



I am pleased to present the 120th Annual Report of the
Otago Settlers Association for the year ending 30 June 2019

AGM 2018

At the 2018 Annual General meeting I was elected President after serving as a Vice President. We were fortunate at the meeting to have elected two Vice Presidents (Mr Bob Hopkins and Ms Jennifer Evans). In addition, our very competent Treasurer (Mr Keith Clifford) was re-elected unopposed. The Association had not had a full complement of office bearers for some time. This has allowed a satisfactory meeting management of arrangement in that Bob Hopkins Chairs the Membership and Events committee meetings, Keith Clifford the Finance and Executive meeting and I, the main monthly meeting. The guest speaker at the AGM was architect Damien Van Brandenburg who is the co-author of the proposed upper harbour development for which the model was on display at the museum for some time.

Office Management

In December our competent office manager Kylie Darragh resigned to seek greater employment hours. We were fortunate to recruit Mrs Gemma Murphy as her replacement after a considerable number of applicants applied. Office hours are 10 am to 1 pm with flexibility required for functions. We are fully in the digital age with a competent client reporting system, web site and Facebook presence. It is now possible for prospective members to apply online and receive an invoice immediately.

Finance

Unaudited accounts are attached. Treasurer Keith Clifford has done an excellent job in keeping us under budget. As you will see we have been able to support the museum from our investment income, subscriptions and donations. In discussions with our auditors they have recommended that the society should consider an annual review, rather than a full audit. The auditors advise that it will cost less than the present audit, primarily as it takes less time for them. As you will see on the attached agenda there is a proposed remit for members to vote upon, to alter our constitution, at the Annual General Meeting. If approved it will allow a review, rather than a full audit.

Donations and Bequests

We are grateful for all donations and bequests. The level this year has been about the same as previous years. However, as you will hear at the Annual General Meeting, we are launching a specific fund-raising campaign to fund our commitment to a documentary Mr Seán Brosnahan is proposing regarding our Scottish heritage. The Society has committed a sum of \$20,000 over three years to support the project.

Membership

Our online joining programme has attracted several new members. The overall number of members has declined slightly, mostly due to natural attrition.

Projects and Programmes

Support to Pixie Town, Toddler Time and the Tuesday Club has continued through the year. The Rockliff internship was supported with an amount of \$5,000. It is not completed, and the Society may be asked to continue support.

A successful film contest was held during the year resulting in several entries. The top two entries in the age groups of 6-12 and 13-16 are currently able to be accessed on YouTube through our website. The brief was to show a visit to the museum. This resulted in some providing a different perspective. Ariel Holloway (6-12) toured the museum looking through the eyes of Lucy, Tigger and Pooh. Nate Lachman, aged 13 depicted a visit from Stewart Island by his father, to the museum. Have a look for yourself at the quality of the presentations. It was decided that the film contest would be held biannually from now onward.

The annual essay competition last year resulted in several entries regarding immigrating to New Zealand. The three winners stories from Sara Hall, Jemma Gordon and Sophie Orchiston, can be read on our website. Unfortunately, this year's essay competition has not been well supported.

Christmas Function 2018

A very enjoyable evening was held on 6 December 2018 where members and guests were entertained by the St Kilda brass band ensemble. The group was made up of 7 band members including one young man with a very good voice. There was an opportunity to dance to some numbers and several of the old-time war songs were very enjoyable. Supper provided afterward was excellent.

Summer Outing

An enthusiastic group of 40 members travelled by bus on 8th February to Lawrence via the old Waipori Village. It was interesting to hear a history of the Waipori village drowned by the building of the Mahingerangi dam for the DCC power scheme. There was also some intriguing information provided about some of the characters interned in the Waipori Cemetery. At Lawrence Seán Brosnahan provided information on the restoration of the Chinese Village on the outskirts of the town, and Gabriel's Gully. Many thanks to Susan and Seán and particularly to Bob and his committee for organising a great outing.

Anniversary Day/Weekend.

The formal Otago anniversary dinner at the Dunedin Club was well attended by 90 persons made up of not only OSA members but several representatives from many other organisations. As is traditional the OSA President was the Master of Ceremonies and the University Chancellor Dr Royden Sommerville was the guest speaker. His interesting topic was about the University and its forth coming 150th anniversary at Queens Birthday weekend.

Anzac Day

In the usual tradition OSA members and the acting director of the Museum provided a cup of tea and a bikkie after the Dawn Service. Many thanks to those who helped.

Winter Function

A very different evening was held this year in the form of a games evening. Several old fashion games such as dominos, ludo, battleships and differing card games, were played by a disappointing small attendance. An evening function in Winter does not seem to be all that attractive anymore. Discussions on considering an afternoon winter function (on maybe a Sunday afternoon) have been suggested. Watch this space for next year?

Tuesday Club

The Association now sponsors The Tuesday Club. Many enjoy a nice cuppa and a nibble while guest speakers outline many interesting topics. We are grateful for Vice President Bob Hopkins for fronting Tuesday Club and Rua McCallum for sourcing the speakers.

Otago Settlers Newsletter

Once again, this year's four newsletters produced by editor Austin Gee were of outstanding quality. We also thank past President Dr Dorothy Page for her editorial assistance with the newsletters. Feedback from members is very encouraging. Unfortunately, the cost of producing and posting the newsletter is constantly rising. As you are aware there is also a monthly E-newsletter. This is easy to produce and is mailed to those members who have provided their email address. If you are not receiving the E-news please contact Gemma at admin@otagosettlers.org.nz to advise your email address.

AH & I Reed Fund

The fund supported W J (Bill) Cowan with \$2,000 towards the publication of his book "Rails to Cromwell". Copies are available from the museum shop. We are able to assist authors in publishing suitably qualifying manuscripts. We are grateful for Dr Page's advice on vetting prospective applicants.

Advocacy

Special thanks to former president Mr Phil Dowsett for continuing to chair the Toitū Otago Museum Board. Phil has also made submissions on our behalf, to the DCC on several matters including the management of the museum.

Museum Staff

We owe a great deal of gratitude to the museum staff. Staff at all levels are always helpful and particularly in assisting at our functions. It has not been easy for acting director Cam McCracken who is wearing two hats, as also being director of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. It is to his credit that the museum is continuing to be the city's jewel in the crown, as the most popular destination on tourists radar.

Committee

A very large thank you is due to all committee members who have worked hard during the year. My personal circumstances of being of "no fixed abode" for some 6 months made it difficult to attend most committee meetings. Fortunately, past president Susan Schweigman kindly accepted delegation to chair many meetings and I am grateful for her unstinting help and support. Thank you, many times over, Susan.



Pete Smith

President.