

President's Annual Report - November 2020

This year has been, and the foreseeable future will be, dominated by Covid-19. It has mightily affected the work of the Hocken Collections at every level. The first word in this Report, therefore, must be one of sincere tribute to Sharon Dell, and her deeply committed staff. Against the odds they have maintained, and even enhanced the national treasure that is in their care. It is good to know that their work is being recognised by the University and that staff numbers that have been depleted are now being built up again.

Lockdowns and social distancing and so on have made their own public presentations difficult, if not impossible, to maintain, and that, too, has been the fate of your Committee's work. Our Talks Programme had to be curtailed, but those that have been held have been greatly appreciated. Our concern that such a programme as we have normally offered might need to be reconsidered has, fortunately, not proved to be the case. The occasions when we have met have been well attended, and our speakers have been well received. Our plans for 2021, therefore, have been finalised with a degree of optimism.

15 July **Edward Ellison** - *The signing of the Treaty of Waitangi – here at Otakou in 1840*

2 Sept. **Rosi Crane** - *Wheeling, dealing & Moa collecting*
The 113th anniversary of the signing of the Deed of Trust – and due to the topic being focused on the early decades of the Otago Museum, we fortuitously held the Talk at the Otago Museum, ultimately in the Hutton Theatre, where social distancing was manageable, under Alert Level 2. Following the Talk, twenty four of the Friends enjoyed dining at the nearby Ombrellos

18 Nov. (AGM) **Mike Hamblyn** - *Newbolds Bookshop*
This talk is to be held, immediately after the AGM

Your Committee has been an active one, and it is good to report that they continue to make themselves available for the coming year. A major event has been the finalising of the Award for 2020, made to Dr Jonathan West, who is researching the South Island lakes as part of his major work on New Zealand lakes as part of this country's structure and psyche. We are looking forward to his report on his work later next year. The Award is a major financial commitment for the Friends, and we invite you to consider making an extra contribution to this project. Further information will be forthcoming.

For the Friends, and its Committee, it is both responsibility and privilege to participate in the life and work of the Hocken Collections. Thanks to you all for your support that we trust will continue long into the future.

Donald Phillipps