



## AUCKLAND MEDICAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### 2024 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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#### **2024 Founder's Lecture**

Sir Ashley Bloomfield will deliver the Founder's Lecture on **Thursday 7 November at 7pm**. I am sure many people will want to attend.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The Founder's Lecture will be followed by the Annual General Meeting. It is very important that as many people as possible stay for the AGM. Several members of the Executive are retiring at the end of this year, and we need replacements to ensure the AMHS continues to function.

#### **2024 Programme**

This has been another successful programme with excellent speakers. All of the meetings have been well attended. The year started in March with excellent lectures on the history of abortion in New Zealand by Felicity Goodyear Smith (I suggest you read her book if you missed the lecture) and another on genomic medicine by Cris Print. The meeting in May was just as good as the first. Ben Kingsbury (Wellington) spoke on the management of leprosy in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands and Tim Cundy discussed the discovery of insulin. In July Ngaire Kerse gave a highly interactive lecture/demonstration on ageing well. She was followed by three short presentations by third year medical students who had taken part in the Medical Humanities Programme. These short presentations have been a special feature of our programme for several years; their presentations are always brief and informative, and cover a variety of different topics. In July Rod Ellis-Pegler gave a superb lecture on the history of HIV infection, and then Professor Brian McAvoy spoke about the disturbing trends in general practice in this country. The evening finished with short presentations by two of the Saint Kentigern College students who had studied a topic related to the history of medicine during the year. Nadia Turner's lecture on Kaye Ibbertson's research on iodine deficiency was especially well done. We are hoping the presentations by the Saint Kentigern College students will be a regular feature in our programme. We also thank those who contributed to our *Special Interest Talks* this year, Poul Nielsen and John Collins.

#### **Website**

This is an important reminder to regularly consult the AMHS website for all information about the Society's activities including the programme. (See *Latest News* section.)

#### **Donations**

We have not been charging an annual subscription, but the Society relies on donations to keep the programme running. Please remember to make donations, either at the meetings or (preferably) on-line. Bank account details are on the website.

#### **Book Sales**

Helen Taber has organised these at each meeting. There will be a book sale on 7 November. Any books left over will be disposed of. There will be no book sales next year.

#### **Executive Committee**

Special thanks to all the members of the committee for their contribution to the management of the AMHS: Tony Mark, Judy Murphy, Neil Pollock, Peter Stone and Helen Taber. Judy Murphy and Helen Taber are stepping down from the committee after several years of sterling service to the Society. Helen has done a tremendous amount of work, most of which has been behind the scenes, but also in meeting and greeting people at the meetings and organising the book sales. Similarly, Judy Murphy has made a huge contribution to the Society, especially in oversight of the website,



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communications, and the organisation of *Special Interest Talks* and tours of the Marion Davis Library. Although Judy and Helen are leaving the committee they have kindly offered to help from outside the committee. Thank you, Judy and Helen.

Peter Stone has organised the programme again this year and is putting the finishing touches on the 2025 programme. He will be away for a large part of 2025 and will be handing over management of the programme to Dr David Black. David has volunteered to join the committee. Please contact David with suggestions for lectures for 2026 (via [secretary@amhs.co.nz](mailto:secretary@amhs.co.nz)). Peter has also been helping with organising the AMHS's archives. Neil Pollock has continued to serve us well as both Secretary and Treasurer, but we hope to be able to relieve him of some of his duties next year.

#### **Financial**

The committee, and in particular Peter Stone, is making arrangements to invest the Newman and Gluckman funds, and a portion of the rest of our funds, with the University of Auckland Foundation. After 2026 the interest from this investment will be available to fund our lecture programme. This will greatly simplify the Treasurer's role in the future.

#### **2025 Meetings change**

From 2025 we are changing AMHS meetings from Thursday evenings to **Wednesday evenings**. This is because we know Thursday evenings often clash with other events that our members regularly attend. (e.g. the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra)

#### **Juliet Hawkins**

Juliet Hawkins retired from her role as Curator of the Ernest and Marion Davis Library this year. Juliet has been a great supporter of the AMHS for many years for which we are extremely grateful. Juliet has been replaced by Claire Freeman. Claire will be assisted by Victoria Bell, whose principal responsibility is the library, and Celia Walker who will be working part time as a Curator. Victoria and Celia will already be known to some of you. I am confident that Claire, Victoria and Celia will continue to help the AMHS in many ways. We also appreciate the help of events assistant Michael Boyle at our meetings. The historical library collection is not used anywhere near as much as it should be; remember the books are available for borrowing.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday 7 November.

Neil Anderson

#### **President AMHS**

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1 November 2024