Update from Chairman, Graeme Pierson

My best wishes for a successful year, go to all our affiliated members and their families. Since the last issue of Highlights I have attended a Council Meeting at Orewa, which was most rewarding dealing with a very full agenda. At the meeting I was sad to receive a resignation for personal reasons from Margaret Tosland as District 9940 Councillor, and I thank Margaret for her input whilst a Council member. Council has since appointed Mrs Chris Winstanley from the Johnsonville Combined Club as the new Councillor for District 9940.

In February, I went with Secretary Jim to a meeting of the Johnsonville Combined Club in response to a request by President Caroline Smith. This was a very friendly meeting which was attended also by club representatives from some other clubs in the Wellington area. Questions were posed from those attending which were answered to their satisfaction. The appointment of Chris Winstanley was received with acclamation from attending members.

It was with pleasure that in late February I attended a meeting held at Timaru of the Mid and South Canterbury member clubs. The meeting was attended by 60 representatives from the majority of clubs in these areas resulting in a successful and informative meeting. Apologies for non-attendance were received from three clubs.

At a recent Council Meeting it was confirmed that on legal advice Fellowship New Zealand Incorporated change its name to Friendship New Zealand Incorporated. This name will be confirmed at the next Annual General Meeting.

The attempt to obtain a new name was most difficult as many of the names submitted by clubs could not be used. ‘Friendship’ was adopted in preference to ‘Fellowship’. I am well aware that this lengthy issue has caused angst, however there were considerable complications to be addressed before this matter could be completed.

Council has also approved of a new Constitution for our organisation which will be placed before the next AGM for confirmation. The Constitution is now available to affiliated clubs on our website in the Club area under the heading Resources-Formal.

I am sad to announce that Mike Healy, Councillor for District 9930, recently tended his resignation from Council for personal reasons. Therefore, it will be necessary to hold an election in the near future for a new Councillor for that District. I thank Mike for his input whilst a member of Council.

Finally, I extend congratulations to Jim Taylor on his re-election as Councillor for District 9910 and thank Peter Stewart, as the other nominee, for accepting nomination.

Kind regards
Graeme Pierson
Chairman
FNZI
Introducing Chris Winstanley – District 9940

In career terms Chris comes from an educational background. She spent some 34 years of her working life as a secondary teacher of English, History and Economics in a variety of schools ranging from large urban to small rural. Her last teaching job was as Deputy Principal at Buller High School.

Chris has worked in Managerial roles with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority delivering NCEA examinations in secondary schools and later registering and auditing private training establishments in the tertiary sector.

Her final employment role was with the Charities Commission where she managed the setup of the registration and compliance systems for NZ Charities from 2006-11.

Since retirement Chris has been involved in two local Probus Clubs, serving a three year term as Vice-President, President and Past President from 2013-15 with Newlands Probus Club. She has also served a four year term as Treasurer from 2012-15 with the Probus Club of Johnsonville.

Chris has indicated she is keen to visit clubs in the District so she is in touch with their priorities and concerns. She has also expressed interest in facilitating regional get-togethers to share ideas and activities. Chris can be contacted by email at council40@fellowship.kiwi

Meeting of Wellington Clubs

On Thursday 16 February the Johnsonville Combined Club generously invited other Wellington Clubs to attend presentations by Council Chairman Graeme Pierson and Secretary Jim Taylor.

It also gave the opportunity for Chris Winstanley, the new Council District 9940 Representative to meet some of the Wellington Clubs in her region.

With an audience of some 88 people, Jim and Graeme (pictured here with Chris) provided updates on progress with developing a workable constitution and a name that is not able to be challenged.

They also outlined the advantages that stem from affiliation with FNZI and the current state of their finances.

They fielded an extensive range of questions about such matters as the timing of the name decision, the importance of maintaining the independence of clubs; the importance of staying clear of business activities; the need for publicity around the launch of the new name so it could be used locally; and the importance of keeping the communication lines working.

Overall the positive discussions proved helpful for both club and Council representatives in moving the organisation forward.
From the Administrator’s Desk

Since my appointment early last year to the role as Service Centre Administrator I have been in contact with many officers and members of clubs affiliated with FNZI. This contact, either by phone or email, enables me to assist members with any queries or concerns which they may have. As Administrator, it is my role to ensure that queries from our member clubs are directed to the appropriate Councillor for their response.

It is therefore important that emails to FNZI include the status of the writer, e.g. President, Secretary and the name of their club. These details are required before the email can be forwarded to a Councillor. Should this information not be provided then a search of the database of member clubs is necessary, to identify which club the writer is a member of. This research would be unsuccessful if the sender’s details are not included on the record for their club and would then require an email to be sent requesting these. The FNZI database records the name and contact details of only a member club’s President and Secretary. Should a club’s Primary Contact be someone other than the President or Secretary then their name and contact details would be on the record also. Details of a club Treasurer or members are not recorded. Your help to ensure that senders of emails provide the required information would be appreciated.

Enquiries relating to policy issues are forwarded to Council, however I am happy to respond to enquiries relating to travel insurance. This information is readily available on the Fellowship website and often I just need to guide people to the website and take them through the process. It is important that club members know the FNZI registration number for their own club as this number needs to be advised to Christine Braakhuis (Willis Towers Watson) when applying for travel insurance. Clubs affiliated with FNZI may choose, for the benefit of their members, to show this number on their club newsletter.

Speaking of newsletters, Highlights the FNZI newsletter which is distributed electronically to member clubs on a quarterly basis, is full of interesting articles submitted by our clubs. Editor Margaret does a fantastic job compiling this publication which can only be produced through your co-operation to submit reports and photographs for us all to enjoy. I do hope that clubs are encouraging their members to visit the FNZI website as this will keep them in touch with our activities and those of other clubs.

I would like to convey to our member clubs my appreciation of the personal contact which I have had with many officers and club members – I am delighted to be here for you and to assist as and when I can. The relationship which has been established through my contact with our member clubs is important to me and is acknowledged by the FNZI Council.

Rosemarie Shaw
FNZI Service Centre Administrator

Balclutha Friendship Day – Advance Notice

The Balclutha Men’s and Ladies clubs are planning a friendship day to be held on Monday, 10 April 2017. This will be held at the “Cross Recreation Centre” in Balclutha at a cost of $10.00 per person (This includes morning and afternoon tea and lunch).

It will run from 10.00am till approx. 3.00pm with a guest speaker and some entertainment.

More details regarding the programme will be made available when more details are confirmed. Peter Homan can be contacted on 03 418 0544 or peterhoman65@gmail.com for more info.
Report from Milford meeting

A Club Information and Fellowship Day for Districts 9910 and 9920 was held in Milford, Auckland, on Thursday 26 January 2017 where ninety-three members representing 37 clubs met with councillors to discuss items of general interest to FNZI members.

Communication (generally by email) was seen as critical to keep information flowing and all clubs need to ensure that their primary contact checks their inbox on a very regular basis and shares information with their committee/members in a timely manner. A bi-monthly Council update is uploaded to our website www.fellowship.kiwi along with our quarterly newsletter Highlights, which reflects the social events enjoyed by our members. Appreciation is due to the Milford club for organising the venue and providing the refreshments.

Taieri Friendship Club

Last November the Club organised a Friendship Day which was held at the East Taieri Church. Our President, Thelma Turnbull, welcomed 45 members who had come from several Dunedin Clubs as well as members from Fairfield, Mosgiel and Balclutha.

This gathering was chaired by Terry Clarkson who introduced Graeme Pierson, Chairman of FNZI. Graeme spoke about the forming of FNZI, and also the name change with the final form yet to be decided by the District Council.

(Tic shows Thelma Turnbull, Lexie St John and Joan Gillespie – President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.)

Tairua Probus Club

The trip to Rotorua to the Canopy Tours was a wonderful way to challenge themselves as members stepped out (literally) of their comfort zones. To step off platforms above the forest canopy and zoom down sometimes hundreds of metres and walk across swing bridges (some with handrails) was very frightening exhilarating and liberating all at once. The wonderful crew who guided them through this experience were very proficient patient and knowledgeable. They provided support encouragement and a wonderful educational experience that will never be forgotten. It was awesome to hear of the work they are doing on their forest block to get rid of predators and bring back the wonderful bird life.

The club trip to Black Labyrinth at Waitomo was another challenging experience. To go underground along stream beds, jump off waterfalls, drift along on inflated tyre tubes, and climb up and over and down rocks was certainly way out of our collective comfort zones. The beauty of the caves and the glow worms is incredible. The stalagmites and stalactites provided a surreal experience. Putting on wet suits and taking them off was another challenge all of its own.
Devon Ladies

For the October Meeting 2016 of the New Plymouth Devon Ladies Group we had a fashion parade. Four members were models and the clothes were provided by a local store “Black Pepper”.

The Manager at Black Pepper was the compere and one of her assistants helped the ladies get changed with the help of one of the club Committee members. The models had four changes each. After the show all the ladies who attended were given a Voucher to spend at Black Pepper.

Pictured L-R Marlene Beer, Louisa Tippett, Olive Armstrong and Gail Fleming

Havelock North Peak

Our Christmas Function was a resounding success at the Havelock North Community Centre, and a good send off to our club of 2016. As well as an excellent meal provided by “Pure Catering,” we saw a wonderful performance of the Nativity play by St. Joseph’s Primary School. The children were beautifully dressed and well-rehearsed. The announcer was well spoken and the little “star” tottered around delightfully in her ballet dress. The pupils were a real credit to the school. Marie Robertson provided the accompaniment for the carols everyone else contributed wonderfully to the Christmas hat competition and also brought lots of goods to present to Women’s Refuge.

Winner of the Christmas Hat competition, Marie Bulled.

Pakuranga Ladies

On Thursday 9 February members of the Pakuranga Ladies and Highland Park Ladies Clubs went on a wonderful Bus trip down to Thames.

They stopped for a lovely morning tea of scones and jam on the way down then over to a little Style Dress shop where a few of the ladies came away with some great bargains.

On arrival at Thames they had one of the local Historians come on board and showed them around telling wonderful stories all about the old Thames. They then went to The Club for an enjoyable light lunch, before leaving for home via Kaiaua.

Marlin Club Mt Maunganui

Marlin Clubs outing to Motiti Island on 11 January was enjoyed by 34 club members. The day was bright and calm and our trip on the Bay Explorer was exceptionally enjoyable.

Advertised by the owner/skipper as a Wildlife Cruise, he was able to find many blue penguins, several sunfish, numerous dolphin and a few shark sightings. A great day.
Kawaroa Combined Group of New Plymouth

Members of this club recently spent a very enjoyable day travelling around Mt. Egmont/Taranaki.

The group travelled in two vans and set off for the first stop at Inglewood to visit the very up-to-date modern dry cleaners there. Most were amazed at the volume of linen handled there from hotels, motels and private hospitals. Next stop was to the Opossum/Mohair factory and shop near Stratford for some much needed retail therapy, with a good few parcels coming out of the shop with the group.

Then it was on to Hollards Gardens for a picnic lunch and a look at the wonderful 10 acre garden at its best with the rhododendrons and azaleas in full bloom.

The old Pihama Dairy factory which has been converted into two homes and a shop with local crafts, was next on the list - all enhanced by the lovely gardens surrounding the factory.

The last port of call was to the Egmont lighthouse, with most of the group climbing up to the top to hear the history of it, see the light and marvel at the coastal view.

The Cape Egmont very modern Lifeboat which operates from there was very interesting to view, with all of us showing appreciation for those men who voluntarily give up their time to help boats and people in times of distress at sea.

Mornington Roslyn Ladies Club

One of the club’s members, Ngaire Dukes, was awarded the QSM for services to the community in the New Years Honours List.

Ngaire was the manager of the Dunedin Citizens Advice Bureau from 1994 until 2016. During this time Ngaire was instrumental in establishing CAB clinics in Waikouaiti and Mosgiel and overseeing the growth of the CAB into a centrepiece of Dunedin Community House with 50 volunteers.

She regularly presented to inmates at Otago Corrections Facility on CAB services to help them move forward with their lives.

Ngaire has been a longstanding active member of the Dunedin Budget Advisory Service and has held a range of roles with the National Council of Women Dunedin branch as well as a member of the Dunedin Council of Social Services, a community member of the Department of Social Welfare Executive Committee and DSW Welfare Review Board.

Mrs Duke has also been a member of the community singing group The Melrose Singers for more than 20 years.

(photo courtesy of the ODT)
Red Beach Combined

The Red beach Combined club celebrated the end of 2016 with a Hawaiian themed drinks and nibbles meeting.

Here members of the Luncheon group are enjoying a very seasonal lunch at the Silverdale Snowplanet.

Pembroke Mens Club of Wanaka

The annual BBQ in the Park was moved to the alternate venue at the Lake Wanaka Centre, after President Gordon Brander received advice from “Hughie” (Metservice) that heavy rain and northwest gales were forecast.

Regular caterers, Lions Club of Wanaka were able to upload the necessary technology and apply appropriate transfer skills to facilitate the proposed varied outcome -they shifted their BBQ trailer.

Eighty plus members and partners enjoyed a convivial evening with good food and Central Otago Pinot Noir.

Pembroke Ladies Club of Wanaka

These intrepid ladies enjoy getting out and about in their region as these photos show.

On the bus again (above)

A lunch out at the Albert Town Tavern

Johnsonville Combined

On a rare clear windless Wellington day, Johnsonville’s members enjoy a barbeque lunch at Ian Maclean’s beachside home at Pukerua Bay for the club’s annual summer picnic.
**Pohutukawa Coast Fellowship**

In November 2016, eighteen members from the Pohutukawa Coast Fellowship Club went on a week’s trip to Norfolk Island. This was very much enjoyed. The weather wasn’t always brilliant but the sightseeing, entertainment, shopping, social interaction with a load of laughs, all made for a wonderful week.

Hopefully similar occasions will be held in the future. A great time was had by all on this unique island, making many special memories.

| Members of tour group at the “Jolly Roger” restaurant. | All wrapped up at “The Mutiny on the Bounty” show |

**Aotea Combined**

At our first meeting this year, we presented Pauline Valentine with a Peace Lily pot plant and card for her 100th Birthday. This was the first 100 year old Aotea Club Member we have had at our Club. Pauline loved getting her card from the Queen, Prime Minister, the Governor General and others. What a milestone!

Pauline told us a little of her life. She was still driving at 95 years old and has not long ago shifted into Thorlington Retirement Village. Well done Pauline. I think a lot of us would be thrilled to have reached this grand age with all our marbles intact.

**New Brighton**

The New Brighton Ladies club enjoyed their Christmas meeting when two jolly Santas, a Christmas fairy and a Christmas elf turned up to give each member a small gift.

| Entertainment was supplied by a very good keyboard player/singer and this was followed by a lunch at the Double Tree Hilton. |

**Ashley Combined**

On 9 February the Ashley Combined Club celebrated their 18th birthday.

| The cake was cut by their past president (2001), Gay Abel (on left), and oldest member Jean Flynn (on right). |
Birkenhead Combined

The February meeting saw the induction of four women into the club after some 26 years as a men’s only club.

L-R Pam Kensington, Marian Mihajievich, Diane Norton and Dawn Watson

At the March meeting we are expecting to induct a further three more ladies. The club is pleased with the current outcome which allows more to enjoy the fellowship of others as well as improving our membership numbers.

Stokes Valley Combined

In October last a group from the club travelled north in a coach to visit The Royal New Zealand Airforce Base, at Ohakea. A two hour drive from Stokes Valley to the base and the tour, “Spread your Wings”, which began at 9.15am meant an early start!

The group were shown all types of vehicles used on the base, plus a guided tour of the newly opened Marae, chapel and Fire Station, control and communication centre followed by a great lunch in the mess. Last, but not least, a tour of the helicopter hanger.

Paremata Socius

Last September this club celebrated 20 years of fellowship and fun with a special morning of song, food and much reminiscing. President Raewyn welcomed 108 members and nine visitors, including past presidents, retired members and four visitors from neighbouring clubs.

Dianne Fraser introduced the mornings programme by asking Katherine Jenkins, our oldest member (on the left), ably helped by Pat and Max Nicholson to cut the cake. Philip Dickinson continued the programme by giving a very entertaining history of the club.

This was followed by our Grey Warblers with a lively bracket of songs, a brief talk from four of our oldest interest groups and a great morning tea.

Rangiora Combined

One of our regular outings recently was to a member’s home built by her great-grandfather, Samuel Ayers, in 1875 and is one of the oldest in Rangiora. Rachel Tregurtha was a mini speaker at a general meeting and issued an invitation to members to visit her unique home.

Most of the original features are still in evidence and it is well furnished with many period pieces in keeping with the age of the property. Rachael has collections of china plates, dolls prams and shaving mugs amongst the memorabilia. Following a tour through the house we enjoyed a shared lunch in the garden.
Tauranga Vision Club

This club started the year by holding a picnic at Kulim Park on the edge of the harbour. On the other side of the harbour is Matakana Island and Mt Maunganui (Mauao), with Mayor Island in the distance. Unfortunately, a strong wind was blowing across the Park, so members parked a row of cars as a wind shelter. About 40 members sat in the lee of the cars, ate their lunch, caught up with their friends, and chatted about their summer break.

The following account of a mystery tour missed our last publication but is included here.

The bus left promptly at 9am, leaving a line of 20 or so cars on the roadside. The two buses proceeded over the Kaimais to Matamata, and ended up at the Firth Tower Reserve and Museum for morning tea on the verandah of the old homestead. The group explored the complex, looking at the old farming equipment on display, the homestead museum, the church, the post office, and the jail.

They then went through Matamata via the tree-lined Centennial Drive, to Dalton’s Plantation Café for lunch. There was time to explore the grounds and gardens, before continuing to Dalton’s Head Office where the landscape supplies are manufactured. Fluorescent yellow visitor’s jackets were donned and everyone watched as a machine made the plastic bags and filled them with compost. They were sealed, then went up a moving ramp to a robot that stacked them on pallets. All this was done automatically.

Mt Hobson Ladies

The ladies of the Mt Hobson club have been very creative when considering how to portray their name badges while the name issue has been under discussion.

The club has used stickers to cover the old logo, as they can be removed once a decision is made. A sample of their ingenuity is shown here.
Whangarei

Whangarei Club is very proud of their foundation member, Bob Mulligan who recently celebrated his centenary. Bob is a foundation member of the Probus Club of Whangarei which came into being on 30 May 1983. He is an active and interested member, still attending nearly every monthly meeting.

The following is an extract from an article in the local paper the Northern Advocate –

“Bob Mulligan is 100 years old and the ex-surgeon is as sharp as a knife. He has been retired for 38 years now but up until two years ago the Whangarei man was still playing golf and he only stopped driving four years ago.

He was born on 9 February 1917, spent about 37 years working in the medical field including about a year at Northern Wairoa Hospital in Te Kopuru and the remainder at Whangarei Hospital. During his time in Northland he would do about five to ten surgeries per week, including one on his son Bruce.

Bob Mulligan is a man of few words. His father was a sheep farmer who hoped Mr Mulligan would follow in his footsteps. “My father wanted me to be a farmer, but I didn’t respond very well I’m afraid” he said.

‘After completing his medical studies in Otago and Auckland and spending a year as a house surgeon in Waikato and Rotorua, Mr Mulligan became a Flight Lieutenant medical officer with the Royal New Zealand Air Force based in Fiji. It was here he met his future wife Jean, who was a volunteer nurse. The pair married in 1946 and had four children.

Mr Mulligan spent 29 years working as assistant superintendent and full-time surgeon at Whangarei Hospital before retiring in 1979. After that he spent about four years growing kiwifruit with his son. “Working out of doors doing things in my own time was nice”.

‘The secret to such a long life? “Diet is important” Mr Mulligan said. “And a bit of home brew, eh Dad?” his son said’. (courtesy Northern Advocate)
Waimakariri Combined

The morning of Thursday 9 February 2017 promised a lovely summer’s day for members of the Waimakariri Combined Fellowship Club to participate in their club’s annual Car Rally.

Ten cars departed at regular intervals from Rangiora in North Canterbury shortly after 9.00am each with two or three passengers on board. One passenger was designated as navigator, and in charge of the list of directions and instructions, while other passengers were tasked with answering the trivia quiz questions compiled by the rally organisers. The questions created much debate and brain activity!

The route led north over the Ashley bridge and involved a lovely but convoluted tour of the countryside under the shadow of Mt Grey in the Bloomfield area. Lots of new features were discovered along the way with everyone keeping a lookout for various signs and items which had to be recorded to enable the judging panel to select a winning “team”.

After what is now an obligatory section of this annual event, a visit to a cemetery to search for names and facts on old headstones (this year it was the Balcairn Cemetery which is set amongst beautiful old trees), the rally ended at the Balcairn Hall where cool drinks and nibbles were on hand.

Most teams did well so points were very close but of course there had to be a winner. Congratulations and well done ”Team Gary Lang”. Prizes were awarded with some folk going home with prizes for their “interesting” but incorrect answers to the trivia questions.

Rally organisers Natalie and Bob Wetherall, with assistance from Pat and Selwyn Green, were thanked for their work and time in setting such an interesting route.

Thanks were also extended to the marking and judging panel members and to those who assisted with food serving and cleaning up. All of which ensured a very enjoyable day in brilliant sunny weather.