



CANTERBURY

HISTORY

FOUNDATION

July 2008 Newsletter

Welcome Community Trust grant

Once again the Canterbury Community Trust has given \$11,000 towards the Community Historian scheme. This generous donation means we have to raise another \$2000. Applications for the 2009 grant will close on 30 September. The secretary has the terms and application forms.

2008 Rhodes Medal winner

Richard Greenaway, a widely known reference librarian, has been chosen for this year's award. He has answered questions from thousands of people seeking help from the New Zealand section of Christchurch's Central Library, particularly on family and local history.

Richard supplements his knowledge of the library's resources with a prodigious memory. He has written many biographical articles and has brought to notice lives that have not been much remarked by other Christchurch historians. He has lectured to genealogy groups and conferences and has delighted many people with his story-telling cemetery tours. A note on his career and contribution to history study and appreciation appears in the Jim Gardner Lecture flier sent with this newsletter.

University of Canterbury Opportunity courses

History figures strongly among the courses being offered this winter. Enrolment deadlines for several are close. The topics are: the Olympic Games, and the social history of alcohol (both by Dr Greg Ryan); the Houses of Lancaster and York, Cambridge and its University, and many aspects of pastoralism and the wool trade (all by Mrs Frieda Looser); the Vietnam War, and Martin Luther King (both by Dr Philip Ferguson); and a lecture by Peter Graham on the 1880s Timaru poisonings case.

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Classical Sparks — the CSO story

This history by Tom Rogers and Simon Tipping came out in June to help celebrate the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra's fiftieth year since its origins in the John Ritchie String Orchestra. It is a thorough account of an important part of Christchurch's musical life – sometimes turbulent. The appendices list the CSO's repertoire since 1962 and all its players and conductors. The Foundation contributed \$2000 to help ensure timely publication of the book.

Foundation AGM and elections

Mr Alan Hayward has succeeded Mr Dick Hlavac as the Foundation's president and chair of the executive committee. Mr Hlavac was warmly thanked for his three-year term of genial and effective leadership. Mr Chris Adam was elected vice-president. For her long service, especially in fundraising events, Mrs Veronica Pyle was elected an honorary life member. Minutes of the meeting accompany these notes.

Professor John Cookson chaired a short, entertaining show-and-tell session after the meeting. Executive members and others exhibited items of historical or personal interest about which a story could be told. A police baton, watch, several old books, a snuff box, and a teapot figured among them – perhaps a test-run for a future event.
