

Report of Event 22 February 2026

Jill Clarke reported on her recent Fletcher family reunion held at the Pendle Hill Estate in January 2026 where the family first lived. Her ancestor Samuel Fletcher arrived on the "Alma" in 1856 and married Harriett Lomas in 1866. Samuel had pre-paid for flat farm land at the foot of the Ruahines but when he arrived he found that that piece of land had already been claimed by someone else so he settled for land up in the foothills of the ranges. He spent the years between arriving and marrying Harriett in cutting a track between Napier and Pendle Hill. After their marriage Samuel and Harriett lived in a sod hut where they raised thirteen children. They later built a grand totara house which was wallpapered with Auckland weekly newspapers. This house is now part of the Onga Onga Museum. The family Cemetery is still in use and a blue gum tree planted by Samuel when he first arrived in 1856 is still alive.

The meeting continued with the Annual report for 2025 and the re-election of the Committee with Lynley Fowler as Co-ordinator, Jill Clarke as Membership Liaison, Murray Crawford as Activities Co-ordinator and Brian Milham for finances. This was moved by Betty Stewart and seconded by Anne Flutey. All agreed.

There were no nominations for Deputy Co-ordinator.

As no-one (10) was planning to attend the National AGM although 2 showed interest in the fish and chip picnic in Riverlands Reserve, it has been decided to hold our normal monthly meeting on Sunday 22nd March and see if we can get a video of the talk following the AGM about the Cobb and Co coaches.