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CANTERBURY
HISTORY
FOUNDATION

Newsletter
July 2009

2009 Rhodes Medal for Murray Thacker

Murray Thacker's many years of dedicated collecting and preserving significant Maori and colonial settlement artefacts at Okains Bay will be recognised by the award of the Rhodes History Medal. As usual, the presentation will be made after the Jim Gardner Lecture.

The result of his work is one of the country's outstanding local museums. Mr Thacker entrusted the collection, buildings and land for public enjoyment and benefit, but continues to work at enlarging and maintaining this treasury of the heritage of two peoples. A fuller note on his work appears in the accompanying lecture notice.

Peter Hempenstall's Lecture – 26 July

For this year's Gardner Lecturer Professor Hempenstall will recapture a theme from much of Jim Gardner's own work in regional and local history. He will be relating local experience, and local history and ideas to the making of the larger picture.

Returning to Australia after the publication of *Remaking the Tasman World*, he began to view afresh the events and the relationships among the countries of the South-West Pacific. He particularly considered the different senses of identity, and their origins, as driving forces in the region.

Please engage the attention of friends who may be interested in the lecture. It will begin at 2.30 pm on Sunday, 26 July, in the auditorium of Christchurch Girls' High School. Ask the Secretary for more fliers if you can direct them to others who would enjoy hearing this notable lecturer speaking on a topic of importance to our future.

Books on Special

Ursula Ryan, daughter of the late John Summers, bookseller, poet and raconteur, has kindly given the Foundation spare copies of his second biographical book, *Dreamscape 2*. These will be on sale at the Gardner Lecture for the benefit of the Foundation. In this volume John Summers described, in a frank and amusing style, his encounters with many well known Christchurch personalities.

\$11,000 for the Community Historian

The Canterbury Community Trust has approved a donation of \$11,000 towards the \$13,000 needed for the Community Historian scheme next year. Given the good earnings from the concert in April we can now confidently invite applications for the 2010 grant. Once again, we must be very grateful for the Trust's support.

Ian Catanach – 1934-2009

Dr Catanach, one of our founding members, died suddenly on May 20. From 1961 till his retirement in 1995 as Reader in History he lectured at the University of Canterbury.

He was widely respected by staff and students for his thoughtful, courteous and attentive ways as well as for his scholarship and extensive knowledge of South Asian History. Notices of his life and contributions to research and the teaching of History appeared in the University *Chronicle* on 12 June and in *The Press* on 13 June.

Ian Catanach was among those who worked on the Rules of the History Foundation and on its launch in 1999. He was President of the Canterbury Historical Association in 1991. With his wife, Dr Marie Peters, he established the fund that helps post-graduate students study overseas, a fund now administered by the Foundation. His death was recorded with regret and sadness at our Annual General Meeting.

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AGM Notes

As convenor of the programme committee, Mrs Frieda Looser invited members who attended the 25 June annual meeting, and other members, to offer ideas for entertaining, instructive or fund-raising events. Although she acknowledged that events were not among the prime functions of the Foundation, she said it was important to bring members together and to devise ways of raising more funds.

Roger Gilbert introduced the question of shortages of archival space for the records of organizations. Simon Dorset, who was elected Vice-President at the meeting, undertook to include regard for this problem when his sub-committee discussed the promotion of business histories.

Mr Dick Hlavac, the retiring Immediate Past-President, sent a message in which he applauded the Foundation's work over its first ten years. He thanked the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and all members of the committee for their efforts.

The annual subscription for ordinary members was set again at \$40; and the subs for the new classes of membership, institutional and corporate, were both set at \$50.

Minutes of the meeting accompany this newsletter. Ill health prevented the attendance of the 2009 Community Historian. Jean Sharfe entertained members with a history mystery unravelled during work on academic gowns by the Federation of Graduate Women.

Canterbury WEA Centenary — Historians Interested?

The WEA will celebrate its centenary in 2015 and is planning a centennial history of the association. Expressions of interest are invited from any social historian who would write the history, contribute a chapter to the book, or be its lead writer/editor. For more information email cwea@xtra.co.nz or phone the WEA: (03) 366 0285.

The Pioneers — NZ Tour by Ex-pat Performers

Music, text from poets, stories remembered, and a backdrop of archival images have been combined by three New Zealanders to bring to life the experiences of early settlers creating a new home. For the past two years in Britain they have preformed the show in London and in village halls and theatres.

They bring it now to the Christchurch Arts Festival and to Akaroa and Darfield in the course of a New Zealand tour. The Christchurch performances will be in the TelstraClear Club in Cathedral Square at noon on Saturday and Sunday, 1 and 2 August. The trio will be at the Coalgate Hotel, Darfield, on 23 July, and in the Gaiety Theatre, Akaroa, at 8pm on 24 July.

David Leahy, Angeline Conaghan and Ben Brewer all have wide musical experience. They conceived this show in Britain when posing the question: "Why are we living so far from home when our ancestors struggled so hard to make a new life for themselves in New Zealand?" Their response lies in the stories they have created about three of their ancestors.

The tour has been organised by the Arts on Tour New Zealand Trust at the Arts Centre of Christchurch. For more information: Diana Moir at dhmoir@xtra.co.nz.