

We help progress macular degeneration education

The Foundation has continued its support for the education and awareness campaign of Macular Degeneration NZ by providing assistance for a very successful Symposia of events in November.

The key to both events was the visit to New Zealand of Professor Alan Bird a British ophthalmologist at the Institute of Ophthalmology at the Moorfields Eye Hospital, London. He is internationally recognised for his work on macular degeneration, and leads a research team developing new technologies and clearer understanding of retinal degenerative diseases.

At the Auckland Museum, Professor Bird addressed 400 medical professionals and decision makers, patients and families, about the great advances in the treatment of MD. He also gave an address a few days later in Wellington to MPs and guests in the Great Hall in Parliament.

While the efforts of MDNZ have dramatically raised the levels of awareness – 11% in the last two years – much more remains to be done. 1 in 7 of us over 50 can expect to be affected but still 41% of people at risk just don't know about MD.



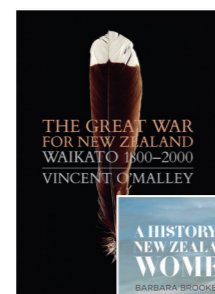
All about eyes. From left; Professor Charles McGhee, Auckland University; Sarah Budd, Chief Executive, NZ Blind Foundation and Deputy Chair MDNZ; Professor Alan Bird from London.

Introducing him at the Auckland event, Professor Charles McGhee, Head of Ophthalmology at the University of Auckland, also a recipient of Freemasons support, described the visit of Professor Bird as 'a real coup'.

More books for schools

More continuation in our support policies has resulted in a further grant to award-winning Bridget Williams Books Publishing Trust for a further release of New Zealand history titles in their 'Books in Schools Libraries' programme.

A feature of the programme is its strong teacher engagement. Teacher focus groups select the books in the programme and teachers write the Teacher Notes that link the books to the curriculum. Both these aspects are critical to the programme's success – and it is hugely appreciated by both teachers and librarians in schools. Freemasons Foundation's most recent contributions are:



'The Great War for New Zealand – Waikato 1840 - 2000' by Vincent O'Malley.

A work of scholarship with the potential to reshape a nation's understanding of its past - and of itself.

'The Big Smoke - NZ Cities 1840 – 1920' by Ben Schrader.

A comprehensive and untold history of the settlers pursuit and importance of city life.

'History of NZ Women' by Barbara Brookes.
Stories about the settler women who created the infrastructure necessary for colonial society to succeed and the factors that rapidly changed their roles.

In this further issue of key history titles, books will be placed in 480 school libraries for the benefit of nearly 300,000 students. Bridget Williams Books has a 40-year record of publishing the histories and stories of New Zealand of both long ago and of today, making a significant contribution to New Zealand's intellectual life.

Aged care remains at our core

Whatever else we do, whatever causes seem so right, no matter how demanding the need, we remain true to our traditions. A substantial share of our resources are still devoted to the care of the older generations. And of that we are proud. It's the Freemasons way.

Here are two of our activities in the scientific domain that are current and on-going.



Professor Connelly

GERIATRIC CARE RESEARCH

We continue our assistance in the research of the care that is provided for older people in residential facilities under the direction of our Freemasons Professor of Geriatric Studies, Martin Connelly. This year, in collaboration with Hospices, we are helping fund an evaluation of a previous pilot study in twenty aged care facilities in Auckland that showed the changing demands created by an increasingly diverse cultural mix in our population



Bro Sir Richard Faul

BRAIN RESEARCH – THE NEXT FRONTIER

The Centre for Brain Research at the University of Auckland jointly supported by the Foundation and the Neurological Foundation of NZ, staged a free public event late last year where five international neuroscientists, all members of the CBR scientific advisory panel, discussed advances in brain research and treatments.

They explained to a large audience at the University how the exponential increase in our knowledge of the human brain with new technologies and discoveries has made a significant impact on the development of treatments for brain disorders. The view ahead was of a much brighter future for neurological patients and their families.

On the panel were Professor Christopher Shaw (London), Professor Anne Young (Boston), Professor Perry Bartlett (Brisbane), Professor Hanns Möhler (Zurich) and Professor Sir Richard Faul (Auckland).

Writers Festival association renewed

The 9th Auckland Writers Festival is scheduled for May 16 – 21 May and Freemasons Foundation will again support the 3-day children's programme.

2017
SCHOOLS
PROGRAMME
16-18 MAY

SUPPORTED BY THE FREEMASONS FOUNDATION
AUCKLAND WRITERS FESTIVAL

The huge success of last year's event with record attendances and sold-out sessions is expected to be repeated including more than 6000 students from primary, intermediate and secondary schools. An additional feature this year will see 90 students from South Auckland secondary schools mentored one-on-one by some of the outstanding local and visiting writers in an initiative to foster Maori and Pacifica writing talent.

The Festival's objective is to inspire young writers and readers and celebrate the love of story with them.

More details at:

www.writersfestival.co.nz/programmes/schools-programme

NZ OPERA

Support your opera company

How long is it since you attended the opera? Maybe 2017 is the Season.

One of these would surely tempt you. Famous composers, wonderful singing with international stars, powerful orchestras, dramatic acting, a night at the opera is an unforgettable occasion. And to listen to the Freemasons Chorus is a bonus.

Support our own Opera company as we do. All the details at: www.nzopera.com

2017 Season

Mikado Gilbert & Sullivan - 1885

Auckland closed

Wellington 25 February - 2 March

Christchurch 7- 11 March

Carmen Georges Bizet - 1875

Wellington 1- 10 June

Auckland 22 June - 1 July

Christchurch 13 - 22 July

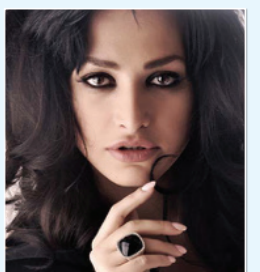
Kátya Kabanová Leoš Janáček - 1921

Auckland 16 - 23 September

Wellington 7 -14 October



Mikado



Carmen