



**Royal Society of New Zealand
Canterbury Branch**

2020

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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Officers and Council 2020

<i>President:</i>	Roger Fagg
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Kelly Duncan
<i>Past President:</i>	Alec Ford
<i>Honorary Secretary:</i>	Rob Cruickshank
<i>Honorary Treasurer:</i>	<i>vacant</i>
<i>Council:</i>	Grant Bennett, John Clemens, Will Godsoe, Mike Reid

Representatives of the Branch

Canterbury Museum Trust Board:	Dr Rob Cruickshank
Riccarton Bush Board of Trustees:	Professor David Norton

2021 Annual General Meeting Notice

Notice is given of the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Canterbury Branch, to be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 7 April 2021, in Room A134 at Ara Institute of Canterbury City Campus, 130 Madras Street, Christchurch 8011.

Agenda

- 1** Roll, Apologies and Proxy Votes
- 2** Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30 September 2020
- 3** Business arising
- 4** 2020 Reports from Council and Representatives
- 5** 2020 Financial Reports
- 6** Appointment of Auditor
- 7** Election of Officers and Council
- 8** Subscriptions
Council recommends the following motion as included on the Proxy vote form: To set the subscriptions for 2021 to \$45 Ordinary, \$35 Retired and \$10 Student, all discountable by \$5 for prompt payment.
- 9** General Business

Minutes: 2020 Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Canterbury Branch, held at 6.30 pm on Wednesday, 30 September 2020, in the Sydenham Room, South Library, 66 Colombo Street, Christchurch 8022.

1 Roll, Apologies and Proxy Votes:

Apologies: Margaret Austin, David Norton, Pat Campbell

Proxies received: David Pepperlie, John Packer, Ian Forne, Rod Syme, Sally Price, Dawn Wright, Peter Sharr, John Errington, Deborah Errington, Anna Pilbrow, David Eddy, Geoff Steadman (*Alec Ford/Meeting Chair*) (12)

Present: Alec Ford, Grant Bennett, Hugh Dacre, David Reynolds, John Campbell, Angela Hyde, Ian Duff, Jeff Hyde, Paula Jameson, John Clemens, Roger Fagg, Mike Reid, Tony Mander, Claire Le Couteur, Kelvin Duncan, Jeremy Hornibrooke, Brian Molloy, Nigel Newman, Rob Cruickshank (19)

2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25 September 2019:

Motion: That the minutes of the 2020 AGM be taken as a true and accurate record. John Clemens/David Reynolds. *Passed.*

3 Business arising: None, other than arising below.

4 2019 Reports from Council and Representatives:

Motion: That the reports from Council and representatives be taken as read. David Reynolds/John Campbell. *Passed.*

Motion: Motion of thanks for Rod Syme for many long years of service to the Branch as its representative on the Canterbury Museum Trust Board. Rob Cruickshank/Ian Duff. *Passed.*

5 2019 Financial Reports:

Motion: That the 2019 financial statement be accepted. Alec Ford/Mike Reid. *Passed.*

6 Appointment of Auditor:

David Reynolds indicated his willingness to audit the 2020 accounts.

Motion: That David Reynolds be appointed auditor. Rob Cruickshank/Jeff Hyde. *Passed.*

7 Election of Officers and Council:

Motion: That Roger Fagg be appointed as Branch President. Rob Cruickshank/John Clemens. *Passed.*

Motion: That Kelly Duncan be appointed as Branch Vice-President. John Clemens/Grant Bennett. *Passed.*

Motion: That Rob Cruickshank be appointed as Honorary Branch Secretary. Alec Ford/Roger Fagg. *Passed.*

Motion: That Grant Bennett, John Clemens, Will Godsoe, and Mike Reid be appointed as Branch Council members. Alec Ford/Roger Fagg. *Passed.*

Alec Ford remains as past president.

The position of Honorary Branch Treasurer remains vacant, although Alec Ford agreed to continue to perform this role until an alternative could be found.

Motion: That Brian Molloy be awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Branch for his extraordinary service to the Branch.

8 Subscriptions:

There was some discussion that due to lack of activity in the previous year, the subscriptions for this year should be set at zero, i.e. no subscription would be charged, although a joining fee of \$20 would still apply to new members.

Motion: That the subscriptions be set at zero. Alec Ford/Brian Molloy. *Passed.*

9 General Business:

University of Canterbury Trust Fund: There was a long and robust discussion about the future of the Royal Society of New Zealand Canterbury Branch Trust Fund, currently held for us by Canterbury University. There appears to be a discrepancy between the intended purpose of the fund to support science throughout Canterbury, and the requirements of the University to use Trust funds it administers to support the interests of Canterbury University specifically. This discrepancy has been signaled as an issue for the Trust Fund by the Auditor General. Discussion ranged from whether to leave the money

with the University, who would most likely transfer it to the UC Foundation, or to try and reclaim it, and if so, what to do with it. Suggestions included transferring it to the Royal Society of New Zealand Endowment Fund Trust, or to set up a new Trust specifically for this purpose. There was disagreement about various legal aspects of this issue, and several of those present expressed the need to seek independent legal advice on this matter. It was pointed out the whatever we decide may be superseded by decisions of the Auditor General, nevertheless the following motion was put...

Motion: That the Branch request the University of Canterbury to return the money in the Royal Society of New Zealand Canterbury Branch Trust to the Branch. Kelly Duncan/Paula Jameson. *Tied. Votes for the motion 14 (by show of hands in the room), votes against 14 (2 by show of hands in the room plus 12 proxy votes).*

Fenwick bequest: Alec raised the matter of the Fenwick bequest. In 2000, the Branch received a considerable number of shares from the estate of Chris Fenwick, however, for various reasons these were lost to the Branch until 2009 when they were valued at about \$30,000, with subsequent dividends of around \$10,000. All of this money was allocated to the General Account rather than the Travel and Research Account but discussions with Chris's daughter, Rod Syme, who was Branch President at the time, as well as Alec's personal recollections, all suggest that if they had not been lost, these funds would have been allocated to the Travel and Research Account. Chris's daughter believes that the bequest was made with student support in mind. (Chris supported students in other ways too.) Other bequests given with similar intentions (e.g., Vida Stout's bequest of \$10,000 in 2012) have been allocated to the Travel and Research account. Alec suggested that in order to signal to future potential donors that their wishes will be respected, we should consider transferring \$50,000 (which also takes account of around \$10,000 that we can expect to have accrued while the shares were lost to the Branch) from the General account to the Travel and Research account. There was no further discussion of this matter, which was referred to the Branch Council for consideration.

Meeting Closed: 7.56 pm

Financial Reports

Treasurer's Report for the 12 Months to 31 December 2020

Statement of Accounting Policies

1. **General accounting policies:** The measurement base adopted is that of historic cost, reliance is placed upon the fact that the Society is a going concern.
2. **Particular accounting policies:**
 - a) Shares are valued at market value on 31 December 2020
 - b) These accounts have been prepared on a GST inclusive basis.
 - c) No provision is made for taxation, as the Branch is exempt.
 - d) The branch is an incorporated society and a registered charity with number CC28273 and must meet various management and reporting requirements as a consequence including annual submission of these accounts to the Charities Commission.
3. **Changes in accounting policies:** There have been no changes in accounting policies this year. The 2020 accounts have been reviewed by David Reynolds and his report is included below.
4. **Assets:** This report lists our financial assets only. For many years the branch has owned a tea trolley containing urns, teapots, plates and other associated wares. It resides in the kitchen in the central lecture block at Canterbury University. We also own several filing cabinets containing our records. These are all regarded as having no value. In addition to the term deposits the branch holds a number of shares in ANZ Banking Group and Fisher & Paykel Healthcare. These shares remain from a group of shares received in the bequest of C&E Fenwick around 2000 of which the rest were sold, and the proceeds credited to the Travel and Research account.
5. **Presentation of the Accounts:** The accounts are presented in the same format as previous years although some line items have been added or removed as appropriate. As well as the general activities of the branch such as running talks the branch supports postgraduate student travel to conferences and the like. Consequently, the internal finances are separated into two accounts to reflect the distinct nature of these two activities.
6. **Internal Financial Management:** Council manages the finances of the Branch with internal checks and procedures. All monies received

are deposited into the current account. Regular payments are paid automatically but large and unusual expenditure requires prior approval. We wrote no cheques in 2020 and electronics transfers require two to authorize. The Treasurer provides a financial report including a list of all payments to Council meetings and these appear in Council minutes.

- 7. The Royal Society of NZ Canterbury Branch (RSNZCB) Trust:** The University of Canterbury administers the trust as trustee. The trust was established in 1992 and is registered with the Charities Commission charity number CC45225. The capital came from a number of gifts to it in its first decade from philanthropist Brian Mason and this has grown considerably since. The primary purpose of the trust is to support the travel and research grants that the branch makes to young scientists. The trust financial statements are publicly available on the Charities Commission website however these figures are included in this report for the interest of members. During 2020 changes to the trust arrangements at the University of Canterbury lead to the trust being removed from the University Combined Trust scheme but at the end of the year the University was still administering the trust. Any distributions to the branch are usually included as indicated in the Travel and Research Fund report however there were none in 2020.

Financial Performance

- 8. General Account:** The general account showed a small loss. Interest income continues to drop as interest rates fall on our term deposits. The dividends from our ANZ shares dropped considerably due to the effects of Covid 19 on the bank's activities. While we had a small income from new members the large part of the subscription income is due to an auto join scheme where the RSNZ pays directly for local fellows to join the branch. The major expenditure was for speaker cost of travel and accommodation particularly for some lectures we supported in Timaru. A grant for a rotary cutter to the Christchurch Library was funded from the general account. The other significant expense was for printing and posting of the annual report. No honoraria were paid with the consent of those who in the past that may have expected such. An operating loss of over \$700 was mitigated by a small gain in share values this mainly being due to the rise in FP Healthcare shares mainly due to Covid 19.
- 9. Travel and Research Account:** The branch operates a scheme to

help young researchers attend national and international conferences with a partial contribution to their expenses. The scheme is funded, in small part, from donations members make with their subscription. The majority of the funding comes from the Royal Society of New Zealand Canterbury Branch Trust as per the trust deed.

No Travel and Research Awards were Uplifted in 2020: Due to the Covid 19 pandemic international travel was extremely limited and conferences cancelled so there were no applications in 2020.

No Summer Scholarship Grants: The branch has a policy that in years when there are few applications for travel grants then summer scholarships may be offered through the local universities however this year there were none offered.

With no payments from the account and with the trust fund growing well while interest rates were falling we chose not to request any grant from the RSNZCB Trust and so we carried the internal deficit from 2019 through 2020 unchanged.

10. Overall Position: With a small loss in the General Account and no change in the Travel and Research there is a small overall loss for the year

11. The RSNZCB Trust records a gain of just over \$56,000 or 12% for 2020. This follows a 10% gain in 2019 following a static performance in 2018.

Alec Ford, Acting Treasurer

Auditor's report from David Reynolds

To Whom It May Concern

This will confirm that I did, on the 11th of February 2021, examine the records of the activities and financial consequences for the Royal Society Canterbury Branch for the year ended 31-12-2020. The records were, as usual, well-presented and reflect activities within the scope of the Constitution towards reactivating the Society's aims and objects. I have no hesitation in recommending that the financial record be adopted as a true and accurate record of what has taken place.

D.G.Reynolds – Auditor – 16-2-2021

The Royal Society of New Zealand Canterbury Branch Incorporated

Statement of Financial Position to 31 December 2020

2019		2020
	Assets	
\$5,401.72	BNZ Cheque	\$4,031.04
\$67.06	BNZ Call	\$67.09
\$26,638.80	BNZ Term Deposits	\$27,272.89
-	Paypal account	-
\$30,127.25	Shares (market value 31 Dec)	\$30,481.00
\$62,234.83	Totals Assets	\$61,852.02
-	Liabilities	-
-	Sundry Creditors	-
\$62,234.83	Net Assets at 31 Dec	\$61,852.02
	General Fund	
\$73,557.54	Opening Balance 1-Jan	\$77,419.41
\$3,861.87	Surplus (Loss) for the year	(\$382.81)
\$77,419.41	General Fund Balance at 31 Dec	\$77,036.60
	Travel and Research Fund	
(\$1,584.58)	Opening Balance at 1-Jan	(\$15,184.58)
(\$13,600.00)	Operating (Loss) Surplus for the year	-
(\$15,184.58)	T&R Balance at 31 Dec	(\$15,184.58)
\$62,234.83	Total Funds at 31 Dec	\$61,852.02

University of Canterbury Trust Fund

Account Number 93260 - Royal Society of NZ Canterbury Branch Trust

2020 Results: DRAFT/UNAUDITED

2019		2020
\$421,205.98	Opening Balance 1-Jan	\$463,808.52
\$18,954.27	Apportionment of Distribution (Loss)/Gain	\$20,871.40
\$8,002.91	Cpi Adjustment to Base Capital	\$6,493.33
\$15,645.36	Revenue Reserve	\$29,046.41
\$463,808.52	Balance 31-Dec	\$520,219.66

Statement of Income and Expenditure to 31 December 2020

General Account

2019		2020
	Income	
\$105.00	Subscriptions	\$1,290.00
\$2,282.07	Dividends	\$700.89
\$1,179.35	Interest	\$637.66
\$3,566.42	Total Income	\$2,628.55
	Expenditure	
\$0.00	General Expenses & Admin	\$195.00
\$4.80	Bank Charges/Paypal fees	\$5.90
-	RSNZ Constituent Body Meetings	-
-	Donations, Grants & Prizes	\$1,102.75
\$793.00	Newsletters & Annual Report	\$743.30
-	Meetings	\$1,318.16
\$250.00	Honoraria	-
\$1,047.80	Total Expenses	\$3,365.11
\$2,518.62	Operating Surplus (Loss) for the year	(\$736.56)
\$1,618.25	Gain (Loss) in Share Market Values	\$353.75
\$4,136.87	Total Surplus (Loss) for the year	(\$382.81)

Travel and Research Account

2019		2020
	Income	
-	Members Donations	-
-	RSNZCB Trust	-
-	Total Income	-
	Expenditure	
\$13,000.00	Travel & Research Awards paid	-
-	Admin/Honoraria	-
\$600.00	Grants/Prizes/Science Fair	-
\$13,600.00	Total Expenditure	\$0.00
(\$13,600.00)	Total (Loss) Surplus for the year	\$0.00
(\$9,463.13)	Overall loss/surplus both accounts	(\$382.81)

President's Report 2020

Like for most, 2020 was a challenging year for the Branch. We had to cancel the planned AGM in March, along with events in Timaru because of lockdown. It also impacted at first with Council meetings, but with assistance of Council members, we began remote meetings by Zoom. Naturally, with conferences cancelled and travel restricted, no travel or research awards were granted.

The issues surrounding the RSNZ Canterbury Branch Trust Fund remain. A meeting with the new University Registrar in November did little to resolve the problems, hence the Council has been unable to fulfil the motion passed at the last AGM seeking transferal of the Trust monies to the RSNZ Endowment Fund. Because of the lack of progress and differences between the Branch and the University, the Council agreed to seek independent advice, and it is hoped that this matter will be solved in the coming weeks.

The Branch managed to hold its AGM in September, and the acting president/secretary Alec Ford stood down from these roles. Many thanks to Alec for seeing the Branch through some difficult years.

Towards the end of the year, the Council with the assistance of South Canterbury Museum and Tūranga, organised some talks in both Timaru (4) and Christchurch (2). These were successful with the average attendance in Timaru at 75 and Christchurch at 50. The outcome of these showed that not only there is support for the Branch, but other organisations are willing to work with us. We also reactivated our Facebook page which should make it easier to contact members.

In the coming year, we will develop on what has been achieved in this difficult year, build more partnerships and work on delivering benefits to the members.

Finally, I'd like to finish with some thanks. To our representatives on the Canterbury Museum Trust Board (Dr Rob Cruickshank) and Riccarton Bush Board of Trustees (Prof. David Norton), for their enthusiasm in representing the Branch. To the Council, for their desire to keep the Branch going, putting forward ideas and support. Hopefully, they will all stand again and others as well for Council, for the foundation has been built, and the future looks bright for the Branch. Now it is up to the members and Council to put it all together.

Roger Fagg

2020 Programme

Travel Grants: No Travel Grants were applied for or awarded in 2020 due to restrictions on travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Research Awards: One Research Award was awarded to Christchurch City Libraries for the purchase of a rotary attachment for a laser cutter to support rocket-building workshops for the public, run in association with Christchurch Rocketeers, and other related activities.

Talks: Despite COVID lockdowns, which curtailed our planned programme, we were able to host six talks in 2020 in both Timaru and Christchurch. Approximate audience numbers are given in parentheses.

Timaru

March: Dr Paul Scofield, Canterbury Museum, ‘Squawkzilla and the giants’ (95)

September: Associate Prof. John Stenhouse, University of Otago, ‘Science vs. Religion’ (65)

October: Dr Katie Marcar, University of Otago, ‘It’s all Greek to me: The New Testament in text and translation’ (85)

November: Dr Daphne Lee, University of Otago ‘Foulden Maar: Protecting NZ’s geological sites’ (60)

Christchurch

November: Associate Prof. Karen Pollard, University of Canterbury ‘Celestial Fireworks: From comets to exploding stars’ (50)

December: Dr Daphne Lee, University of Otago ‘Foulden Maar: Protecting NZ’s geological sites’ (40)

Representative's Reports

Canterbury Museum Trust Board

Dr Rob Cruickshank

It was my pleasure and privilege to take over from Rod Syme as the Branch's representative on the Canterbury Museum Trust Board in this, the Museum's 150th Anniversary year. Rod was formally thanked for his many years of service, including a long stint as Vice Chairperson, during the Anniversary celebrations in October.

Despite closure of the Museum for two months, visitor numbers held up well this year. Some strong exhibitions with lots of local interest saw domestic visitors flocking to the Museum after lockdown, which went a long way to replacing the loss of international tourists. The *House of Treasures: Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho* exhibition, which allowed us to see some hidden treasures of the Museum's collection, was particularly popular, and was accompanied by a beautiful book with photographs by award winning photographer Jane Ussher, which has been selling well. Exhibitions *Slice of Life: The World Famous Dunedin Study*, and more recently *Mosque: Faith, Culture, Community*, and the ever-popular *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* have also been very popular with locals. A number of smaller exhibitions have toured other venues in Canterbury, including some stunning images of spiders by wildlife photographer Bryce McQuillan. Research continues apace at the Museum with significant numbers of research outputs and new acquisitions.

Perhaps the biggest preoccupation of the Board this year has been the Proposed Museum Redevelopment Project. This \$195 million project is needed to protect the Museum's historic buildings and the 2.3 million objects in its collection. It will also give Canterbury residents a stunning new modern museum, that will still honor the past and give space to 150 years of heritage. This will allow some of the more dated parts of the Museum, such as the dioramas depicting early Maori life in Aotearoa, which have been in the news a bit this year, to be replaced with much more culturally appropriate exhibits, including the restoration (after 64 years!) of the Whare Whakairo Hau Te Ananui O Tangaroa, and the 26.5 metre blue whale skeleton fondly remembered by many older Cantabrians. An application for resource consent has been made. You can have your say here: <https://ccc.govt.nz/the-council/consultations-and-submissions/haveyoursay/show/394>.

Elsewhere, the Museum-run *Quake City* continues to receive lots of visitors in this, the 10th anniversary year of the Christchurch earthquakes. Looking ahead, 2021 will see the Museum open Ravenscar House at a new site just across Rolleston Avenue. Visitors to this new attraction will be able to explore an outstanding collection of decorative arts, sculpture, designer furniture, and classical antiquities put together over a lifetime and generously bequeathed to the people of Canterbury by Jim and Susan Wakefield, all on display in the setting of a contemporary house museum that reflects the way these objects were displayed in their own house in Scarborough.

Riccarton Bush Board of Trustees

Professor David Norton, School of Forestry, University of Canterbury

David's Report will be circulated at a later date

Branch Membership

At December 31:	2020	2019	2018	2017
Life	3	2	2	2
Ordinary	76	75	72	73
Retired	49	54	61	60
Student	1	1	1	0
Total Members	129	132	136	135

Note: These numbers do not include Canterbury-based Fellows of the Royal Society auto-joined by the Royal Society Te Apārangi. As subscription have not been levied for several years these number likely include members who should be removed from the membership list.

Constitution

See the 2018 Annual Report for the **Constitution** and the text of the **RSNZ Canterbury Branch Trust Deed**.