

## **Beginnings**

In November 2002, under the guidance of Ken Grave from the Christchurch Community Law Centre, the Incorporated Society was set up. The idea of establishing an umbrella organization to support the libraries in applying for funding grants had been discussed over a long period of time at the Library Advisory Committee meetings but, because of a lack of information, a consensus could never be reached.

Present at the first meeting were representatives from Amuri, Cheviot, Hawarden, Greta Valley and Amberley libraries and from this group an interim committee was elected:  
Patricia Gardner Chairperson, Naomi Woodham Vice-Chair, Janet Manning Treasurer, Susan Ballantyne Secretary Elizabeth Todd, Nancy McLaughlin, Fay Preston, Falaise Hales, Carole Littlejohn.

Meetings were held very regularly over the first three months to get the society up and running with the most pressing project being the massive task of raising the \$400,000 dollars assigned by the Council as the community's share of the cost of the new Hurunui District Library in Amberley.

A separate account was opened for the building fund and the committee moved that, should the library not be built, all donations would be returned. While this sounds very negative, there had been mixed messages from the Council in the local press and we were receiving signals from potential donors that they were not happy to donate money without this security.

## **First AGM**

The first AGM was held at the Amuri Library on May 20, 2003. The majority of the interim committee was re-elected with two changes. Falaise Hales and Elizabeth Todd stepped down and were replaced by Lyn Meares and Pat Manning. We thank Falaise and Elizabeth for their contribution and welcome Lyn and Pat.

## **Donations and Membership**

Membership of the society is free to current library volunteers and honorary members and other members are asked to give an annual donation. The interim committee decided to ask for a donation rather than a set amount and at the AGM it was decided to continue with this policy for the coming year. It was also decided that the membership period should begin at July 1 each year. Membership may be renewed at any of the libraries.

Membership does not commit you to involvement in the society's activities but we would appreciate help with our forthcoming activities. If you could spare some time please indicate on the renewal form at the end of this newsletter.

Our current membership stands at more than 80 and we are keen to expand so please mention us to other library users.

## **Fundraising**

Our first fundraising venture was a Valentine's Day dinner and dance at Canterbury House, combined with a raffle. This was highly successful, both financially and in raising the profile of the Friends and the fundraising project.

### **Clothing sales**

We ordered a range of clothing in the Hurunui colours of navy and gold, printed with the Friends' logo. The long and short-sleeved polo shirts, sweatshirts, caps and polar fleece vests have been popular, especially with library volunteers, who like to wear them while on duty. Order forms are available at all the libraries and the garments can be examined at the Amberley library.

### **ACC Catering**

We were contacted by a man who was holding Farm Safe seminars around the district and needed catering. Committee members catered for these seminars in Rangiora, Amberley, Culverden and Cheviot and more are scheduled for the spring.

### **Cake Stall**

The Amberley Amblers walking group held a cake stall in June, with proceeds going to the Library building fund. The members must be as energetic in the kitchen as they are in the outdoors because their efforts raised over \$500 and we thank them most sincerely for their support.

### **Thermometer board and Book sale**

A brightly coloured fundraising thermometer board, very kindly donated by Independent Signs Ltd., was unveiled outside the Amberley RSA on July 11. The occasion was marked by a book sale and raffle, both of which were well supported, despite miserable weather on the day. We hope that this visible record of our progress will encourage others to help as we draw nearer to our target.

### **Contact Energy - \$88,000**

We are very grateful to Contact Energy and to the people of the Hurunui district for providing this enormous boost to our fundraising. An average of 11% power saving was achieved over the eight weeks of the target period and we felt that, by their efforts, the public gave a strong

message of support to the fundraising effort.

### **Mah Jong Tournament**

This was held last week in Amberley and was enjoyed greatly by all who took part.

### **What's Next?**

#### **Sunday October 5**

Garden tour in the Amberley Area with Devonshire teas and a plant stall. Tickets \$10, at all Athol McCully's Garden Centres, Mitre 10 Rangiora and Amberley House and Garden. Contact: Leonie Verity 314 9243 or Chris Foster 314 3830.

#### **Saturday November 1**

The annual book sale at the Amberley Show is now a Friends' fundraiser.

#### **Friday November 21**

A night at the theatre. We will be selling tickets to a performance of Milo's Wake, an Irish black comedy, at the Court Theatre. An entertaining evening is guaranteed.

#### **February 2004**

Highlighting Hurunui Arts: an exhibition and sale of the work of our talented arts and crafts people will take place at the Hanmer Gallery.

### **Membership Renewal**

Please return to your local library.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type (please indicate)  
Current library volunteer  
Subscribing member

May we call on you to help with Friends' activities? YES/NO

Do you require a receipt? YES/NO

Contact details (if changed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

