was held at the Sweethearts Restaurant Berry Farm where we enjoyed a delicious lunch. A delightful venue and members enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere. Traditionally for the Christmas function a few raffles were held which added to the enjoyable occasion.

To start the New Year we visited the port town of Lyttelton. Locals know that the port was formed from a now extinct volcano. Members enjoyed a bar lunch at the Royal Hotel and then strolled down the historic time-warped street to inspect the local museum. There were three floors with a large variety of displays, including maritime history (much relating to Antarctic journeys) and other local activities.

The Annual General Meeting was held in March at The Cooperage

at Ferrymead Historic Park. The park has a variety of attractions built by thousands of hours of voluntary labour over several decades. The



location, on the banks of the Heathcote River, is historic itself, as a major contributor to early Christchurch development.

Shona Ward co-ordinated a display of Founders' material at Avebury House during Heritage Week in October.

The Branch financial position continues to grow positively and remains strong. The committee has continued with our philosophy of financial support for members' functions and

community sponsorship. This year funds were contributed to a chair for the Isaac Theatre Royal refurbishment project.

We have continued our sponsorship of Margaret Copeland who presents a story of an immigrant family arriving at Lyttelton and moving to the Papanui area. This sponsorship enables her to take the story to schools and community groups who could otherwise not afford to attend a performance.

The Branch remembers those members, family and close friends who have passed away over the last year and extend our sympathy to you and your families over your loss.

A limited number of The Bulletin has been purchased for members to read within our regular library of circulation publications. Members may purchase their own copy for National Office.

My thanks to our small and dedicated team of committee members, our Auditor, Alan Winslade and Shona Ward for allowing us to hold our meetings at her home and preparation of the accounts as well as secretarial duties.

Finally, thank you all for your support of the functions and attendance here today. Thank you also for your continued support of our commitment to community financial support. Each member may be truly proud that we are continuing to make a valuable, practical and visible contribution to the culture and education within our community.

John McSweeney
Chairman



NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES CONFERENCE MARCH 2006

This year the conference was hosted by the Foxton Historical Society.

Friday night 24th March, saw delegates, observers and friends get together at a special informal meet and greet evening. Verbal resumes of Club activity during the past year were given by each delegate present and proved very interesting. Some clubs have been incredibly active - relocating historic buildings, setting-up museums, etc. whilst others have fostered a more low key interest in our heritage. All have been working toward the same goals, although in different ways.

Saturday saw Conference Registration followed by the Official Opening by President Robin Astridge.

The AGM ran through reasonably quickly and all affiliated groups will receive details in the minutes.

Robin Astridge was re-elected President with Kenneth Stringer Vice-President. Noeline Shaw again accepted the responsibilities of Treasurer. There were no nominations for Secretary and the position has been left open with Kenneth working as Minute Secretary and Robin as Correspondence Secretary.

Following on from information, suggestions and requests made by Societies when they completed the special survey sent out to each of the 40 member groups the Executive are actively

pursuing an annual grant of \$50,000 from the Cultural and Heritage Department held by the Prime Minister, Helen Clark. A letter has been forwarded to her requesting a meeting.

Another responsibility for the Executive is to investigate a proposal made to the meeting that a special 'seeding' grant be made available to member Societies who are actively instigating, researching and writing history pertaining to various regions. This seeding grant to be a set proportion taken from the current investment money held by the Federation. The grant would be in the form of a loan and repayable immediately sufficient sales of the book/paper/leaflet have been generated to make it self-sufficient.

A special vote of thanks was passed to Phil Andrews for the work he has done for the very successful Legacy publication. His constant work and the first-class publication has been fully appreciated over the years. Phil has advised that he will be resigning as Editor after the publication of the next two issues.

Several members presented details of historical books they have had published during the past twelve months.

Saturday's business concluded with the usual dinner followed by a fascinating and infórmative visit to Mavtech, the Museum of Audio Visual technology. This museum houses one of the most unique collections representing New Zealand's audio, visual and artistic heritage. After viewing many of the exhibits we were entertained with a selection of National Film Unit films, etc.

Some delegates had to return to their home towns but those still in Foxton enjoyed a number of special activities, including visiting the historic Manawatu Printery, the de Molen Windmill,

Trolley Bus Museum (with rides in both the trolley bus and double-decker) dolls Gallery and Murals Tour.

It is anticipated that the 2007 Conference will be at Pleasant Point in the South Island.

Audrey Henderson

29 March 2006

