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CANTERBURY
HISTORY
FOUNDATION



Newsletter
January 2007

2007 Jim Gardner Lecture

Dr Jim McAloon has agreed to give the 2007 Jim Gardner Lecture. The date and theme of his lecture will be announced in a later newsletter.

Dr McAloon (MA Cant, PhD Otago) lectures in the Environment, Society, and Design Division of Lincoln University. He has contributed chapters and articles to many books and journals, and his own books include *No Idle Rich: the Wealthy in Canterbury and Otago 1840-1914*. This won the history section of the Montana New Zealand Book Awards in 2003. His regional history of Nelson (1997) was joint winner of the 1999 JM Sherrard Award.

Hornby History Exhibition

The Hornby History exhibition attracted well over a thousand visitors during its showing at Our City O-Tautahi from 13 December to 20 January.

Thanks to word-of-mouth encouragement and good media publicity many Hornby people and others with Hornby interests inspected the results of the first few months of activity on this project.

Response forms were well employed and visitors took all the pamphlets to gather information on the Crown Crystal Glass factory, once one of Christchurch's biggest employers. Reactions and ideas will now be assessed for future action on the history project.

Hornby railway station relics and examples of the glassworks products were on show with oral histories and samples of the growing photographic collection.

The display included an outstanding collection of railway pictures by a professional photographer, Graham Radcliffe. It invited recollections of the Islington freezing works and other local businesses.

Jean Sharfe, a member of the Hornby History Group and one of the Foundation's supporting committee, found this a "very approachable display". It encouraged, and received, good feedback. The maps, pictures, and quotes from personal stories gave this history exhibition a strong sense of place, she said.

The Foundation's president, Dick Hlavac, spoke at the opening of the display and confirmed the Foundation's support for the work being done.

Like other speakers, he applauded the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board for its initiative in the project, and he urged the local history group to continue the work from its strong beginning.

Sunday 4 March - Chapel Concert

Please diary our fundraising concert at the St John of God Chapel. A group of outstanding performers will be creating a special occasion in a special place. A flyer and order forms for tickets accompany this newsletter.

The chapel's administrator, Bro. Gavin Greenwood, will attend and speak on this remarkable building, on its beginnings nearly a century ago, and its place as part of our architectural heritage. Today, the building has acquired new uses, particularly for musical performance and recordings.

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A club proud of its 85 years

Up, the Papis is the history of the New Brighton Rugby Football Club written by one of our members, Dick Hockley. Mr Hockley is now working on the 125-year history of the University of Canterbury RFC.

Rugby was played in the New Brighton district in the late 19th century, but the date of the club's formation has been long debated. The club itself made up its mind and celebrated a fiftieth anniversary in 1971. Mr Hockley's earliest evidence of the establishment, or re-establishment, of the NBRFC is a 1922 3rd grade team photo.

His story, from 1921 to 2006, connects the club strongly to the New Brighton Borough (1896-1941) and since then to the people and institutions of the area. A short history of the district precedes his decade-by-decade account of the club's performance and development, its players, coaches, and administrators. Tours to Fiji, Australia, Britain, and Canada are recalled, and the local social importance of the club and its clubhouse are described.

Mr Hockley has also described other New Brighton clubs and concludes with a "Top Fifteen" - a selection of the NBRFC's most notable members.

"Some people may be puzzled by the reference to 'papis' in the title," says Mr Hockley in his foreword. "At one time, perhaps even as late as the 1970s, they were in thick beds just on the low-tide mark right around Pegasus Bay. People going for a swim when the tide was out had to hobble across them. Everyone in Christchurch knew of them and when New Brighton sports teams were taking the field the cry 'Come on, the Papis!' was often heard."

Up, the Papis (124pp) was published with assistance from Eureka Trust and Lanyon and Le Compte and Co. Ltd. It can be obtained from the NBRFC, PO Box 18 588, Christchurch, for \$21 posted, or from the author by email: dick.hockley@xtra.co.nz.

Remembering the 1906 Exhibition

Until the end of March the Canterbury Museum is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 1906 New Zealand International Exhibition. The museum's own collections and other sources have produced a strong photographic record, souvenirs, medals, postcards, and some prize-winning handcraft items that were shown at the exhibition.

Geological specimens from the Canterbury region make a colourful display with a reminder of their original purpose: to show the useful resources of the province. The photographic collection shows the emphasis given to the 400 Maori people who lived in the pa, Te Araiteuru, west of the main exhibition buildings in Hagley Park. Photographs taken in some of the exhibition halls give an impression of the huge range of exhibits from New Zealand and abroad. They are well worth unhurried inspection.

Rhodes Medal Nominations

Nominations for the award of the AC Rhodes History Medal in 2007 will close on 30 April. The medal recognises and honours significant contributions to the study of history in Canterbury, particularly those that have excited interest in history in the wider community. The terms of the award can be obtained from the Foundation secretary.