

## 25<sup>th</sup> YEAR ANNUAL DINNER

Friday 2nd September 2016

TECHNIQUE RESTAURANT, 41 Harbour Tce, Dunedin Nth

**SPEAKER** – Jim Sullivan, reflecting on 50 years of digging around in NZ archives, as writer and broadcaster.

We will gather at 6.00pm. This year's ticket is a limited edition postcard to recognise the anniversary.

There will be an additional speaker, acknowledging the 25th anniversary year of the Friends.

Those attending will receive a complimentary drink on presentation of ticket, and a small gift acknowledging the Friends' support.

Dinner \$50.00 per head Drinks (including coffees) – cash bar

Purchase your ticket/s by 12 noon, Wednesday 31 August please, for catering purposes:

- Direct credit FOHC a/c 03-0903- 0393175-000, including surname, initials and "dinner"
- OR send cheque made out to Friends of the Hocken Collections with a note including your details to: Membership Secretary, Friends of the Hocken Collections, PO Box 6336, North Dunedin 9059
- You will be able to pick up your ticket, once purchased, from the Hocken Library in Anzac Ave, or 64 Brockville Rd (by arrangement), or at TECHNIQUE RESTAURANT on the evening of the dinner.

If you have any queries, please email to: [hockenfriends@gmail.com](mailto:hockenfriends@gmail.com) or call 021 611 776 (Membership Secretary of the Friends' Committee)

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**PROFESSOR TOM BROOKING's** talk in July captured our attention. His knowledge of the detail of Richard John Seddon's life is exceptional, but on this occasion, with the help of a few judiciously chosen illustrations he captured the essence of the man. These pictures summed up the major influences in Seddon's life –

family and physical origins, English liberalism in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, his political instincts, and other significant matters. It was in every way a memorable occasion.

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## 2016 TALK SERIES

- 16 November: Professor Kevin Clements – "Pacifism in Otago; Exploring Pacifism in the Hocken Collection."

Professor Clements is the Foundation Chair of Peace and Conflict Studies and Director of the New Zealand National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (NCPACS) at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, and Secretary General of the International Peace Research Association.

Prior to taking up these positions he was the Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies and Foundation Director of the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. His career has been a combination of academic analysis and practice in the areas of peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

Professor Clements has been a regular consultant to a variety of non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations on disarmament, arms control, conflict resolution, development and regional security issues.

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The centrefold covering the early history of 4YA is one of those serendipitous things. I had simply wondered whether anything was being recorded in the *Otago Daily Times* about early Dunedin radio 90 years ago. It just so happened that it is 90 years plus one month since 4YA was reconstituted – and there was lots to be found.

If you're interested there's an invaluable summary of those earliest years, per favour of *Papers Past*, in the *ODT* for 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1929, p.17.

## THIS IS DUNEDIN CALLING

When our parents' world beckons, we enter at our peril. At the Annual Dinner Jim Sullivan will be talking with us about the world of radio – which he knows so well. But for many of our parents it was then an unfamiliar, and even wonderful medium.

Here's an example of that sense of wonder. The *Otago Daily Times* on August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1926 contained this brief paragraph. As you read it, may I suggest you give your imagination free run - though there may be a risk.

'On a recent calm evening at Stewart Island, the announcer at Station 4YA, Dunedin, was clearly heard at a distance of 600 yards from Mr G.M. Turner's wireless set at Halfmoon Bay (says the *Southland Daily Times*), and the music was even heard at Bragg's Bay which is mile away as the crow flies. Another night, with a light easterly wind blowing against the set, a cornet solo from Brisbane was recognised 500 yards away.'

Do you presently have a radio in your home that could be heard a mile away? Hearing things that far away is difficult enough in any case, but would you want to walk that far to prove the point. You might have, in those days, of course.

But it was all so new and exciting in July and August 1926 – exactly 90 years ago. The special station set up at the Dunedin Exhibition had been shut down, and 4YA was up and running again. Now it was Joseph William Webb, the Station Manager from the Exhibition who now took over at 4YA and was getting things organised. There had been a 4YA for three years or so, under the enthusiastic and imaginative initiative of Fred O'Neill. On July 6<sup>th</sup>, however, it was announced that the service was going to be better organised. The Government, through the Radio Broadcasting Co, really started to regulate things.

There were to be broadcasts every night of the week: Sunday, from 6.30; Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 7.00; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, from 7.15. Close down at 10.00pm. There were to be bedtime stories on Monday and Wednesday. And on Sundays there might be a live broadcast service from some church.

Considering the amount of work this would mean for the small 4YA staff, the Dunedin public was well served. Apart from Mr Webb who was announcer as well as manager, there was only one other named person, Frederick Stuart North, the 'technician' – since 1925 - and still a radio engineer when he died in 1942. With at least two on the payroll Dunedin, was up and running and ahead of some other places. It was only when Mr Webb was getting ready to leave that he requested a specialist announcer, and the redoubtable Arch Curry arrived from the north in late 1927.

Radio became important daily news for the newspaper reader. Every day the programme was printed, and the staff had to have the soloists and speakers lined up and on time, at the Radio Station at 219 Moray Place. It doesn't seem that the gramophone record was the default position, as we would now say.

Often enough what went over the air-waves was a three-hour variety concert – Mrs Steadman has been named as the organiser of a score of performers – mostly soloists accompanied by Miss Renwick. The soloists were by no means only singers of the ballads or opera favourites popular at that time – there were piano soloists, violinists, mandolin players, and tin whistlers.

In this brief outline of 4YA around that first week of September 1926 an attempt is made to summarise the sorts of things you would have heard when you tuned in. One regular was the 'Information Service' - weather, shipping, mail notices, stock and market reports, and sports results. There was 'general news' (the first in New Zealand) – who put that together? There was also the twice-weekly children's session (the first in New Zealand) conducted by Aunt Diana, aka Mrs Melanie Primmer, widow of the late Professor of Veterinary Medicine at Otago University.

On this week there were a couple of 'addresses' – only once was a topic announced (Reminiscences of the Exhibition), no speakers named, and no comment/critique in the press. There were church services (the first in New Zealand) broadcast live from the Octagon Theatre and from First Church. There was always plenty of music, to suit all tastes. The Empire Theatre Orchestra under Mr Charles

Parnell performed on one evening. There was a relay from the Savoy. The RSA Choir's concert was broadcast from His Majesty's Theatre, under Mr John T. Leech, and, most ambitious of all, the Bristol Piano Company Concert Party put on a show. Dr Galway played the Town Hall organ, and Ernest Drake was already a popular singer. Both the Kaikorai Valley and the St Kilda bands played. And the performers didn't receive a penny until 1927.

celebrated! This was the only time her name appeared anywhere in New Zealand, or was it anywhere, or ever. Was there a critic listening, and wondering?



American Beauty Radio – 1926 Model – cost \$50

## HIGH-CLASS RADIO SETS

When buying a Radio Set you should insist upon getting the best for the money you are prepared to spend. With these sets you will be able to listen in to distant stations. Once you are tuned in to a station you can get it again by simply placing the dials in the same position.



To get the most out of the air—the full, clear voice of the speaker, the softest note of a musical program unspoiled by "squeals" and "howls," to know positively that you can bring in distant stations by placing the dial at a certain position—this is what the radio user wants and this is what he obtains with the King Quality Neutrodyne Receiver.

When you have once logged the stations you can always bring them in again by placing the dial at the same position—no guess work, no experimenting. If the station you want is sending, you get it. It is easy to cut out local stations. Objectionable noises are eliminated, no distortion, you get the full clear tones.

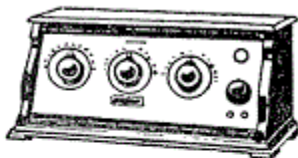
We have just landed a parcel of these High-class Sets in Beautiful Cabinets that are handsome articles of furniture.

We have also a few Sets for home-building. These are complete in every detail; all articles numbered and labelled ready to put together. A fine book of instructions, with diagrams, drawings, etc.

Write us for full particulars. No waiting—prompt delivery.

AGENTS WANTED IN ALL DISTRICTS. Must have some knowledge of Radio Sets.

**LIDLAW & GRAY, Ltd.**  
RATTRAY STREET, DUNEDIN.



Most weeks there was a special treat for the listeners in the form of a complete recorded opera performance. One week they heard the 'Gondoliers', and since the names of the performers are carefully spelled in the programme notes, it must have been the 1919 HMV production, personally supervised by Rupert D'Oyly Carte. It was on 11 X 78 discs – 22 sides, and must have weighed lots. The operator needed to watch carefully, ensuring the discs were played in order. To whom did that old set of records belong – it would have been an expensive purchase.

Did some good Dunedin citizen lend it, and other complete opera sets, for the occasion? Whatever the case, the radio owner was listening to a quality performance, though after seven years of use a bit crackly maybe.

The daily programme noted that the Town Hall chimes would mark the passing of the hour. Was it still being done then, as Fred O'Neill had done it in 1925, by opening the window of the Moray Place studio and hanging out the microphone.

Exactly ninety years ago, the *ODT* carried another article, this time reporting the words of Hamilton Fyfe, editor of the London *Daily Herald*, before a Broadcasting Committee appointed by the British Postmaster-General. 'Newspapers will be to a large extent superseded by wireless. Radio will be fitted to all houses, trains, street cars and omnibuses, and in all public places. People will carry earphones about with them and will thus be able to pick up messages.' There's a prophet for you.

The listener might hear the local radio dealers talking about their products, and giving demonstrations. If the newspaper advertisements that week are anything to go on, there were only two dealers in Dunedin – Laidlaw and Gray in Rattray St., and Dunedin Radio Supplies in Water St. There might have been some not so good music, too. Miss Emmeline Carr, 'the celebrated London contralto' sang over 4YA. Where exactly was she

## AWARD

This year the Friends of the Hocken Collections celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A committee has been at work turning a good idea into a memorable project.

To mark the occasion an award of **NZ\$10,000** is being offered to support an individual interested in some aspect of the historical development of Māori or Pakeha culture and society in Aotearoa/New Zealand to undertake research primarily using the resources of the Hocken Collections. The work could contribute towards a tertiary qualification, a publication, a musical composition, a theatrical performance, a piece of art, a DVD for use in schools or museums, or another such product.

The Award will be offered for the calendar year 2017. Applications should be made on the appropriate form which is available from:

Ms Sara Barham,  
Friends of the Hocken Collections,  
P.O. Box 6336, Dunedin North, 9059.

The closing date for applications is **17 October 2016**. A panel has been chosen to assess the applications, and it is expected that a progress report will be made available to the Committee by the end of July 2017.

Even if you, as a Friend, might not think of yourself as a participant, you are urged to spread the word, and encourage people you think might have the interest, the imagination, and the flair for such a challenge.

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## WORLD WAR 1 TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT

The project is gathering a little bit of momentum. We had another meeting of our volunteer transcribers, plus Anna Blackman and Sara Barham, on 16<sup>th</sup> August. We've now got about a dozen volunteers, which is fantastic, and includes about four extra participants. Is it something you might see yourself doing? A couple of our transcribers, Ross Grimmett and Trish Fleming, are well under way. This last meeting, we agreed that each transcriber would work with a partner to do checking after the first transcription draft. Ross and Trish are now checking each other's efforts! (They are working on *Minnie Jeffrey's diary, part 1* and *Dan Weir letters*).

Other transcribers have volunteered to work on the *Charles Mackie Begg diary*, a *James Gardner*

*Jackson letter, lists of soldiers and narratives, the John Shaw diary, and the Trotter diary.*

If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Sara [hockenfriends@gmail.com](mailto:hockenfriends@gmail.com), or 021 611 776.

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## NAMING THE BEAST

Campylobacter was recognised in the 1880s but not named for another sixty or so years. For long enough it was referred to as infantile cholera. Now it's a part of our daily vocabulary. Whatever will be the result of the various inquiries that are being set up as the result of the problems at Havelock North, it is already clear that the dairy industry will be under close scrutiny.

It was, therefore, disturbing to read the leading article published in the *ODT* for September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1916. It referred to comments made by David Cuddie, Director of the Dairy Division, doubtless one of the old Taieri farming family. Against a background of rising prices and increased production, Mr Cuddie had expressed deep concern about a falling reputation for quality in both cheese and butter. This he put down to the increasing use of farm-based machinery.

'... The lack of cleanliness in the dairy premises and dairy utensils and appliances of the farm is the direct cause of much inferior cheese and butter being made.' Are we still talking about the same sort of thing?

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## PUBLICATIONS

Our 'Occasional Publications' are there for you to use, as a gift, for example. Copies of *Gaining a Foothold* (the authoritative history of the pre-1840 European meeting with southern New Zealand), *Aspiring to Art* (Gary Blackman's encounter with New Zealand art, in particular, against a Dunedin background), and *Haven At St Leonards : The Story Of University Lodge, Its Background And Occupants* (by Ian Church). All available at either UBS or the Library.

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*Subscriptions: Individual: \$25 per annum; Life Member \$250 Joint: \$30 per annum; Joint Life Member \$300*

*Cheques to: Friends of the Hocken Collections, PO Box 6336, Dunedin North 9059.*

*Online payment: Westpac 030903 0393175 000, including "Subscription" in Particulars field, surname/initials in Code and Reference fields.*

*Prepared by Donald Phillipps for the Friends of the Hocken Collections P.O. Box 6336, Dunedin North 9059 [donaldphillipps@gmail.com](mailto:donaldphillipps@gmail.com)*