

NZ Founders Society HB  
PO Box 8556  
Havelock North 4157



# BULLETIN

NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY



**Herapo Rongo**

NUMBER 81 – REPORT FOR YEAR  
2009

## **Front cover painting - *Herapo Rongo***

Painted by Miss Ida Carey and presented by the Waikato Branch  
to the National Office

## **New Zealand Founders Office**

**We are located in the Wellington Bridge Club Building, 17  
Tinakori Road on the first floor. Our PO Box is 17-126 Karori,  
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address is [nzfounders@paradise.net.nz](mailto:nzfounders@paradise.net.nz).  
Our website is [www.nzfounders.org.nz](http://www.nzfounders.org.nz)**

# NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY INC

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NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY INC  
NATIONAL COUNCIL  
(AS FROM JUNE 2009)

**National President**

Mrs Beryl Gentleman

**National Vice President**

Mr Mike Norris

**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 J P Webster (Auckland)

Mrs L Hyams (Waikato)

Mrs J Wake (Bay of Plenty)

Mrs D Osborne (Taranaki)

Mrs N Roberts (Hawkes Bay)

Mrs J Dickens (Wairarapa)

Mr M Norris (Wanganui)

Mrs B Seymour (Wellington)

Mr J McSweeney (Canterbury)

**Branch Secretaries**

<b>Auckland</b>	<b>Waikato</b>	<b>Bay of Plenty</b>
Mrs C Rhodes	Mrs C Smith	Mrs A Henderson
193 Princes Street E	6 Burleigh Place	10 Park Rd
Otahuhu, Auckland	Bramley, Hamilton 3210	Rotorua 3015
Tel: 09 276 5532	Tel: 07 854 4068	Tel 07 348 1471
<b>Taranaki</b>	<b>Hawkes Bay</b>	<b>Wairarapa</b>
Mr O Greensill	Mr J Garland	Mrs A. Woodley
21 Rogan Street	PO Box 8556	43 Iorns Street
New Plymouth	Havelock North	Masterton
Tel: 06 758 5138	Tel 06 835 4549	Tel 06 377 1524

Wanganui	Wellington	Canterbury
Mrs S. Norris	Mrs J Robinson	Mrs S. Ward
10 Hillside Terrace	PO Box 17 126	6/324 Stanmore Rd
Wanganui	Karori, Wellington	Christchurch
Tel: 06 348 8401	Tel 04 472 4282	Tel 03 379 0259

**National Secretary/Treasurer:**

Mrs Janet Robinson

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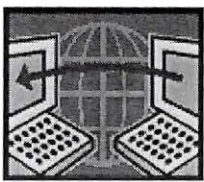
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**National Office:** Open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9.30-3.30



**THE SEVENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW  
ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY PRESENTED BY THE  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

One of my major goals for this past year was to get our web site up and running. A lot of work had already been done by our own Glen Robertson and we were introduced to a web master who has a particular interest in history and genealogy etc who we thought would be the one to help us through the next stage. This in fact turned out to be so, but then we started exploring further on what we could and could not do whilst still remaining clear of any privacy issues. On this front we had a lot of input from members of the various branches that I had the privilege to visit over the year.



What the new web designer had proposed was amazing and certainly would have taken the Founders to a new level but once we started down this path we then started to learn so much and especially just how much we needed to learn before we could go any

further. We are now back to where we started and whilst my goal of having the site up and running before the end of 2008 has failed, we now have a clearer idea of what we need to do. I still see this as the way of the future for the Society and we do desperately need more members to continue on the work of preserving our heritage for future generations.

Having a lot fewer business commitments this year and being settled in our new premises, enabled me to visit three of the branches, namely Wanganui, Bay of Plenty and Hawkes Bay. Each of these trips gave me the opportunity to meet with some wonderful people and hear such amazing stories of individual members. Thank you all for the hospitality extended to me and my husband Ian who accompanied me on each trip. I like to think I could get to visit the remaining branches during the next twelve months.

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank the Hawkes Bay Branch for their generous donation of \$2,000.00 for the Study Award Grant.

Whilst in the Bay of Plenty it was fascinating for me to have a member come up to me and talk to me about the gun accident that happened to my maternal grandfather which was mentioned in the letter that I read out about my family history in Lyttelton. Prior to this I had never given any thought as to how my great-grandfather could have damaged two of his fingers with a gun and then it was explained to me that it would have been a musket and



[www.historical-firearms.co.uk](http://www.historical-firearms.co.uk)

he would have been tamping the gunpowder down the barrel and it would have accidentally fired. A very small detail but it took on such a personal note with this explanation. I think it is stories like these that really make up the fabric of the Society. There are so many articulate and devoted family historians and genealogists amongst our members and at some stage some of these stories will get on to our own website.

I am pleased to report that a plaque has been installed inside the Colonial Cottage acknowledging the part the Young New Zealand Founders Society members played establishing the museum. The plaque states:

*"This plaque was placed in recognition of the contribution by the New Zealand Founders Society to the restoration of 68 Nairn Street and the establishment of the Colonial Cottage Museum."*

Finally we remember those of us who have passed away or who have resigned because of age or ill-health. We remember Joyce Mackenzie, Past Chairman of Wanganui Branch from 1989 to 2000 and editor of the Bulletin 1992-2000 which includes a special historical Bulletin of the Founders Society. Joyce became a member of the Wanganui Branch in 1979.

I would like to thank the Members of the Executive who have made my life so much easier as your President, and also, particularly to thank Janet Robinson who continues to be the glue that holds our Society together. Each Executive Member has their own particular strengths and we have had to call on each one at some stage during the year. Thank you to you all.

Is it just me or has this year rolled around even more quickly than the last? I am willing to stand as President for a further twelve

months but then I think that it may be appropriate for someone from one of our Branches to take up the mantle.

To everyone of you, thank you for your continued encouragement and support to our Society.

**Beryl Gentleman**  
**NATIONAL PRESIDENT**



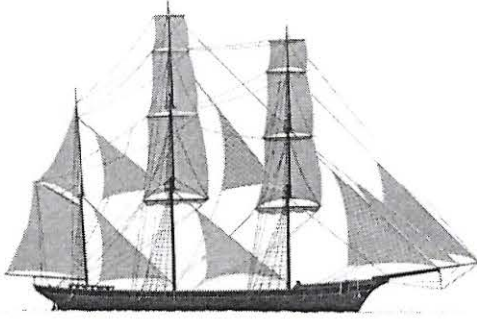
### CURRENT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Membership as at 31st March 2009 stood at:-

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Honorary	277	274	247
Life	37	34	33
Senior	549	524	507
Junior	5	5	4
Associate	51	50	56
Hon for service	18	15	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>839</b>

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Auckland	45	41	39
Bay of Plenty	117	117	104
Canterbury	52	54	55
Hawkes Bay	156	154	145
Taranaki	60	61	47
Waikato	73	43	48
Wairarapa	118	114	109
Wanganui	117	126	132
Wellington	175	175	160
<b>Total</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>839</b>





## FOUNDERS SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS

**Name                  Port                  Ship                  Date                  Ancestor**

<i>Bay of Plenty</i>				
Mrs M.A. McEwen	Lyttelton	Cashmere	1855	Thomas & Sarah WELLS
	?	?	by 1862	John & Mary BRADLEY
<i>Canterbury</i>				
Mrs J.A. Martin	Wellington	Flash	1854	Alexander & Mary McKENZIE
<i>Hawkes Bay</i>				
Mr A.M. Connor	Auckland	Sandford	1849	Johnathon HOLDEN
	Wellington	Alma	1859	Ann LEVER
	Whitianga	Herald	1828	Thomas & Mary POYNTON
Mrs A. Glass	Auckland	Ralph Bernal	1844	James & Charlotte CONEY
	Auckland	Otago	1864	Christian F.R. NEUMANN
	Auckland	Joseph Fletcher	1855	Elijah & Matilda WEBB
Mr G.A. Glass	Wellington	HMS Fawn	1861	James (Voller) GLASS
	Lyttelton	Minerva	1861	Annie Catherine HOOD
	Lyttelton	Robert Small	1860	Susannah E. GANDY
Mrs M.D. Arthur	Lyttelton	Zealandia	1858	John & Mary RANBY
Mr A.R. McWilliam	Wellington	Indian Queen	1857	John HESLOP
Mrs A.J. McWilliam	Wellington	Duke of Portland	1854	William WHALE
Mrs J. Vernon	Lyttelton	Mystery	1861	George Russell & Sophie JOBLIN

Mrs A.M. Ricketts	Wellington	Arab	1841	William & Esther Bernard WATTS
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Associated Members:

Mr D.H. Smith  
 Mr P.H. Arthur  
 Mrs J.J. Tilson  
 Mr D. Ricketts

<i>Waikato</i>				
Mrs C.R. Cobb	Wellington	Clifton	1842	Benjamin & Emma GRAY
Mrs L.E. Jordan	Kororareka	Java	1846	Arthur WALLACE
Mrs V.M. Mackintosh	Lyttelton	Labuan	1851	William & Isabella STEWART
	Lyttelton	Amasis	1859	Henry GOODWIN*
	Auckland	Cashmere	1854	Dorcas MACKY*
	Bay of Islands	Westminster	1840	Thomas PATON
Mrs M.E. Farrell	Nelson	Lloyds	1842	Elizabeth TAVERNOR
	Nelson	Lord Auckland	1842	David & Mary Ann HAMMOND
	Nelson	Maori	1851	Edward CHALLIS
	Nelson	John Masterman	1857	Eliza SATHERLEY
	Wellington	Blenheim	1840	Dugald & Jane McLACHLAN
Mrs F.E. Smith	Kororareka	Active	1814	Capt. Thomas & Hannah HANSEN
Mrs G.E. Annan	Dunedin	Bruce	1860	Alexander ANNAN
Mrs J.E. Gardiner	New Plymouth	Timandra	1842	William & Sarah SPURDLE
	Lyttelton	Zealandia	1858	John & Mary RANBY
Mrs L.J. Muir	Port Waikato	Sydney Packet	1830	Charles MARSHALL
	Waikato	?	1853	Richard Buswell UNDERWOOD
<i>Wairarapa</i>				
Mrs K.M. Wallace	Wellington	London	1842	Thomas & Susannah CHAMBERLAIN
Miss K.R. Cameron	Wellington	Marie Theresa	1842	Sarah MASTERS
	Wellington	Eleanor	1841	Joseph MASTERS
Mrs R. McAllister	Kororareka	General Gates	1819	Rev. John Gore BUTLER
	Wellington	Eleanor	1841	Joseph MASTERS
	Wellington	?	1842	Richard IORNS
	Nelson	Ariel?	1842	Sir David MONRO
	Dunedin	?	1862	Sir James HECTOR

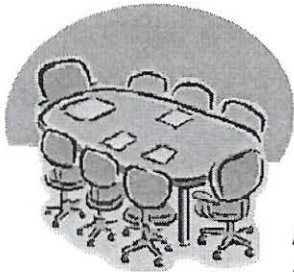
	Petone	Oriental	1840	Richard BARTON
Mr A.H.M. Wall	Wellington	Lord William Bentinck	1841	Anthony & Susannah WALL
<i>Wanganui</i>				
Mr G.W. Phillips	Dunedin	?	1863	James WILSON
	Wellington	?	1860	James DONALDSON
Mr M.A. Wilson	Nelson	Indus	1843	Robert & Ann McNAB
Mr R.E. Ewen	Wellington	Blenheim	1840	Alexander GRANT
	Wellington	Blenheim	1840	Mary CAMERON
<i>Wellington</i>				
Mr R.P. Beauchamp	Picton	Lalla Rookh	1861	Arhur & Mary BEAUCHAMP
	Nelson	Lord Auckland	1842	Richard & Sophia MILLS
Mr P.W. Kirby	Petone	Bengal Merchant	1840	James & Isabella GILBERT
Mr W. Frost	Nelson	Mariner	1849	Dennis & Lydia FROST
	Nelson	Kelso	1849	Robert & Mary BURBUSH
	Nelson	Martha Ridgway	1842	William PAGE
	Nelson	St Pauli	1843	George & Johanna MANSSEN
	Nelson	Will Watch	1841	William Hay MICKELL
	Nelson	?	by 1859	Antoine FAUCHELLE
	Preservation Inlet	Caroline	1832	William PALMER
Mr I.W. Jolly	Auckland	Gipsey	1854	John HULL
	Auckland	William Watson	1858	Isabella Adelaide CANN



## AROUND THE BRANCHES

### *Auckland Branch*

Since the 2008 National Council and AGM, Auckland Branch has continued their Monthly meetings at Kinder House, Parnell, with a really loyal band of members. Meetings this past year have been quite social as at many we have not had a speaker or guest. We have



found no problem in filling in two hours or more with talking among ourselves and always there is a great amount of reminiscing about "the good old days", questioning and exchange of information relevant to family history and other historical interests. Last year we supported the training of 'Hugo' a guide dog for the Blind and have received regular reports about his progress to read to our members. This year we have a new dog 'Gretel' and within the next two months we will be visiting the training school at Homai, Auckland. In September we visited the National



Maritime Museum to view a special exhibition about Henry Winkelmann, a noted Auckland photographer, especially of maritime scenes. Our October meeting was a visit to the historic house Highwic in Epsom, to take part in a demonstration of old-fashioned ironing, with the heavy old irons of the past, by one of the volunteers who collects irons (over 400 now). This has been a regular feature for



*Sad iron & trivet* visitors to Highwic. In November we had our end-of-year lunch at our usual venue, Kinder House, but in December, some of us gathered for a Christmas lunch at the Langham Hotel. February 2009 started with our usual Picnic on the Lawn at Kinder House.

John Webster,  
Chairman, Auckland Branch

### ***Waikato Branch***

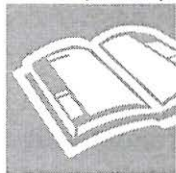
It is my pleasure to present this 2009 Waikato Branch Report. At our 2008 AGM, as your new Chairman, it was pleasing to have members agree to rescind the motion passed at the 2007 AGM,

to increase the annual subscription. With re-organisation and management the Secretary/Treasurer and I were sure that we could cover Branch expenses without the need to increase the subscription. This has proved to be correct but will need to be closely watched.

Early 2008 the Treasurer and I applied on behalf of the Waikato Branch to be registered as a charitable entity with the Charities Commission regarding exemption from taxation. After several months we were eventually notified that we did not meet registration requirements due to clause 7a of the New Zealand Founders Society Constitution. The commission did suggest that, as a Branch of NZ Founders Society Inc. we could automatically be included if our parent body was accepted. However, earlier this year NZ Founders Society Inc. was also rejected for the same reason, clause 7a, therefore a Special General Meeting was called to amend the Constitution by deleting clause 7a. Due to this our Branch may be liable for a small amount of tax. We have had an interesting and successful twelve months.

The speaker of our 2008 AGM was ill so I substituted with a talk on the history of the NZ Founders Society Grant/Scholarship and circulated two of the published books for members to see. This aroused considerable interest.

At the June meeting we were privileged to have as our speaker Dr Deborah Challinor who is a writer/research/historian with a PhD in New Zealand history. Her subject was "How to use History to present Fiction". Dr Challinor first published non-

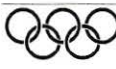


fiction before very successfully turning to fiction with historical accuracy. In August I reported on the Wellington National Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting. Our Waikato Branch remit was "That the Study Grant/Scholarship be increased in monetary value and be more widely advertised". The

Trust Deed already allows for increased monetary value which has not been used. Some applicants, meeting the Trust requirements, have been declined and gone on to publish successful books. This meant NZ Founders Society missing out on what we saw as the intent of the Award and the possible publicity. Our remit was subsequently amended to "The Study Grant should be more widely advertised". This was moved, seconded and carried.

Another remit was also passed on improving public awareness of NZ Founders Society and a further remit "that the website be up and running by Christmas 2008". No remits went forward to the AGM as they had all been dealt with at the National Council. There was however discussion about the website and a report given on the Study Grant as well as the President's Report and Annual Accounts.

Following my Wellington report, one of our members, Jenny Gardiner gave us an insight in to all the months of work involved in organizing a Family Reunion.

At our October Luncheon Meeting we were delightfully entertained by our Secretary/Treasurer, Carolyn Smith, who talked with enthusiasm  about her unexpected trip to China and the Beijing Olympics. It was amazing how much was involved!

After our well-attended Christmas Luncheon Meeting in November, we were thoroughly entertained by our speaker Michael Easter, a retired G.P. Michael is an actor who has appeared in T.V. commercials and films as well as in over sixty shows. He is also an author and regularly features in *The Waikato Times* as Flim Flam.

Our meetings resumed in February after the Christmas break. This meeting involved having our usual enjoyable luncheon at the Te Rapa Racecourse before 36 of us car-pooled to visit the

wonderful property and earth-rammed home of Graham and Diane McBride at Te Kowhai. Here we had a most informative talk and tour. This meeting was arranged for us by committee member, Bruce Murcott.

I acknowledge the willing support given by all the committee without whom we could not function as well. The Secretary/Treasurer and I have found that sharing the secretarial duties between us has proved a successful combination. There was a lot of work needed to bring the Branch back organizationally and financially but we are confident that that is now behind us. I am very grateful to Carolyn for all her support, effort and commitment throughout the year. Also thanks must go to Kath Townsend for her publicity work.

There has been a gradual rebuilding in membership but regrettably we have lost a few members due to ill health and bereavement.

It is very important to keep our founding heritage alive and so it is imperative to get the website up and running as the main promotion of NZ Founders Society. Oncoming generations automatically turn to their computers for information.

I hope that the Waikato Branch will have as successful a twelve months as the past twelve have been. Please support your committee.

Lynley Hyams

Waikato Chairman

### ***Bay Of Plenty Branch***

After two eventful years as your Chairman I never thought for one moment I would be writing my final report, convalescing from a horrific accident causing severe leg trauma. I will be

wheelchair bound for some time. The past year has been a challenge:

- (a) The introduction of the unpopular capitation fee resulting in the increased membership fee.
- (b) We gambled with tradition by experimenting and holding some of our meetings at different venues.

On Sunday, 30th March, we held our Annual General Meeting at the Heritage Hotel, Rotorua that was well attended by members. Our guest speaker, Mrs Shona Porter from Hawkes Bay, created intense interest with her knowledge and skilful presentation of her subject "Newest City OnThe Globe". The 1931 Napier earthquake caused the building of a new city and the creation of the now World Famous Art Deco City.

27 July, the Tauranga and Kati Kati meetings were combined. Held at the Armitage Hotel, 54 members were entertained by Doreen McLeod from the Interpretation Centre, Newmont Waihi gold-mining operations. The visual overhead display of the relocation of the historic Cornish Pump House held the interest of members.

On Sunday 28th September we had 52 members attend an interesting meeting held at the Classic Flyers Museum, Mount Maunganui. This was our first attempt at providing variety in our venues and it proved to meet favourably with those members who attended. A superb three course meal was served after which Andrew Cormlie, CEO of the Museum, gave an informative lecture on the history of the museum and its future plans.

He was delighted when one of our Te Puke members presented him with an autograph, obtained many years ago, from the famous aviatrix Jean Batten.

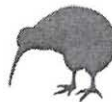
Afterwards members were guided through the museum complex with its large collection of aircraft and military exhibits.





On 30th November, Barbara Comiskey and her team from the Whakatane Branch organized, with delightful Christmas flair, a most successful meeting at Kawerau.

The 48 members who attended enjoyed a guided bus tour round this attractive mill town followed by a delicious meal at the Cosmopolitan Club. Tansy Bliss, Kiwi Project Manager, Department of Conservation, gave an interesting lecture on the Mighty River Power project to save the Kiwi. Her presentation of recorded Kiwi mating calls and pictures of the breeding facilities was a fitting end to a very pleasant and informative outing.



As your representative on 9th June I travelled to Wellington to attend the Annual General Meeting of the NZ Founders Society and the National Council Meeting held at the Wilton Bowling Club. Audrey & Ian Henderson and Moina Garland attended as observers. Audrey also represented the NZ Historical Society. The declining numbers of the Society are cause for concern and as our President stated "No doubt some are questioning our relevance and the role that we play, but I think it is even more important now that we remember, discover and record the stories of our ancestors and the trials and tribulations that affected them when settling into this wonderful country."

In 2014 the Founders Society will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary and it is hoped the occasion might be marked on a grand scale. It is pleasing to note that a committee is following up on an idea of a commemorative stamp suggested by Terrance Stenson from our Tauranga Branch.

I am of the opinion the Society's investment funds will have suffered losses due to the financial crisis, and the reduction in interest rates on bank deposits will also have an affect on total equity.

We are saddened by the bereavement of several of our members during the year and the resignations due to ill-health, travel difficulties and re-locations. A big thank you to those members who have handled the affairs and phone lists of their individual Branches.

I want to thank our Treasurer, Lorraine Wilson-Perrott for her efforts during the years. Our members owe our unpaid secretary, Audrey Henderson, a huge vote of thanks, as without her secretarial skills, commitment and knowledge the Branch would be at a loss. I personally cannot thank Audrey and Ian enough for the help they have given me during my term as Chairman. I will miss the almost daily e-mail contact! After serving on the executive for eight years I regret I will be unable to hold any future executive position and wish the members and the society well.

Sandy Garland  
Chairman,  
Bay of Plenty Branch

### *Taranaki Branch*

Your committee has worked hard to provide interesting speakers for each meeting. It would be great if we could encourage new members to boost the attendance at our meetings. The average attendance is 19 and this includes the two special gatherings at Christmas Evening Get-Together - 26 members and March Dinner and Memorial Service - 21 members.

We have held three committee meetings over the year - two at the hall and one at Beryl's. Our thanks to Beryl; she serves a scrumptious afternoon tea.

Our speakers have been: Access Ability to Community help and support available to those who so need. Marise Keast: Watchdog on the happenings at the local council meetings.

Len Jury visited us again and spoke of the 1914-18 war and the stamps pertaining to this era.

Ron Lambert from Puke Ariki, showed us slides of the Memorial sites around our area and Clive Pryme spoke in detail about these sites. The "Save our Sites" group are very active regarding the care and preservation of these sites and thought it appropriate to make them a donation.

A brief report by David Harrop after our lunch at Cobb & Co on the Heritage Trail around our city was an interesting tie-up with these two previous speakers. A Dietician mixed up a nutritious concoction that he feeds his young budding All Blacks before their practice runs. Members were able to sample the mixture of berries and grains. The visit to the Super Shed was disappointing.

Peter Galvin entertained us at the Christmas gathering. Our thanks to Beryl for the three raffles. Profit for the evening was \$15.00. Our dinner and Memorial Service was held on a beautiful day. We were all led at the service by the Reverend Bill Marsh who spoke on the strength and courage of our forebears - we need more of those traits today.

My thanks to you all for the support shown to me over the past year. I would like to acknowledge the concern and caring for members by Trevor Bright and of course Peggy.

Dale Osborne  
Chairman

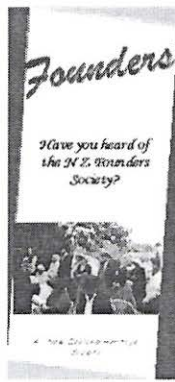
### *Hawkes Bay Branch*

It is with pleasure that I present my 2008 Annual Report for the New Zealand Founders Society Inc. of the Hawkes Bay Branch. This has been another successful year for the Branch with a varied number of outings and luncheons and I wish to thank our members and my committee for their help in coming forward with ideas and with organization. We had a major change in our executive as Valerie Yule resigned as Treasurer after some years of valuable service. We were very fortunate to have Andy Duncan (a relative new member) "volunteer" to take on this position. Andy is a computer "whiz" and has established a data base of all members and other records and brought us into the 21st century. Any members who wish to have their email address on his list should advise him.

During the past year, regretfully, we have had a number of deaths. In particular, I mention three members Tony Goulter-Green and "Bobby" Lawson who were foundation members and Helen Gibbs who had 22 years membership. However, we have been fortunate in gaining ten new members and two new Friends of the Society.

In June 2008 I attended the National Council and Annual General Meeting of New Zealand Founders Society. Lively discussion was held on the various remits which have resulted in better communication to our Branches from the Executive. Delegates discussed ways of increasing our profile throughout New Zealand. (I am pleased to announce that we now have a local reporter that will publish any reports or photos of the Society that we submit.) It was announced that a website is being developed and is nearly completed to give information about the Society, Branch contacts; and lots of links to genealogy sites and other lines of research. It is hoped that this will lead to increasing our membership.

A flyer is also to any who may be A variety of outings blessed by good attendances. The of the position of members and has reasonable limits by members to take practical.



available for distribution interested.

and meetings were held - weather and large committee has been aware many of our senior tried to keep costs within subsidizing and asking their own transport when

February: The "Mission" was the venue for our Annual Founders Day Luncheon. An excellent meal was served in the Chapel followed by a talk by Mr Dan Miller, co-author of the newly-published book "Napier's Medicine Men 1860-1950".

April: Fifty members attended the Annual General Meeting held at the Napier Woollen Mills, now 105 years old. Over the last decades the husband and wife team, Anne and the late Frits Vink, have with their tenacity and entrepreneurial skills, restored the buildings and grounds to a commercial venture (Historic Places C Classification) to become in their time a Wool Carding Company. Arms Museum, equestrian centre and available premises for functions, weddings, etc. After an interesting talk and tour we enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea provided by Anne.

May: Following lunch at the old Union Hotel Ahuriri, seventy-one members moved to the old National Tobacco Company building and were given an excellent power- point presentation of the past, present and the future plans for these famous Art Deco buildings by their new owners Mr Tom McKimm and his son of Big Save Furniture.

June: Our Winter Luncheon was held at the Hawkes Bay Club, Napier. Mr Art



Verschoor, Past President, spoke of the difficulty immigrants have in a new country.

August: An interesting talk and tour was given by their Archivist, Gay Robertson, at the Woodford House Girls' College, founded in 1894 by Mabel Hodge. When it outgrew its original site the late Thomas Chambers of Tauroa Station, Havelock North gave the land for a new school. The first buildings were designed by W.J. Rush and re-opened in 1911.

September: Our Spring outing was a trip to Trelinnoe Park off the Taupo Road. This is a large area that has been contoured and developed by Mr John Wills who gave a conducted tour of his beautiful gardens.

November: Our very successful end-of-year outing was a Mystery Bus Trip "Along the Tukituki Valley". A picnic lunch was held at the picturesque Tukituki homestead built to replace the original two-storied wooden homestead destroyed by fire. We then drove over the winding country road to Waimarama Beach. Here we were able to visit the historic Maori Church and taken to the nearby Marae where members of the community explained the various carvings, artefacts and photographs on view. Christmas cake and wine was shared at the picnic domain.

We now look forward to another interesting programme for 2009 and I thank all members and my wonderful committee for their continuing support.

Nanette Roberts  
Chairman

### *Wanganui Branch*

We had many interesting speakers and events during the 2008 year: February 28 meeting we listened to Ailsa Stewart talking about the old hospitals in and around Wanganui.

March 30 meeting was our AGM and the speaker was Locheen Liburn who showed us old photographs of Wanganui and dedicated a photo of the old racecourse grounds gifted to the racecourse with a bequest from the late Rona Peffers.

Edna Young told us about her forebears on the *Duke of Roxburgh* at our May 25 Meeting.

On June 22 Graeme Carter spoke about early transport around Wanganui and else-where. Some of his books were on display. This was a most interesting talk.

July 27 we listened to Rosemary Hovey who talked about her aunt, Nola Luxford, who ran the ANZAC Club in New York during World War 2. It was fascinating to hear from some of the New Zealand Servicemen (Society members) who had actually visited the club during the war telling us of their experiences. The memories they shared with us made this talk special.

August 24 we heard from Meg Hartfield about the importance of writing down family history for future generations and not to forget our own life history. Meg showed us examples of how and what to do.

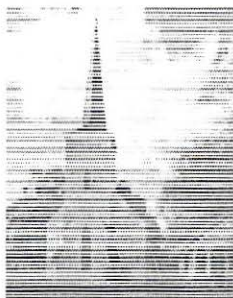
September 24, members visited the new UCOL campus in Wanganui and were surprised to learn about what is on offer to students and the facilities available. A most enjoyable afternoon. October 19, Bryan Dean spoke about early policing in New Zealand, his experiences around the country and some of his highlights. November 21 was the day of our end-of-year function and the guest speaker was Karen Wrigglesworth (a local engineer). Karen has, and still is, researching old engineering projects around Wanganui, explaining the problems that were solved during the construction of some of these projects.

February 24, Laraine Sole and Ailsa Stewart told us their story of writing the book about the history of Castlecliff, Wanganui. The research that was involved, the checking of material, the

oral history they collected. Copies of their book were for sale at the meeting and quite a few were sold.

Also, during the year our Branch inserted an advertisement in one of our local papers promoting the New Zealand Founders Society Inc. telling our community who we are and what we do.

A committee member, Susanna Norris, has collected a team of locals to put together a book about the early history of Upokongaro with Laraine Sole's help. We believe it is so important to preserve our history before it is lost. We believe the Society must provide all help and resources possible to enable this to happen.



*Upokongaro Church*

Wanganui is so lucky that many other local people are putting together historical books recording our history of around Wanganui, the old suburbs and old events. These people (all volunteers) need recognition; their efforts need to be acknowledged.

Michael Norris  
Chairman, Wanganui Branch

### ***Wairarapa Branch***

Our Branch is in good heart, and continues to be one of the larger and more active Branches in the Society. We have 116 members, 2 resignations, 6 deaths and some new members which are great. We think of those who have died and send our sympathy to their families. Also thinking of those who have been unwell or had other problems and offer them our support.

We have had well-attended meetings and outings; some of the highlights being the Mid-Winter Luncheon at Greytown where we



had Brian Scaddon demonstrate Wet Plate photography and were able to be with Lenna and Hugh Simpson, who were celebrating their Diamond Wedding. Our Soup and Speaker lunch in July was graced with Geraldine and Ray Coats, wonderful speakers, who told us of their lives in various overseas countries.

Carrington Gardens in the Spring was a joy to visit, and Mrs Cameron showed us around the grounds and told us stories about various parts of the garden and some of the plantings in them.

What a fabulous visit we had to Barry Sears Stained Glass Studio. He and his wife Trudy were so delightful, demonstrated

how the beautiful



gave us a very

Shona and Bill

was another

looking at the

objects were made and

welcome cup of tea.

Harris' Lavender Farm

highlight. We enjoyed

paintings Shona had

done, the lavender paddock, and some members joined Bill on a

walk around the property. Bill was full of information about the

plantings of old fruit trees and such like, and the multi-coloured

poultry. Cuttings of the family rose brought out from the UK

with the family in 1840 were also for sale.

Our Christmas Lunch was delicious but not as well attended as

usual. We had the privilege of having Beryl Gentleman, our

National President and her husband Ian, as well as Janet

Robinson, our National Secretary, to share lunch and meet our

members. They thoroughly enjoyed the visit and were delighted

to talk to so many of you. Thank you for looking after them so

well. Anne and I have attended Executive meetings in Wellington

and found the various topics discussed interesting. A website

for Founders is under discussion at present, and also the Study

Grant for research into historical topics. If you know of anyone

interested in this please let me know.

Anne and Brian Woodley have also attended the Bay of Plenty and Hawkes Bay outings, and we thank them most sincerely for that. It is always good to meet members of other Branches.

Several members contributed to The Bulletin well done and a big Thank You for taking the time to write the articles. Any contributions for this year gratefully received!

I would like to thank all the members for their friendship and support, and especially thank the committee for all the work they put in organizing meetings, speakers, afternoon teas, etc.

Anne your work as Secretary, Jean's as Treasurer and Lesley's as Enrolment Officer are appreciated so very much. Thank you.

Look forward to sharing outings and meetings with you this year.

Joan Dickens,  
Chairman

### ***Wellington Branch***

I am pleased to present my report for 2008 as Chairman of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Founders Society. This will be my last year as Chairman.

We have had some enjoyable social events this past year beginning in March with a barbeque at Beryl and Ian Gentleman's Raumati House. A good number of Founders attended this event and a great time was had by all of us exploring their lovely house and garden. Our thanks to Beryl and Ian for their hospitality. The Annual General Meeting was held in the Wellington Bridge Club in April and we were fortunate to have Linda Burgess speaking about her latest book "Historic Houses - A Visitor's Guide to 65 Early New Zealand Houses" photographs by her husband. Linda related some amusing anecdotes and told us how they visited all of the houses and spoke at length to the present owners.

In June some members attended the National Annual General Meeting at the Wilton Bowling Club and heard Maureen West give a talk on the Myth and Reality: Finding a Transmigrant Family in a British World. Maureen related how family stories over a period of time become fact which makes researching family history both frustrating and fascinating.

Unfortunately, the July luncheon at Joy Jury's house had to be cancelled due to the ill-health of the hostess.

In September a lunch was held at the Colonial Cottage where the speaker, Rosie Bowrie spoke on "Dating Trends in the 21st Century". Rosie operates Wellington's oldest established match-making company which she has owned for the past seven years.

In October some of our members attended the National Library's guided exhibition tours of "Grim Stuff - Folk Tales and Fairy Stories" and

Satirical Engravings of

In December we joined

Settlers for our

was held in the Board

Museum of City & Sea.



"Cautionary Tales - The William Hogarth".

the Wellington Early

Christmas Lunch which

Room at the Wellington

Fifty-one people

attended the luncheon plus two from the museum staff.

My thanks to the committee members, Janet Robinson and our auditor Geoff Palmer, for their hard work during the year.

Their support means we are able to hold social functions that otherwise would not be possible. Once more I ask you to encourage family and friends who are interested in early New Zealand history to bring them along to our meetings. We will be delighted to meet them.

I am pleased to report that a plaque has been placed in the Colonial Cottage Museum acknowledging the part played by the

New Zealand Founders Society in the restoration of the cottage and establishment of the museum.

Beverly Seymour,  
Chairman, Wellington Branch.

### *Canterbury Branch*

Dear members of the Canterbury/Westland Branch of the NZ Founders Society, welcome once again to our Annual General Meeting. As always I have much pleasure in presenting my annual report to you today, Sunday, 5th April 2009. Of interest I note this is my 10th Annual Report to you.

As we did last year, we are again in the heart of Christchurch city here at Pomeroy's in this historic building. Indeed we are in a most historic, but often overlooked, part of our city on the corner of Fitzgerald Avenue and Kilmore Street on the banks of the Avon River.

During 2008 we enjoyed a range of functions with members and their families and friends. We are often joined by friends and some have even joined just as a Founder or Associate member.

Your small but dedicated committee of Shona Ward, Secretary/Treasurer, Noeline Hansen, Annabel and Graham Tapper, June Moore and Elizabeth Wolff with me as Chair has continued to provide a regular variety of not-too frequent

functions. We do hope you have and will continue to enjoy them

Our functions during 2008, following our wonderful March AGM in the beautiful surroundings of the Charlotte Jane Boutique Hotel in Papanui Road, were well attended and



certainly seemed to be enjoyed. Many enjoyed the tour of the Charlotte Jane's exclusive guest rooms following the AGM.

May: After lunch in the Dux de Lux restaurant in the Christchurch Arts Centre, we were given a conducted tour of the Canterbury Medical Research Facility within the Christchurch Hospital. Your Founders Society currently gives an annual donation to help this vital research work. It was a very enlightening experience for everyone who attended. (Unfortunately I was unable to attend the conducted hospital visit as I broke my leg playing on motorbikes on a remote North Canterbury Farm on that morning and attended hospital separately. My leg has healed perfectly.)

August: This function was held at St Paul's Parish Lounge in Papanui. We were treated to a most fascinating talk of John Freeman on the life of Elizabeth Cook, wife of the explorer James Cook. Her life was incredible and gave great support to her husband even though he was away so much. Many of the ideas Captain Cook implemented were first suggested by Elizabeth.

October: With the Spring weather emerging we went to the country and visited one of our favourite country pubs in the township of Cust. Beautiful country fare and then a visit to view one of the oldest still-standing wooden Anglican Churches in Canterbury. To guard against the ferocious Nor-Western winds a steel cable is attached to the top of the west wall and goes into the ground where it is attached to a large steel plough. This arrangement has worked well and although none of the walls are straight anymore, the church is still standing and functioning. It also has a beautiful and separately-built brick bell tower.

December: For our Christmas function for 2008 we went to a hidden gem near the airport called Hinton's Vineyard restaurant; it is within the original small but expanded and modernized

homestead building. The surprise and highlight of the day was a tour of the huge and peaceful gardens used for wedding functions and special family occasions. Even more surprising was the tour of multiple air-conditioned buildings housing hundreds of immaculately restored cars, trucks and other kiwi household items. The whole property and the collection were designed for one man's personal passion. He now allows specially invited groups to view his dream. It is impressive.

February: Starting off the new year was lunch at the historic Racecourse Hotel in Upper Riccarton. It was the favourite hotel of Charlie Ballin (of Ballins drinks) and the hotel is said to still have a ghost walk its corridors following the unsolved murder of the publican many, many years ago. The story has created an atmosphere and interest over the years.

My special thanks to Shona Ward for the tremendous work she has done this year and for a number of years now. Shona is retiring at this AGM from her joint role and we thank her and will miss her, not only has she done both jobs for us but she has also hosted us at her home for our committee meetings during her whole time as secretary.

During 2009 Graham Tapper organized a joint venture to have the Allan Bean Library at the (Christchurch) Burwood Spinal Unit to look after all of our library books. This has been a great idea. The books are always accessible to members and now can be accessed and read by a much wider audience. We thank Graham for this initiative that is benefiting so many more people now.

Our Branch financial position, although still strong, has again had a very small reduction in total worth from last year. The reduction in our asset value in 2007 was \$15 and this year it is \$21. Our total worth is now \$80,010 down from \$80,031. I trust that you will agree with your committee that we are well pleased with this result especially considering the continued and

increasing support we have made to our local community, as well as continuing to support our functions for your enjoyment.

Unfortunately, one of the principals of part of our mortgage has defaulted on the interest and principal due. Our solicitors, on behalf of ourselves and twelve other mortgage contributors, have arranged for a mortgagee sale of the property (two sections near Redcliffs) to recover whatever is available.

Your committee wishes to continue with our philosophy of strong financial support for members' functions and our ongoing community sponsorships. With reduced interest rates this will be more difficult but still worthwhile to do. Corcoran French, our solicitors since the formation of our Society, are withdrawing from the mortgage market. Our funds will be transferred to our bank, the ANZ. All of our interests will now be with the ANZ Bank.

We continue our ongoing commitment to Canterbury Medical Research Foundation with our annual \$1,000.00 donation being the second of our five year commitment.

Again we will continue our special sponsorship arrangement with Margaret Copland. It is wonderful to have her with us again as she presents in a live story show a presentation of a glimpse of the life in Christchurch of days gone by. This has continued to allow her to present her "live story" to school and community groups that could not otherwise afford to hear about a significant part of local Canterbury history in an interesting, visible and memorable way.

Our local history and community founding knowledge is being preserved, and communicated to a wider community base. Our Founders Society name, as a helping and caring sponsor, is also being promoted in a meaningful way. This sponsorship continues to be a practical commitment of your Society that you can all feel proud and privileged to be a part of.

We reflect on members, family and close friends who have passed away over the year. Our sympathy is extended to you and your families over your loss.

My thanks again to your small but dedicated team of committee members; Shona, Graham, Annabel, June and Elizabeth. Your personal time and support continues to be very much appreciated. I record our thanks to our auditor, Alan Winslade, for his contribution to complete the audit of our accounts, so ably prepared by our Treasurer Shona, for us as at 31st December 2008.

Finally, thank you all for your support of the functions and attendance here today. Your membership and support by attendance at functions makes our Society vibrant and interesting. Thank you for your continued support of our commitment to community financial support. Each of you 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 in being a member of the Canterbury/Westland Branch of the NZ Founders Society.

John McSweeney  
Chairman



## OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION