

NZ Founders Society HB  
PO Box 8556  
Havelock North 4157



# BULLETIN

NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY



NUMBER 84 – REPORT FOR YEAR

**2012**

**Cover illustration shows a migrant ship entering  
Wellington Heads (post 1859)**

**New Zealand Founders Office**

**We are located in the Wellington Bridge Club Building.**

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**Our email 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 2012)

National President

Mr Glen Robertson

National Immediate Past President

Mr Russell Hurst

National Councillors

Mrs Neni Beres (Past President)

Mrs J. Dickens (National Executive)

Mrs C. Hurst (National Executive)

Mrs A. Woodley (National Executive)

Miss Sandra Clarke (National Executive)

Mr J.P. Webster (Auckland)

Mr G. Tapper (Canterbury)

Mrs B. Roger (Bay of Plenty)

Mrs N. Roberts (Hawkes Bay)

Mrs D. Osborne (Taranaki)

Mrs A. Woodley (Wairarapa)

Mr A. Gover (Waikato)

Mr M. Norris (Wanganui)

Mrs C. Hurst (Wellington)

Branch Secretaries

**Auckland**

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Otahuhu, Auckland  
1062  
Tel: 09 276 5532

**Taranaki**

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New Plymouth  
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**Waikato**

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Hastings 4120  
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10 Park Road  
Rotorua 3015  
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**Wellington**

Branch Chairman  
PO Box 17-126  
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Mrs C. Beaton  
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**THE SEVENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY  
PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Once again, membership is a continuing problem. We have aging and fewer members, even though Branches are to be congratulated for holding regular and interesting meetings. Christchurch Branch has suffered from the earthquakes and membership difficulties but has continued on at present.

The Society has operated at a deficit for almost ten years. The rental for our rooms is now very reasonable but other costs have increased. The economic downturn in recent years has eroded the return from investments and it is now no longer possible to cover our costs with income. As a group with nine connected Branches organised into a whole with a central executive body, we would have the lowest annual membership fee of many Societies, some of which start at more than \$50.00.

National groups more often have a fee paid in its entirety to the national body to cover costs, with Branches charging a small fee to cover their costs. It is better to make small increases more often than make large increases irregularly. We need to keep our rooms to house our records and other important documents. If they are deposited elsewhere there is no guarantee of their survival. Their safety depends on whoever in the future, decides they are worth keeping with an emphasis on the organizations collection emphasis of the time.

**The Society's Finances** As was the case last year, we continue with a substantial reduction in our financial position this year leading to an overall 12-year negative. In simple terms the New Zealand Founders Society needs a substantial ongoing injection of new money. At the present time, interest rates are the lowest they have been for many years and I would think that there is little chance in the near short term of them becoming usefully higher.

I think that serious thought should be given to a way of increasing our income. Our society, along with other small groups, are all having financial problems. We have looked at the financial position of several other societies and gross income from these seven groups averages at \$54.00 per member with the highest subscription being \$80.00 and the lowest subscription being \$30.00. These subscriptions are wholly paid to various national organizations. Our society receives a capitation fee of \$15.00 per member. This capitation fee is insufficient to maintain the society and I think that the ordinary membership fee should be increased.

#### **Review of the Constitution**

This review is ongoing and as most of you will be aware, Branches are being requested to let us have some idea of the changes they would like to see in the Rules. As you would be aware any alteration and amendment to a document that has been carefully put together by past Society members will necessarily result in difficult and hard work for members who agree to complete this new Constitution.

**The Society's Premises** Janet, our secretary, has been in our current premises for many years. She is happily surrounded by historical records, securely locked cupboards, a new computer and a new printer. These two machines were purchased to replace old ones that were both "hand-me-

downs" and were well past their use-by-date. As members will be aware we do maintain a valuable asset in our library which is under-utilized. The Bridge Club premises, where we are now housed, is very safe and secure and as a cost saving we do not maintain an insurance cover for this library. The library cupboard's locking system has recently been upgraded.

**Digitisation of our Membership Application Records:** We are giving this full consideration and hopefully will be able to report something new next year.

I would like us to take time to remember those of us who have passed away or resigned because of age or ill-health. We remember Hilary Olsen, who served on the National Executive Committee from 1964 until her retirement in 1988. She was Vice-President from 1982-85 and Past President from 1985-88. Hilary was instrumental in setting up the Study Grant Award. Also remembered is Roger Beauchamp, Wellington Chairman, who died during the year.

I would like to thank the members of the Executive who have worked hard on behalf of the society.

To every one of you, thank you for your continued encouragement and support of our society.

**Russell Hurst**

**National President**

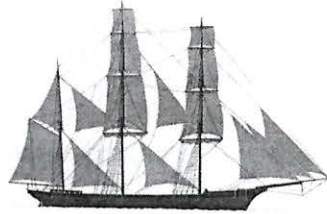


**Membership as at 31st March 2012 stood at:-**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Honorary	205	164
Life	28	25
Senior	412	424
Junior	3	4
Associate	51	50
Hon for service	11	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>675</b>

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
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Auckland	30	22
Bay of Plenty	98	87
Canterbury	46	34
Hawkes Bay	136	143
Taranaki	39	40
Waikato	50	54
Wairarapa	97	103
Wanganui	77	75
Wellington	137	117
<b>Total</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>675</b>




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## FOUNDERS SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Port</b>	<b>Ship</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Ancestor</b>
<b><u>Auckland</u></b>				
Mrs AM Cannon	Lyttelton	Dominion	1851	James Henry & Mary MOORE
	Lyttelton	Indiana	1858	C. HUNTER
	Lyttelton	Indiana	1858	M. SMELLIE
	Auckland	Jane Gifford	1842	Thomas & Mary BRIMNER
	Auckland	Jane Gifford	1842	Mr & Mrs Thomas VARNER
Mrs P.V. Wade	Auckland	Mary Warren	1864	Isaac William GLENNY
<b><u>Bay of Plenty</u></b>				
Mrs R.M. Ward	Port Nicholson	Hastings	1856	Joseph & Mary BURNETT
	Port Chalmers	Philip Laing	1848	John William & Jean WINTON
	Port Chalmers	Strathfieldsaye	1848	George Grieg SIM



Mr A.G. Strange	Port Nicholson	Clifton	1842	George SALISBURY
	Port Nicholson	Lady Nugent	1841	Mr & Mrs SMITH
	Lyttelton	Accrington	1863	Humphrey & Louisa OLIVER
	Port Nicholson	Oliver Lang	1857	Thomas William BRAGGINS
Mrs M. Strange	New Plymouth	William Bryan	1841	Paul & Tabitha INCH
	Auckland	Stately	1851	William James BALDWIN
	Auckland	Lancashire Witch	1856	Graham CROZIER
Mrs C.A. Hart	New Plymouth	Oriental	1841	Richard LETHBRIDGE
	New Plymouth	Amelia Thompson	1841	John PERRY
Mr R.A.G. Godfrey	Auckland	Jane Gifford	1842	Aitchison & Jane OLIVER
	Auckland	Minerva	1847	Michael RICE
	Auckland	Whirlwind	1859	Richard John MARSH
	Auckland	Whirlwind	1859	Richard & Elizabeth KNAGGS
	Raglan	?	?	William & Eleanor HAZLETT

### Hawkes Bay

Mrs M.P. Gibson	Lyttelton	William Miles	1864	Alexander HARVEY
Miss E.J. Willis	Wellington	?	1857	John JACKSON
Mr H.M. Gudsell	Lyttelton	Egmont	1862	James & Sarah GUDSELL
	Lyttelton	Mirage	1864	Thomas & Agnes EAST
Mrs M.H. Cobbe	Auckland	Joseph Fletcher	1858	Mr & Mrs MARTYN
Mrs J.D. Whitworth	Lyttelton	Huntress	1863	Henry & Mary FORWARD
	Lyttelton	Queen of the Mersey	1862	Frederick HG & Maria BIEL
Mrs S.M. Johnston	Wellington	Olympus	1841	Douglas & Mary McKAIN
	Napier	Rangoon	1864	Alexander CRARER
Mr K.E. McKee	Port Nicholson	?	1861	Thomas COLLINS
	Port Nicholson	Julia	1847	Sgt Robert & Sarah WILLIS
Mrs P.M. Erickson	?	Lord Wolsley	1860	Charles Hermann WEBER
Mr M. Manning	Port Nicholson	Lady Nugent	1841	Ezekiel & Mary A. THORBY
Mr W.H. Inglis	Port Nicholson	Agra	1852	Alexander St Clair INGLIS
	New Plymouth	William Bryan	1841	John & Eliza NAIRN
Mrs S.M. Inglis	Port Nicholson	Olympus	1841	Thomas & Jane MASON
	Bay of Islands	HMS Herald	1840	George Sisson COOPER
Mrs L.M. Ward	Lyttelton	Minerva	1853	William & Mary RAPLEY



	Lyttelton	Canterbury	1851	Sidney MERRYWETHER
Mrs M.H. Legarth	Lyttelton	Zealandia	1862	Samuel & Eleanor FINLAY
	Lyttelton	Zealandia	1862	Robert & Isabella HAMPTON
Mrs K.A. La Rooy	Naseby	?	1864	Patrick & Mary BLEACH
Mrs W. Ebbitt	Port Nicholson	Lord Wm Bentinck	1841	John & Ann HOWELL
Mr W.F. Legarth	Bay of Islands	Active	1814	Hannah King HANSEN

Associate Member

Mr B. King  
Mrs K. McKee  
Mr B.W. Erickson

Waikato

Mrs K.M. Higgins	Nelson	London	1842	William & Harriet JEFFRIES
Miss L.E. Woods	Lyttelton	Labuan	1851	William & Isabel STEWART
Mr B.A. Wynyard	Auckland	British Sovereign	1845	Lt Col Robert Henry WYNYARD
Ms C.G. Manning	Auckland	Commodore Perry	1860	Samuel & Eliza KING
	Auckland	Cairngorm	1863	Mary Jane FINNEGAN
Mrs J.C. Hebden	Auckland	Commodore Perry	1860	Samuel & Eliza KING
	Auckland	Cairngorm	1863	Mary Jane FINNEGAN

Associate Member

Mrs A.H. Bedggood  
Mr N.R. Townsend

Wairarapa

Mrs J.A. Bradley	Nelson	Bernicia	1848	Jonathon & Emma HASLAM
Mrs C.V. Miller	Auckland	?	1859	John & Janet SHEARER
Mrs N.A. Cooper	Port Nicholson	Birman	1842	William T. & Mary A. DUNN
Mrs JC Montgomery	Lyttelton	Glentanner	1857	Robert Henry ELLIOTTE
	Port Nicholson	Oliver Lang	1858	John McLVRIDE
Miss NC M Montgomery	Lyttelton	Glentanner	1857	Robert Henry ELLIOTTE
	Port Nicholson	Oliver Lang	1858	John McLVRIDE
Mr RDL Woodley	Port Nicholson	Katherine Stewart Forbes	1841	Charles & Mary COTTLE
Mr N.J. Day	Port Nicholson	Harrington	1841	George & Emma HAWKINS
Mrs J.L. Denny	Port Nicholson	Birman	1842	William T. & Mary A. DUNN

Wanganui

Mrs LM Teki-Turner	Port Nicholson	Slains Castle	1841	Henry & Jane NATHAN
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Mrs H.J. Hodson	New Plymouth	William Bryan	1841	Mr & Mrs Edwin HARRIS
	Auckland	Pestonjee Bomanjee	1847	Robert Dawson CAMPBELL
	Auckland	William	1847	Jane TAYLOR
Mr C.B. Wright	Port Nicholson	Bengal Merchant	1840	Andrew DUNCAN
	Port Chalmers	Mooltan	1849	James WRIGHT
	Port Chalmers	Mariner	1850	Catherine McGOWAN
	Port Chalmers	Mirage	1864	Isaac WYBER
	Auckland	Swiftsure	1864	Elizabeth BOYD
Mrs P.G. Pawson	Nelson	Clifford	1842	Thomas & Mary VERRY
Mrs A.L. Reed	New Plymouth	Cresswell	1853	Charles STEPHENSON
	New Plymouth	Cresswell	1853	John & Ann BELL
	Port Chalmers	Lady Egidia	1862	Robert Drummond EDGAR
Mr P.R. Johnson	New Plymouth	Essex	1843	John & Mary ROGERS
	Port Chalmers	Result	1862	Matthew ROBERTS

**Wellington**

Mrs M.D. Mercer	Lyttelton	Samarang	1852	Richard KNIGHT
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**Associate Member**

Mrs J.T. Burch

Mrs V. Paterson



**AROUND THE BRANCHES**



***Auckland Branch***

Looking back to last year's report it appears that the

Auckland Branch has continued steadily despite having a fairly low membership. Luckily, since Christmas, our membership did increase with the reception of four new members. Since joining one has maintained regular attendance at the meetings, while the other new members, being full-time workers, find it difficult to come to the day time gatherings.

***Kinder House***



With the National Council and AGM being a month late last year this report still covers the normal June to June of each year. As in the past we have continued to have monthly meetings at the venue we find the best for our purposes, namely historic **Kinder House** (1857) in Parnell. The year commenced with a talk about the New Zealand Costume and Textile Conference which had been held in Lower Hutt in November. An outstanding feature of this event was the visit to the factory which produces the textiles used in the "*Lord of the Rings*" films, and which, at the time, was gearing up to produce more for an unnamed film which we now know is "*The Hobbit*".

As in the past we went away from our usual venue at least twice - once it was to partake of a special deal put on by the Langham Hotel for their celebration of "Renaissance of the Roast". A great meal enjoyed by members including one member we had not seen for almost twenty years. Another outing was to see the special Sir George Grey exhibition at the Auckland Central Library. After this viewing members had their luncheon at the nearby Smith & Caughey's café. 2010 ended with our "End-of-Year" luncheon meeting in November during which each person displayed a special Christmas ornament from their past and spoke about it.

The New Year started with our Picnic on the Lawn, which included our secretary telling about her recent exciting trip to Europe and the great snow storms. Since then the programme has continued with a series of single talks by members about one particular member on their family tree. After discussion last year we found that a number of us have experienced difficulty in tracing one ancestor due to lack of information and other necessary details, including photographs. So far we have covered Mr Claridge who founded several newspapers in the North Island; the 1839 arrival of Frederick Haanken and another supposed 1839 arrival, the mysterious Captain Joiner.

Earlier this year we gave a donation to the Mayor Fund of the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal. Forthcoming meetings will include an outing to the newly re-opened Royal New Zealand Navy Museum (not to be confused with the National Maritime Museum) with its on-site café, and later, possibly, the Auckland Jewish Synagogue. No doubt we will visit once again, if invited, our sponsored puppy friends at the Homai Training

School for Guide Dogs. Another meeting will report on the National Council and AGM held in Wanganui, apparently only the second time in Founders' history that it has been held outside Wellington City.

After some initial fears, relating to our venue, costs and transport, our journey into being part of one large city in November has, so far, gone without a hitch, as making one super city out of seven looked to have major problems ahead.

Auckland Branch sends fraternal greetings to all other Branches with our best wishes for now and the future.

John Webster,  
Chairman, Auckland Branch

### *Waikato Branch*

It is with pleasure that I present the 2011 report for Waikato. As incoming Chairman for 2011 I was unable to attend the very first meeting due to the arrival of a new grandson; with 'Nanna' being needed for his slightly older brother. However, it has been a very interesting year which unrolled itself in a positive way. I am also pleased to see that our membership numbers have increased.

On a sadder note I must report the passing of Max Fletcher, Jo Murphy and Bill Munden. Our Branch meets on the third Thursday of every second month at the Te Rapa Racecourse in Hamilton at midday with a reasonably priced, sumptuous lunch.

On 15th April, 32 members attended our Annual General Meeting. Except for one member, all of the committee agreed to continue through to 2011. Max Fletcher was thanked for his contributions to our committee in the past. (Sadly Max passed away in June.) Following the meeting Bruce Murcott, Bunny Mortimer, Jim Phillips, Norman Smyth and Winton Mackintosh told of their experiences in the Forces during World War II, both at home and abroad.

Those with a flair for writing were encouraged to apply for the Founders Book Grant. (This was followed up at all meetings until October.)

On 17th June, 30 members attended a talk by David Wallace who gave us an interesting insight into the work and extensive maintenance required to run the Maungatautari Ecological Reserve, 47 kilometres of pest-proof



fencing surround a patch of Mt. Maungatautari, near Cambridge. Within its boundaries native flora and fauna are living and multiplying undisturbed. (Unfortunately, there has been a lot of argument about the governance of the reserve lately, with the result that the whole concept seems to be in jeopardy.)

On 19th July, our Secretary/Treasurer, Carolyn, and I visited Wellington for the Founders Annual General Meeting at Wilton Bowling Club. It was lovely to meet the members from other parts of New Zealand and get an update on what is happening at National level.

On 19th August, 45 members attended a revisit from Max Hill who gave us an update on his research and progress with his book about early civilizations in New Zealand, including the Morioris. We were fortunate to have the editor of a local newspaper join us and he produced in his newspaper an article accompanied by a very clear photograph.

On 21st October, 43 members attended to hear our National President, Michael Norris, speak of his vision for the future direction of the Founders under his leadership. Michael had family connections in this area and spent happy times in Hamilton when he was young. Some of our members joined in the discussion, speaking of their visions for the future, including ways to get new members.

On 25th November 66 members (including members of the Waikato Historical Society) attended a lively celebration of the festive season. Cambridge Ladies Lyceum Literary Circle presented a short pantomime 'Hansel and Gretel' written in verse by Olive Cooper of the Literary Circle. Several of our members performed items, followed by Santa's arrival with a big basket of lollipops. Added to the mix we had a selection of carols. Everybody went home full of Christmas cheer.



On 17th February this year, 49 members attended an 'Antiques Road Show' hosted by Roger McGirr. Members brought along treasured items for display. After the luncheon Roger gave us his expert opinion on the age and origin of each item.



Mention was made of an upcoming trip to Waiuku in March, planned by the Waikato Historical Society. Those attending will visit Wright's Water Gardens, Glenbrook vintage Railway, Glenbrook Farm and Waiuku Museum.

I would like to thank the following:-

Our committee for all the support they have given me this last year - each in a different way. I would especially like to thank Carolyn who helped me to understand the workings of our Society and the running of our Branch. Committee members - Bruce Murcott and Doug Bedggood for all their help over the past four years and who are retiring this year. I wish you all the best for the future.

Members and friends who have come along to our meetings joined in the fun and make everything worthwhile.

It is such a pleasure to have visitors from other Branches from time to time. Bay of Plenty members have visited us several times and Wairarapa has also graced us with a visit.

The speakers we have had who have given of their time and expertise to brighten our day.

Ann Huston of the 'Cambridge Edition' and Colin Vincent of the 'Hamilton News' who have seen fit to publish articles and photos for us from time to time. I wish all our New Zealand-wide Founders a great year.

Kath Townsend

Chairman, Waikato Branch

### ***Bay of Plenty Branch***

27th March, Hotel Heritage, Armitage, AGM, Thirty-eight members from the Bay of Plenty district and Cambridge met to enjoy the camaraderie of friends with drinks and raffle taking. We then adjourned to the dining-room where we served a delicious luncheon. It was nice to see two of our oldest members (over 90) chatting with two new members. Despite our best efforts it is difficult to entice new people with an interest in our founding fathers. Our speaker was Shirley Arabin (one of our members) who gave a well-researched talk on her ancestor, George Bryant - a gardener from Devon.

29th May, Whakatane Meeting at Ohope Chartered Club. This was one of our smallest meetings with 30 in number from the Bay of Plenty district.

The meeting was opened to anyone interested in Antiques and Collectables - the subject of our guest speaker, Jacqui Otley. After lunch Colin Deed told us a little of the life of our guest speaker. At a very early age she contracted poliomyelitis but remembers when she first became interested in antiques. As she could not walk she was placed on the ground and allowed to dig in the earth and found many pieces of broken crockery and porcelain which intrigued her. At the age of 19 she was just about to begin studying at Otago University when her local doctor in Taranaki called her back to have surgery on her legs. She was in hospital for over a year. Later, after marriage and four children she returned to studying antiques and collectables through books and courses. She went to many local courses including Sotherby's Antique Course in Auckland. Later she opened a shop in Whakatane with Wira Gardiner and when this closed she opened another smaller one by herself. She also gave Antique



Appreciation Courses in Whakatane. Founders' members had been asked to bring any items they wished to have appraised, of which there were 13. Jacqui then went through the various items from a most beautiful opal bracelet (\$1800-\$20,000) to a beautiful egg-encased in gold filigree (\$2,000+). This was most interesting as it had been made by one of our own Founders' members. He had been a jeweller in his past life. The other interesting piece of information was that fire opals (if solid) should be left to soak in RAIN water for a day to enhance the opal! If one has any question on valuations, or sorting out of household possessions or wills, Jacqui is able to do this. A very interesting speaker.

31st July: Te Puke Meeting at Kiwi 360 Kiwi Fruit Country. On a beautiful winter's day, Jo Wake, the Chairman, welcomed 52 members, some of whom were Waikato Branch members including Chairman Kath Townsend. We selected a lovely lunch from the restaurant and with food costs increasing daily we were lucky to pay only \$25 for the meal. The speaker was Maree Lewis, one of our members, who spoke on the prison settlements of Norfolk Island. She provided much pictorial evidence as

well as many books and articles. It was fascinating to hear other members contribute stories and other historical facts about the island. Ian Henderson thanked Maree and provided her with a small gift from the members.

18th September: Golf Pacifica, Katikati\_A good attendance of 40 people from the Bay of Plenty district on a Spring day, frustrating that just as the raffle was being set up it bucketed down. After welcoming members, guests and the guest speaker, Val Baker and one of her daughters Florrie, who were dressed in full Legion of Frontiersmen uniform. The Chairman then introduced the speaker, Val Baker, who explained her own ancestry both Pakeha and Maori. Val spoke on the work of clearing and beautifying the Katikati Cemetery, she showed the various stages of the upgrading of the cemetery and answered questions.

27th November: Kingsgate Hotel, Rotorua\_Forty-two people from the Bay of Plenty district gathered for a splendid Christmas Luncheon. There was an excellent talk on the Kaharoa Kokako Trust but unfortunately, because of the acoustics it was difficult for some members to hear all the talk. The Department of Conservation Reserve is open to the public at no cost. Many members were inspired to donate their own money to the fund now set up to help save these birds.



25th March 2012: Hotel Armitage, Tauranga\_There was a good attendance of 48 members from the Bay of Plenty district. After the camaraderie of drinks in the Klipper Room and the taking of raffle tickets, we moved to the restaurant to have a most satisfying lunch. Following this we were entertained and educated about the life of one of Kay Hodgson's female ancestor. Kay is a member of the Waikato Branch of Founders and her talk was entitled "From Nottingham Lace to Ararua, traced". Kay arrived dressed in the 1860's costume as her maternal ancestor would have arrived in New Zealand in 1865. Next we moved to the Annual General Meeting with the election of officers for the following year. Both the Chairman Jo Wake, and the Treasurer Sandy Garland, were retiring and were replaced by Bonnie Rogers as Chairman and Thea Still and Gordon Wilson as Joint-Treasurers. This concludes my final report for the Bay of Plenty Branch, Founders Society.



Jo Wake,  
Chairman Bay of Plenty Branch

***Hawkes Bay Branch***

It is with pleasure that I present the 33rd Annual Report of the Hawke's Bay Branch of the New Zealand Founders Society Inc.

I feel I must make mention of the work done this year by my committee. We have had a record number of 19 new members (due to the publicity work of our Secretary and the members themselves) and we now have a list of prospective members for 2012. I wish to express my thanks to my Treasurer for all the data records he supplies and for the support and organization of all the committee.

Sadly, we have had some resignations due to health or other commitments and regretfully 5 members have passed away during the year. I mention particularly Mrs Helen Ross, a descendant of the 'Bibby' family who were early settlers in Waipawa, Central Hawkes Bay. Our sympathy is extended to all families.

In June I attended the National Council and Annual General Meeting held in Wanganui and I thank our member, Ian Burson, for the report he presented on our behalf on the Constitution of the Society. My appreciation goes to the Wanganui Branch for organizing this occasion. With Michael Norris standing down as President, Russell Hurst of Wellington was appointed to this position. A report of the various activities during the year 2011:

January: Our annual Founders Luncheon was held at the Havelock North Community Centre Function Room. Our speaker was Stephen Caves who gave an excellent presentation on the "Working with Wetlands in Hawke's Bay and East Coast" (particularly the newly-opened Pekapeka Wetlands, south of Hastings). 65 present.

May: Our AGM was held at Duart House, Havelock North. Our speaker was Ian Granger whose topic "Those who Sail in Deep Waters" gave us the history and operations of the Hawke's Bay Seafarers' Centre. 50 present

July: Our meeting was held in the Town Hall of Taradale which had recently celebrated its 150th year Jubilee. Mrs Gareth Liley, a descendant of Richard Dolbel, spoke on the Dolbel Family Heritage. This was very well presented with maps and photographs of the early history of Taradale.

August: Our meeting held at Duart House gave our own members an opportunity to talk of their ancestors. This was followed by a lovely afternoon tea. 55 present

October: This luncheon meeting had an excellent power point presentation by Gary Baines on the "Early History of the Settlement of the Township of Clive". This was of great interest as Clive had originally be the chosen port of the Napier area. 58 present

November: Our end of year outing was to "Oruawharo" Takapau, a beautifully restored homestead and buildings by Peter and Dianne Harris. A wooden plaque was dedicated to the Society for the Hawke's Bay Founders earlier gift of two Lebanon cedar trees. This was a memorable occasion. Wine and Christmas cake was served to those present. 64 present.



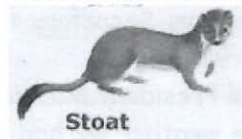
Thank you all for your continued support and may Hawke's Bay continue to flourish.

Nanette Roberts  
Chairman

### ***Taranaki Branch***

Those of us who have been able to attend meetings over the past year have enjoyed quality speakers and in most cases we have been informed. All quite different but interesting.

A highlight of the programme last year was a visit to Jackie and Neil Whitehead's farm at Tikorangi. These people are making a great effort



to protect the native birds and trees on their farm from possums, stoats, rats and feral cats. Their effort has been recognized by the local Council and



Forest & Bird Society. We have endeavoured to arrange an outing of interest for members each year. The fellowship that follows our meetings is a very important part of Founders.

Sadly, like so many organizations, getting young members to carry on Founders' tradition and ideals is difficult. I think this is a situation we have to live with. The questionnaire sent out to all members has shown a preference for fewer meetings and changing the meeting day. A newsletter will inform members of the final decision. Hopefully, the attendance at meetings will improve.

The end-of-year gathering in late November was enjoyed by all who attended. There was plenty of laughter, chat and good food.

The annual Dinner and Memorial Service was well attended and the significance of this gathering is important to all members.

Your committee continues to meet at Dawn McKenzies' house - thank you Dawn. My thanks to all members of your Committees for their contribution to the smooth running of your meetings. To members who continue to give Founders your support we thank you.

Dale Osborne  
(Chairman)

### ***Wairarapa Branch***

It is my pleasure to present this 2011/12 Annual Report to members of the Wairarapa Branch. We lost a number of our longer-serving members during the year and their knowledge and support will be sadly missed. We extend our sympathy to their families; likewise we wish members who have been unwell a speedy recovery and look forward to their company again at our gatherings. Despite these setbacks our membership numbers have remained constant as a number of new members have been welcomed by our Branch.

In March a well-attended AGM saw our long-serving Chairman, Joan Dickens, step down from the position. Our thanks go to Joan for her loyalty and hard work for the Branch. I stepped up from Secretary to Chairman and Sue Braggins came on board as Secretary.

During our visit to Lancewood Gardens, then National President Michael Norris and his wife Susanna, joined us. Despite the weather we had a

most enjoyable outing and it was a chance for members to meet and chat with Michael.

In May a group of us met at the Majestic Theatre to see and hear a local theatre group perform a Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice musical called "The Likes of Us". We look forward to more shows of this calibre.

The Robert Miller Memorial Luncheon was again held at Greytown's Top Pub with over sixty members enjoying South Wairarapa hospitality. Local member Rachel Thompson spoke of Greytown's history after the meal.

The July meeting was held at the Croquet Club where our own members related their forebears' experiences while coming to New Zealand.

In August, we heard local rosarian, Glyn Saunders, share his life both as a grower and international Judge of roses.

By September we again with a visit International where owner escorted us about the various this was one of the year.



were out and about to Dannevirke's Police Museum Maureen Lyon through and talked exhibits. All agreed highlights of our

In October, the Branch visited the Lychgate in our local pioneer cemetery, currently part of the Queen Elizabeth Park reconstruction plan, and of particular interest to us as in 1974 the then members were instrumental in having the Lychgate built. The approach to the gate featured a stone and plaque to commemorate the achievements of our early settlers. We were gratified when fifty-six of our members arrived for the group photo, as it allowed us to get a photo from 1974 ad a current photo to compare the ongoing changes And draw attention to our concerns. We succeeded in getting two of the local papers to publish both photos alongside an article.

November saw us on a bust travelling to Castlepoint via Langdale, where we visited the Whareama Church. We arrived at Castlepoint in time for lunch and a beach walk to the local church. On our way home the local residents of Tinui opened both their church and museum for us. Ex-

Tinui resident and current member Coi O'Brien provided us with a commentary from her extensive knowledge of the area.

Finally, our programme ended with our annual Christmas luncheon held this year in the Cody Lounge of the Town Hall. Once again it was nice to see not only our own members out in number, but also to have the company of Paddy and Richard Bayley from the Hawkes Bay Branch. Another very welcome visitor was our Patron Maurice Watson who travelled down from Tauranga to be with us. Sadly, Maurice has since passed away, our condolences go to his family.

During the year my husband and I have visited Hawke Bay, Bay of Plenty and Waikato Branches. Also with Joan and Beauchamp Dickens we travelled to Wanganui for the National AGM, where we were voted onto the National Executive.

I would like to thank members for their ongoing support, and especially to thank the committee for organizing venues, speakers, afternoon teas, raffles and generally making my first year a breeze. Not forgetting Sue, Jean and Lesley - you do a great job.

Bulletins are now available and feature some of our members' articles, others will be published next year. See you in 2012.

Ann Woodley  
Chairman

### ***Wanganui Branch***

2011 was an interesting year and our positive highlights at Wanganui Branch were many and varied, the February meeting on 27th was the 170th anniversary of Settlers arriving in schooner "Elizabeth".

descendants of those speak to us and the published a photo and Wanganui Founders.



the first European Wanganui on the We had some of the early settlers to Wanganui Chronicle a story about the

On 20th March we met at the Tripe's property at Fordell, looked at the old historical Matarawa School and the beautiful gardens. Then



afternoon tea in the historical Rutland Hotel, there are many early Wanganui photos on the walls as well as artifacts of the olden days.

Our AGM was held on 1st May and Liz Hamblyn spoke to us about items of interest at the Wanganui Museum. Liz has written articles for the Wanganui Chronicle called "News from the Past". We, of Wanganui Branch, believe people such as Liz and her articles need all the encouragement we can give them; our founding ancestors should not be forgotten.

On 8th June we met in the Alexander Heritage Library and Gillian Tasker showed us the enlarged digital photo of early Wanganui which the Wanganui Branch paid for of which the Branch will have a copy printed, framed and donated to the library for the benefit of the people of Wanganui. A delicious afternoon tea was provided and a further donation given to the library by the Wanganui Branch of Founders.

Michael Norris

Chairman

### *Wellington Branch*

I am pleased to present my report for 2011 as Chairman of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Founders Society. This has been a year of consultation and education on not-for-profit societies like ours. The Law Commission put out a consultation paper on changing the 1908 Incorporated Societies Act suggesting that some new regulations in step with Australian regulations should be endorsed in New Zealand. Since there was much discussion about changes to our Constitution in 2011, and we are registered under the Incorporated Societies Act, any changes are of significance to Founders. Parliament has not made any recommendations yet, but it is felt that changes to our society's Constitution should wait until there is more certainty.

The Charities Commission held two forums in Wellington in July and November. I attended both and found them useful and informative. The keynote speakers in November were Theresa Gattung from the SPCA; David Hanna, a dynamic and enthusiastic leader of Wesley Community Action that operates under the umbrella of the Methodist movement; and Chris Clarke of World Vision. Each speaker described what they did

to make their organizations work successfully together. Then in March I went to a Microsoft conference assisting charities with computer and web applications to be more successful on line. One of the benefits of attending these public forums was meeting people from other organisations and learning how they managed their business. The Charities Commission has been absorbed into Internal Affairs this year. Our committee has been exploring the digitisation of our records with a Wellington company. The cost will be about \$5,000. We hope to apply for funding help from the Lotteries Commission. The intention is to save those records on paper that are deteriorating with age. The material will remain the property of Founders.

During the year Wellington Branch made representations to The Mayor of Wellington and the NZ Geographic Board regarding the change of name from Tinakori Hill to Ahu Mairangi Heights without due consultation with the community. We were unable to effect any change.

In August members enjoyed a visit to the re-opened Roxy Theatre in Miramar with a tour and film. Wellington Branch members also spent a day at the Family History Expo in August with the aim of advertising our society and enrolling additional members. One person joined on the spot and we fielded a lot of enquiries from all sorts of faraway places.

In December we had our Christmas function at the Pines again. Our January visit to Government House has been delayed until a more suitable time for the House. Katrina Shanks has agreed to host a lunch at Parliament on Monday, 30th April.

We have to say a sad farewell to Roger Beauchamp, previous Chairman of the Wellington Branch who died suddenly in December, Hilary Olsen, Pat van Erpers Roijaard and Mr T. Winter. Hilary Olsen served on the National Executive Committee from 1964 until her retirement in 1988. From 1982-85 she performed the duties of Vice-President and from 1985-88 was the National President of the Society. Hilary was instrumental in setting up the Study Grant Award and ensuring the legal requirement for \$10,000.00 start-up money was achieved.

Two Wellington members have received honours during the year: Bill Sheat received the CNZM (Companion





of the Order) for services to the arts; and Vera Ellen The Queen's Service Medal for services to the community, Lower Hutt.

My thanks to the committee members Neni Beres, Margaret Collins, Natalie Duncan, Vera Ellen, Jane Kidd, Yvonne Lawrie, Beverly Seymour, Brian and Jane Watts, our secretary 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.

Carol Hurst,  
Chairman,

### ***Canterbury-Westland Branch***

To the members of the Canterbury/Westland Branch of the NZ Founders Society, I warmly welcome you to our Annual General Meeting, especially in light of the tiring and uncertain year that Christchurch has experienced. It is sad to see yet more of our heritage buildings being demolished and the nature and landscape of Christchurch changed forever. Who hasn't felt for the Cathedral or Basilica as examples. I would like to give thanks to Annabel who has stepped down as Secretary/Organiser after 11 years of conscientious and well done service to this Branch. Mavis Mateer has been a Branch member for 50 years and had been our secretary for many years in the past. Also, I give thanks to Shona Ward who has served as Branch Treasurer for an extended period and who continued in this position until a replacement was found. Her home had been the venue for many committee meetings. On behalf of our members I extend our condolences to the McSweeney family upon the death during the year of Veronica (who held the position of Secretary/Treasurer in the early days of the Branch) and Bill McSweeney who passed away recently. I remind members that John McSweeney, our past chairman, had held that post for 12 years. I also note the passing of Bill Price (a regular attendee at our functions). Members who have moved from Christchurch are Alan and Fay Winslow (Alan having served as branch auditor for 5 years) and Roger and Iona Wilson (newer members). Despite difficulty securing a quorum at

committee level, the Branch still held a number of varied and interesting functions.

May St Paul's Lounge at which Dianne Morris from Sanitarium delivered a power point presentation on the history of Sanitarium and its local site development. An interesting talk, well received, followed by afternoon tea provided by members of the AAW of St Paul's. This function proved



to be a particularly social event well attended.

August A conducted tour of the Wigram Air Force Museum which concluded with an old-style afternoon tea in the recreated 1940's home lounge. Many members commented to the effect

that their parents or grandparents had this or that item similar to those in the house.

Again an enjoyable social event with tea trolleys, scones and fine china.

December Our Christmas function was held at Tiffanys Restaurant (one of a few remaining heritage buildings). A good meal well subsidized.

The Branch continues to support Margaret Copeland, historic storyteller who relives stories of the settlement of New Zealand to school children.

On hand today are letters of thanks from some of the children which indicate the success of this educational support, which the Branch can feel proud of. We also continue to support the ABC Library at Burwood Hospital in which our historic books are held. If members hold suitable books they are most welcome to add them to this collection. Our artifacts are now being housed in a container behind the Sumner/Redcliffs Fire Brigade area, however, we still support the Sumner Redcliffs Historical Society, as the Sumner Museum is to be demolished, a familiar tale. The good news is that the Branch continues to be in a healthy financial position. It may be worthwhile to contemplate how founders could contribute to the re-build of Christchurch in some form, as so much history has been lost. With the loss of many of the historic sites within Christchurch and low Branch committee numbers, it was felt timely to call a Special General Meeting held on 25 March 2012 to vote for disbandment or for the Branch to continue in a modified form. I am pleased to report that there was a unanimous vote for the Branch to continue in a modified form. A

pleasing development of the meeting was the indication that a possible Secretary and a possible treasurer plus further committee members, ensures the operational side of the Branch can continue. Suggestions for the incoming committee were also put forward, i.e. a fixed number of functions and a greater use of a phone-tree when planning functions and to spread information. The venue at Burwood Hospital was the Marshland Room with refreshments in the hospital's café and proved itself to be a most suitable venue. I feel that the Branch is in good heart with the prospect of a larger committee and with the continued support of members. Expect another satisfying year with a strong social emphasis and continuation of generous subsidy for functions.

Graham Tapper,  
Chairman

~~~~~

### Profile of Our President



**Glen**

**Glen Robertson** was born in Wellington and educated there. He trained as a mechanical engineer in the Public Works Department. Went to sea briefly as a ship's engineer and then worked in London as an engineering consultant for a few years before returning home to marry Barbara. Joined an architectural practice as a mechanical engineer, was made an Associate and retired from that firm 45 years later. Since then he has done voluntary work for a number of organizations and also undertaken a number of administrative positions both professionally and in retirement. Currently he is volunteering in the Museum of Wellington working on the collection data base. His maternal great grand father arrived in Wellington on the 'Aurora' in 1840. Other ancestors came later from the

Shetland Isles and from Scotland. He joined the Founders in 1990 and was appointed to the National Executive two years later and has edited the Annual Founders Bulletin from 2003. He also has produced brochures and certificates for the Society.

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**Janet Robinson**

Our National Secretary for 14 years retired in August and we wish her well in her well-earned retirement. We all soon realized what a loss this was to the Society as her knowledge of the Society's affairs was a tremendous asset to us. Janet intends to move to Australia eventually to be with her family. Wellington Branch held a farewell luncheon for her and the Executive have given her a gift to recognise her contribution to the Founders.



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NZ Founders Society HB  
PO Box 8556  
Havelock North 4157



# BULLETIN

NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY



**NUMBER 84 – REPORT FOR YEAR**

**2012**

Pages 26 -34 contain Annual Financial Statement and Reporting



*(Editors note - this letter is a copy of the typical one delivered to intending immigrants seeking travel to New Zealand, by the New Zealand Company's agent)*

## **NEW ZEALAND** **COMPANY.**

### **EMBARKATION ORDER.**

*Application No 6865*  
*(Sum paid £46.4.0)*

*New Zealand House,  
9, Broad Street Buildings  
London, 21<sup>st</sup> July 1849*

**1. THE DIRECTORS OF THE NEW ZEALAND COMPANY** having approved of your application, will grant you and your wife and **Six** children a passage to New Zealand, by the ship *Pekin* now lying in the London Docks. It will be necessary that all Passengers be at *the jetty in the London Docks* with their baggage, punctually, at ten o'clock on *Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of August next.*



~~2. It will be necessary that this Letter be acknowledged without delay, and that One Pound Sterling be paid here, days before the date above mentioned, which sum will be returned to you on your leaving Gravesend in the ship.~~

3. The Emigrants will be supplied gratis with mattresses (*sic*) and bolsters, which they will be allowed to retain on arrival at the Colony, but they must provide sufficient blankets, sheets, and coverlets for themselves and their children, and the necessary utensils required on board, such as a knife and fork, plate, spoon, drinking- mug, &c.; the latter had better be of tin or pewter. The articles required in cooking will be supplied on board.

4. Each Adult Emigrant will be allowed to take out as much baggage as will measure 20 cubic feet and not exceed half a ton in weight; and every one is strongly recommended to provide a large stock of plain, strong clothing, or the materials for clothing, in making up which the females may advantageously employ themselves on the passage. As no fresh water can be allowed for washing while on board, the Emigrants should furnish themselves with marine soap; and a considerable stock of clothing is essential to comfort.

5. Each family should provide a linen bag, large enough to hold a month's supply of clothing. All other articles should be packed closely in boxes, just large enough to contain them. The bag and boxes should be legibly marked with the owner's name.

6. On arriving at the Ship, the baggage of the Emigrants will be inspected, to ascertain whether they have provided a sufficient stock of clothing, and the necessary tools of their respective trades; and unless an Emigrant has proper clothes and tools, he will not be allowed to embark. With regard to the particulars on this head, you are desired to pay attention to the Regulations, of which you have already received a copy.

7. During the passage you will be placed under the care of the Surgeon, to whose directions, in all matters, it is expected that you will pay the readiest attention.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,  
*(signature of the Company agent)*

*George Slatter  
9 Victoria Place  
Hill Street  
Walworth*

P. S.—You will deliver this Letter to the Company's Inspector of Shipping when you go on board.

*Your Certificate of marriage is returned herewith.*

XXXXXXXXXXXX

**(A poem written on an emigrant ship)**

*These plum duffs that  
we've made, by Jove,  
they are fine "  
A sweet reminiscence  
wherever I dine  
We make them with  
biscuits crushed up  
into crumbs.  
We make them with  
treacle,  
we make them  
with plums.  
We make them with  
sugar,  
raw, sandy & hard  
A spoonful of limejuice, a little chopped lard.*





*With some fat off the pork,  
cut up very small;  
With a handful of  
flour-I think that  
was all.  
Except some potatoes to  
make it boil light  
Then washed out a  
dishcloth & rolled  
it up tight  
Let land lubbers think  
they know how to cook  
Just wait for a nautical cookery book.*

XXXXXXXXXXXX

### *(Crossing the Line from "Euterpe Times")*

Several of the passengers are very dubious about this 'Crossing the Line,' not on account of any shaving by Father Neptune, or other pranks or practices of the Sailors but as to the consequences of the Ship and themselves. Will it cause the 'Euterpe' to bump violently? Some have expressed their determination not to sleep until it is safely passed for fear it should be crossed in the night and they should be pitched out of bed, others there are who expect to see the line, something of the nature of a clothes line we presume.

As we have never crossed the Line ourselves, we cannot pretend to say with authority what the Line or process of crossing it may be like, and should be almost sorry to disabuse innocent minds like these of their fears unless we have been actually over it, we therefore can only recommend them to be careful and circumspect and keep their eyes and ears open, so as to be able to look well after their own safety while we all "Cross the Line."

*(Editors Note - many immigrant ships had a newsletter and these are extracts from such a one)*



## JOHN STRATFORD

*(contributed by Alison Parkes - Wairarapa Branch)*

The CV would read: Game Keeper, Pipe Maker, Surveyor's Assistant, Interpreter, Constable, Farmer, Road Construction worker & supervisor, timber miller, joinery maker, sexton, husband and father of 11.

John Stratford, my Great Great Great Grandfather, was a Game Keeper in Bristol, England. In July 1839 at age 26, he applied to join the New Zealand Land Company, and was accepted. He travelled to London, and while awaiting embarkation, got a job as a maker of clay smoking pipes.

The barque *Cuba* sailed on the 1st August from Gravesend with John on board. It was recorded as an exceptionally long voyage of 155 days and arrived off the coast of New Zealand in bad weather conditions. Port Harvey, at the north end of Durville Island, was their first port of call before going on to Port Nicholson to meet up with William Wakefield. The *Cuba* sailed into Port Nicholson on 3rd January 1840 and disembarked at Petone beach.

John's first job was to assist the surveyors to establish suitable settlement areas to be allotted to the new immigrants, and get some huts erected before the first ships arrived. Both Petone and Thorndon were considered desirable and Wakefield had negotiated with the local Maori Chiefs to purchase land there.

John married Anne Hodnett at Petone on 22nd March 1840. This marriage was recorded in the Reverend John McFarlane's note book. They acquired land in the Hutt Valley and built a small house. There is a sketch of this house at the Turnbull Library. John got to know the local Maori Chief Epuni and learnt to speak Maori well enough to be an interpreter for Wakefield. We had also been told that he travelled to Nelson with the Treaty of Waitangi to act as interpreter. It is recorded on several documents that John could neither read nor write when he left England.

John was on good terms with the Wakefields even though they were from different social levels. They appointed him constable in 1841 to 1845 to uphold law and order in the new colony.

John worked on the construction of the Hutt Road between Petone and Wellington and became a supervisor. This was an urgently needed community project as, until its completion, all travel between the two settlements was by a ferry which was rowed or sailed when conditions allowed. John also worked on the Belmont road. He was given a Crown Grant of 79 acres at Belmont in September 1857, which he called Sea View Farm. John conveyed the property to Anne in October 1866 "for his love and affection for her".

John moved to Greymouth in 1869 with his son Edmund then 20, and worked in the timber industry, while Anne farmed the Belmont property with the 2 youngest children.

Edmund stayed on the West Coast and became a very successful timber merchant, joiner, house builder and exporter. He, with Adam Blair, formed the Company, Stratford, Blair & Co, Ltd.

John returned to Wellington and became the sexton at St. James Church in Lower Hutt. As his health declined he lived with his daughter Elizabeth in Wadestown. A petition for a pension was in consideration for his early services to Wellington and presented to Parliament in 1884 by Sir George Grey.

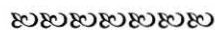
The Petition of John Stratford, Wellington as recorded as No 408 : "The petitioner states that he acted as Native interpreter to Colonel Wakefield and the officers of the New Zealand Company without remuneration; that he was appointed as first constable in Wellington, and acted as such for many years, in which capacity he rendered many useful and important services to the Government; after that during the first Native disturbances, at the Hutt, he acted as interpreter and frequently as scout, and bearer of dispatches from headquarters to the camps, at considerable personal risk without remuneration and without travelling allowance; that after twenty years of service he retired without any pension or allowance. He prays for relief". I am directed to report that, owing to the petitioner having died since the presentation of the petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make 16th October 1884.

It was thought that it would have been favourably considered, But John died 13 October 1884 before the petition had been considered.

According to his wishes the funeral left from the Belmont road property for St. James Lower Hutt where he is buried.

John and Anne had 11 children. Nine were born in the Hutt Valley and were taught by Anne, and the last two at Belmont. In 1885 Anne conveyed the Belmont farm to their youngest son Harry. Harry sold the farm in 1899, after his mother died. The property Sea View at Belmont was eventually joined with neighbouring farms into a larger property, which was taken by proclamation in the 1950's by the Crown for 'defence purposes' and is now part of a Landcorp Farm in the Belmont Regional Park.

*(Editors Note -Policing in New Zealand started in 1840 with the arrival of six constables accompanying Lt. Governor Hobson's official landing party to form the colony of New Zealand. Early policing arrangements were along similar lines to the UK and British colonial police forces, in particular the Royal Irish Constabulary and the New South Wales Police Force. Many of its first officers had seen prior service in either Ireland or Australia. The early Force was initially part police and part militia. At the outset, official establishment of sworn constables holding common law powers to arrest people was achieved by magistrates being given the power to swear them in via the Magistrates Ordinance of 1842.)*



### **" Prince of Wales "**

*(contributed by Susan David - Wairarapa Branch)*

Thank you for asking me to contribute to this talk about the ship that brought my Great Great Grandmother to Nelson. The year was 1842 and the P.O.W. had a very good passage from Tilbury docks - arriving in Nelson with approximately 240 passengers.



The N. Z. Company was proud of how they arranged the food supplies and the rations were carefully calculated so that everyone could have an adequate diet.

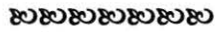
How the rations were distributed and cooked, however, was nothing to be proud of. You were fortunate if you got some green pea soup, horrible boiled beef or salt pork and a few potatoes. Sometimes you got nothing and went hungry.

We know that the Captain was Alexander Alexander and the Surgeon Superintendent was Matthew Doyle Kearns.

We also know; on board was a small family - John Johnston and his wife and two small boys. His wife was heavily pregnant. So was Harriet Arnold. All three adults were only 25 years old.

Harriet's son was born and died on board. John Johnson's wife was more fortunate. Their daughter was born safely and grew to be the mother of my grandmother.

She was christened Agnes Maud and her birth registered in Wellington many months later.



Heard on 2YA's "MORN ING COMMENT" Tuesday 15 May, 1980

## **We are all New Zealanders-**

When I was a boy 60 years ago, I lived in North Auckland.

Then, as now, many Maori people lived there and I grew up alongside them and we were one people, two races living together, accepting each other as friends and neighbours.

There were and are differences of backgrounds, there were differences between my Scottish background and those of our English and Irish neighbours. But -these were not differences which divided us. They merely added interest and variety to our friendship.

By and large I think, we can still say for the great majority of New Zealanders both Maori and European, that we are still living harmoniously together.

There is so much intermarriage between the two races that it's hard now to find a Maori with full blood. This goes on from day to day and is the best evidence of racial harmony.

But in recent years we have seen attempts to divide the races, to sow the seeds of dissension and disruption. We should not allow this trend to develop.

Where there are genuine grievances they should be tackled with sympathy and understanding.

But the underlying harmony is too precious to be squandered by antagonisms and bickering. We are all New Zealanders.

—Sir John Marshall,

*(Contributed by Audrey Henderson of Bay of Plenty Branch)*



### OUR EARLY SCOUT YEARS

*Contributed by Ian Renall Wairarapa Branch.*



In 1941 it must have seemed a good idea that I should become a Boy Scout. This was not a straight forward exercise however, because we four children lived at home with our Mother and our paternal Grandparents on the family farm at Parkvale, and the Ben Sewell School bus took us into town each day to the Holloway Street School. However our maternal Grandparents who lived in Brooklyn Road came up with the idea that I could walk from Holloway St to Brooklyn Road for tea, then walk back to Scouts, return to Brooklyn Road for the night and then off to Holloway Street next morning for school. No wonder I didn't stay all that long as a boy scout! They bought me a new khaki shirt, a red rimmed blue scarf and a fantastic peaked felt scout hat. My Auntie May

Hodder would sometimes press it for me with a hot iron and a wet cloth. I loved it.

In those days, Scout meetings were held in the old Coles Stables which were on that vacant piece of land on the north side of Mrs Cameron's Country Charm. The building was cold, draughty and had very poor lighting. It had a central wooden floor about 30 ft square which was used for games, lessons and training. Around the perimeter of this floor were about half a dozen single horse rooms, or boxes and those had been cleared out and used as "patrol" headquarters. Each Patrol had its own individual room. The Scout Master at the time was "Brownie" Mr Elwin F Fairbrother, who was a very well known local carrier, who amongst other things, devoted an enormous amount of time and energy into the local and district scouting movement. You may remember me explaining on an earlier occasion that the Air Scouts aeroplane was stored in the entrance way to the building and it was a scramble when entering or leaving the building.

They would occasionally send us off in the twilight on a "tracking" exercise. Two senior scouts were sent off about 15 minutes ahead with some blocks of white chalk and they would leave all sorts of instructions on the footpaths. Then the rest of us were sent off to see if we could follow them exactly and return to the Den. The trickier they would make the marks, all the better, it was great fun.

Another training scheme was to have a couple of senior scouts arrange a shop window display and then we were sent off to memorise what we could see and then return to the Den and record what we could remember in writing.

I think it must have helped my memory. I also recall knot tying lessons. The photo is of "Brownie" Fairbrother's truck and our local





Scouts heading off for a "scout camp". And I can name most of them!

Another excursion took us to the "Cliffs" at East Taratahi for a few days "tent" camp. Some parents came to do the cooking etc. I've always remembered one particular incident at this camp when Bill Hemi climbed a willow tree with a tomahawk and cut off a large limb. Unfortunately he was standing on the wrong side of the cut and when the limb fell next thing, bang, crash, Bill was down and on his way to the doctor! Luckily, no serious damage.

Long after my days, the local Scout Group bought a surplus 60 ft x



24 ft Nissan Hut for £600.0.0. Mr Ken Keal accepted the leadership and responsibility for the project and it took approximately a year to resurrect it using working bees and voluntary labour. I remember that

the Jaycees undertook the interior decorating. It was opened in 1951. The photographs will give you some idea of how large the

project was.



It was erected along the west side of the old town hall (State Theatre) and it had a concrete foundation and a wooden floor. Kings Ltd generously built a proper front wall and entrance doors

at no cost to the Scouts. A little later, two offices, a kitchen, two toilets and a loft were added at the rear. In the 1970s a new concrete block Scout Den was built behind the library and is now part of the new Events Centre.

Many local people were very involved in Scouting, in particular Mr Graham Steffert who became Assistant Scout Master in 1949, and



full Scout Master in 1953. In 1961 he was appointed District Scout Master and then District Commissioner from 1969 to 1974. Our local Mr Hugh Evans became Scout Master in 1946 and District Commissioner in 1953. He and his family devoted an enormous amount of time and energy into the scouting movement.

We often take for granted the contribution people make towards our Community and it is a good idea to acknowledge their efforts from time to time.

*Many thanks to Terence Broad and Graham Steffert for their help with this story.*

XXXXXXXXXXXX



Altimarloch 1<sup>st</sup> homestead built 1850 (after it had been repaired when the 1855 earthquake took a wall out.)

**ALTIMARLOCK HOMESTEAD WAS 150 YEARS OLD IN JUNE 2012**  
*(contributed by Sandra Clarke - Wellington Branch)*

The homestead block of this property was awarded in the first instance to Marjory McRae (1830-1903) who arrived at Nelson on the ship the *Mary Ann* in February 1842. She came with her parents George and Helen McRae and seven brothers and sisters. One more brother was born in Nelson. Marjory was one of 5 women in the Nelson Province to be granted land by the New Zealand Company. She received Crown grant No27, her father George McRae Crown grant No26 which became the property called

Blairich and her eldest brother William McRae Crown grant No28 which became Braes of Sutherland, later called Awapiri.



THE LATE MR. A. MOWAT.

Within a few years Marion married Alexander Mowat. A few months after their wedding at Pitfur near Wakefield in January 1850 they moved onto their property Altimarlock where a small cob cottage had been built. At the same time the parents George and Helen McRae moved with their younger



Mrs. A. MOWAT.

children to Blairich where a cob cottage had been built in 1848.

The McRae family came to New Zealand from a property called Blairich near Rogart in Scotland, but Alexander Mowat came from a village further north called Watten near Wick. The name Altimarlock - meaning "thieves burn" commemorates a famous clan battle which took place near Thurso on 13th July 1680 where a small Altimarlock stream feeds into the river Wick. It has been suggested that there is a famous valley on Altimarlock where a Maori battle took place. In 1863 a herd of Caverhill's cattle stampeded there and 60 died. This valley provides the link with the Scottish site.

Shortly after Marjory's wedding her Uncle William McRae (1802-1876) arrived with his wife Sarah and three children George Wilsden, Kate and Roderick. They reached Nelson on the *Lady Nugent* on the 9th May 1850. They settled near Richmond on a property called Bonovree which was the name of the farm they left in County Clare, Ireland to come to New Zealand.

In October 1850 the first of Marjory's children called Helen was born. There were 8 more children in the family. They were Barbara, Sarah, Kenneth, Kate, Alexander, John, Thomas and Henry (Harry) born in 1869.

In the first three years on the property, it was cows rather than sheep which provided the income. However the cheese produced and carried down the valley to the ships at Port Underwood was soon joined by onions, potatoes and apples. As well as this, Mowat produced bacon from the ready supply of wild pigs he shot as he travelled up and down the Awatere Valley. When Helen was ten it was time to send her to Mrs Feron's school

at Motueka. When the present wooden homestead was built in 1861-62 it was shortly joined by a school room where all the younger children were taught.

References to Altimarlock and the Mowat dairies appear in many early history books because for a few years between December 1851 and March 1855 the property was on the main stock route between Nelson and the new settlement of Canterbury so many travellers stayed overnight on the way through to take up their land claims in the Amuri. However when Weld and Clifford travelled a more direct route from Nelson via Tophouse it quickly came into use at the end of March 1855, and the Mowats had fewer visitors. That was most fortunate because a severe earthquake on the 23rd January 1855 had knocked a wall out of their house and they lived in tents for a few months until Mr Shepherd arrived in June to complete repairs. The Mowat family together with three staff continued to live in the mud cottage until June 1862. Who were this energetic couple who played such a significant role in the farming development of the Awatere Valley during the 1850s and later?

Marjory had been born in Shinness in Sutherlandshire, Scotland. She was the 5th of 9 children. Her eldest two sisters were born at the Red River Colony in Canada before her parents returned to Scotland to live near George's parents. When Marjory was 2 years old her parents moved again to a property called Blainch near Rogart which was closer to the coast beyond Lairg. It was this property that the parents left to migrate to New Zealand.

Marjory had just turned 12 when the family reached Nelson. When her eldest sister Catherine married Donald Drummond and had her first child John Drummond at Nelson on 19th August 1843, Marjory got ready to move to Wellington with Catherine. They travelled from Nelson on the *Brougham* in October 1843. They went to live at Kilbirnie where Catherine's husband Donald managed a farm for Samuel Revans. On an adjacent property Elizabeth Sutherland ran a school. Marjory either completed her education there or helped run the school and assisted her sister in bringing up her children for the next five years. In 1848 Marjory's father took up a leasehold property near Lake Rotoiti in the Nelson Lakes area and Marjory together with her eldest brother William



ran that property until her marriage to Alexander Mowat in January 1850. Later when Mowat died in March 1875 he left her with a family of nine children. The youngest Harry was just 6 years old. Marjory accepted the role of manager of the Mowat farms until the 31st December 1883 when she handed over the task to K. P. Mowat as he was usually continued to live on the death in May 1903 .

Alexander had been born at in August 1813. His father was Sutherland. He was the 7th were William and Barbara nee he went to sea on his brother



MR. K. P. MOWAT.

her eldest son Kenny or referred to. Marjory property until her

Thrumster near Wick a baillie to the Duke of child of 9. His parents Gunn. At the age of 10 John's (born 1796)

boat. In later life he served on the *Nyeshire* and *Agnes*. He signed on to the *Ralph Bernal* in December 1845 for two or three trips to New Zealand as Chief Officer. Its intention was to bring passengers and supplies to the new community at Nelson. Then Alexander became engaged to Marjory and was farewelled from the *Ralph Bernal* in December 1848 at the hotel at Motueka. In 1849 he was listed as a mariner living in Nelson and is believed to have commanded small ships trading between Nelson, Picton and Wellington including the *S.S.Kennedy*. On 22nd January 1850 Mowat and Marjory McRae were married at Pitfur near Wakefield by the Rev T.D. Nicholson, the first Presbyterian minister in the Nelson Province. The Mowats lived for a few months in Nelson before leaving for the Awatere Valley about the same time as Marjory's parents and younger children. The Mowats called their original 80 acres(30ha) property Altimarlock which in time grew to over 1400 acres(550 ha). In January 1852 Mowat took out the lease on the Middlehurst run further up the valley in partnership with James Cross the Nelson Harbour Master. That property grew in time to 13,000 acres. From 1852 - 1862 it was managed by David Fox. When the Cross family were bought out the property was retained on leasehold by the Mowat family until about 1895 when Sandy Mowat the second son decided to go and live in Blenheim to run the family woollscour works at the end of Lakins road. For a few years after that Middlehurst was held by A.P.Seymour.



In 1853 Mowat took out the first licence to sell alcohol in the Awatere Valley. He probably held the licence until May 1859 when W.B.Earll applied for a licence to run a hotel where the Taylor Pass Road crossed the Awatere. That licence was subsequently held by G. Templeton. He died just a few weeks before Mowat himself Between 1863 and 1866 Mowat represented the Awatere in the Marlborough Provincial Parliament. Mowat was a very tall man at 6ft 8 inches and weighed 26 stone. He attributed his size to his Norse ancestors. On a visit to Scotland in the 1890's two of



*Present ruin of Bucholie Castle*

his sons' Harry and K.P.Mowat collected a stone from Bucholie Castle near Wick, which was relinquished in 1560 by Magnus Mowat before he went back to Norway to die. The stone from Bucholie Castle is attached to K.P.Mowat's headstone in the Omaka cemetery in Blenheim. When Mowat died in 1875 he was buried on the Altimarlock property . There are another five members of the family in that cemetery which is now vested in the Diocese of Nelson. In the same season that K.P. Mowat took over Altimarlock his cousin Alec McRae took over the adjacent property Aotea. Alec continued running that property until 1935. K.P. ran Altimarlock until his mother died in May 1903. The following December he married Florence May Willis. On the 1st October 1904 the property was sold to A.J. Fanner. Altimarlock at that stage consisted of 2817 acres of freehold and 1100 acres of leasehold land and was sold for 7000 pounds. Two years later in 1906 Alec McRae bought the property and held it till he died in 1935. Altimarlock then passed out of the family to J.W. and W.M. Barnes. In 1945 T.K.C Maddever bought it and restored the house to its original state. In 1981 the property was bought again by John Pittar who divided it in half. In 1983 the homestead block was bought by David and Jill Moorhouse who again developed the property and installed Lake Grace. They sold it to Warren B and Lowri Mcnab in 2004. So it is that the homestead built for Alexander Mowat in 1862 by John Scott of Nelson was able to celebrate 150 years on 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2012.

What was the fate of the nine Mowat children born on the Altimarlock property in the first generation? K.P was not the only one to remain farming in the area. His eldest sister Helen married H.J Stace in 1874 while he was the manager of the Starborough run. Later they bought a small holding at Robin Hood Bay and ran a private school, until they retired to Waikawa. They had seven children. Barbara Mowat married John W.M.D Nicholson the son of Rev T.D. Nicholson in 1876. John managed first Welds Hill then Benhopai in the Wairau Valley. John died in 1883 leaving Barbara with five young children. Sarah Mowat married William Sinclair a lawyer in 1878. They had 8 children and Sarah died in Wellington in 1906. Later her husband went to Melbourne, remarried and had another son.

K P Mowat and Florence went to live at the 'Wreckin' after their marriage and finally retired to Blenheim. They had no children.

Kate Mowat married her cousin A.C. McRae in 1887. They had five children and lived the latter part of their lives at Altimarlock. Both Kate and Alec are buried in the Altimarlock cemetery. Alexander (Sandy Mowat married Ada Johnston in 1894 and managed first 'Middlehurst', till 1895 then surrendered the lease and went to live at Lakins Road Blenheim where Sandy ran the family woollscour. Later he bought a small farm at Fairhall to put his son Leitrim on. They had three children.

J.T. Mowat married Elizabeth Gard at Picton in 1886. He ran first a flax mill then the Blenheim Woollscour before going to the Falkland Islands. Later he returned to NZ and became agent for Lawes Chemical Co. They had four children. Tom Mowat worked for the Bank of NZ and lived in various towns. He died in Ashburton. He married twice and left 4 children. Harry Mowat never married although he was associated with Mabel Hill before her marriage to John McIndoe. Harry worked first in his brother-in-law William Sinclair's law office and then as a stock agent. He also worked for a short while in Queensland. From 1909 he was a land valuer for the State Advances Corporation in Blenheim. By 2012 there are two significant items from the Mowat homestead held by Brayshaw Park Museum in Blenheim. One is the model of the *Ralph Bernal* made for Mowat by his bosun and the other is his navigational globe. They were originally displayed in the entrance hall at Altimarlock.

*Ref. A.L.Kennington. The Awatere. 1978.*



*Altmarloch in 1891*

## **NZ Founders Creed**

**We pledge ourselves to foster, promote and inculcate in rising generations that hardy will and 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 of New Zealand.**

## **Acknowledgments**

**The Society's grateful thanks is extended to all our members from various branches who so willingly provided material and photographs for this 2012 bulletin.**

**Thank you all  
Glen Robertson, Editor**