

Newsletter – May 2010

Annual General Meeting -- Thursday 24 June

The Foundation's annual general meeting will be held in the lounge of the University of Canterbury Staff Club, the Ilam homestead in Ilam Road, beginning at 5.30 pm on Thursday 24 June.

All members are encouraged to share in the business of the Foundation. Formal notice, the agenda, accounts and annual report will be sent early in June.

Two Book Launches – with our help

Alpine photography

Rhian Gallagher, one of our Community Historians, will have her book on Jack Adamson launched at the South Canterbury Museum on 2 July. At the same time the Timaru museum will open an exhibition of images from Adamson's glass plate negatives.

After the exhibition closes in September, the work of this early Mount Cook guide and alpine photographer will be taken on tour, probably to The Hermitage and later, it is hoped, to a Christchurch showing and to other towns and cities. The book, *Feeling for Daylight*, reproduces many of these brilliant photographs and will accompany the exhibition on tour.

Colonial survey disaster and survival

Another alpine story will be revived in Christchurch on Sunday 30 May. Supported by a grant from the Foundation and others, Canterbury University Press has produced a new translation of the dramatic account by the Swiss adventurer, Jakob Lauper, of an 1863 trans-alpine expedition and the death of the Provincial Government Surveyor, Henry Whitcombe.

Hilary Low, of Wellington, took up the challenge of translating afresh the original report that Lauper wrote in German for the Provincial Council. He described the gruelling trek from the Rakaia valley to the West Coast where Whitcombe was drowned trying to cross the Taramakau River and then his own tortuous return to Christchurch. She explains many errors in the first official translation printed in the Provincial Government Gazette, and explores the long, official indifference to the earlier sighting of the "Whitcombe" Pass by Samuel Butler and John Baker. The book contains biographical notes on Whitcombe and on Lauper, drawing on Hilary Low's research with family help in Switzerland.

Lauper's remarkable story inspired many retellings and was adapted by Jules Verne for one of his novels.

Apart from repairing earlier errors and omissions, Hilary Low's book will add usefully to knowledge of exploration by colonial settlers. *Pushing his Luck* will be launched, aptly, in a room of the Canterbury Provincial Buildings.

Gardner Lecture Reminder

Professor Geoffrey Rice will be giving the 2010 Jim Gardner Lecture in the Christchurch Girls' High School at 2.30 pm on Sunday, 25 July. His subject: "Defining Victoria Square".

Many have heard Professor Rice speak on the history of the square, which he has researched for many years. For the Gardner lecture he has prepared an entirely new and fully illustrated historical tour. He will recall the history of the square's many changes since it was Christchurch's first central business district; but he will move on to define what kind of a square it has become. Professor Rice will show comparisons with Victoria Square's namesakes in Britain, Canada, and Australia and with some of the great city squares of the world.

Coach Tour To Gonyah Lodge and Terrace Station

A full coach of 47 members and friends enjoyed our visit in March to two Canterbury homes. Our hosts were welcoming and informative. St John's church and the hall for tea at Hororata proved highlights and we made a small financial surplus.

Cotter Medical History Trust

The Trust held its annual meeting in March and reported continuing success in gathering and cataloguing equipment, books, photographs, and biographical material. Its most ambitious project is to acquire a world-class collection of microscopes assembled by a Nelson doctor. This progresses well, but requires more funds to complete the transfer. The Trust displays selections from its collection in Christchurch hospitals and welcomes groups or individual visitors to its headquarters in the Hagley Hostel building in Riccarton Avenue. The email address is maxa@xtra.co.nz

Canterbury People and Movements – WEA course

The Canterbury WEA is accepting enrolments for a course of four weekly lectures beginning on Tuesday 11 May at its rooms, 59 Gloucester Street. The first, by Sir Kerry Burke, is on Norman Kirk, from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm. The second is by Jim McAloon on Ted and Mabel Howard.

Whetu Tirikatene Sullivan will speak on the Independent Māori Party policy (1928-1935), its influence on legislation introduced by Labour Governments from 1935 onwards, and the role of Labour's Māori Policy and Advisory Council. The fourth lecture, on Jack and Elsie Locke, will be given by Alison and Keith Locke. The fee is \$13. Enrolments at ph.366 0285; email cwea@xtra.co.nz; or consult www.cwea.org.nz

Family History Society of NZ Lecture

The society's Harold Raines Memorial Lecture will be held on Saturday, 8 May, at 11am in the Knox Centre, cnr Bealey Avenue and Victoria Street. Lyndon Fraser, historian and senior lecturer in the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Canterbury, will speak on Irish Protestant Migrants in 19th Century Canterbury. All welcome.