



## AUCKLAND MEDICAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

3 NOVEMBER 2022

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When the Executive Committee met at the end of 2021, it was decided that we would not try to hold any meetings until the end of 2022. Most meetings in 2020 and 2021 had to be cancelled and some speakers had their lectures cancelled on two occasions. Next year we will be holding five meetings (March, May, July, September and November). The format will be one or two lectures starting at 7 p.m., preceded by a guided tour of the Ernest and Marion Davis Library.

#### Programme 2023.

I am in the middle of organising the programme for speakers for 2023. Please contact me ([neila@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:neila@adhb.govt.nz)) if you have a lecture you would like to give in 2023 or 2024, or if you can recommend another speaker.

#### Subscriptions

The Executive Committee decided to waive the annual subscription for 2022 as the Society had not been able to hold regular meetings. The committee has decided not to call for subscriptions next year, but it is important to recognise that the AMHS does need some income to cover running costs (rent, reimbursement of expenses for out-of-town speakers, website maintenance, stationery etc). Therefore, I encourage you to assist the AMHS in this way.

#### The Executive Committee

Although this is the first and only meeting of the AMHS this year, the committee have met every three or four months to ensure that the AMHS continues to function. We were unable to hold an Annual General Meeting in 2021, but there have been some changes in the committee since the last AGM in November 2020:

1. John Collins retired at the end of 2021 after serving on the executive for 6 years, four of them as President. His leadership and chairmanship of our meetings will be badly missed.
2. At the same time Jenny Collins retired as the Secretary. Jenny was the Secretary for 4 years. Her term as Secretary was marked by extreme efficiency, but always conducted calmly and pleasantly.
3. In June 2022 Peter Holst retired as the Society's Treasurer. Peter had been our Treasurer since 2012, a role which he fulfilled with great wisdom and meticulous care. He is a very popular and respected member of the Society. He has kept the Society in a sound financial position in difficult times.
4. Another popular member of the Society, Tom Miller also retired in February 2021 after a long spell on the Executive Committee. Tom played a very important part in organising and conducting our meetings.

Our current committee members are Neil Pollock (Secretary), Pat Clarkson (Treasurer and Archivist), Helen Taber, Judy Murphy, Tony Mark and me. Neil Pollock very capably took on the duties of Secretary after Jenny Collins retired and when Peter Holst retired, Pat Clarkson volunteered to oversee these duties until a new Treasurer is found. Tony Mark joined the committee at the beginning of this year. During this year Peter Stone temporarily stepped down from the committee but hopefully will be able to re-join next year. In the meantime, I have taken on the responsibility of organising the programme for 2023.

The current members of the committee have agreed to stand for election again, but nominations are very welcome.



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#### **Margaret Maxwell**

Margaret Maxwell, a longstanding member of the AMHS and Secretary from 2012 to 2014, died on 17 September 2022. Margaret had been a general practitioner on the North Shore and compiled a book *Women Doctors of New Zealand*

#### **Constitution**

Ordinarily there would be no need to change our Constitution, but the Inland Revenue Department has introduced a new set format for the constitutions of not-for-profit organisations such as ours. Therefore, the AMHS will need to revise its constitution if we wish to be regarded as a not-for-profit organisation and enjoy the tax benefits resulting from this. The proposed changes in the constitution have been communicated to members on the AMHS's website.

#### **AMHS Website**

Judy Murphy has continued to do a great job in updating and maintaining the AMHS website. Everyone is encouraged to check the website regularly for up-to-date information. Pat Clarkson has compiled a list of lectures given to the AMHS. This list is available on the website under *Publications, Auckland Medical History Society 50 years*. Many of the older manuscripts have been digitised and are available by request to the secretary ([secretary@amhs.co.nz](mailto:secretary@amhs.co.nz)).

#### **New Zealand Medical Practitioners in World War I**

Pat Clarkson has collaborated with Auckland Museum in compiling a record of New Zealand medical practitioners who served in World War I. This has fostered strong links between the AMHS and the Auckland Museum. The record is available on our website.

#### **Tours of the Ernest and Marion David Library**

Judy Murphy with the help of Juliet Hawkins, Melanie Mirfin and Helen Taber has been organising short tours of the building before the lectures. Because of Covid restrictions we were only able to hold two of these tours. They were very popular with those who were able to attend them and Judy will be holding them before our meetings next year.

#### **Juliet Hawkins and Melanie Mirfin**

Once again it is important record our appreciation for the support of the curators of the Ernest and Marion Davis Library. Unfortunately, Melanie is resigning her position to undertake further studies in Europe next year.

Neil Anderson  
President  
November 2022