



BULLETIN

NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY



SPRINGVALE - TIKOKINO - HAWKES BAY

NUMBER 79 - REPORT FOR YEAR
2007

New Zealand Founders Office

We have moved and are now located in the Wellington Bridge Club Building, 17 Tinakori Road on the first floor. Our PO Box is changed and is now 17-126 Karori, Wellington. Our telephone number remains unchanged at 04 472 4282

NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY INC

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NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY INC
NATIONAL COUNCIL
(AS FROM JUNE 2007)

National President

Mrs Beryl Gentleman

National Deputy President

Vacant

National Immediate Past President

Mrs Neni Beres

National Councillors

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

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

Mr W N Sheat (Past President)

Mr S Garland (Bay of Plenty)

Mr J P Webster (Auckland)

Mr J McSweeney (Canterbury)

Mr M Harper (Taranaki)

Mrs L Hyams (Waikato)

Mrs J Dickens (Wairarapa)

Mrs N Roberts (Hawkes Bay)

Mr M Norris (Wanganui)

Mrs B Seymour (Wellington)

Branch Secretaries

Auckland

Waikato

Bay of Plenty

Mrs C Rhodes

Mrs J Johansen

Mrs A Henderson

193 Princes Street E

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RD1 Hamilton

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Mrs A. Woodley

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New Plymouth

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



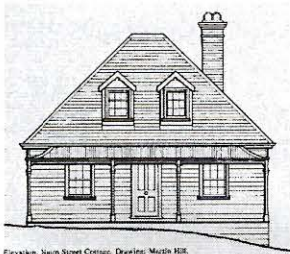
**THE SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY
PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

I am often asked, "Who are the Founders? What do they do? The New Zealand Founders Society is primarily a Heritage Society, formed in 1939 by Mr D. Hope-Johnson who called a public meeting in Wellington "urging the value and desirability of the proposed society". His reasons are enshrined in the Founders Creed - "We pledge ourselves to foster, promote and inculcate in rising generations that hardy will of spirit of enterprise, responsibility, work and faith so abundantly

possessed by the actual Founders which has been so important a factor in the life and progress in New Zealand."

Our heritage begins with our own families, their values, traditions and treasures, but it also includes our towns and districts, and in the widest sense, our country. Heritage societies such as Founders must be watchdogs, and pro-active in noting what is done or mooted by councils, boards, groups, businesses and individuals. It is the responsibility of each of us to be aware of our heritage and to protect our values and beliefs, local landmarks, parks, public domains, heritage buildings and monuments against the depredations of developers, the encroachment of speculators and the destruction of much of what we believe in the name of "progress".

It is encouraging that the Heritage movement is gaining adherents and support throughout the country. The increased interest in, and attendance at ANZAC Day services is an example in point. Recently, the Wellington City Council, responding to approved changes to that will help preserve the special character of Berhampore and Newtown, and Mount Cook - three of the city's oldest suburbs. Founders has a special role to play in helping to preserve what is of value and significance in a society which has become increasingly diverse and obsessed with material values. Ripples spread and are noticeable. Good families are the core of a good society. Ensure your own children and grandchildren know their family history and encourage them to learn about the past in their district and



Elevation, Main Street Cottage. Drawing: Muzlin Hill.

taken an interest in local matters. The William Wakefield Memorial at the Basin Reserve, now refurbished and relocated inside the Basin is now a gleaming focal point instead of languishing in obscurity on the footpath outside, neglected and unnoticed. Wellington Founders played an important part in this.

Looking through past Bulletins I was amazed that in the 1990-91 year Founders gained 174 new members. Our total membership is now in the region of 900. Times have changed and life is busier with more distractions and less time to join activities and groups. But we must do what we can to retain and recruit members. Death has claimed some of our number and others have changed lifestyles. The Executive has lost the services of a valued colleague in Vice-President Maurice Watson who has recently moved to Tauranga.

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 passing of Peter Mowbray, past Chairman of Waikato Branch, Peter Harding, past Chairman of Hawkes Bay Branch, Miss Violet Watson, past Chairman and Secretary of Wairarapa Branch, and Mrs Mary King, also of Hawkes Bay Branch, who died just short of her 100th birthday.

Finally, I would like to thank the Branches for their support. It has been a rewarding experience for me to meet so many of you and enjoy your company and hospitality. I have been ably supported by an Executive generous in their time and expertise of our secretary, Janet Robinson.

I leave you with the exhortation - "Fight the good fight with all thy might". Founders have an important place in New Zealand's past. I hope we have an equally important place in the future - but that is up to us.

Neni Beres
National President
June 2007



CURRENT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

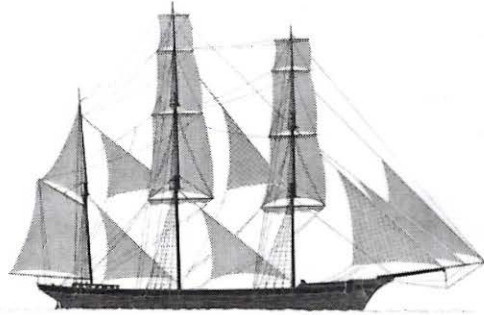
Membership as at 31st March 2007 stood at:-



	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
	6			

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



FOUNDERS SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS

Name	Area	Ship	Date	Ancestor
Bay of Plenty				
Mrs ED Monahan	Auckland	Matilda Wattenbach	1862	Joseph & Emma BUCKTON
	Wellington	Phillip Laing	1856	Kenneth & Agnes GOLLAN
	?	?	By 1864	Frederick Howe DROWER
Mrs C J Thomlinson	Nelson	Will Watch	1841	Thos & Elizabeth ROWLING
Mrs EM Aldridge	Auckland	Commodore Perry	1860	Matilda Ann THOMPSON
Mr F.H. Pratt		Associate Member		
Canterbury				
Mrs DM Plew	Lyttelton	Midlothian	1851	Samuel COX
	Lyttelton	Sebastopol	1861	Elizabeth WINTER
Mrs GVM Bland	Lyttelton	Midlothian	1851	Samuel COX

	Lyttelton	Sebastopol	1861	Elizabeth WINTER
Miss GC Searle	Wellington	Alma	1857	George WHALE
	Wellington	Alma	1857	Micaiah & Louisa READ
	New Plymouth	Blenheim	1842	Richard & Mary LANGMAN
Mrs J Marinus		Associate		
Mrs A Tapper		Associate		

Hawkes Bay

Mrs DH Eddy	Port Chalmers	Daniel Ranking	1863	William & Sarah RULE
Mr RL Eddy		Associate		
Mrs EM Bell		Associate		
Mrs BC Smith	Lyttelton	Cornwall	1851	Soloman & Selina STEVENS
Mr WG Speedy	Wellington	Lord William Bentinck	1841	David & Helen SPEEDY
Mrs NB Speedy	New Plymouth	?	?	Major Clinton BADDELEY
Mrs HM de Leeuw	Port Charlton	?	1861	Joseph CHURCHES
Mrs E Yule	Wellington	Hokoporinga	1851	Richard DOLBEL
	Wellington	Hokoporinga	1851	Phillipe DOLBEL
Mrs GM Liley	Wellington	Hokoporinga	1851	Richard DOLBEL
	Wellington	Hokoporinga	1851	Phillipe DOLBEL
Mrs JI Willis	Wellington	Adelaide	1840	William & Ruth GALPIN
Mrs H Scott	Nelson	Constantine	1854	William & Jane SKEET
	Nelson	Constantine	1854	James & Rachel BURCH

Wairarapa

Miss MD Burns	Associate			
Mrs AJ Parkes	Petone	Cuba	1840	John STRATFORD
	Petone	Aurora	1840	Ann HODNETT
	Lyttelton	Lyttelton	1864	William & Elizabeth VARCOE
Mr RR Gully	Auckland	John Phillips	1852	William Charles HODGSON
	New Plymouth	Himalaya	1843	John GULLY
Mr MB Brown	Wellington	Lady Nugent	1841	John & Frances KILMISTER
Mrs JM Wadham	Wellington	Clifton	1842	Joseph & Elizabeth BICKNELL

Wanganui

Mrs NBE Dean	Port Chalmers	Randolph	1850	John Gray
Mrs L Taylor	Auckland	Pestonjee Bomanjee	1847	Robert Dawson CAMPBELL
	Auckland	William	1847	Jane TAYLOR
Mr JS Rison	Wellington	Lord William Bentinck	1841	William & Mary CAINES
Mr TD Rison	Wellington	Lord William Bentinck	1841	William & Mary CAINES

Mrs JM Hallom	WWellington	London	1842	Thomas & Susan CHAMBERLAIN
Mrs L Hardy	Lyttelton	Randolph	1850	Lydia PHILPOTT
	Lyttelton	Randolph	1850	Martha BROWN
Ms EM Bryant	Petone	Duke of Roxburgh	1840	James & Mary Ann BRYANT
Mrs AL Clarke	Wellington	Birman	1842	William & Jane TONKS
	Auckland	?	1864	Alfred Maurice LEWIS
Wellington				
Mrs L Hardy	Lyttelton	Randolph	1850	Lydia PHILPOTT
	Lyttelton	Randolph	1850	Martha BROWN
Ms EM Bryant	Petone	Duke of Roxburgh	1840	James & Mary Ann BRYANT
Mrs AL Clarke	Wellington	Birman	1842	William & Jane TONKS
	Auckland	?	1864	Alfred Maurice LEWIS
Canterbury				
Mrs DM Plew	Lyttelton	Midlothian	1851	Samuel COX
	Lyttelton	Sebastopol	1861	Elizabeth WINTER
Mrs GVM Bland	Lyttelton	Midlothian	1851	Samuel COX
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Mrs A Tapper		Associate		





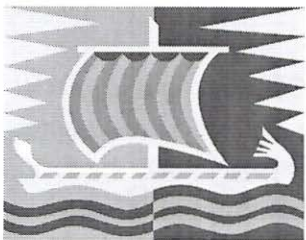
AROUND THE BRANCHES

AUCKLAND BRANCH

The short length of this report is perhaps indicative of our last year.

A fall in numbers attending has made us rethink the presentation of our monthly luncheons. We cannot bring in a speaker, either paid or otherwise, and no matter how excellent, because we don't have enough members coming along to justify it. We have been as low as four members but only as high as sixteen. This is a far cry from our glory days of 50 or more. Even with 20 it was worthwhile.

Our luncheons now are more or less discussion about certain things, be it old recipes, or dances (as happened recently). They are enjoyed as those few present do respond. We have had meetings away from our usual venue, a trend we will continue.



We visited the large 'Viking' exhibition at the Auckland Museum (at discounted prices of course!) near the end of the year while earlier this year we returned to see the two new galleries created in the new part of the museum. Coming up is a visit to see the Egyptian exhibition

touring the world. Last year we also went to afternoon high tea at an historic house in the central city. This was part of the Auckland Heritage Festival programme. This year so far we have

had a picnic and further "discussion" luncheons and in the next few months we hope to have a train trip to Papakura to view 'their' museum.

The loss of active membership can be attributed to the age of members and death. Last year within a month we lost eight people - six were full, or honorary life members, and the other two were associates. We also had one member who moved and used to bring three others in her car. With her no longer doing this we lost them. Another two have stopped because of health, and at least two have moved into rest homes giving up their cars for transport. There is any number of other reasons unknown to us, but we march along.

I feel we must record in this report the winding-up of a kindred society - the New Zealand Pioneers and Descendants Society, after 68 years. We did have members in common, and their final President is one of our most loyal members attending luncheons. Because we have had a long friendship with the group a message of farewell and congratulations for their efforts over the years was written and sent to them.

Even if we are small we send large greetings to other Branches throughout the country.

John Webster,
Chairman, Auckland Branch

WAIKATO BRANCH

It is with pleasure that I present, on behalf of the committee, this report on the year's activities.

At our AGM in April, Miss Vi Jolly was elected our new chairman with Kaye Hodson remaining our National Council representative. Our speaker was Mrs K Townsend who spoke of her recent trip.

Unfortunately our members were unable to support our scheduled luncheon/meeting in August and that had to be cancelled.

In September Kaye Hodson reported on the National Council and Annual General Meetings in Wellington. Members were shocked at the affiliation fees being increased by 100%.

We lost two members, Mrs Ruth Isles and Chairman, at this time and one member resigned because of travel costs.

On 30th November we held our Christmas Luncheon with 30 members attending. The Lyric Players - string instruments being expertly played making very easy listening music, was the entertainment for the day.



Unfortunately, Mrs Fischer resigned to go and live with her daughter in Whangamata.

In March, 13 members attended a visit to Hockin House with the Historical Society being our hosts.

Two resignations have been received in March - Mr & Mrs McDonald and Mr T. Wilson.

Our financial position needs to be revised and given consideration with National subscription increased by 100% and Branch costs also on the increase.

Today, we are missing Peter Mowbray. He was a very loyal and supportive member, whose wife Betty was a Foundation Member. I would like to thank you and congratulate all of you for the way you adapted and helped Peter, he did love coming to the meetings and your help never faltered. You are such a kind and thoughtful group.

During the year Mrs Audrey Sandford was nominated for a Life Membership of our Branch. A certificate was printed and delivered to her home.

I have enjoyed your friendship and thank you all for your support of the Founders.

June Johansen.

BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH

The five luncheon meetings held during 2006 were well attended. They began with a social hour followed by an enjoyable lunch, guest speaker's address and ended with discussion of Branch business.

The March Meeting and AGM was held at the Park Heritage Hotel, Rotorua, and was addressed by Mr Robin Astridge, President of the N.Z. Federation of Historical Societies.

- President - Thea Still
- Vice Presidents - Lew Bradley & Jo Wake

- Hon. Secretary - Audrey Henderson

- National Councillor - Thea Still
- Auditor - Brian Welch
- Area Representatives: - Margaret Carter, Rotorua
 - Nola Gosling, Te Puke
 - Lew Bradley, Whakatane
 - Lorraine Wilson-Perrott, Tauranga
 - Thea Still, Katikati

In May the Branch meeting was held at the Armitage Hotel, Tauranga, where guest speaker Mr Greg Brownless created much interest with an illustrated talk covering his volunteer work (as a Mortician) helping with the devastation of life in Thailand after the Tsunami. Greg praised

the spirit of the local people and the excellent holiday facilities which have now been restored.

In July members visited the Athenree Homestead Restoration Trust property, originally built in 1878 by founding Ulster-Irish settlers, Hugh and Adela Stewart, north of Katikati. Trust members, Robyn and Bob Irvine, gave a comprehensive history of the house and the settlement organized by George Vesey Stewart in 1875. Their presentation stimulated much interest among members attending this meeting.

At the September meeting held at the Te Puke Citizens Club, members were highly entertained by Dr Kristine Moffat,



Lecturer at the University of Waikato, speaking about her "Colonial Pianos" research which, through letters and diaries of pioneer women, revealed how their pianos and musical talents enhanced and supported their lives in often lonely, isolated homes and colonial

communities.

The November meeting with a Christmas theme, at the Ohope Chartered Club, saw gift prizes awarded to all attending members. Guest speaker, The Hon. Dr Ian Shearer, spoke about the importance of writing our personal history in this 1900-2000 era, as a record for the future. He has published his autobiography entitled "The Boy from the Bay" which begins with a history of Whakatane, Bay of Plenty, and his childhood on the family dairy farm at Taneatua.

Our thanks and appreciation to Mr Lew Bradley (retired) for contributing to the Society's interests and the Branch organization in the Whakatane area for the past several years.

My grateful thanks go to all members who have worked hard during the year to make our Branch so successful. My special thanks to our Area Representatives, Guest Speakers, Vice-

President Jo Wake, Secretary Audrey Henderson, Treasurer Sandy Garland, who all work in an Honorary capacity. Also, special thanks go to all our members who supported our meetings during the year.

Thea Still, President

TARANAKI BRANCH

Unfortunately our annual commemoration service on Sunday, 2nd April, at the Pioneer Memorial at Moturoa was unable to be held because of inclement weather.

At the AGM all incumbent Committee Members agreed to stand for office for the ensuing year and were re-elected. Our finances remain sound, and we once again thank the TSB Community Trust for their continuing support with a grant of \$350, an increase of \$100 from 2005.

A Jubilee Luncheon celebrating 50 years of Founders in Taranaki was held on 21st May. This was very well attended with several invited guests. Our guest speaker was David Walter, Chairman of the Taranaki Regional Council, with a reply from our senior member, Leo Carrington, descendant of the Carrington Family, pioneer surveyors of New Plymouth City. We were also pleased to welcome members of Wanganui Founders as our guests, and thank them for attending the Jubilee. Dignatories from Puke Ariki and like-minded organizations were also present.



Meetings were held on a monthly basis from March to November, and we were fortunate to host many varied and interesting speakers. We are always grateful to those who give their time to speak at our meetings.

Our Christmas meeting held on 24th November, was well attended and enjoyed. Our guest for the evening was Balladeer, Mike Harding, who was well received.

In July delegates of the National Council of New Zealand Founders Society recognized the huge contribution made by our member, Beryl Lawrence, by awarding her Life Membership of the Society. Our congratulations to Beryl.

Members were invited by the Taranaki Historic Places Trust to attend a re-enactment of the wedding of Amelia Jane Skinner to Harry Albert Atkinson on Saturday, 26th March 2006, at St Mary's Pro Cathedral in New Plymouth. Many of our members attended, dressed in period costume, contributing to a successful and memorable day.

My thanks to the committee for their help throughout the year, particularly our patron, Trevor Bright, who still plays a very active role in the success of the Branch, and who played a vital role during my stays in hospital. Thanks also to Secretary/Treasurer Ormond Greensill for his contribution and our social convener, Beryl Lawrence, for her organization of our social events.

I will be making myself available as Chairman of the Branch for the ensuing year if required, however, due to health concerns I will not be seeking re-election for the 2007/2008 year.

Mel Harper,
Chairman.

HAWKES BAY BRANCH

The Branch has welcomed many new active members this year and has seen an increase in the attendance at our meetings and outings. We are fortunate in Hawkes Bay to have people who are

willing to open their heritage homes and properties to the public and share their family history and knowledge with us.

It is with special sadness we note the passing of several of our members - Julie Chudleigh, Margaret Arlidge, Betty Reid and John Ross - and extend our sympathy to their families.

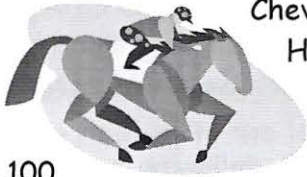
In June I attended the National Council meeting and AGM of the New Zealand Founders Society and have to report that the National Capitation fee is to be increased, after many years, by \$10 from January 2008.

In April, the 12th AGM was held in Crownthorpe Chapel followed by a talk by Mr David Hildreth on the history and restoration work of the country church. This was followed by a visit to the cemetery and afternoon tea at Matapiro Hall.

In May we had a conducted tour of Iona Girls College by the Principal, Mrs G. Melville, followed by a pleasant lunch with the boarders.

In July the winter luncheon was held at the Hawkes Bay Racecourse Cheval Room and our speaker,

Mr Jim Harvey, gave us a very interesting talk on the history of the H.B. Racing Club which has recently celebrated its' 100 year jubilee.



Members visited historic Duart House, Havelock North, in August and were entertained with mementoes, photographs, etc. of their families.

A conducted bus tour of the newly-launched Taradale Heritage Trail made a lovely days outing in October. Lunch was provided at the Duke of Gloucester Hotel.

In November members enjoyed a bus trip to Central Hawkes Bay to visit 150-year-old Springvale Homestead and Gardens. The host, Mr David Holden, gave us an interesting talk about the

family and homestead. Christmas cake and wine were enjoyed by all in the lovely gardens.

The Founders' Day Luncheon was held at Hastings Race Course in February 2007. Eighty members and guests attended. Our speaker was Mrs Judy Siers who spoke to us on Chew Cottage; and Louis Hay and Chapman Taylor, Architects, who were active in our local area in early 20th century.

I wish to acknowledge the support of my committee, especially our Treasurer, Val Yule, for their support and input during the year; Bev Galloway and Jeannie Campbell who will be resigning from the committee because of personal reasons and John Clark due to ill health - Thank You.

Nanette Roberts Chairman

WANGANUI BRANCH

The committee acknowledged the support received from the ringers who contact members monthly and also your support without which we would not be able to continue.



We regret the passing of the following members during 2006:- Alice Everett, Olive McDonald, Olive Porteous, Stuart Gillies, Nancy Bruce, Randal Elliot and John Marshall. We also offer our condolences to the Marshall and Pettigrew families for their loss. They will be missed.

Our first meeting and AGM was held in February, with guest speaker Mr Warren Barton, a journalist for the Dominion-Post newspaper and an authority on wine. He gave us an interesting insight into these topics.

In March, Judith Crawley spoke on Sandridge Hall and showed slides of this former historic home of the Watt family.

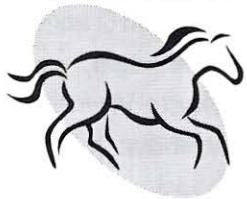
Jonathan Welch from DOC told us about the Rutland Stockade and also the protection of historic trees at our meeting in April. In May, Jack Glengarry related an interview he had with Bruce Crisp, RAF, WW2 veteran, about his experiences after his plane crashed in the Burma jungle.

In June, Susannah Norris spoke of their trip to the United Kingdom and France to research her and Michael's family history. In July, Olive Durrant talked about her Cain family, a most interesting speaker. Norm Hubbard followed with slides of early Wanganui homes and then some members, with Norm and Olive visited the Deer Stalkers Hall which houses a selection of Cain shooting trophies.

Paula Heavey from the Wanganui Papercraft Shop, showed us how to make Memory Albums at our August meeting. An interesting talk with demonstrations.

In September, Colonel Howard Jones, at short notice, gave an informative account of his varied army career around the world.

In October, members met with the Bulls Historical Society at their museum where Greg Bradley, curator, gave us an informative talk about the museum and also the collection they have of memorabilia relating to the Wellington/West Coast WW1



Mounted Rifle Brigade. We then left for a visit with Bob Clark to the grave and memorial of the only horse to return from WW1 "Bess". On the way we stopped and had a talk from Jane Russell-Bowen at the historic Maori

Church on Parewanui Road. A great day out.

In November we had a most enjoyable Christmas celebration. Christine Williams and Pam Hesketh from *Amdram* entertained us with singing (to say nothing of Michael Norris and Murray Cummings dance routine). Ian Chamberlain played his self-made barrel organ (plus monkey) to the fascination of members.

Our thanks to Leonie Roach and Ann O'Donoghue, two long-serving and popular members who are standing down this year. Their contributions have been appreciated and we look forward to seeing them both at our monthly gatherings. Finally, our thanks goes to Merle Higgins for financing the upgrading of our name tags to include our forbears' ships.

Michael Norris
Chairman

WAIRARAPA BRANCH

On behalf of our Branch members I would like to offer our congratulations to Life Members Mr & Mrs Barr, on celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary.

A huge Thank-You must go to Maurice Watson, Council Member, ex-President of our Branch, committee member and valued friend, who is moving to Tauranga. Your efforts on our behalf are much appreciated and you will be sadly missed. We hope you enjoy your new life.

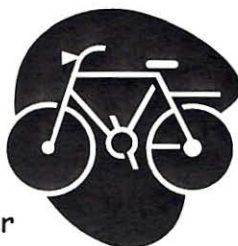
As each year passes we remember those who have died, and extend to their families and friends our sympathy. We also think of those who are suffering ill health or have other problems in their lives, and offer them our support.

Councillor Jane Terpstra attended our Annual Meeting and informed us of the plans for the Queen Elizabeth Park re-development. Included in these was the plan to change the Hosking (Sunken) Garden and your committee has been fighting hard with the Council to retain this beautiful memorial to Dr Hosking. Unfortunately we have not succeeded and it seems that it will be demolished and a water feature installed in its place.

A trip to Tinui and Castlepoint to enjoy the Craft Shop and beautiful beach was our April outing.

May saw us boarding a train to Wellington to visit the Film Archives where we saw a variety of short films, all very interesting. We were privileged to have some Bay of Plenty Founders share this day with us.

Chris Peterson enthralled us with his account of his cycling trip in Tibet at our Midwinter Luncheon. What adventures the group had, and how they coped with the terrain and weather conditions was illustrated with a number of photographs which added to our understanding of the area.



It was my pleasure to speak of our Greenland holiday in July. This is the most wonderful country, the largest island in the world and only 55,000 people living there. Huge icebergs, friendly people very few tourists, carpets of alpine flowers and swimming in a hot pool with icebergs in the nearby fiord are unforgettable memories.

A tour of the
was the August
The "samples"
A shared lunch
exhibits were



Tui Brewery and a delicious lunch
outing, very much enjoyed by us all.
were much appreciated also!
and a visit to Aratoi to view the
well attended, and a trip to
Featherston to the Meiken China Museum was a
highlight. Members also visited Ken Burgess Museum of "just
about anything" which brought back many memories.

Our year concluded with a very successful and delicious Christmas Luncheon at the Masterton Club. Members were most appreciative of the staff's efforts to make sure it was a memorable meal, and wish to return next Christmas!

In conclusion I would like to thank my committee for their huge support, especially our Secretary, Ann, and our Treasurer, Jean. You are wonderful.
God Bless you all, and we look forward to sharing outings and meetings with you in 2007.

Joan Dickens,
President.

WELLINGTON BRANCH

I am pleased to present my report for 2006 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 go to our members for your continued support. Your committee tries very hard to find activities that will interest all our members and it is disappointing when we have to cancel because of lack of interest. Recently, Vonnie Nunns and Judy Kirby of the Wellington Historical & Early Settlers Association met with myself and Margaret Collins to discuss ways to correlate our various activities. The result of this meeting is that the Wellington Branch and Early Settlers Association will have our functions on the third Thursday of alternate months.

At its June meeting the National Council will review the National Capitation, Honorary and Life memberships. Many of us attended the National AGM and heard an interesting talk given by Bill Kemp on the *Confessions of a Lighthouse Keeper*. The Show and Tell luncheon held in July was



cancelled for lack of support.

In September a luncheon was held at the Colonial Cottage Museum with the committee doing the catering. Margaret Collins and myself gave a talk about the history of the cottage.

The Christmas Dinner was held in November at the Gentleman's residence on Snapper Point, overlooking Wellington Harbour. My grateful thanks to Beryl and Ian for giving members the opportunity to celebrate Christmas in style and also for all the help they provided.

In February an afternoon tea and visit to the exhibition "Egypt Beyond the Tomb" at Te Papa had to be cancelled because of lack of support. In March 2007 we enjoyed a picnic at the Colonial Cottage Museum. The committee provided a lovely picnic lunch in boxes and despite the inclement weather, a great time was had by all.

Margaret Collins gave a talk on the house and Yvonne Lawrie led a tour of the garden. The plants at the cottage are of interest because of their heritage value.

It is pleasing that at long last, the William Wakefield Memorial at the Basin Reserve has been restored to its original condition, minus the drinking fountain. It looks wonderful in its elevated position and is now a fitting memorial to William Wakefield.

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

The Branch continued its visits to dominantly recognized religious influences in Christchurch and had an interesting tour

of the Christchurch Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Barbados Street. The Branch met at the Cabbage Tree Restaurant located close to the coking and gas works. Not only was the building itself impressive, equally so was the scale model of the cathedral, built by a local member of the parish. The large model allowed a wonderful overall 3D view.

In August the Branch enjoyed a hot roast lunch at Robbies Restaurant in Pages Road, New Brighton, and then visited the Clock Museum - a most extraordinary house full of a collection of clocks from all over the world. These ranged from massive grandfather clocks to small wrist watches. As well as the clock collection there were all sorts of other memorabilia including an extensive collection of original paintings.



A luncheon visit to Hampton House and grounds, 100 metres from Church Corner, Riccarton, was much enjoyed by the Branch in October. The original homestead has been totally restored and converted into a fashionable accommodation house. Individual suites have been decorated in a different theme such as nautical, hunting, country, etc. It was hard to believe the house was so close to the city and yet so unobtrusive.

The Christmas function was held on 3 December at The Oaks in Darfield. A beautiful meal with great conversational entertainment provided by the hostess. Traditionally for the Christmas function a few raffles were held which added to the enjoyable occasion.

In February 2007, we visited the Port Hills, taking a gondola ride up the side of the extinct volcano to look at the magnificent 360 degree views across the Canterbury Plains and surrounding Lyttelton Harbour. Everyone enjoyed a great lunch at the café.

The AGM was held on Sunday 25 March 2007 at the Morworth Estate Winery.

The Branch's financial position continues to grow, with an increase of over \$4,000 last year. The majority of our income continues from mortgage and deposit interest. The accounts show the Branch's financial assets are now \$80,045.

We are pleased to confirm our membership fee remains the same although the National Council has resolved to increase the capitation fee to \$20 per member per year. Your committee is very concerned at this increase but has had to accept a majority decision.

The committee has continued with our philosophy of financial support for members' functions and community sponsorship. We have continued our sponsorship arrangement of \$600 per year to 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.

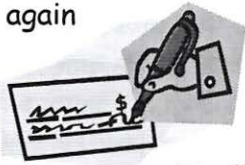
The Branch remembers those members, family and close friends who have passed away over the last year and extend our sympathy to you and your families over your loss.

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 your dedicated team of committee members, and Shona, June, Elizabeth and Nolene. Your personal time, especially for travel from Cust for June and Rangiora for Elizabeth, to Christchurch for each committee meeting, and your support is much appreciated. Thanks too

to Shona for her hospitality in allowing us the use of her home for committee meetings.

I again



record our special thanks to our Auditor, Alan Winslade, for his contribution to complete the audit of our accounts, so ably prepared by our Treasurer Shona.

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.

Thank you for the privilege of being your Chairman and I trust you share with me, the pride of being a member of Canterbury/Westland Branch of New Zealand Founders Society.

John McSweeney
Chairman



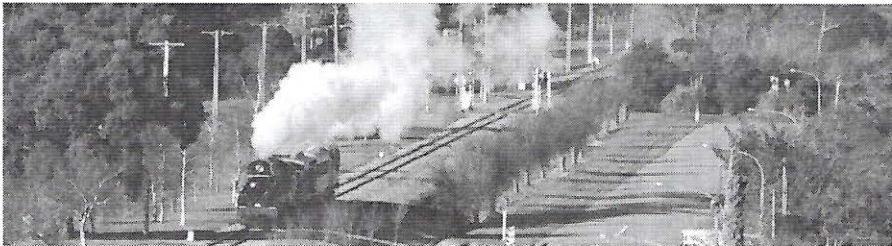
NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
CONFERENCE
MARCH 2007

The 36th N.Z. Historical Federation Conference in Pleasant Point 17/18th March 2007 will be remembered as a particularly friendly gathering. The majority of the delegates stayed at the almost 100-year-old Pleasant Point Hotel and there was ample opportunity for communication and friendships.

Business sessions were all held at the Keanes Crossing Meeting Room (Railway Museum), with registration on Friday evening

followed by an informal get-together where all the delegates outlined the activities of their Branches for the past twelve months. There was a wide disparity of work/activity with the areas running their own museums appearing to have the most community support. However, even the Branches who carry on with only regular monthly meetings and field trips are promoting a positive interest in our New Zealand founding history.

On Saturday morning President Robin Astridge welcomed the delegates and observers highlighting the ever-present problems of distance to Conference venues and the increasing age of members. So few people become active in the historical facets of our country until they are in the more mature age bracket. It was disappointing, that despite the move to hold the Conference in the South Island, only two southern delegates were present. Following Robin, Bryan Blanchard added his welcome on behalf of the Pleasant Point Railway Museum. The museum members are encouraging positive input from local students and have younger, active members including an eleven year old. Continuation of steam activity is assured with Geoff - still in his early twenties - having gained his steam ticket. This participation by younger members augers well for the future in Pleasant Point and certainly bucks the trend toward only older participation.



Pleasant Point railway scene

Conference 2008 will be in Helensville 4/6 April 2008 and Wynne Haysmith from there spoke of the formation of their Society in 1968. This was a direct result of Centennial Celebrations several years earlier. Helensville is very active with a number of historical buildings forming a central collection point for early Helensville history.

Noeline Shaw from Wyndham Park, Southland, has been a dedicated Treasurer for the past sixteen years. Her resignation from this important role was accepted with regret. A special vote of thanks to her was recorded.

Some members have had problems with finance for the publication of historical books, brochures, etc. The Executive proposed that a sum of \$6,000 should be made available for this purpose. It is envisaged that it be divided into separate \$2,000 grants and secured for repayment at a charge of 5% interest. Detail for this to be discussed legally. This proposal was put to the meeting with two delegates (NZ Founders Society and Rotorua and District Historical Society) abstaining as had no opportunity to seek direction from their respective organizations.

An afternoon tour of the Pleasant Point Railway Museum was followed by viewing a selection of "Old Time" movies in the Museum Theatre. *Hopalong Cassidy* has never looked so good! Dinner at the Pleasant Point Hotel concluded the official activities, but for those able to stay on Sunday viewing the old signal box, the "tablet" safety system and a ride on the Model T Railcar were very special extras.

Audrey Henderson 25th March 2007