



NZ FOUNDERS SOCIETY INC.

CHAIR NEWSLETTER

(May 2025)

Dear Member,

The AGM in New Plymouth was a great success, from an organisational – people perspective and we all enjoyed a very informative bus trip. The bus trip explored the early buildings in New Plymouth, some that are the first of their kind in New Zealand and rich in early history for the area.

Being Taranaki born and spending past Christmases in New Plymouth, it felt like visiting my generations roots, whilst acknowledging my ancestors contribution. The other gratifying aspect was the opportunity to have two whitebait fritter meals at Mokau – jealous eh?

The committee is currently exploring the option of the 2026 AGM being in Taupo and the possibiity of providing remote video facilities to those who are unable to attend. I must admit that there is greater benefit attending in person. For example we managed to connect two families who had no idea on arrival that they were related – real excitement.

The plan to simplify the administration across the organisation is progressing.

1. There is an investigation about making Branch payments easier through the use of debit cards.
2. Helloclub member management software is being implemented to record (in one place) member details, including the member ancestors ship and ease of management invoices and payments. You will be receiving an invoice using this software.
3. Helloclub is also the method of communicating to those members via email. Currently messages to those without an email address will be sent to the Branch Co-ordinator for arranging distribution. Branches are being encouraged to have a conversation with members without electronic means and encourage them to either set up an email address, or have a chat with a family member to receive the messages and pass them on. There may be other ideas for achieving this as well.

The main theme being promoted by myself is to engage in the exciting discovery of who we are, where we came from, our family contribution to this great country, the family & New Zealand incidents that have shaped our family during the pre 1 January 1866 journey. You are all being encouraged to write these stories so they can be shared amongst the members only, through the www.nzfounders.org.nz website.

When writing these stories, we need to remind ourselves that there is probably more than one version / perspective of an incident. We need to be proud that we have the credibility and integrity to have the authority to publish these stories with the grace and respect they deserve. We also need to acknowledge that none of us can change history.

Every Branch has appointed a Co-ordinator to liaise between the Committee and the Branch. Each Branch Co-ordinator (to prevent burn out) needs support from:

1. Activity Co-ordinator
2. Membership Co-ordinator

The Committee is also looking for volunteers to assist the existing dedicated and loyal voluntary team. The first role we are seeking is:

1. Website Administrator. (2 people)
 - a. Receive, validate and update website content
 - b. Distribute content through committee approved distribution channels (ie Facebook or similar medium)
 - c. Ensure that content is lawful
 - d. Provide the committee with visitor / member experience enhancement suggestions for approval
 - e. Manage website upgrades, where appropriate

Applicants for these two roles are requested to send their response (including skills and vision for Founders) to secretary@nzfounders.org.nz.

At the last committee meeting the Branch Co-ordinators were asked to work with members to undertake a project about pre-1 January 1866 that they would like to work on. The aim is to publish the story on the members portal of the website. Please register your project with secretary@nzfounders.org.nz and I look forward to receiving a positive outcome.

We are not far from the shortest day and I hope that you all are having fun.

Raymond Mudford,
Chair.