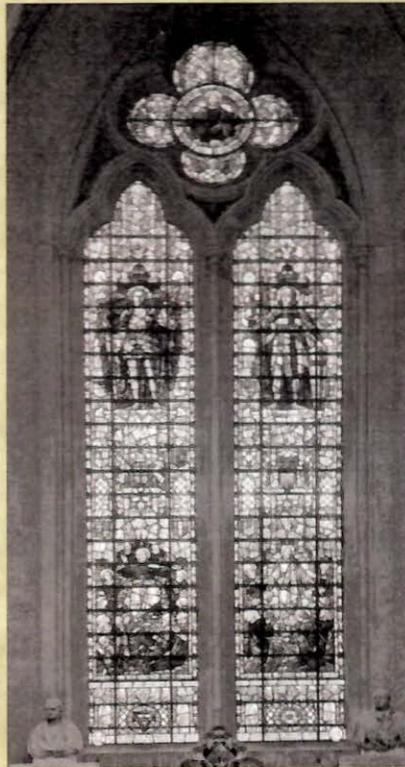




NZ Founders Society HB  
PO Box 8556  
Havelock North 4157

# BULLETIN

NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY



**Westminster Abbey Window**

**NUMBER 85 – REPORT FOR YEAR 2013**

**Cover illustration shows a memorial window in  
Westminster Abbey (See story in bulletin)**

**NZ Founders Society Inc.  
P O Box 14455 Kilbirnie 6241  
Phone 04 9718919**

**Emails [nzfounders@gmail.com](mailto:nzfounders@gmail.com)**

**Our website is currently being revised**

New Zealand Founders  
Society Inc  
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**NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY INC.**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL (AS FROM JUNE 2013)**

**National President**

**Mr Adrian Gover**

**National Vice & Immediate Past President**

**Mr Glen Robertson**

**National Councillors**

**Mrs Neni Beres (Past President)**

**Mrs J. Dickens (National Executive)**

**Miss K Dent (National Executive)**

**Mrs A. Woodley (National Executive)**

<b>Mr J.P. Webster (Auckland)</b>	<b>Mrs A. Woodley (Wairarapa)</b>
<b>Mrs B. Roger (Bay of Plenty)</b>	<b>Mr M. Norris (Wanganui)</b>
<b>Mrs D. Osborne (Taranaki)</b>	<b>Mrs C. Hurst (Wellington)</b>
<b>Mr A. Gover (Waikato)</b>	<b>Mr J MsSweeney (Canterbury)</b>
<b>Mrs N. Roberts (Hawkes Bay)</b>	

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

I want to thank all our membership for the support given me this past year. Due to other commitments, I have been unable to visit any of you and I am sorry for that. However I read with interest the accounts of your Branch activities. I have endeavoured to respond when required and enjoy reading about your situation.

This year has proved to be a steep learning curve for your President and Secretary as our valuable Secretary, Janet, decided to retire and we lost the benefit of her long experience looking after the Founders office. Then both Russell and I were out of action at the same time for a period over Christmas. Fortunately Janet has volunteered to assist in the office one day a week and we are learning much from her.

We were sorry to hear of the sudden death of Graham Tapper, Chairman of Canterbury Branch in January of this year. Our thoughts are with Annabel & family. John McSweeney has stepped in temporarily as Chairman of the Branch.

The Society is slowly losing members and our financial situation is causing some concern. However all is not doom and gloom and we are heartened by the support given by Branches and we are grateful for that. This coming year the Executive will be looking at the office situation and working out ways that we can reduce the space requirements for a Society office - this means that we need to consider relocating the library and we are hopeful that we can find a solution that will keep the library together and will provide a research resource for others. We also will be looking at ways to store the records of past years.

Wellington Branch has made great progress in securing some funds to digitise the membership records so that these can be available for research purposes. And we are grateful to those branches who contributed to this project. We have also received a grant from the Lotteries Commission and we warmly thank Carol Hurst and Margaret Collins and others for their work in getting this grant.

I have advised the Executive that I will be standing down as President at this years AGM. Thank you all for the support you have given me. I will gladly continue as Bulletin Editor and I am pleased at the demand for the 2012 edition which we have nearly run out of copies. Please continue to keep

providing copy for the Bulletin, which I am glad to receive at any time during the year.

My grateful thanks go to all the members of the Executive, for the work done by them during this past year. I also thank Janet for her voluntary work she has done for us for most of this year.

I will report membership numbers at the meeting as I haven't received them all at the time of writing.

**Glen Robertson**

**National President**

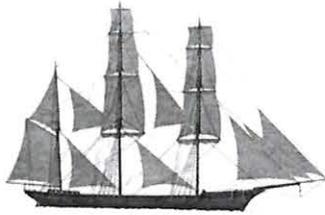


**Membership as at 31st March 2013 stood at:-**

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Honorary	164	151
Life	25	23
Senior	424	339
Junior	4	3
Associate	50	46
Hon for service	8	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>*675</b>	<b>*568</b>

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Auckland	22	20
Bay of Plenty	87	71
Hawkes Bay	143	147
Taranaki	40	42
Waikato	54	45
Wairarapa	103	95
Wellington	117	93
Wanganui	75	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>*675</b>	<b>*568</b>

(\*The 2012 total membership includes 34 members in Canterbury which are not included in 2013 figures as that branch is currently in recess)




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## FOUNDERS SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS

### Auckland

Mrs P M Adams	Wellington	George Fyfe	1842	Francis BURDETT/Rosa JONES
		Oriental	1841	Robert & Elizabeth WILTON
Mr R R James	Auckland	Slains Castle	1845	Charles Hartley McCALL
Mrs J F Punnett	New Plymouth	William Bryan	1841	Valentine & Jane HARRISON

### Waikato

Ms Sharon Nelley	Bluff	Lady Milton	1864	William & Margaret DRYDEN
	New Plymouth	Essex	1843	Richard & Jane OLD
	New Pymouth	Essex	1843	Nicholas & Zenobia LUCKEY
	Lytelton	Maori	1858	Alfred & Maria HILLINGWORTH
Mrs D M Murdoch	Pt Nicholson	London	1841	William J & Elizabeth FELL
Mr K A Cotter	Bluff	Gothenburg	1863	Richard & Francis E COTTER
Miss J C Carter	Pt Nicholson	True Briton	1852	Capt John C L & Susan F CARTER
Mrs S A Lawson	Auckland	Cresswell	1853	William Theodore YOUNG
	Pt Chalmers	Isabella Hercus	1856	Job DABINETT
	Pt Chalmers	Silistria	1862	James ORCHISTON

### Bay of Plenty

Miss J M McGinley	Auckland	Jane Gifford	1842	James FITZPATRICK
Mirs A M McCarthy	Nelson	Will Watch	1841	Mark NEWTH

### Hawkes Bay

Mrs A D Olsen	Wellington	Lord Wm Bentinck	1841	Samuel & Jane RETTER
	Pt Chalmers	Silistria	1861	James FRAZER

Mrs. J T Adam	Pt Chalmers	Silistria	1861	Margaret HENDERSON
Mrs J N Gardiner	?	?	1854	John TUCKER
Mrs M A Giffin	?	Lord Wolsley	1860	Charles H WEBER
	Nelson	Bolton	1842	Thomas & Sarah ROIL
	Nelson	John Masterman	1857	George GIBSON
	Nelson	Electra	1863	Sarah GIBSON
	Pt Underwood	Waterloo	1829	Capt James H JACKSON
Mr F R Zillwood	Petone	Bolton	1840	Joseph ZILLWOOD
	Petone	Duke of Roxburgh	1840	Hart UDY
Ms K Harvey	Lyttelton	Randolph	1850	George & Sarah Ann SOAR
	Lyttelton	Victory	1859	George & Ann KEATS
	Lyttelton	Glenmark	1865	William HARVEY
	Lyttelton	Travancore	1851	George & Mary E COOPER
	Pt Chalmers	Pirate	1859	Donald A CAMERON
	Pt Chalmers	Souchez	1864	Margaret E CAMERON
Mrs J L Crosse	Pt Nicholson	Lady Nugent	1841	Elizabeth THORBY
Mrs R B Small	Wellington	Martha Ridgway	1840	Charles & Ann BROWN
	Wellington	Wild Duck	1860	Henry Louis GALLION
Mrs T K Johansen	Auckland	Inchinnan	1852	Walter BASKVILLE/BASKIVAL
Mrs A Burson	Pt Nicholson	Hokoporinga	1855	Phillipe DOLBEL
	Pt Nicholson	Hokoporinga	1855	Richard DOLBEL
Mrs L G Morice	Pt Nicholson	Hokoporinga	1855	Phillipe DOLBEL
	Pt Nicholson	Hokoporinga	1855	Richard DOLBEL
Mr J L King	New Plymouth	Oriental	1841	Charles A BROWN
	New Plymouth	Amelia Thompson	1841	Major Chales K BROWN
Mrs. M.J. Hirst	Wellington	Martha Ridgeway	1840	Charles Brown
Mrs G.M. Knight	?	?	By 1858	Robert Brydon
<b>Taranaki</b>				
Mrs E C Burgess	New Plymouth	Amelia Thompson	1841	Thomas BAYLY
Mrs H E Sykes	New Plymouth	Amelia Thompson	1841	Thomas BAYLY
<b>Whanganui</b>				
Mrs P A Flutey	Nelson	Martha Ridgway	1842	John & Martha HANDLEY
	Whanganui	Omeo	1870	Thomas ELSEY & Eileen DARBYSHIRE
Mr W B Keys	Petone	Cuba	1840	Charles William KEYS
Mrs P Z Keys	Auckland	Duchess of Argyle	1842	John & Isabella ADAMSON
Mrs H Burney	Lyttelton	Sir George	1850	Thomas & Jemima CRESSWELL
	Lyttelton	Seymour		
	Lyttelton	Cressey	1850	John BROUGHTON
	Lyttelton	British Empire	1864	Thomas & Mary JONES
	Auckland	William Watson	1859	William SUTHERLAND

	Auckland	Percy	1865	Mary Elizabeth BEAVAN
<b>Wairarapa</b>				
Mrs M L Nelson	Wellington	Martha Ridgway	1840	Charles & Ann BROWN
		Wild Duck	1860	Henry Louis GALLIEN
	Nelson	Will Watch	1841	Thomas Richard BERRY
Mrs. L.M. Young	Kawhia	Clyde	1835	Capt. Swann
Mrs S David	Wellington	Prince of Wales	1842	John & Henrietta JOHNSTON
Mr B E Sims	Wellington	Harrington	1841	Charles LETT
<b>Wellington</b>				
Mr M Dalmer	Lytelton	Charlotte Jane	1850	Joseph & Ann HILL
		?	1863	Thomas Spark BROWN
Mr. J.R. Martin	Nelson	Whitby	1841	Samuel Wells.
	Nelson	Mary Ann	1842	Martha WELLS nee HOLLOWAY
Mrs M L Gresham	Auckland	Gwalior	1852	Thomas & Grace HIRST
		Marmora *	1851	John ROCHFORD
		Aberfayle*	1854	Henry & Susannah LEWIS
	Wellington	Simlah	1855	Louisa Felicia M LIARDET
	Auckland	Black Eagle	1861	Albert Cracroft FOOKES
	Auckland	St George	1842	John Faithfull F WRIGHT
	Wellington	Simlah	1855	Susannah Evelyn WRIGHT
	Auckland	Louisa Campbell	1842	Dr Charles MOFFAT
Mrs M E Braddock	Petone	Oriental	1840	Jemima OXENHAM
	Petone	Aurora	1840	Richard Burgess SAYER
	Wellington	Oliver Lang	1856	Thomas William BRAGGINS
Mr N G G Taylor	Pt Chalmers	Lady Egidia	1861	William TAYLOR
	Pt Chalmers	Resolute	1864	William ROBERTSON
	Pt Chalmers	Silistria	1862	William & Marian COCHRANE
	Pt Chalmers	Robert Henderson	1858	Thomas & Janet MESSER
Mrs J Thompson	Petone	Oriental	1840	Thomas U McKENZIE
	Pt Nicholson	Blenheim	1841	Duncan & Margaret FRAZER
	Petone	Bengal Merchant	1840	John BRYCE
Mr R B Montgomery	Petone	Oriental	1840	Thomas U McKENZIE
	Pt Nicholson	Blenheim	1841	Duncan & Margaret FRAZER
	Petone	Bengal Merchant	1840	John BRYCE
Mrs L M Young	Kawhia	Clyde	1835	Capt. SWAN
	Kawhia	Clyde	1835	Capt. George CHARLETON

• Not verified





## AROUND THE BRANCHES

### *Auckland Branch*

As stated, each year, Auckland Branch continues to hold monthly meetings at Kinder House, Parnell, although we have instituted, during the last two years, a three month recess during the winter. Despite this we have managed, for at least one of the closed months, to gather together away from our usual venue to view an exhibition in the city, or elsewhere, which has historical interest. This year when we will go to the Auckland Central Library to listen to the Photographic Librarian talk about the correct dating of 19th & 20th century photographs, as part of a "Family History" series the library holds each year.

Members still bring their own lunch, while the Branch supplies the tea or coffee. We do have a charge for this as we only rent the particular room we use - other rooms in the house are in use while we are there. At \$20 it is the cheapest place in the city, and one of the few places available at a lunch hour. Kinder House does not do catering for any group and other venues suitable for us do not exist.



The programme since the 2012 AGM has included, in August, a report on the AGM from me, along with our secretary detailing highlights of her recent trip to Germany, England and Scotland. A visit in September to an exhibition of "Fashion Treasures" being antique clothing gathered from the Historic Places Trust homes in Auckland and Northland displayed at "Highwic" was very successful. November we had our usual shared lunch and started again in

February with our annual picnic on the lawn of Kinder House. The few meetings up until today have been round table discussion and chit-chat - some of which has centred on our favourite overseas place, or one that was the most memorable.

We do give members the latest news from Wellington HQ and discuss the minutes or the proposals and having stated that I can report that we had a very stimulating discussion regarding the two remits forwarded by Bay of Plenty and Taranaki to be discussed at this meeting. We look forward to the conclusions reached.

We wish all Founders all the best for now and the future.

J Webster  
Chairman,

### *Waikato Branch*

The Waikato Branch continues to meet every second month at the Te Rapa Racecourse, beginning with an excellent meal. This is followed by a short business session and then a guest speaker speaking on a topic of interest, lying at the heart of what we do. Attendance has been good, thanks to a varied programme.

The year began with Adrian Gover as the new President and a full committee. This committee meets prior to each full meeting of the Society members. Carolyn Adams continued as Secretary/Treasurer with Hillary Bedgood's assistance.

#### PROGRAMMES:

At the June meeting we were addressed by two columnists from the Waikato times. Lynn Williams, historian at the Waikato Museum, who writes the "Dead Tell Tales" column, and Dr. Ann McEwen, a heritage consultant, who writes the column "Memory Boxes". Both ladies spoke on how they researched their tales, and prepare their columns. Both these columns are avidly read in the Monday paper. At the August meeting, Anne Aylett, the Royal Genealogist addressed us. She shared with us a display of Royal family memorabilia. She told of meeting the Queen and other members of the Royal Family, and of her appointment and what it entails. There were many



right royal tales to tell. In September Graeme and Rosalind Mathews spoke. They specialise on the saving of old photographs, documents, colour slides and so on, on to modern and permanent formats.

They illustrated the saving of sometimes delicate and fading family documents. Their display of recovered family photos, documents and letters was of great interest.

Our Christmas meeting, held at the end of November was one of home-made entertainment. As in the past we heard skits, members. Santa Christmas songs, and As before, the afternoon was most enjoyable. At our February meeting



Max Hill returned to speak on his new book, which is soon to be published. This book, based on much research, is about the first settlement of North New Zealand, and the Chinese arrival there in the 1400's. This cast the settlement of the north in a new light. The April meeting hosted Dr Michael Easter, with tales of his family tree, and meeting his father for the first time. It was also our Annual meeting, with new faces on the committee.

Sadly, during year, we lost several valued members, Delcie Dodds, Isabel Fischer, Lorraine Curnow and Diana Tranchand. We remembered them with sadness and with pride.

This Branch continues to be one of the largest and foremost branches in the North Island, meeting regularly, with good attendances, and providing a wide ranging programme of interest to members and historians. Our aim is to keep this record, and grow the membership of the branch in the coming year.

My thanks go to the Committee members, who have continued with their faithful support of the branch, keeping things working smoothly. My additional thanks goes to Carolyn (Secretary/Treasurer), Hillary, Assistant Secretary, Gwendoline, who organises the raffles, and the faithful bar attendants. A special mention goes to our excellent caterers for the high quality of our luncheons.

Adrian Gover President

### *Bay of Plenty Branch*

27th May: Katikati Meeting at Katikati RSA Club. Forty-five members and guests from Bay of Plenty area travelled to Katikati to attend our Luncheon and Meeting at the RSA. Maree Bartlett, the Chef, put on a beautiful lunch which was much enjoyed. The Guest Speaker, Christine Clement, spoke about her second book on the Te Puke area and told us she is now researching the early families in the Katikati area from 1870-1910 and illustrated interesting situations to show how methodical and accurate research has to be when looking into families and connecting them to the right people."

29th July: Rotorua Meeting at Kingsgate Hotel. Following a delicious lunch 39 members heard Noela Vallis, President of the Spinal Cord Society of NZ Inc. speak about the progress made since the Society was formed in 1988 to find a cure for paralysis. They are now selecting 12 patients to start a trial using the patient's own tissue to transplant into the spinal cord. Noela was optimistic about finding a cure.

23rd September: Ohope Charter Club, Whakatane On a beautiful Spring day, 30 members from the Bay of Plenty district attended a luncheon at the Ohope Charter Club. After welcoming members, guests and the guest speaker, Barbara Comiskey gave an interesting 5-minute talk about the Pohutara Rock (commonly known as "the Rock") on the corner of The Strand and Commerce Street, and how her grandfather, George Brabant, saved it from being demolished. This was followed by our Guest Speaker, Inspector Sandra Venerables, introduced by Colin Deed. Sandra is the Area Commander Eastern Bay of Plenty, and only the third woman in the history of NZ Police Force to rise to this position. She spoke about when women first joined the Force in 1961. and how different it is today from then. She passed around a photo and her baton and handcuffs which were issued when she graduated and compared these to today's handcuffs (much lighter), baton (smaller and folds) and the safety vest which is knife-proof and worn at all times when on duty.

25th November: Te Puke Hotel Forty-two people from the Bay of Plenty district gathered for a splendid Christmas Luncheon at the Te Puke Hotel, one of the older, historical buildings in the area. At the end of lunch, Kevin Haraki-Beckett, the Duty Manager, gave us a short history of the

hotel which was built in 1908 and celebrated its centenary in 2008. There was much beautiful wooden paneling interior which had been maintained in its original state with upstairs accommodation still available. We all then drove



4 kms to the No 2 Road Hall which has recently been restored by the locals for afternoon tea and hear Guest Speaker Jim Prendergast. Original timber was used for the restoration and a modern kitchen was installed. The seating provided were the original pews which had been restored.

We used the original china for tea, together with members' silver teapots, etc and Bonnie Roger supplied a Christmas cake. Jim Prendergast talked about restoration of the hall and its early history which had fulfilled many uses, eg weddings, family functions table tennis, church, meetings. There was an interesting display of old photographs.

24th March 2013: KatiKati Chairman Bonnie Roger welcomed 38 members from the Bay of Plenty district. The Guest Speaker was Wyond Symes who works for LandSAR based in Waihi. He covered the history of Search and Rescue in New Zealand and the present work and responsibilities of the group. Waihi LandSAR currently has 28 volunteers aged from 20s-60s each with different skill sets. They are part of a 3000 strong national organization of volunteers on call throughout New Zealand to help find people missing in the outdoors. His address was supported by a power point presentation.

Bonnie Roger,  
Chairman

### ***Hawkes Bay Branch***

It is with pleasure that I present the 34th Annual Report of the Hawke's Bay Branch of the New Zealand Founders Society Inc.

It has been an interesting and informative year and I wish to thank my committee for their assistance and co-operation in arranging the organisation and variety of outings and the high standard of speakers we have had. The attendance of members and guests this year at our luncheons, bus trips and meetings has averaged sixty four. At the present

time we have 157 members and it is encouraging to have such regular and active attendance of our newer members.

To the families of those who have passed away during the year - Arthur Aldridge, Dawne Derby, Anne Forbes, Marjorie Kenderdine, Norman Oliver, Jim Pyers all long standing members and Maurice Reidy we have extended our sympathy.

To all those people who open their homes and properties to us we give our grateful thanks. We also try to keep our costs down which seems to be much appreciated.

January: Our annual Founders' Luncheon was held at lovely Ormlie Lodge Taradale, a gracious 2 storied mansion built by William Nelson in 1899 as a present for his wife. Well known local historian Mr Patrick Parsons gave us an interesting and informative talk



on "Hawke's Bay Mythology". April: The historical Duart House, Havelock North was once again the venue for our Annual General Meeting. Our speaker, Mr Adrian Coleman told us of the background for his recently published book "Lust for Land", the story of early farming in Hawke's Bay. We all enjoyed the sumptuous afternoon tea given us by the Custodian Rose Chapman. (Unfortunately we had trouble with the sound and some were unable to hear. We have since obtained a new and effective microphone for future use.)

May: This was a lovely bus trip to Central Hawke's Bay "Woburn Homestead", an exquisite home built in 1893 with Italian chandeliers and antique furniture and listed by Historic Places Trust. A special afternoon tea was served followed by a talk and tour of the house.

July: Our Winter Luncheon was held at the Havelock North Function Centre. We do appreciate the special service and attention always given to us by our hosts. Mr Ewan McGregor, an authority on local history, gave an excellent power point presentation of "Napier Before the Earthquake". There were photographs and maps many of us had never seen before.

August: Seventy one members attended our members meeting held in Duart House. Four members gave interesting talks about various historical subjects. Once again a special afternoon tea was served.

October: One of the highlights of the year was our bus trip to the "Guthrie Smith Arboretum" at Tutira. This area had been developed on 90 hectares of the original station of 60,000 acres. Over 20,000 trees from all over the world have been planted. A picnic lunch, conducted walks and wonderful views of Lake Taupo were enjoyed by everyone present.

November: Something a little different - a bus trip to the refurbished Waipawa Town Hall with a meal and entertainment provided by the Waipawa Musical and Dramatic Society. On the way we had a compered tour of some of Waipawa's historical sites and buildings which were off the State Highway and which many of us had not seen before.

My Special thanks to our committee and particularly to Andy our treasurer and Richard our publicity officer who do so much behind the scenes. Thank you to all members for your continued support and enthusiasm and may Hawke's Bay Branch continue to flourish.

Nanette Roberts

President.

### ***Taranaki Branch***

Welcome to another year of Founders. Thank you for attending. Before we start on the Annual Meeting would you please sit quietly for a moment to remember members who have died during the past year. Thank you .

The change in meeting days has not changed the actual numbers of members attending. The Memorial dinner and Service, plus the end of evening, are the exception and lift the actual numbers attending over the year.

The train trip was well attended and enjoyed by all. Your committee has a social outing planned for this year. Your committee meets regularly and we endeavour to keep you all in touch with newsletters.

The End of Year Evening ran at a loss financially, so some thought will have to go into plans for this year. Those who attended enjoyed themselves and Grahame's demonstration was great- thank you again Grahame and our thanks to everyone who helped with the evening.

So - do we "hang - in" for another year?

Your committee members have already tentative speakers for the coming meetings so I guess the answer is yes! But there will be changes.

My thanks to our committee members for their contribution to the smooth running of our meetings, and also our very able Secretary.

Dale Osborne  
Chairman

### **Wairarapa Branch**

It is my pleasure to present this 2012/2013 report to members of the Wairarapa Branch of the NZ Founders Society. We extend our sympathy to those who have lost family members during the past year, our thoughts are with you as another year commences. Several members have been unwell during the past year and we endeavour to keep in contact and offer support. Please let your president or committee know if members are unwell and unable to join us at our gatherings. Our numbers remain constant and we have welcomed a number of new members to our ranks. At our March AGM I was again voted in as president, but our secretary Sue Braggins resigned from the post due to family commitments. Alison Parkes stepped into the position and coped admirably, as do all of our wonderful committee members. Members turned out to enjoy hearing our speaker Warren Tucker give a very informative talk on his career in the Security Intelligence Service. He even allowed us to ask questions.



Our April outing was to The Alpaca Place where we enjoyed one of their interactive farm tours. Few of us have had the opportunity to get close to these delightful animals, let alone lead them. Their enthusiastic owners demonstrated all aspects of Alpaca farming and answered lots of questions addressed to them.

May's outing was a wet day, but the welcome at stately Te Whiti Homestead made up for the weather. Our hostess Maureen introduced us to the history of Te Whiti, and the renovations that had been undertaken to bring the homestead back to its previous

glory. Finally we had afternoon tea beautifully cooked, and presented by Maureen and her staff.

Our annual mid-year dinner in memory of our late benefactor Robert Millar was once again held at The Top Pub in Greytown. A social event we all look forward to as a Winter highlight. In July members were invited to share with us stories about their ancestors experiences after coming to NZ, or the Ships that carried them to our shores prior to 1865.

In light of Christchurch's experiences we invited our local Civil Defence Controller, Paul Walker to join us at the Masterton Art Clubrooms in August. Paul spoke of not only how we can prepare ourselves to cope, but also assist our neighbours and families after a disaster

In September we gathered to pool cars and travel into the countryside. Despite the Spring weather we put on gumboots, and used umbrellas to look at Janet Morrisons wonderful display of daffodils at Te Wharau. Another site to revisit perhaps on a fine day.

October saw us once again heading for the Lake Ferry Hotel. A very popular choice as the Hotel claims to serve Wairarapa's best fish and chips (and scenery) November we planned a visit to our local Art and History Museum Aratoi. Alas our visit coincided with a power cut and we were to be disappointed! Entice Cafe offered cold drinks and cakes to those who stayed so all was not lost. Our venue for our Xmas outing was the Turley Lounge at the Cosmopolitan Club. A large crowd attended, and were not disappointed by the quality of the end of year meal. A great way to finish our 2012 yearly programme.

Starting our visits for 2013 on Waitangi Day we travelled to Eketahuna, half hour North of Masterton. While there we visited Joy and Bruce Cole's garden. Joy is also an avid collector of dolls and invited us to see her collection. Afterwards we enjoyed a real

country afternoon tea at the Eketahuna Club - no-one needed tea that day!

In closing I would like to thank all our wonderful members who join us for our monthly outings, you are the heart of our branch. Also my deep appreciation to members of the committee who work so hard to make our branch a success. Thank you all,

Ann Woodley  
Chairman

### *Wanganui Branch*

Report for 2012

Our first meeting was at Geoff and Judy Potts on February 26th, their museum was very interesting and we were able also to walk through their nursery. This is place that not many people know about and another venue of interest in Wanganui.

March 18th Murray Woodhouse was the guest speaker, his topic was the Churton family, one of the earliest settlers to Wanganui. Murray had researched their history and his talk was fascinating and added to our knowledge of the early fabric of Wanganui.

April 29th was the day of our AGM - after the business, Val Cowan spoke about her latest book of the life and times of Joan Morell. Joan is a well known local sculptor.

The May meeting was held in the Alexander Heritage Library on May 23rd, this meeting was very well attended and members had the opportunity to view many old photos and the progress the library is making for these photos to be readily available to all.

Then on June 24th in St Andrews Hall was a "Show and Tell", this was most successful and members were enthusiastic with the items they brought along. The stories were fascinating and of great interest.

On Sunday July 22nd we had an interesting talk by Souter on the origins of Virginia Lake. This was really enjoyed by local people and passersby of course lots of who



had a most interesting break. Nancy and history lake is people and passersby

stop to have a travelling

break.

August 19th in St Andrews Hall, Mrs Flutey spoke about the YMCA and the book she has written, her knowledge was extensive and had copies available for purchase.

September 30th was when Max Benseman from the District Council told us about possible effects of an earthquake to our heritage buildings and suggestions on how to lessen any adverse damage.

In October on the 28th in St Andrews Hall, Phillip Sell from Williams Jewellers spoke to us about the history of this shop which has a very long and old association with Wanganui.

November meeting was held on December 9th at Mt St Joseph, Hillside Terrace, where Catherine Shelton told us about their archives. This was our last meeting for 2012 and afternoon tea and we had lots of treats. All in all, Wanganui Branch has had a very good year, meetings were well attended and covered many diverse historical subjects.

Michael Norris  
Chairman

### ***Wellington Branch***

The 2012 year saw some changes in our group. Janet Robinson retired as Secretary-Treasurer in July and Chairman Carol took over her responsibilities in the meantime. During 2012 we had an enjoyable and well supported lunch at Parliament followed by a tour of the building. The visit to the Film archive was very interesting with a special show of historic



films put on for us. It was not well supported, but all who went, wanted a return visit, in August the committee had a farewell lunch with Janet. Plenty of people turned up for a tour of Government House with all the new renovations. Our guide was knowledgeable and interesting and we enjoyed the occasion.

2012 was the Centenary Year for the Wellington Historical Early Settlers Association and we were invited to join them at a celebration and Christmas lunch at Homewood House, the home of the British Ambassador, Vicki Tredell who was the host.

**Securing the National Records.** Wellington Branch elected to undertake the task of digitising the records. Brian Watts, Margaret Collins and Janet Robinson made the initial investigations. Brian encouraged us to apply to the Lotteries Board for funding and did some of the initial groundwork. Sadly Brian died before he could complete the work and we lost a very valued member of our committee. Margaret Collins was also a big help until she injured her leg and ended up in hospital. I completed the application and deposited it with the Commission on the 24th of November. This work was very time consuming. Our records had to be recommended by archival experts and several references were required. I had to fit the application to the criteria set out in the World War I Commemorations, Environment and Heritage Lotteries Grants. I am very happy to report that the grant has been approved

Most of the members of the committee have served the society well for a number of years. I appreciate their help and guidance and thank each of them for their special contributions to our group. Vera Ellen is no longer able to serve on the committee and we thank her for her past support.

We would encourage anyone who wishes to join us on the committee to offer themselves. We need help with the financial and secretarial work. I also thank Janet Robinson for her contribution to the Society as a whole. She has a valuable historic knowledge of the Society and has been very helpful to me personally. Thank you, Geoff Palmer, our auditor, for dealing with a set of accounts done by a very inexperienced person.

Carol Hurst,  
Chairman,

**Canterbury-Westland Branch** *(There was no Annual Report from Canterbury - the Branch is currently in recess)*



**Profile of Our President - Adrian Gover**

Born in January 1936 in Wanganui, and as my father was a public servant we moved about quite a bit. I started school at Muratai, Eastbourne (Wellington) but moved to Auckland when I was eight. We lived in Remuera, (Bassett Road) and I attended Remuera School, then Auckland Grammar, and later still, Auckland Teachers' College, where I trained as a teacher. (alongside Sir Duncan McIntyre, singer, and Murray Halberg, runner.) Taught at the Raglan District High School, and later on at Hamilton East School (the special class for " Backward Children". Married Margaret in 1960. Graduated B.A. and later M.A (hons) from Massey University. Became Headmaster of the Ohura District High School, the Woodville School (Southern Hawke's Bay), and Ashhurst School (Palmerston North). Left teaching in 1993, and took Holy Orders in the same year, as a non-stipendiary priest. Awarded Doctor of Divinity, later still, and now a very busy Anglican Priest. We moved to Cambridge in 2007, where we now reside. Apart from Founders, I am past President of the Woodville Rotary Club, and Past Patron of the Manawatu Classic Motorcycle Club. I still ride motorcycles, and restore them. I am a member of the Vintage Car Club, and Chaplain to the RSA. Margaret is also a Founders member, and is a painter, a member of the Lyceum Club of Cambridge, and also a Past Rotary President. She has curated two major art exhibitions, and is also a keen gardener.

We have two daughters- Karen, who is married to an agronomist ( plant scientist) living in Rolleston, her son ( our grandson Alex is studying law at Otago) and Rachel, married to an engineer, and living in South Auckland. We are most proud of them all. My interest in children with learning and behaviour difficulties led me to do post graduate studies in this area at Waikato University, gaining a post grad diploma, and working as a school psychologist for some years, concurrently with my church duties.

My interest in Founders began with my Aunt, and her cousin Kaira Todd (a Founders member). We are descended from the settlers who arrived in 1841 in the "Fifeshire" at Nelson.