Update from Chairman, Graeme Pierson

Over the past couple of days I have been reminded of the earthquakes that we suffered in Christchurch in 2010-2011. I am well aware of the shocks during the earthquakes and aftershocks many months later. The latest series were firstly in the North Canterbury/ Marlborough area, especially along the east coast from Kaikoura north and then onto Wellington and other places north. It appears the aftershocks were just like the days we suffered here in Canterbury. I would like to pass onto our members, my sympathy to any of you who have suffered any injuries or loss of property. I am sure all members of Fellowship NZ Inc will also wish them for a speedy recovery.

The Council has been very busy over the past three months or so and a sub-committee has produced a handbook for Clubs – two copies of which have been mailed to all clubs affiliated to FNZI. Councillor Joan Dykes, who was in charge of this project and also the anonymous lady who produced the finished article, are be congratulated for the nice user-friendly booklet they produced.

Councillor Mike Healy and a small sub-committee formed from Fellowship members in Napier have forwarded to the Council a list of suggested names for our organization. The list will be forwarded shortly to all affiliated clubs for them to vote for the name they prefer. We have obtained a legal opinion on the use of the phrase “formerly Probus of ABCX”, or “previously the Probus Club of ABCX”, which differs to what A J Park advised clubs recently. Our advisers state we can use these statements.

A draft FNZI Constitution has been looked at by a Council sub-committee and, as a result, has been referred to legal advisers for their final editing. When this Constitution is returned and approved by Council, it will be sent to all affiliated clubs.

During the past couple of months it has been my pleasure to visit a number of clubs including Queen Charlotte Club in Picton, the Combined Club of Beavertown in Blenheim, Benvenue Men’s Club in Timaru, and Mackenzie Club in Fairlie. As well I have attended a number of Area Clubs’ meeting around Christchurch and have been impressed with the kind and friendly manner in which I have been received by these clubs and their members. There has been strong support for FNZI in these places. Council have held a number of meetings via electronic systems which has led to easier working environment for us to work in.

As the end of the year nears, I would like to wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Kind Regards,

Graeme Pierson
Chairman, FNZI
Webmaster’s Corner
We still have space for photos of Clubs that do not yet feature on our image slider on the home page. This really is a great way to promote your club to the general public. It also gives a good impression of what we do collectively to any prospective members.

People are visiting our website and we do get enquiries from individuals who are interested to join a Club in their area. Read the guidelines for submitting photos, from the Notices area on our home page or go directly here - http://fellowship.kiwi/information/guidelines-slider

It will soon be that time of year again, the AGM and possibly some changes in your Committee and of Office bearers. If you need to make any changes in the record for your Club in the online directory, why don’t you try to do this yourself next time? It is really very easy. Just login to the Club Area and go to FNZI Online directory -> My Club’s Profile -> Update myself. Of course our administrator is always there to help out if you wish. Either way, it is important that we all help to keep the directory up-to-date throughout the year.

If you want to contact any of us in the FNZI organisation, use the Contact Us section. The email forms in there are easy to use and secured with the latest anti-spam technology.

Peak Combined Club of Havelock North
On 26 October an intrepid group ventured into the wilds of Havelock and Haumoana on the annual car rally.

Carefully reading the script we were given, we hunted for the 22 places we had to visit and photograph. Some were carefully hidden and increased our local knowledge of what was out there.

This took about 1½ hours for the slow ones but we all arrived safely with no search parties needed.

Our final stop was for lunch at No. 5 Café and Larder by Golflands at Mangateretere.

Golden Bay
A midwinter get-together held in July was well attended and enjoyed. This was held at The Old School Café in Pakawau, near Collingwood. A local chap spoke to us about the most interesting history of one of the nearby holiday camping grounds.

Red Beach Combined
This club has a number of interest groups that meet outside of their regular meetings. The quiz night and luncheon club are very popular.
Rangiora Combined
Twenty-one members thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the vintage car museum in Whincops Road, Halswell. The owners have a wonderful collection of cars, organs and clocks and a local musician, Richard Hore, played a selection of familiar tunes on the two Wurlitzer organs that have been restored. All the vehicles are registered and in working order and are taken out on the road regularly. A very sociable lunch at Café Prague in Lincoln Road followed.

Pembroke Ladies Club of Wanaka
This year has been a busy year for us and the highlight of the year has been the recent trip to Cardrona Distillery. This is a beautiful remote stone distillery set in the heart of the Crown Range and it is the only distillery of its kind in New Zealand.

On the way we stopped at “Bradrona” which has now become an iconic tourist attraction due to the numerous bras hanging on the fence. Some of our members hung their old numbers on the fence! This may sound a little quirky but the bra fence raises over $10,000 per year for Breast Cancer. Tourists can hang their old bras or choose a new number from those on offer!

On arrival at Cardrona Distillery we were met by “Ash” and he briefed us on the day’s agenda. We had a guided tour through the distillery and we were very interested in the fact that the distillery is so environmentally friendly. The leftover grain is taken away by local farmers and fed to their cattle and the ethanol waste is spread on the paddocks.

A purpose dug well collects the water from the Cardrona Ski field and this is what gives their spirits the exceptional taste. Most of the technology has been allocated to New Zealand businesses and we loved the fact that the stills were named after local rivers.

We were treated to three tastings of their spirits and we all agreed that the “Rose Rabbit” was our favourite. This liquer is handmade by soaking delicious New Zealand oranges in rich Cardrona un-aged single malt spirit.

The platter lunch had a European flair and there was also a cheese board and homemade shortbread to accompany the coffee or tea. The Cardrona Distillery is also growing Damask Roses. In the summer their blooms will be harvested and distilled to produce pure rose oil. The precious oil will then be converted into perfume on site.

Waiheke Island
October’s guest speaker was a professional photographer, Bob Scott, who spoke about his lifelong interest in photography. Having owned a camera since the age of seven, he explained that he always wanted to record events in which he participated. Along with a display of some of his amazing photographs, Bob gave amateur photographers a few helpful hints.
Aotea Club of Christchurch
On Tuesday, 25 October, the Aotea Club in Christchurch took two busloads of Members to Erewhon Station for the day. A day of wonderful scenery, green farmland and new-born farm animals. The mountain views at the Rangitata Headwaters certainly put you in your place. We humans are insignificant in the scheme of things.

Each of the two wagons was pulled by six Clydesdale horses. Fifteen people on each 20 minute ride around part of the farm. While 30 members went on the ride, the others stayed behind and cooked a barbecue lunch outside the shearing barn. They then changed over.

A TV commentary about the workings of the Clydesdales and Station life was shown inside the shed. Colin, the Station Manager, put on a demonstration of tilling the land with a team of six Clydesdales. All the horses at Erewhon, except the young ones, are working horses.

The visit to Erewhon was well worth the journey. We all learned so much about life on a high country station in the South Island, and gained a great appreciation for the part the Clydesdales played in the formation of early New Zealand farms.

Tauranga Central Ladies
Twenty-nine ladies enjoyed a coach trip to Morrinsville and Te Aroha recently and have contributed the following -

‘Twas on a wet September day,
We caught the bus and left the Bay,
Over the hill we got a thrill,
To glimpse the sun in Morrinsville!

The ‘Herd of Cows’ were neat to see,
But first some retail therapy,
The shops were not too far away,
From the Crazee Cow Café!!

Our lunch there was extremely nice,
And at such a real good price,
Some ladies said they’d come again,
And so it scored 10 out of 10!!

With tummies full there was no fuss,
To get us all back on the bus,
And we were really keen to see,
Adrian Worsley’s Gallery!!

His Sculptures there were just superb,
And featured on the street side kerb,
We all agreed without a doubt,
It was a truly neat day out!!

Titirangi
Titirangi Ladies Club’s visit to the Kelliher Estate on Puketutu Island. Set on a privately owned Island in Auckland’s Manukau Harbour, the Kelliher Estate is a truly exceptional and magnificent property suitable for all occasions.

We started with a yummy morning tea supplied by ‘Dawsons’ and this was followed by an interesting talk of the history and refurbishing of ‘The Estate’, finishing with a walk around the Homestead and the lovely gardens.
Waimakariri Combined

Members of the Waimakariri Combined Club from Rangiora flew to Perth to join the Dawn Princess on a 15 day cruise across the top of Australia to Brisbane. After a day in Perth, where some visited friends and family while others went sightseeing, they joined the ship with the first stop Geraldton.

Next was Broome where Shirley and Carol were among those who went camel riding then onto Darwin with its various attractions. At Cairns most went to Kuranda and took the century old scenic train back.

The final port of call before Brisbane was to Alotau in Papua New Guinea where many of the group visited local villages or the sites of World War 2 battle fields. On arrival in Brisbane they were given an informal half day tour in the city before flying home.

Waitakere Combined

The club’s 17th birthday was celebrated in October with a cake made by one member and iced by another. Manual Gomez singer/guitarist entertained us with songs and requests and we enjoyed a shared lunch. We have 95 members and 8 of these are foundation members.

East Hamilton

On 27 September, 19 club members were joined by three others aboard a coach to travel to Wellington, our club’s biggest trip for years. Our first scheduled visit was to the Police Museum in Porirua, which proved very interesting and informative, as well as giving our driver, Dave, a real challenge as he tried to recover from a wrong turn.

On Wednesday morning we went to the Great War Exhibition, a most impressive collection, reminding viewers of the lead-up to the war, its horrors and the terrible conditions endured by all those involved, as well as the futility of the whole conflict.

Thursday morning saw us taken to Parliament for a very comprehensive tour, including the Great Hall, the Debating Chamber, and a Select Committee. Then our coach took us on to Miramar and lunch at the Roxy Cinema complex, restored in full splendour by Sir Peter Jackson.

It was not far from there to reach the Weta Workshop where we were given a fascinating glimpse into the high-tech business which has given the world such amazing films as King Kong, The Three Rings Trilogy, Avatar and others. That evening after dinner, nine of us went to the World of Wearable Art Show which was truly spectacular and to see the wonderful creations of designers from around the world.
Papamoa Palms

A party of 10 from our club visited Adelaide from 22-31 August. We flew direct to Adelaide and stayed in a hotel just one block from Rundle Mall shopping precinct.

We had a day excursion to Glenelg (photo shows us at the end of Glenelg Pier). We did tours of the Barossa Valley wineries with lunch at the Chateau Barossa and also visited the early Prussian settlement of Hahndorf and Adelaide’s world class food market. Adelaide is a well laid out city with few high rise buildings and lots of stone structures and statues. Wide roads crisscross the rectangular city with green areas surrounding the mile wide city.

We then went on a two night cruise on the Murray river aboard the “Proud Mary” which turned out to be the highlight of our trip. The main saloon was plush, the meals delicious and plentiful and catered for individual requirements. It was so peaceful on the river with interest sights and banks both developed and natural. On the last night we moored on a remote bank and had a vast BBQ with bonfire, damper bread and billy tea.

Back in Adelaide we visited the zoo to see the only pandas in the southern hemisphere. They are extremely well housed in Adelaide zoo and we learnt a lot about their breeding habits.

Adelaide is flat, easy to get around, with free buses and trams within the city limits. They also have a novel transport method call O-Bahn to serve some suburbs. This is a bus service that becomes a train service on special tracks. Originating in Germany, it is novel, fast, efficient and cheap.

West Harbour

On 7 October we had a bus tour around the Hauraki Gulf coast of SE Auckland. Our morning picnic tea break at the beautiful Omana Regional Reserve overlooking the Gulf near Maraitai.

We then drove along the coast to Miranda skirting five slips along the way. Miranda is the base for the Pukorokoro Shore Bird Centre which was established there because of several miles of very rich mud flats and has made it a collecting point for migratory shore birds. Keith Woodley, Director of the centre and an acknowledged expert spoke to us.

The main flocks of birds are those who have wintered here and are flying back down south to breed, or overseas visitors who have flown here after breeding in the Northern hemisphere summer. Of these the most amazing are the Godwits who have flown back after breeding in NE Russia and Alaska. They are recorded as having flown 12,000kms non-stop from Alaska to Miranda. Unsurprisingly they arrive here exhausted and just sleep/eat, sleep/eat. They love NZ food and spend our summer fattening up for the journey north and partnering before flying off to lay eggs and raise their young in the Arctic summer.

After a quick fish and chip lunch at nearby Kaiaua, we drove, to the car park near one of the most accessible viewing hides. The tide was well out and we did not see the large flocks but saw numbers of each type we had been told to expect, all heads down, tails up and feeding like mad. The congregation of birds occurs at the end of spring and the beginning of autumn when weather changes.
Temuka Ladies
The Temuka Ladies Club recently had their annual bus trip, when 29 members went to Lake Tekapo. Our first stop was at the Farm Barn cafe on the hilltop overlooking Fairlie where we enjoyed morning tea.

We proceeded on to Lake Tekapo where our bus driver drove up and around the pools area so members could see all the new development there and the large number of new homes that have been built in the last few years.

Members then had a couple of hours free time before we left for home. Many walked around the township and over the new footbridge from the lake outlet to the canals and on to the well-known church. Others just found a restaurant and enjoyed the wonderful views, a good chinwag with friends and a tasty lunch.

Gisborne Combined
The Gisborne group is now meeting under the name Gisborne Combined. We meet on the first Monday of every month at the local RSA Club and start our meetings with morning tea. This gives members time to catch up and enjoy the morning tea provided.

We have three active groups. A walking group, a mini-golf group and a luncheon group. Everyone in the luncheon group takes a turn at choosing where we meet for lunch so we get to enjoy the wonderful restaurants, cafes and hotel meals in our town. Our Club is attracting more members every month and the quality of speakers at each meeting is appreciated by everyone. The photo below was taken at our 20th Anniversary Dinner.

Alexandra and Districts
Invercargill was ablaze with beds of colourful yellow and red tulips when a bus of members from the Alexandra & Districts club paid a visit recently.

Some members, (mostly male!) chose to spend the day at Bill Richardson’s Transport World while the others divided their time between the Queens Gardens, the Seriously Good Chocolate Factory and an amazing gift shop which happened to house the Fastest Indian motor bike display.
**Torbay Combined**

Torbay Combined Probus Club attained its 30th anniversary in October. A special lunch was enjoyed at Fairview Lifestyle Village restaurant on Thursday 24 November, to combine with the annual Christmas celebration. Invited guests were Peter Stewart current President of NS & NPA, and Past-President of the association Sydney Shephard & his wife Judy.

All members received a copy of the commemorative brochure detailing the history of the Club since its founding in October 1986. Names of Past Presidents are listed likewise all 98 current members. This group photograph was taken in August at the regular monthly meeting.

Currently there are four Life members, three of whom appear in this photograph – L-R Neil Etherton, Monty Harris and Ian Devonshire. Unfortunately Life-member Bob Jackson, the only one remaining of the founding members, was not present for the photo shoot. Many of the members attended Bob's 90th birthday party on 3 September - a wonderful afternoon of music, singing, recitations followed by afternoon tea.

**Hamilton Ladies**

The Hamilton Ladies Fellowship club had a very busy month in November. We had our first workshop of floral art, making Christmas table arrangements.

A morning was spent making up 16 gift baskets for our Christmas raffle for our November meeting. To give back to our members, the committee put on a Christmas finger food luncheon. A new member Carol Picard was inducted at the November meeting.

We also celebrated Eileen McKinnon’s 90th birthday, (here seated behind her walker). At our September meeting, our theme was “Odd Shoe day”. There were the oddest looking shoes that day, all colours and shapes.

All proceeds from the raffle and bring and buy table went to “Kids living with Cancer.” The cheque was presented to Karen Abbott, Regional Volunteer Secretary for the Cancer Society who was also our mini speaker for the meeting.
Benvenue Men’s (Timaru)

Benvenue recently celebrated their 25th anniversary and these photographs show what a great time they had!

Foundation Members
(Rear) Ray Egan, Bruce Leadley (Front) Millar Henderson, Jack Johnston

Club Entertainers, Jack Johnston, Don Hayman, John Bennett, Dick Dodds, David Darling, and Adrian McDonald. Singing “The Probus Song”