

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION



Carolyn Ward

Late last year Joan-Mary Longcroft QSM, the Inaugural Chair of the Friends Committee, indicated her desire to step down. At the December 2009 Board Meeting of the Foundation, the Board approved the appointment of Carolyn Ward to succeed Joan-

Mary. We thank Joan-Mary for her enthusiastic contribution over the years. She remains on the Friends Committee.

The Friends of The Foundation was launched at Government House in November 2005

We would like to thank all those Friends who have renewed their membership for the 2010 year. Their endorsement of our mission and objectives is much appreciated.

We welcome the following who have recently joined or rejoined the Friends of the Foundation:

Les & Sonia Andrews	Marjorie McKay
Vonnie Berry	Marcia Nalepa
Andrea Dorn	Elizabeth & Roley Rackley
Lynette Grave, Dunedin	Linda Snell
Elaine Hale	Mary Spencer
Barbara Harrison	Margaret & Selwyn Wright, Whangarei
Clair & Graham Macpherson Jones	

SUMMER STUDENTS PRESENTATIONS

Details elsewhere in this newsletter but please see the enclosed flyer. We very much hope you'll come and support these two presentations and hear the students and supervisors report on their summer research.

RSVP to Carolyn Ward is requested by Friday, 7 May for catering purposes, cmward@xtra.co.nz

FRIENDS FUNDRAISER - Diary Date!

A fundraising event for the Foundation is being organised at the Howick Little Theatre on Sunday, 1st August at 6.00 pm. "Kevin's Bed", a comedy by Bernard Farrell, is a wicked and wry look at Dan and Doris' Golden Wedding Anniversary - a time to return to their old home and join the celebrations as they quietly contemplate life in disarray. It's a nostalgic and often hilarious journey from a family's past to its present, with the chance to restore family relations and affections. Tickets will be priced at \$40 and will include refreshments. There will also be a cash bar.

A flyer will be available nearer the time, but please diary now!!

YOUR GIFT WILL HELP

Every gift, whether small or large, will help the Foundation achieve its Mission Objectives to:-

- Lead and resource the funding of people doing research on ageing
- Disseminate research-based information about the effects of ageing on individuals and society
- Develop the pool of researchers in New Zealand
- Influence decision-makers to improve the quality of life for ageing New Zealanders



The HOPE Foundation for Research on Ageing

Preparing New Zealand for an Ageing Future

NEWSLETTER May 2010



EDITORIAL

Professor David Richmond,
Inaugural Professor of Geriatric Medicine,
The University of Auckland.
Founder and Chair of The Foundation

As you will see over-page, the Foundation has awarded three scholarships for the 2010 academic year. They are all for important areas of research, but one proposal, that of Michael Annear especially intrigues me. He proposes to evaluate in detail how neighbourhood conditions influence the physical activity and social life of older people. I suppose it 'rings a bell' with me because right now my wife and I are in the process of selling the family home of 40 years and looking for a smaller alternative. And we are trying to take into account not just the layout of potential houses and properties and what amenities are available and how close, but also, as far as we can discover, the ambience of the neighbourhood - including what the neighbours are like, levels of street violence, frequency of burglaries in the vicinity and so on. We are very aware that in some locations in Auckland (as indeed in most major cities) older people have, with good reason, long been expressing fears about their safety in and around their homes. Indeed, one of the more common reasons people give for moving into retirement villages is the high level of security they enjoy there.

It will be most interesting to find out what Mr. Annear discovers at the end of his three years of doctoral study. It will doubtless shed light on just which aspects of a community are the most important for a vigorous and tranquil life. One thing it reminds us already is that we live in communities; we are interdependent. As the Jacobean poet John Donne famously wrote: "No man is an island unto himself, every man is part of the whole. Therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee."

The HOPE Foundation is proud to be associated with research that promises to be of value to the whole community.

Chair: Professor David Richmond,
PO Box 87343, Meadowbank
Auckland 1742
Charities Commission No. CC24328

Executive Officer:
Mrs Eleanor Spencer
Ph 09 524 9732
eleanor.spencer@hopefoundation.org.nz

University Scholarships

This year through the generosity of the Freemasons Roskill Foundation we are able to offer grants to scholars at Waikato and Massey Universities in addition to the established ones at Victoria, Auckland and Otago,

The grants enable research to be undertaken in a wide range of disciplines related to ageing in New Zealand.

2010 Scholars:

The Foundation has much pleasure in announcing the 2010 Scholars:



Michael Annear, The University of Otago, Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Michael is planning, for his PhD, to investigate the neighbourhood level influences on physical activity and social engagement among the young and middle old in Christchurch. Previous research has shown that living in an environment with more social and physical problems is associated with poorer health and worse functioning among older residents. Michael seeks to broaden this concept to include a wider range of physical activity and social interaction. Understanding more about these relationships may lead to ways of reducing any adverse effects.



Rachael Sim Massey University School of Psychology.

Rachael's project for her Master's thesis is entitled: 'Investigating false memories and illusory truth across different age bands.' It is well recognised that memories of the past can

be distorted leading to an illusory presentation of the truth. Specific research of this effect in older people has not been done to date, yet it has significance for issues such as testamentary capacity. Rachael intends to try to discover whether older people are any more susceptible to these effects than younger. This is the first HOPE grant to be awarded to a student of Massey University.



Anne MacLennan, University of Otago, Wellington Clinical School.

Anne's doctoral study will involve an exploration of the experience of patients dying in hospital from the perspective of the hospital staff.

Most people dying in hospital are over 65 years of age. It is her hope that by gaining a deeper understanding of the issues involved, it will be possible to guide education and policies and training of staff to improve the quality of life at the end of life. It may also help guide decisions about what is the most appropriate place in which to care for a dying person.

Anne is already an experienced researcher with eight publications to her name.

Board Welcomes New Member

Dr Rod Perkins BDS, MHA PhD.

Rod is currently manager of Research Planning for the Selwyn Foundation Group.

He has wide management expertise in health administration in New Zealand and a keen interest in promoting the needs of New Zealand's older citizens.

We welcome his contribution to the Foundation.

2009 - 2010 Summer Students

During the 2009 - 2010 University vacation the Foundation sponsored two students from the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland, to enable them to undertake specific academic research



Shiran Zhang

Hearing and vision loss are common in the elderly and are problematic for both the individuals themselves and their society. Shiran has been investigating the extent of these problems in the

New Zealand population, and the impact they have on the quality of life of those affected. In addition, he has been examining the adequacy of the use of hearing and vision aids, as they have proven benefits on reducing the detrimental effects of sensory loss.



Kelly Nunn

The objective of this study is to identify clusters of clients whose use of home based help services share certain characteristics. The intent is to discover what the appropriate level of funding is for

the Health Boards. The analysis is being done using a recognised assessment tool: the inter RAI. Information has been obtained from four providers of home help services contracted to DHB's.

You can hear the outcome of this research at the combined HOPE Foundation / NZ Association of Gerontology joint meeting on May 10th. See separate notice.

Acknowledgments

The Foundation is most grateful for a gift from the Guardian Trust: Ted and Mollie Carr Endowment fund.

We also acknowledge with gratitude the support of the Freemasons Roskill foundation in enabling us to offer two more University Scholarships this year, at Massey University and the University of Waikato.

Thank you too to our regular monthly donors, your support is much appreciated.

We also acknowledge with thanks the ongoing partnership with Complete Solutions who sponsor our website:

www.hopefoundation.org.nz

Summer Student presentations - Your personal invitation

Come and hear our enthusiastic Summer Students, Kelly Nunn and Shiran Zhang, share the excitement of their research

At a joint meeting held with the New Zealand Association of Gerontology (Auckland Branch)

Monday 10 May 2010 5.30 - 7.00 pm

Big 'Rangitoto' Room, LabPlus, Building 31, Gate 4, Auckland Hospital, Grafton Rd. (Access from Main front door of LabPlus, to Level 1)

WEBSITE

78% of New Zealanders access the internet. If you are one of these, don't forget to check out our website for regular news between newsletters.

www.hopefoundation.org.nz