



The first four police officers brought from Australia by Governor Hobson in 1840 for the town of Russell

A very well received talk was given by author Rob Rattenbury, former police officer, dog handler and Armed Offenders Squad member. Rob outlined the history of the New Zealand police force, beginning with pre-European Maori forms of justice, to the armed constabulary of the mid-1880s, the introduction of women into the force, then on to modern policing as we know it today.

The first official Police Officers, called catskins, were brought over from Australia in 1840 by Governor Hobson to keep law and order in the 'wild' town of Russell. Within two weeks all four had been arrested for drunk and disorderly.

The first sworn female Police Officer in the world was an actress by the name of Ursula Smith who was sent under-cover to Hokonui in 1892 to gain information on the illicit whisky trade.

Rob also included much of his own experiences during his policing career.

The many questions asked following his presentation was evidence of the interest Founders members showed in his talk.