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CANTERBURY  
HISTORY  
FOUNDATION

## Another Opera and Fine Music Afternoon

The success of our opera concert two years ago as a fund-raiser and as a musical event should be repeated on Sunday, April 26. Veronica Pyle has assembled a fine team of singers and players who are generously offering their professional skills to help the Foundation sustain its community historian fund.

The Executive hopes that members will recognise an exceptional opportunity to hear these top performers in a wonderful venue. They will be offering a new and varied programme, and the ticket price should seduce anyone who enjoys a fine concert. A flier containing more information to be shared with music-loving friends comes with this newsletter.

## Jim Gardner Lecture 2009

Professor Peter Hempenstall has accepted the Foundation's invitation to deliver this year's lecture on Sunday 26 July. It will be held, as usual, in the auditorium of Christchurch Girls' High School.

Apart from his reputation as a researcher and as an engaging lecturer, he will be bringing to this event special insight and knowledge on a topic of importance to New Zealand. His theme will be drawn from the recently published book, *Remaking the Tasman World*, in which he shared authorship. A later newsletter will include a full notice of the lecture.

Peter Hempenstall has retired from the University of Canterbury after holding a chair in History for ten years. Although he is now Conjoint Professor in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Newcastle, NSW, he retains firm Canterbury connections as Emeritus Professor and through links with the New Zealand Australia Research Centre in the Department of History.

## Support for Trans-Tasman Book Launch

*Remaking the Tasman World* must be counted as the first product of the Australia New Zealand Research Centre in the Department of History. Both the Foundation and the Canterbury Historical Society helped financially with its Christchurch launch at the University Bookshop in February. Two of the joint authors, Professor Philippa Mein Smith and Professor Peter Hempenstall, spoke to more than 100 guests. The book was launched by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Rod Carr. The University *Chronicle* has kindly permitted the reproduction of its report in this letter.

## A C Rhodes medal

Nominations for the Rhodes medal to be presented at the 2009 Jim Gardner Lecture will close on April 30.

The main criteria for this honour lie in a person's significant contribution to the study of history in Canterbury, particularly work that has excited interest in history in the wider community. The award is not limited to work on the history of Canterbury. It is more likely to be made for long service through public activity in the cause of history than for a single outstanding work – for which other awards exist.

The awards committee invites nominations from members of the Foundation, the Canterbury Historical Association, and the Canterbury History Teachers' Association. Other interested people may offer nominations.

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website: [www.chf.org.nz](http://www.chf.org.nz)

Newsletter  
March 2009

## Retirement from Executive

Chris Adam, Regional Archivist and manager of the Christchurch branch of Archives New Zealand, has had to withdraw from the executive and from his position as the Foundation's vice-president. The executive regretfully accepted Mr Adam's decision that the demands of his office, particularly those that kept him away from Christchurch on meeting days, greatly limited his contribution to Foundation business.

The Executive will still seek his valued advice on many topics, funding among them. Chris has assured the Foundation of his continuing interest and support. The role of vice-president will be filled at the next AGM, and his successor as graduates' representative is being sought by the History Department.

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## New Prizes for Top Students

Five first-year students who were top of their 100-level History courses in 2008 have each been awarded a \$200 prize for book purchases. The donation of \$1000 in book tokens came from the Canterbury Branch of the NZ Federation of Graduate Women.

The chair of the branch, Mrs Judy Brooks, conceived the idea after Professor Geoffrey Rice, when presenting certificates of high achievement at

the History Awards ceremony last December, regretted the absence of any monetary reward.

The Federation has offered the same amount for 2009 students and similar donations to the Department of English to indicate its support for two core subjects in the Humanities. Winners of the History book tokens for 2008 were: James Johnson, Madeleine Jones, Choo-nah Khoo, James Leslie, and Andrew Luck.

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## History in East Anglia 2009

Frieda Looser will be leading another overseas tour in May for University of Canterbury Community Education Abroad. Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire are the goals on a tour inspired by the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Cambridge University. Enrolments for this tour, 4-21 May, are about to close. A few places are still available. Telephone Shandley Wenborn, 364-2346, for a brochure, or visit [www.cbe.canterbury.ac.nz/community-education/abroad](http://www.cbe.canterbury.ac.nz/community-education/abroad).

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## Getting History into Business

The executive committee is keen to act on one of the listed objects of the Foundation: to encourage and provide opportunities for corporate bodies "to take an active interest in the funding of historical research and scholarship".

Encouraging institutions and business to become members of the Foundation is one obvious way to achieve this object. Another is to encourage businesses and institutions to look to their own past, to be ready to fund the collation and archiving of their records, and to produce – in appropriate forms – their own histories.

One step towards facilitating corporate membership is being considered. This entails a change in the Foundation's Rules. When fully prepared, a proposal will be put to the annual general meeting in June. The Executive is also considering how the Foundation might assist businesses that resolve to preserve information, or publish their histories, and seek advice on doing so.

# Getting Businesses into History

Last month the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce began celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> year by launching a book of its own history, including short histories of 22 enterprises and institutions in the Chamber's region.

The Chamber's CEO, Peter Townsend, mentioned the support that the Foundation was giving to history and spoke on the importance of retaining and managing archives of company documents, photographs and memorabilia. It was, he said, all the more urgent in times when business headquarters move, and in the event of mergers and takeovers.

The Chamber's story, *Building Mainland Business*

(264 pp, RRP \$35.00), was written by Felicity Price and published for the Chamber by Star Books, Auckland. The account of the two organizations, which eventually merged in 1993, draws together much information on how business leaders combined to shape public policy, to set commercial rules, engage in industrial bargaining, and promote local and regional growth. The up-to-date capsule histories of many businesses are further reminders of the importance of preserving information on the driving forces of much wealth and progress, and on the social and economic changes that afflict or benefit people in manufacturing and commerce.

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## Obituary

**Two Foundation members died recently:  
Richard Bowron and Dick Hockley.**

An account of Mr Bowron's contribution to the University of Canterbury as a member of its Council from 1971 and as Chancellor from 1987 to 1991 appeared in the March 6 issue of the *Chronicle*. Richard Bowron practised law in Rangiora and was a leader in establishing U3A in Christchurch.

The long career of Mr Hockley in education, particularly at the Christchurch Polytechnic, in sport, and in language learning and international relations was recorded in *The Press* on January 10. He was among the Foundation's early members and wrote two books on rugby clubs as well as the Polytechnic's history.

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## Heritage Week 2009

Christchurch's Beca Heritage Week will be held this year from October 16 to 26. The theme and title will be announced soon. It will be based on the general ideas of peace, conflict and military history in the city. Christchurch City Council heritage officers are planning the event.



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To the Canterbury History Foundation, P O Box 29 070, Christchurch, 8040

PLEASE MAIL TO ME ..... TICKETS FOR THE OPERA AND FINE MUSIC CONCERT IN THE ST JOHN OF GOD CHAPEL ON APRIL 26.

Name .....

Address.....

..... Phone.....

I enclose \$ (\$30 a ticket, or \$25 for seniors and students)