

THE AUCKLAND MEDICAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Founded in 1964

“for the promotion of an interest in and knowledge of medical history through lectures, discussions, exhibitions and other means”

Website: www.amhs.co.nz



Building 43
Auckland City Hospital
Park Road, Grafton, Auckland.

Secretary: Mrs Jenny Collins
56A Polygon Road,
St Heliers, Auckland 1071
Mob: 027 867 7599
Email: secretary@amhs.co.nz

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2021

Dear Member,

Last year the committee decided to change the format of our meetings in 2021. This year meetings will be held on alternate months, starting on 4 March, when Distinguished Professor Ian Reid will deliver the Founders' Lecture.

The Ernest and Marion Davis Library will open at 6 p.m. At each meeting, starting at 6.15 p.m., there will be a 25 minute tour of the Ernest and Marion Davis Library. The first of these tours will precede the Founders' Lecture on 4 March. The tour will show and discuss key objects in the museum's collection. There is no need to make a booking, but for logistical reasons, the number in the tour will be limited to 12. The first tour will give an overview of the museum's collection, but at subsequent meetings a different theme will be used.

There will be the opportunity to meet and socialise with other members between 6 and 7 p.m. The lecture will start promptly at 7 p.m.

There will be no dinners this year. There are several reasons for this. (1) The dinners were pleasant social events, but they required a large amount of time to organise each event. (2) There is uncertainty whether it will be possible to hold dinners this year in view of the on-going risk of a further outbreak of COVID 19. (3) The dinners were overshadowing the lectures. There should be greater emphasis on medical history. (4) Students, young doctors, and new members were put off attending the dinners.

We hope that the changes in our programme will stimulate more widespread interest in the history of medicine, especially amongst younger people: practising clinicians (medical and non-medical), medical and health science students, non-medical historians, history students and others. The meetings will provide the opportunity to meet other people interested in medical history, view and discuss books and objects in the museum's collection and attend a lecture on medical history.

Library Books

We encourage members to borrow books from the library. Pat Clarkson has provided the following list of new books in the Library:

Geoffrey Rice. **That terrible time : eyewitness accounts of the 1918 influenza pandemic in New Zealand.** 2018

Geoffrey Rice. **Black November : the 1918 influenza epidemic in New Zealand.** 1988

Diana Brown. **The unconventional career of Dr Muriel Bell.** 2018

Noel O'Hare. **Tooth and Veil : the life and times of the New Zealand dental nurse.** 2020

Brian Barraclough. **A partly Anglicised Kiwi : a psychiatrist remembers.** 2020

Claire Le Couteur. **Camphor for the Collywobblers : Ship's surgeon Dr Augustus Florance's voyages 1857-1862. 2019**

Claire Le Couteur. **Vaccines and vesicles : a history of smallpox vaccination in New Zealand. 2019**

I can personally recommend reading Brian Barraclough's excellent autobiography and the biography of Dr Muriel Bell.

Subscriptions

The Annual General Meeting voted to increase the annual subscription for the first time in many years. The income from the subscriptions is required for the administration of the Society. Non-members are welcome to attend the meetings, but everyone is encouraged to either join the Society, or make a donation.

I am looking forward to a successful year for the Society. I hope to see everyone on Thursday 4 March for Professor Reid's lecture.

Neil Anderson
29 January 2021