



THE NEW ZEALAND EMBALMERS ASSOCIATION (INC.)

**The First Twenty Years
1971 - 1991**



Forewords



When I look back over the last 20 years I feel filled with pride and humility to have been part of a positive progressive organisation which has set such clear long-term and short-term objectives, and achieved them.

As an inaugural member, I have been part of that progress.

It all started with the unselfish efforts of Alan Irvine to share his knowledge and raise the standards of embalming in New Zealand to the equivalent of the best available overseas.

Members like Peter Strong, Roger Burgoyne and many others soon assisted in that process, and the need to set up our own organisation to concentrate on embalming needs and develop our education soon became apparent. It was as necessary then as it is today, and the qualified professional embalmer and funeral director is the most important part of our funeral services. The high ethical and professional standards demanded by the association guarantee the public a standard of service they deserve, and have come to expect.

The development of an accepted training programme started with Alan Irvine's school in Wellington: this led us to the association with the Vocational Training Council for funding assistance for students, and through this course progress led to the establishment of our school at the C.I.T., and the establishment of the F.S.T. Committee, to develop and promote all training within the whole industry.

In our early years registration was investigated and it soon became apparent that education standards and qualifications are the most successful road to that course. The advancement in progressing the art and science throughout New Zealand has been continued with the specialist visitors from overseas, who conducted seminars throughout New Zealand, and our members attending training programmes overseas.

Trade Suppliers are increasing their range of chemicals and products, which has greatly assisted the embalmers.

There is still a long way to go so that we have a uniform standard of embalming throughout New Zealand.

My hope is that the next 20 years will see the same vision, determination and clear objectives as the last, and go from strength to strength.

Francis H. Day
Life Member

An idea whose time had come!

NZEA was formed out of the fervent belief that New Zealand funeral service needed to radically improve its standard of handling human remains, coupled with the belief that people were entitled to a sanitary and natural appearance and that viewing should be encouraged to assist people in their grieving process.

These beliefs, together with the need to be able to guarantee the preservation of remains for transport on public carriers, were foremost in our minds as we formed this association.

NZEA never intended to impose a rigid set of principles, but rather to provide the forum to foster growth and achievement amongst its members, and to provide a lobby to the industry and government agencies.

The enthusiasm of the founding members and those who joined NZEA in the early years was indeed an inspiration to me.

Alan K. Irvine
Life Member

New Zealand Embalmer's Association

INCORPORATED

CODE OF ETHICS

As an Embalmer I fully acknowledge my individual and collective obligations to safeguard the public health, especially of those whom I serve, and my mutual responsibility for the proper welfare of the funeral profession.

I will at all times and in all circumstances vigilantly support the laws of our country, and render service with absolute fidelity, observing the highest standard of competence and dignity.

I will at all times treat with confidence my business and professional relationships, co-operate with customs of all races, nationalities and creeds, observe the respect due to the deceased and ensure that all services are provided without any form of deception or misleading representation.

As a member of this Association I will share my knowledge and skill with fellow members.

I will at all times support high educational standards, improve techniques and encourage scientific research, observe all rules of fair competition and maintain favourable personal relations within our own, and allied professions.

I will ensure at all times that public announcements are such as will not bring criticism to fellow members and disrepute to our profession.

As an Embalmer I acknowledge my duty to make myself fully conversant with the Rules of this Association and abide and adhere to them at all times.



A Word From The President

It is an honour to be your President, as we celebrate our 20th year.

Beginning my employment in this industry in 1975, I remember attending my first NZEA meeting in Wellington and realising that my youthful teenage years made me stand out in the middle aged group assembled.

This group of like minded people were committed to improving the standards of embalming.

On returning to the industry last year after a few years break, I have noticed a number of changes within our membership and the industry. Namely:

An increase in the number of young people joining the Association.

The increasing numbers of women training and being employed in the industry. A healthy sign.

The enthusiasm and commitment to their job displayed by the younger members.



The direct entry course and overall success of the CIT based training programme.

The increase in the percentage of viewing and public awareness of its value.

The greater acknowledgement of embalmers and their pivotal role within Funeral Service.

Rapidly disappearing are the days of untrained embalmers, forgotten in the 'back room'.

There is no doubt that we have come a long way in the last 20 years and have now come of age. However, let us not lose sight of the work to be done in the future. I would like to see increasing levels of professionalism and client centred Funeral Service. In achieving this, the embalmers input will become increasingly important.

May you all find fulfillment in your chosen career and success in your futures.

Peter Cohen



Celebrating 20 Years Of Proud Service

The History of the Embalming Course at the Central Institute of Technology by Michael Aro

It was in response to the notion that a proposed draft Health (Burial) Act would require Funeral Directors to be registered that in February 1969, Jack Ninness first mooted officially the suggestion that the NZFFD negotiate with the NZ Department of Education to establish a certificated Funeral service course, which would be held at the Central Institute of Technology (then on site in Petone). As a result, the NZFFD Education Committee comprising Jack Ninness, Colin Griggs and Albie Marker was empowered to investigate the idea. It was envisaged that such a course would cover all facets of funeral service and embalming was easily identified as an essential core subject.

At the same time, the inclusion of embalming was also seen as introducing many implementational problems which would not be easy to overcome. At first it was thought that the embalming instruction would remain under the auspices of one of the three existing "approved" schools of embalming (at The Wilson Funeral Home under Alan Irvine, NZ College of Funeral Science under Cedric Little and at Lamb and Hayward under Albert Marker and Eric Maffey. This would allow students to study the embalming section at any time and also enabled continuity in embalming instruction, which needed to be "at least up to the standard of the Certificate for Temporary Preservation."

Interestingly, the draft Health (Burial) Regulations were adamant that "it will be an offence for any person other than a licensed embalmer to treat a dead human body" —music to anyone's ears?? Therefore it became apparent quite early on that the Department of Education would only consider a course that embraced both disciplines, because in the matter of registration and licensing, the Department was of the opinion that the initiative for instruction must lie with them. As far as I am aware however, they were prepared to entertain the use of "expert" tutors who were already proven in

the field. These "expert" tutors would supplement CIT tutors. The course would be based around a six week period of tuition, and the subjects to be taught would include:

Histology, Osteology, Myology, Splanchnology, Angiology, Surface Anatomy, Elementary Pathology, Bacteriology, Embalming Chemistry, Cosmetology, Personal Hygiene and Embalming Theory and Practice.

Further, each student needed to have practical experience with 6 cases (including autopsied and non-autopsied).

Even in those early days the key factor of practical tuition was considered a major challenge. At first it was considered that the hospital mortuaries at Hutt and Wellington Hospitals may have been able to be used, but a contingency plan involving the use of mortuaries at the local funeral homes was also devised. The companies to be approached were Wilsons, Morris', Clarks, Gee and Hickton, and Crofts.

These companies also consented to supply cases for the practical tuition, provided that legal protection in the form of the consent of the next-of-kin / executor be sought in each case. Thought was also directed toward insurance cover to protect against liability in the case of accidents when transporting the deceased to and from other mortuaries.

In the event, as we know, the legislation failed to require the embalming of deceased human remains by licensed embalmers, nor were Funeral Directors recognised as needing to be registered.

After the Education Committee of (the renamed) FDANZ presented its findings in January 1970, the CIT and FDANZ held further discussions, culminating in the first Funeral Directing course being offered in 1973. This was of 6 weeks duration in total and was held under the auspices of the Management Department.

After NZEA was formed in 1971, the training of embalmers in this country was given much serious thought. Prior to this time, embalmers would travel overseas if they wanted formal qualifications—to Australia or the UK for the British Institute qualification, or to America to study at one of the Colleges of Mortuary Science (such as San Francisco). We have several such members in our ranks today.

From 1971 until 1979, the NZEA were the only organisation in this country to offer a course in embalming and the graduates received a Preservation and Presentation certificate. Negotiations with C.I.T. Management Department were continuing during this period, along with input from the School of Health Sciences.

Finally in August 1978, a proposal to offer a Certificate in Funeral Directing and Embalming was produced. The course was designed as pre-entry to membership of the FDANZ register of Funeral Directors or NZEA. The basic structure of the course was as we know it today—2 six week blocks in both disciplines, along with log books and case reports. The subjects too have changed little, being Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry, Embalming Practice, Embalming Theory, Microbiology and Restorative Art. The industry would provide the "expert" tutors for embalming theory. They have included Francis Day, Peter Beauchamp, Peter Fleming and Lindsay Helson.

That proposal was prepared by:

Howard Vosper (the then Chairman, Education Committee, FDANZ), Peter Strong (representing NZEA and FDANZ), Barry McElwain (Secretary, FDANZ), D.G. Bolitho (Head of Department, Health Sciences, C.I.T.) and B G Townsend (Head of Department, Management, C.I.T.). Two others who played an important role in the introduction of the courses and subsequently the setting up of FSTC. They were Harry Hutchings, an adviser from the Department of Education and the Late Conor McBride from the Vocational Training Council, who proved to be an invaluable source of information about the provision of Government funding.

Thus it was that in 1979, the first embalming course commenced at the C.I.T. In 1982 both courses transferred to the control of the School of Health Sciences where they continued to operate along the same lines until 1990. The problem of the practical tuition was solved through the beneficence of the proprietors of most of the Wellington mortuaries. All those who have been through the CIT embalming courses would have spent some time at either Gee and Hickton, Ninness Funeral Home, Lychgate Funeral Service, The Wilson Pailthorpe Funeral Home and latterly also at Harbour City Funeral Home. Our grateful thanks must go to those who set up the initial scheme for practical tuition, such as Basil Gee, Jack Ninness, Alan Irvine, Lindsay Helson and the Late Ian McIntyre. They have given much to the training of embalmers in not only allowing their facilities, but also their staff to be used for teaching and (dare we admit it) comparison purposes. As some situations have changed, others also have willingly contributed to continue to provide for this most important aspect of training. Certainly it is acknowledged freely that the course could not succeed without their commitment and support.

Late in the 1980's it was seen that the C.I.T. course could, with some modification, be offered to people who wanted to be embalmers and who were not already able to obtain employment. In fact it was necessary to make this change to keep the course going, and to allow for the employment of a full time tutor. This would mean that employers would then be able to recruit staff from a selection of candidates who would presumably include some who had paid for their own training, thus taking the onus of responsibility for formal training from the employer and placing it on the shoulders of those who wanted employment.

The Certificate in Embalming course was born and is a full year, full time course of instruction. The course, for "direct entry" students, is based on the existing Award in Embalming and Award in Funeral Directing courses, both of which continue to run in conjunction with the Certificate in Embalming.

The Award in Embalming has been a very successful and worthwhile course for funeral service in this country. It is recognised as being one of the best offered worldwide and graduates from the course have obtained employment in a variety of countries.

72 graduates had passed the course before 1990, and a further 7 Award graduates will be joined for the first time by 8 Certificate graduates, in being invited to membership of the NZEA at our AGM this November. This makes a total of 87 qualified embalmers who have graduated from the Central Institute of Technology.

On reflection, it seems to me that we have nearly come a full circle, to where those involved in the early ground work 20 and more years ago wanted the industry to be. I am sure, that with continued industry support, the future of these courses is secure and indeed, is even bright.



The Funeral Service Training Committee

The Formation of Formal Training in N.Z.

by John Peryer, Secretary F.S.T.C.

The Funeral Service Training Committee was formed on the 30th April 1981 under the Vocational Training Council Act 1968.

Before looking at the current situation of the Committee and the recent moves that have taken place, I feel this is an opportune time to examine and reflect on the formation of formal training in N.Z.

The Vocational Training Council

The Council was established in 1968 and together with subsequent amendments was to carry out a wide range of functions and to make recommendations and conduct research in respect of training of persons for vocations.

Membership was made up of appointments from the Minister of Education and the Minister of Labour.

The Objectives of the V.T.C. were to:

Encourage the implementation of organised training and development schemes to ensure that New Zealand has and will have the people at all levels of employment to perform their tasks efficiently.

Ensure that people as individuals have the opportunity to continue to develop.

Raise the standards of knowledge, skills and effectiveness.

Encourage those directly responsible for achieving the foregoing objectives.

Industry Training Boards

In the 1971 Budget the Government gave its approval of the formation of Industry Training Boards.

The function of the training Boards were the same as the V.T.C. but restricted to a particular industrial or commercial grouping.

In brief it could be said to be to ensure that training needs are identified and satisfied.

The structure was, like the V.T.C., tripartite—representatives of employer, employee and appropriate government groups.

Funding in these early days was a mixture of Government and Industry. In the case of FSTC, NZEA and FDANZ contributed equally with a larger percentage from government.

Introduction

An Industry Training Committee is to all intents and purposes an Industry Training Board except that the Government Grant is half that for a normal Industry Training Board. The current level means that the Government funds available are approximately twice those previously available through the Group Scheme incentive.

In addition the Committee may apply for Training Development Assistance on the same basis as an Industry Training Board.

Background

Funeral Director and Embalmer training developed rapidly during the 1970s in New Zealand.

In 1973 a Funeral Directors course was established at the Central Institute of Technology (CIT).

One of the earliest Group Schemes established (1974) was for embalming. This was later extended to include Funeral Directing.

The Embalming course commenced in 1979 at the CIT.

The CIT Courses are highly regarded as initial training for new staff and as training for existing staff who have previously only had on-job training. I understand that a number of Australians intend taking the Courses this year.

The Group Scheme concentrated on:

- (a) Assisting in the development of the CIT Courses.
- (b) Promoting and organising
 - (i) New Developments training
 - (ii) Training for Specialist areas e.g. Disaster work (This had a major benefit following the Erebus DC10 Crash) and Counselling
 - (iii) Refresher Training
 - (iv) Upgrading training for existing staff.

Structure

The following outlines the structure of the Committee:

- (a) Name
The Funeral Service Training Committee
- (b) Area of Activity
On and off-job training of all personnel involved in Funeral Directing and Embalming.

The occupations involved would be:

- (1) NZSOC 5920 * Undertaker and Embalmer
- (2) Others involved in Funeral Directing Companies particularly clerical staff.

- (c) Membership

The Funeral Service Training Committee shall consist of:

- one member appointed by the Vocational Training Council
- one member appointed by the Department of Education
- two members appointed by the Funeral Directors Association of N.Z. Inc.
- two members appointed by the New Zealand Embalmers Association Inc.

All appointed members shall hold office for a term of three calendar years, shall remain in office until their successor is appointed, and shall be eligible for reappointment.

(d) Finance

The Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand and the New Zealand Embalmers Association have guaranteed to jointly meet the non government financial responsibilities of the Committee on the basis of an annual budget.

(e) Rules

Detailed rules following the normal VTC pattern will be drafted for approval by the Committee at its first meeting.

* New Zealand Standard Occupational Classification Number 5920.

Like most other things in life change takes place and training has been no exception. Towards the latter part of the last Government the Vocational Training Council was disbanded and government involvement on a formal basis was severed from the Funeral Service Training Committee. Government funding after a gradual reduction in the level of contributions received had been removed some time prior to this.

The Committee today is made of two representatives of FDANZ, two representatives of NZEA, the Principal of CIT and the Head of Health Sciences of CIT and a Secretary/Treasurer.

The Committee's requirement of representatives from CIT perhaps highlights better than any other example the status and profile that has evolved over the years. The esteem in which the courses at CIT are held is second to none and the Committee now acts as the review committee for the CIT and is the authoritative group for many of the other training providers in New Zealand and overseas.

With this disbandment came new challenges and like new challenges ways of overcoming these had to be formulated.

In 1989 FSTC approached the members of FDANZ with a proposal for a training levy calculated on the number of Funerals directed in a year. This proposal was discussed at length and passed. This has given the Committee the support and strength to go forward and meet the ever increasing challenges with a vigour that can demonstrate to other agencies the commitment of this profession to formal and professional training.

In conclusion it is worth remembering that the formation of this Committee was due entirely to the vision, input and dedication of a few very far thinking persons who for the benefit of the whole profession progressed Funeral Service education to a formal professional level that exists today.

Presidential Memoirs

**The Years of President Francis H. Day, M.B.I.E.
from 18 November 1981 to 2 November 1983**

Secretary: Barry Head, N.Z.E.A.

Treasurer: Peter Cohen, N.Z.E.A.

Executive:

Neil Hickey, N.Z.E.A.; Peter Beauchamp, N.Z.E.A.



These were years of great advancement of the association. The Embalmers one year earlier had been involved in the Erebus disaster and served the cause with distinction.

This opened many doors and possibilities for our training programme. The sense of pride flowed through to all members of the association and a willingness to give their time to advance our aims and objects—a real team effort.

Some of the highlights:

Publication of the Erebus report by Peter Strong in the Champion Encyclopedia.

One of our members was permitted to practice embalming in the USA after we satisfied the Oklahoma Board of Examiners re our training syllabus.

We continued to play our part on the Joint Committee for registration with the Funeral Directors Association. A number of discussions were held with the Health Department.

The saga of IFTA-FIAT continued and a number of members attended a conference in Australia, at which Peter Strong presented a paper on Erebus.

At the next A.G.M. it was finally decided that IFTA-FIAT did not serve the needs of the NZEA so we withdrew from membership.

The position of librarian was established and Ernie Pailthorpe gathered in material from around the country. Perhaps the greatest move was the establishment of the Funeral Service Training Committee (F.S.T.C.)—this was as a result of our involvement with the Vocational Training Council (V.T.C.)

The Funeral Directors were invited to share with us in forming an Industry Training Committee. The implication has been far-reaching. The training for the industry had outside Government appointments and the Committee was funded in part by V.T.C., part by the industry. Our association had some difficulty in adjusting to the changes. It meant our well-established Training Board, Education Committee and Examination Board had to undergo changes and adjustments.

This was also influenced by the establishment of the Funeral Service Advisory Board at C.I.T. Peter Beauchamp's programme for sponsorship study overseas was finalised and the first recipient, Michael Aro, received his sponsorship in 1983 to attend the Dodge Sunshine Seminar in 1984. The survey on the effects of formaldehyde was carried out and discussions were held with the Customs Department re:

- Import duty on fluids and cosmetics
- The question of pacemakers and who could remove them was taken up with the Health Department.
- What should happen to Medical Alert bracelets.

The draft syllabus for the C.I.T. course was presented to the Members in 1983. We also saw a greater development of Trade displays at our meetings.

A first for the Embalmers was a submission to a Parliamentary Select Committee. The Select Committee of Maori Affairs re the amendment to the Coroner's Act was prepared and presented by Grant Hurrell and Francis Day. This brought attention to the concerns of

the Embalmers when faced with long delays in releasing of bodies and having to perform the embalming under pressure.

The benefits of embalming were stressed and this was followed by a Seminar on a Marae at Lower Hutt. Grant Hurrell continued with the programme on behalf of the Embalmers for some time. Subsequently Embalmers and Funeral Directors were involved in discussion of a new Coroner's Act some years later.

The half-yearly meeting at Dunedin was also a first—the first time we failed to get a full quorum. With the increase in membership it became apparent that a new rule had to be drafted to take care of this problem in order to conduct the business of the association.

This was also the first time that a Disciplinary Committee was called upon to discuss a breach of the Code Of Ethics.

The 1981—1983 team worked hard for the Association and its advancement.

Roll of Honour

Jack Airton ^{MBIE}
 Eric Boland
 Dennis Bourke
 Ivan Fleming
 Lambert Fountain
 Lionel Griggs ^{MBIE}
 H.E. (Bill) Jones
 Noel McNee
 Harry Rollo ^{MBIE}
 Sam Tong



Office Bearers

	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1971-72	Peter A. Strong	David H. Morris	David H. Morris
1972-73	Peter A. Strong	David H. Morris	David H. Morris
1973-74	David H. Morris	Graham T. Shirley	Derek I. Hope
1974-75	David H. Morris	Roger Burgoyne	Derek I. Hope
1975-76	Graham T. Shirley	Roger Burgoyne	Derek I. Hope
1976-77	Graham T. Shirley	Derek I. Hope	Collins A. Opie
1977-78	Lindsay Helson	Derek I. Hope	Collins A. Opie
1978-79	Lindsay Helson	Derek I. Hope	Peter J. Cohen
1979-80	Derek I. Hope	Barrie C. Head	Peter J. Cohen
1980-81	Derek I. Hope	Barrie C. Head	Peter J. Cohen
1981-82	Francis H. Day	Barrie C. Head	Peter J. Cohen
1982-83	Francis H. Day	Barrie C. Head	Murray A. Hird
1983-84	Barrie C. Head	Peter A. Cohen	Murray A. Hird
1984-85	Neil F. Hickey	John F. Peryer	Murray A. Hird
1985-86	Neil F. Hickey	John F. Peryer	Murray A. Hird
1986-87	Eric W. Maffey	Vivienne Gill	Michael C. Wolffram
1987-88	Eric W. Maffey	Graeme Rolston	Michael C. Wolffram
1988-89	Michael C. Wolffram	Graeme Rolston	Simon Manning
1989-90	Michael C. Wolffram	Graeme Rolston	Simon Manning
1990	Peter J. Cohen	Gerard Boyack	Stephen Hilliard

Our Overseas Members

The first overseas member of the NZEA was the late Eric Boland, of Sydney, who was admitted in November, 1979.

Since then, our members in other countries total 11, and are: Robin Belcher, Dallas, Texas; Terry Crooks, Goulburn, NSW; Nigel Greenwood, Brighton, Vic.; Kevin Moor, Sydney, NSW; Justin O'Donnell, Melbourne, Vic.; Robert Ridi, Melbourne, Vic.; Don Sawyer, California; John Tidman, Perth, W.A.; Joanne and Peter Williams, Melbourne, Vic.; and Robert Wilson, Sydney, NSW.

New Zealand Embalmers Association Inc.

1976-77 Membership List

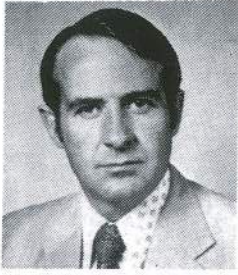
47 Members, 9 Students.

Atkinson, P.; Beauchamp, P.; Bourke, D.; Burgoyne, R.J.; Burns, R.W.; Gilvear, W.; Cotton, N.; Cotton, W.J.; Day, F.H.; Day, P.; Elliott, N.; Fountain, L.R.; Graham, R.B.; Griggs, B.; Griggs, L.G.; Head, B.C.; Healey, A.J.; Helson, L.G.; Hickey, N.F.; Hill, J.K.; Hird, A.; Hope, D.; Irvine, A.K.; Jones, H.E.; Jordan, R.C.; Levens, J.; Little, C.J.; Maffey, E.W.; Montgomery, J.; Morris, D.H.; Opie, C.; O'Reilly, J.P.; O'Reilly, M.P.; Pailthorpe, E.W.; Pattinson, R.F.; Peryer, D.A.; Richardson, M.; Ritchie, J.M.; Rollo, H.; Shirley, G.T.; Stout, S.; Strong, P.; Tong, S.T.; Vosper, H.A.; Warren, V.; Weston, R.M.; Yearbury, P.C. **Students:** Chew, D.R.; Dil, W.T.; Doherty, W.M.; Longley, T.E.; McNee, N.R.; Ridley, T.; Seator, G.W.; Stead, D.W.; Thompson, P.H.

Membership List October 1991

(A)	ALLAN	Rodney	HILL	James	RIDI	Robert
	ALLEN	Judith	HILLIARD	Stephen	RITCHIE	Jim
	ARMSTRONG	Arlen	HIRD	Murray	ROEST	Antonius
	ARO	Michael	HOLLAND	Neil	ROLSTON	Graeme
	ASKEW	Wayne	HOPE	Derek	(S) ROMANOFF	Stephen
	ATKINSON	Percy	HOPE	Michael	ROWLEY	Mark
	BATTERSBY	Mark	HURREL	Grant	RUMBLE	Brian
	BEAUCHAMP	Peter	(L) IRVINE	Allan	SAWYER	Don
	BEER	Ashely	(S) JOSEPHS	Blair	SCHIPPER	John
	BELCHER	Robin	(S) KIELY	Anthony	SEATOR	George
(S)	BENTON	Max	KINVIG	Johanna	SHAW	Alistair
	BOYACK	Gerard	LAIRD	Robert	SHIRLEY	Graham
	BRODIE	Angus	LAKE	Clyde	(S) SHREEVES	Kevin
(A)	BAUMBER	Sheryl	LEVENS	John	SINCLAIR	Robert
	CARLL	Andrew	L'HUILLIER	Paul	SOWMAN	Terrence
	CHEW	Denny	LINDSAY	David	(S) STEWART	Fraser
(S)	CHILDS	Brayden	LITTLE	Cedric	STOUT	Stan
	COHEN	Peter	(S) LITTLE	Neil	STRONG	Peter
	COTTON	Walter	McLEISH	Rory	SWINNEY	Graham
	COTTON	Norman	(S) MacPHERSON	Hamish	THOMSEN	Colin
	CUMMINS	Graeme	MAFFEY	Eric	TIDMAN	John
	CROOKS	Terry	MALCOLM	Andrew	VOSPER	Howard
(L)	DAY	Francis	MANNING	Simon	WALTERS	Graeme
	DAY	Patrick	MEREDITH	Phillip	WARREN	Vern
	DAY	Stephen	MILNE	Robert	WEARNE	Todd
	DEMLER	Rodney	MONTGOMERY	J.H.	WESTON	Campbell
	DEW	David	MOOR	Kevin	WHEELER	Stuart
	DUNCAN	John	MORRISON	Roger	WILLIAMS	Joanne
	FAITHFUL	Brenton	(S) MURPHY	Gavin	WILLIAMS	Peter
	FERGUSON	Alistair	(S) McGREGOR	Susanne	WILSON	R.H.
	FLEMING	Peter	O'DONNELL	Justin	WINTON	Roy
	FRASER	Brent	OULAGHAN	Maureen	WOLFFRAM	Michael
	FRASER	Wilson	OPIE	Collins	WRIGHT	Selwyn
	GILLIONS	Kellie	O'REILLY	John	(S) Student (A) Associate	
	GILL	Vivienne	PAILTHORPE	Ernest	(L) Life	
	GRAHAM	Robert	PARKER	David		
	GREENWOOD	Nigel	(S) PATTERSON	Andrew	Statistics	
	GRIGGS	Barry	PATTINSON	Mark	2 Associate Members	
	HANRAHAN	Bruce	PATTINSON	Robert	2 Life Members	
	HANSEN	Scott	PERYER	Desmond	13 Student Members	
	HARDING	Malcolm	PERYER	John	101 Full Members	
	HEAD	Barrie	(S) PROSSER	Tony		
	HICKEY	Neil	RICHARD	Laurie	118	

NEW ZEALAND EMBALMERS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS



Peter Strong
1971-73



David Morris
1973-75



Graham Shirley
1975-77



Lindsay Helson
1977-79



Derek Hope
1979-81



Francis Day
1981-83



Barrie Head
1983-84



Neil Hickey
1984-86



Eric Maffey
1986-88



Michael Wolffram
1988-90



Peter Cohen
1990-



Alfred Sibun



Lloyd Sibun

List of Qualified Embalmers in New Zealand, 1929-1969

Date	Name	School	Qualification
1929	Eric Scrimshaw	U.K. by correspondence	BIE
1933	Alfred (Sonny) Sibun	Worsham College of Embalming, Chicago	U.S. License
1952	Lloyd (Chub) Sibun	Lear School of Embalming, London	BIE
1953	Harry Rollo	U.K. trained	BIE
1954	NZ Federation of Funeral Directors set up a Special Committee to consider ways and means to organise a School of Embalming in New Zealand.		
1958	Albert Marker	Lear, London	BIE
1959	Albert Marker	San Francisco College of Mortuary Science	R.A. Course
1962	Cedric Little	San Francisco College	Dip. Mortuary Science
1962	Alan Irvine	San Francisco College	Dip. Mortuary Science
1962	Graham Shirley	Harold Wigley School, Melbourne	BIE
1962	Lionel Griggs	Lear, London	BIE
1964	Graeme Little	San Francisco College	Dip. Mortuary Science
1964	Collins Opie	Harold Wigley, Melbourne	BIE
1964	Francis Day	Harold Wigley, Melbourne	BIE
1968	Eric Maffey	Lear, London	BIE
1968	Peter Strong	San Francisco College	Dip. Mortuary Science
1968	Wayne King	NZ College of Funeral Science	BIE
1969	David Morris	San Francisco College	Dip. Mortuary Science
1969	Roger Burgoyne	NZ College	BIE
1969	Terry Sowman	Allison, Melbourne	BIE
1969	Stuart Wheeler	NZ College	BIE



Eric Scrimshaw



Harry Rollo

Nelson Meetings

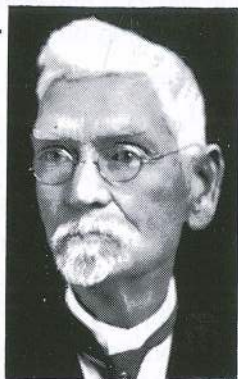
Nelson has hosted some interesting meetings during the first 20-year history of the New Zealand Embalmers Association.

The first half-yearly meeting was held in Nelson in 1973—the subject of the seminar was Cosmetology, by Alan Irvine, which started a keen interest in the subject.

May 1981—the highlight was a picnic lunch at the Centre of New Zealand—the hill-climb tested the fitness level of all members, and so started a new trend in the social programme with a difference.

In May 1989 members were unable to leave for home because of bad weather, this introduced many of them to Nelson's special hospitality at Vanguard Street. A sporting programme was a feature of this meeting also.

A highlight of the visits to Nelson has been the contribution to the Seminars by Pathologist, Dr Stephen Clark, who's presentations have always been well received and appreciated.



*Embalmers In The Early Days
Cornelius Little, Auckland*

*Awarded the Certificate in Embalming of the University
Medical College of Sydney in 1896.*

*Established as C. Little, Victoria Street, Auckland, 1875.
Died in Auckland, 1940, aged 88 years.*

Two Pioneer Embalmers

Submitted by Cedric Little, Founder Member NZEA
Dip.Mort Sc.(Calif) MBIE

When one begins to think back over the past 20 years of the New Zealand Embalmers' Association, it seems only right to cast our thoughts back to those pioneers of embalming in New Zealand. In these days of highly organised training courses at the C.I.T. and eager students graduating and keen to show their skills, how many of us know that students of embalming were travelling overseas to seek instruction and qualification before the turn of the century. Although New Zealand would lead the Southern Hemisphere in training and instruction as we approach the end of this century, New Zealanders were travelling to Australia at the end of the last century to further their skills.

One of these was the founder of John Rhind Ltd, one W. Langford, who, in 1888, graduated from the University Medical College of Sydney, followed by Cornelius Little of Auckland, founder of C. Little & Sons Ltd who, in 1896 was awarded his certificate in embalming from the same institution.



When we consider the difficulties of the time and the standards of the day, one can only admire the enthusiasm of those people to improve the service they wished to provide for their clients.

The following is a transcript of a letter written by Mr Langford to Mr Little 95 years ago.

“W. LANGFORD NORTH EAST BELT
FURNISHING UNDERTAKER
TELEPHONE 387 Christchurch, September 10, 1896

Dear Little, Your letter dated 6th I am pleased to say has been read and re read and it is very interesting also the Practical Embalmers Circular. I am more than pleased to hear how well you have got on in the matter especially the **fat individual** who must of given you trouble. Don't forget the vein is always blue and the artery white and round and elastic. I do not want you to think I am disponding of ever getting the matter introduced here not so I am getting on better every day. Our leading doctors say it will be a good thing and promise me lots of support when I get a case. Remember you have an advantage over me in having the hospital contract which gives you more cases. At present I have a very stout lady in my store room from the hospital to be taken to the house in the hearse tomorrow and straight on to the cemetery. I have just come up out of the shop having found the part we are most interested in when embalming. I have injected with syringe about a pint of fluid. We must not waste the material on jobs there is no pay attached to. It is now nearly 12pm. Mrs L and family have just returned having been out attending a fancy dress ball. I am alone. Tell the girls our daughter is away at this fancy dress ball and the young man. I am tired but we have 3 funerals today and 2 tomorrow. I am very busy lots to do and not much sleep owing to working up this matter we are most interested in. Don't forget the price of certificate when you remit. I have received a nice letter from my teacher all about our cases and he is surprised. He says in future don't trust the arteries after Post Mortems but use the syringe freely and don't guarantee the body will keep long as the post mortem destroys lots of the small arteries and would cause the fluid to rush out the nose and mouth. I have read lots of books and papers on embalming. I have been warned by two doctors not to let go the mixture and not to teach it to many as it is a question of time and the people will go in for it rich

Circular To All Qualified Embalmers In New Zealand

May 1971

and poor. My teacher says we need not be afraid of the syringe work not keeping the body for at least a week. He also says if we put 20 Metholated and 100 water it will be strong enough. You can use your own judgment yourself.

I will keep you posted up in any matters of interest as it comes along. Tomorrow is Polling Day. I am up for a Councillor not a chance for me. Too busy. Good night. More next time. Best respects to all. Goodbye, Yours, W. Langford."

When we consider the equipment they had to use and the embalming fluids available, made from experimental recipes, how many of us would be prepared to work under the same conditions? An example of fluid manufacture follows:

"Embalming Fluid

Arsenicus Acid	13oz
Glycerine	30oz
Carbolic (Calverts No.5)	8oz
Pure Metholated Spirits	60oz
Water	60oz

Take the two first items and boil slowly in an enamel saucepan until perfectly dissolved. Then add boiling water then last of all carbolic and spirits.

NB. The liquid to be cooled before adding spirits. SHAKE WELL."

And for anyone interested:

"Embrocation for Horses

- 1/2 pint metholated spirits
- 1/2 pint turpentine
- 1/2 pint white wine vinegar
- 2 eggs

NB. To make white wine vinegar:

- 1 part acetic acid
- 2 parts water

Beat up eggs, put in bottle and add the vinegar. Well shake then add spirits. Well shake then the turpentine.

NB. If required strong add 1oz liquid ammonia first. Not to be applied to open sores."

Today we have the most up to date equipment available, fluids for every situation that may arise, technical knowledge never dreamt of 100 years ago and education standards and courses at hand for anyone who may wish to take advantage of them.

Twenty years ago a small group of qualified embalmers got together and formed the New Zealand Embalmers' Association. They were a mixture of individuals, some of whom had studied in the USA, UK, Australia and completed a small course here in New Zealand.

Don't let us ever forget the pioneers of our industry. Men of forethought who wanted to improve their standard of service. Men we trust will always be remembered.

Dear Eric,

It has been suggested, proposed, thought about, discarded and thought about some more, to form an association of Embalmers in New Zealand. Most of us are already members of the British Institute, but what we need is a local group from which benefit can be gained by all. To have an association between those with a common interest would be a definite advantage not only to those involved but to the art, science, and practice in embalming in New Zealand. We will be able to share and gain knowledge from each other thus improving the general standard at the same time enjoying the fellowship of a united group.

THIS CIRCULAR IS THE BEGINNING OF A POSITIVE STEP IN THIS DIRECTION.

As Embalmers, many of us work alone and so easily fall into a rut and would relish the opportunity of meeting and sharing our work with others during the year.

It is proposed to initiate this step on the 2nd October 1971, when we will all meet to decide just how this association will function. What better place than the Queen City, Auckland, and Cedric and Graeme Little have offered us their hospitality. So you can see that the idea is really happening and will in time become not only an accomplished fact but a functional and beneficial association.

We would appreciate a reply indicating your support of this programme and also if you would like your mailing address changed. We will contact you again in August with more specific details about our inaugural meeting.

Alan K. Irvine

Peter A. Strong

In the mean time, all correspondence to:
Embalmers Association,
P.O. Box 7123,
WELLINGTON.

SEPTEMBER 1972 THE NEW ZEALAND FUNERAL DIRECTOR

To holders of the New Zealand Certificate of Temporary Preservation and Presentation

"Membership: This Association wishing to recognise the embalmers in N.Z. who have not attended overseas courses of study but have gained the only available certificate, that is the F.D.A.N.Z. certificate of temporary preservation and presentation and have been practising the proficiency, have agreed that those who wish to join our Association by other than N.Z.E.A. Certificate or equivalent and who can furnish proof of currently operating as embalmers in the five years prior to the date of the meeting and who hold the F.D.A.N.Z. Cert. may be admitted to membership provided that application is received in the next 12 months." (Motion, dated April 22nd, 1972.)

If you hold a F.D.A.N.Z. certificate and have been practising your knowledge by using it continuously over the last five years and wish to join the New Zealand Embalmers Association would you please fill in the following application and forward it to the New Zealand Embalmers Association Secretary, Mr. David H. Morris, P.O. Box 4030, Wellington 1, enclosing your entrance fee of \$5.00.

A letter confirming your period of five continuous years should accompany your application if it is possible to obtain one either from your employer or a person with the necessary knowledge.

NEW ZEALAND EMBALMERS' ASSOCIATION

Date _____ Phone _____

I, _____

hereby make application for membership of the N.Z.E.A. and submit evidence of the following qualifications as an embalmer _____

Signed _____

Please find enclosed entrance fee. (For Office Use Only)

Application approved at meeting held _____

Signed _____ (Secretary)

INAUGURATION OF THE EMBALMERS ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.

The meeting to form an Association of Embalmers will be held in Wellington (not Auckland as first intimated) and all current members of the B.I.E. are invited to attend. In response to our circular of May 1971 we have received enthusiastic support from: Lionel Griggs, Albert Marker, Eric Maffey, Jack Airton, David Morris, Harry Rollo, Roger Burgoyne and Cedric Little.

THE VENUE: White Heron Motor Lodge,
Wellington.

THE DATE: Saturday 2nd October, 1971

THE PROGRAMME:

Lunch at the White Heron 12 noon
Business meeting at the White Heron 2pm
Dinner at the White Heron 6pm
Demonstration at The Wilson Funeral Home
8pm

THE AGENDA:

1. Formation and Name
2. Election of Chairman and Secretary
3. Nomination of Executive
4. Draft Objects and Aims
5. Draft Rules
6. Newsletter
7. Venue, date and form of meetings
8. Affiliation with F.D.A.N.Z.
9. Affiliation with B.I.E.

THE COST:

To assist those from out of town it is proposed that a registration fee of \$8.00 be paid. We can then offer free accommodation (for those who live away from Wellington) at the White Heron for Saturday night. Meals will be extra.

Think about the topics that are on the agenda, write down your thoughts, discuss them, write down some more, and bring them all with you. This first meeting of us all will set the tone of the future of all Embalmers in New Zealand.

Please complete the attached registration form and return with your \$8.00 as soon as possible to us in Wellington.

October 2nd: The Feast Day of St. Leger, 7th century Bishop and Martyr; the birthdate (1452) of Richard II of England, Mahatma Gandhi (1869), Groucho Marx (1890), and American Express credit cards (1958). Closer to home, The Alcoholic Liquor Sale Control Act was passed in 1893, and Porirua achieved city status in 1965.

On Saturday, October 2nd, 1971, at 2pm., ten New Zealanders who were members of The British Institute of Embalmers, sat at a table in the White Heron Lodge, Kilbirnie, Wellington, and, as the Minutes of the day show, "...after a short discussion, formed an Association

under the name of 'The New Zealand Embalmers Association'."

These "founding fathers" were:

Roger Burgoyne (Wellington)
Francis Day (Nelson)
Lionel Griggs (Palmerston North)
Alan Irvine (Wellington)
Cedric Little (Auckland)
Eric Maffey (Christchurch)
Albert Marker (Christchurch)
David Morris (Wellington)
Graham Shirley (Nelson)
Peter Strong (Wellington)

Not present at the meeting, but accorded the status of "Founding Member" were: Jack Airton, Harry Rollo, and Stan Stout (all of Auckland).

The election of the first officers of the Association resulted in Peter Strong becoming the first Chairman. (The title was later changed to 'President'), on the proposal of Eric Maffey and Lionel Griggs; and David Morris taking the office of Secretary-Treasurer on the proposal of Lionel Griggs and Francis Day.

Of those founding members, sadly, Jack Airton, Lionel Griggs, and Harry Rollo have since died, and Roger Burgoyne, Alan Irvine, and David Morris have left the profession.

The aims and objects of the Association were (a) to unite all embalmers in New Zealand with the aim of advancing the art, science, education, and promotion of embalming in New Zealand; and (b) to promote the best interest of embalmers in general, and of members in particular, to promote high ethical standards and to foster harmony and understanding within the membership.

Draft rules of Association were discussed at length and a final draft was approved. The annual subscription was set at \$5, and an entrance fee of \$3 was set for each application for membership. A resume of the formation of NZEA was forwarded for publication in **The New Zealand Funeral Director**, the FDANZ journal. A Code of Ethics was put in process.

It was agreed that two meetings a year would be held, a "Half-Yearly" and an Annual General Meeting. The "Half-Yearly" meeting would be alternated around different centres, and the AGM would be permanently held in Wellington.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, a most enjoyable dinner was attended by all members and wives, and the group later visited the premises of Robert H. Wilson and Sons, where a demonstration of new products was given by David Morris, with the assistance of Peter Strong and Roger Burgoyne.

The second meeting of the Association was held in the Grafton Oaks Motor Lodge, Auckland, on Saturday, April 22, 1972. Eight of the original members attended, and it was agreed to open the membership to holders of the FDANZ Certificate of Temporary Preservation who could furnish proof of practising as embalmers for at least five years.

David Morris proposed that an Association newsletter be started, and at the closure of the meeting, Stan Stout demonstrated high-pressure injection techniques.

The third meeting was held at the White Heron Lodge, Kilbirnie, Wellington, on Saturday, October 28, 1972. Chairman Peter Strong emphasised the need to plan for the future and to pursue formal recognition with the medical profession, in particular with Pathologists.

A draft Code of Ethics and a "Certificate of Embalment for Transportation" were proposed.

A letter had been received from FDANZ asking NZEA to provide a course standard for them.

Embalmers Want Code of Ethics

Sunday Herald 23.4.72

New Zealand embalmers are to present a code of ethics to the Government in an attempt to have uniform standards accepted throughout the country.

At the moment anyone, qualified or not, can embalm a body, says Mr Alan Irvine, press officer for the Embalmers' Association, which is meeting in Auckland this weekend.

"We hope that our standards will be accepted and that actions for embalmers will be taken up by the Government," he said.

Go Overseas

The eight representatives of the conference this weekend were airing the views of embalmers from Auckland to Christchurch—all of whom have qualified outside New Zealand.

"This is the ridiculous part of it all," said Mr Irvine. "We have been forced to qualify overseas because there are no set standards yet in this country. But we hope to remedy that with our new code of ethics."

The association was formed in October last year as a move to protect qualified embalmers.

Embalmers

1972

Mr Peter Strong (Lower Hutt) has been elected chairman of the year-old New Zealand Embalmers' Association. The association's membership is now 15 and the embalmers hope it will be doubled in the next year. They say that as there are more than 24,000 deaths each year there is an obvious need for a greater number of trained technicians.'

★ ★ ★

Thirteen new membership applications were accepted.

The half-yearly meeting in Nelson in May, 1973 saw 17 further members admitted, and moves were made to have the Association incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act. Membership applications were formalised, as were the setting up of schools of tuition, and an Examinations Board.

The 1973 AGM saw the acceptance of the application of "The Embalming School of New Zealand" approved. This school was opened in the Wilson Funeral Home in Wellington by Alan Irvine and Roger Burgoyne.

The half-yearly meeting at New Plymouth in May, 1974 saw a resolution that Harry Rollo be made the first Life Member of the Association, and a certificate to that effect be presented at the Annual Meeting in October.

Keith Tongue addressed the meeting as a representative of FDANZ. The proposal he brought was that FDANZ, NZEA and a "Guild" for funeral industry employees be combined into one organisation, a suggested name for which was "NZ Federation of Funeral Service, Inc.". Each Association would control its own affairs and set its own standard for membership. An "Executive" would unite the three groups.

A great deal of discussion was forthcoming on this proposal, and members present expressed the desire that much caution be taken. It was decided to recommend that each Association remain independent, and this decision was ratified at the Annual Meeting in October.

At that AGM a membership certificate was approved, together with an Association seal.

"Circulation": Good News for Embalmers



David Morris had proposed in April, 1972, that a newsletter be started, but it was not until 1974 that "Super Troc" burst into life as the monthly publication. It was known by this somewhat tongue in cheek title for only one or two issues

before reverting to the more formal "NZEA Newsletter" in April, 1975.

Francis Day and Alan Irvine were responsible for editorial and publishing until 1978 when Eric Maffey was appointed Editor.

In the June 1979 issue, a competition was announced to name the newsletter. The prize was advertised as \$2 cash, and names were to be "short, snappy, and embalming oriented". The "judging panel of experts" also contended that, "no, we do not consider 'Super Troc' to be in the running". Alan Irvine was the lucky winner of the competition. His entry, "Circulation," was judged the winner on two counts: (a) it was the best, and (b) it was the only entry received.

And so "Circulation" it became. The masthead for each issue announced it was "a newsletter of ideas and activities". These it most certainly did promote, and continues so to do today.

As always, with any newsletter, articles from members were in short supply, and members have had to be cajoled, bullied, and threatened over the years to turn their hands to their typewriters!

The size of the newsletter changed from Foolscap in June, 1981 to a more convenient A4 folded, to give a four page format, and the back page cartoon first appeared in the July issue.

By December, 1981, the masthead included the motto, "Good News for Embalmers". This was dreamed up the previous month in a Singapore bar-room "think tank" by the Editor, assisted by Francis Day and Peter Beauchamp. For ten years, this motto has graced every issue.

"Circulation" again changed format in 1986 when it was printed A4 size, but not folded in half. Simon Manning, of Wellington, took over as Editor from Eric Maffey when Eric was elected NZEA President in November, 1987, and publishing costs were sponsored by advertisers from this time.

In June, 1988, after producing some nine excellent issues, Simon retired as Editor, and Brenton Faithfull, of Auckland, was appointed to the position.

Another format change occurred in 1990 when the A4 format became A5 and contained 16 pages.

"Circulation", the 100th issue of which was published in December, 1990, continues to be an important communication tool for members, and keeps us informed of new products, new ideas, and the happenings of the membership at large.

New Zealand Embalmers Association Inc.

Newsletter, November 1975

Dear Members,

Well, a busy month has been had by all, and a lot has happened since our last newsletter.

As always October—November are months of exams, and the students from the School of Embalming have recently sat the examinations set by the board, which, providing they pass, will allow them entry into our Association.

There were four students this year and the date for the theory examination was Thursday 23rd October.

The theory paper was set in two parts, each lasting three hours. The morning paper covered Anatomy, Pathology and Microbiology. It was the afternoon paper which I believe was a real beaut. It completely drained the grey matter from the poor boys craniums. The subjects covered in the examination were: Restorative Art, Chemistry, Angiology, Embalming and its history.

The practical examination was sat a week later. It was spread over two days and it concluded the boys' ten week course at the school.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held at the White Heron Lodge on Wednesday 12th November. The executive meet on Monday 10th November and on Tuesday a one day seminar was held at the New Zealand School of Embalming. The seminar was extremely interesting and I am sure everyone who attended gained some useful knowledge.

An extremely thought provoking paper was presented by Peter Strong, setting out some very interesting facts about the word "embalming" and its terminology. Peter's paper took us until 12 noon and we were then spoken to by Vern Warren about Munsell's theory of colour. His paper covered the subject of colour in depth. We heard a very interesting story about El Cid and his rival King Buka.

Apparently, as the story goes, El Cid lead his devoted followers into battle, sitting upright and fully embalmed on his gallant steed. Vern carried on to explain to us the important roll that colour plays in our funeral home. He concluded his paper with a practical demonstration in the art of cosmetising.

For the remaining two hours of the seminar, Alan Irvine presented us with the philosophies of arterial fluids. Alan covered an extremely wide field, presenting us with vital basic facts in each.

The seminar was followed by dinner at the White Heron Lodge. A total of 36 attended, comprising of members and their wives. This was a very good turn out and a good time was had by all.

The minutes from the A.G.M. will be distributed to you as usual.

"STOP PRESS"

I have just heard officially that the student embalmers have just passed their grades. Congratulations 'ex-students'.

The following is an item presented by one of the graduates—Neil Hickey.

The Embalming School of New Zealand —The Need For—

As a graduating student of the 1975 Embalming School, I was most upset to read of the remit submitted by the F.D.A.N.Z. at their Annual General Meeting to bring back the T & P Course after spending 6 months full and part-time of the subjects covered by the Embalming School of New Zealand. I was pleased with the standard of the course and tuition by both Mr Alan Irvine and Mr Roger Burgoyne.

At first it was a struggle, but after retaining the basics, it was just a matter of storing and recalling the information given. It is a pity that such individual tuition will not be used in the way it has been over the past two years and I am sure all students who have completed this course will agree. Unfortunately these

men do not have the time, but I am sure they will continue in their own way. With the right facilities at hand and their knowledge I was thrilled to have been able to complete the course.

Once again, I would like to thank Alan and Roger for their efforts and patience.

If the F.D.A.N.Z. think's the Embalmers can't supply education, my notes are available any time.



The Logo

Malcolm Harding, of Hawera, designed the "fluid drop" logo which was incorporated on all Association publications, stationery, cuff links, and badges from June, 1980.

The design is composed of the pyramid, symbolising the ancient Egyptian arts; the stylised table signifies the dignified and proper care of the deceased; the human figure depicts man's achievements surpassing the ancient arts and reaching for the heavens; the open textbook in the hand shows the quest for learning. The stars are arranged in the Southern Cross to symbolise New Zealand, and the whole concept is surrounded by a fluid drop to signify modern arterial embalming.

The Air New Zealand Crash on Mt. Erebus

In 1977 Air New Zealand promoted the first of an annual group of non-stop scenic flights to circuit the Ross Sea area. The flights were described in the brochures as "Antarctic cruises", and they were made popular by the notable scientists and explorers who joined them as commentators.

At about 1.46pm on Wednesday, November 28, 1979, Air New Zealand DC-10 Flight 901, the fourteenth of such flights, and the last for the 1979 season, crashed into the ice covered slopes of the 3,794 metre high Mt. Erebus on Ross Island, some 3,700 kilmoetres due south of New Zealand.

The plane struck at a height of about 500 metres some 50 kilometres on the opposite side of Mt. Erebus from Scott Base, killing all 237 passengers and 20 crew on impact. This crash was numerically the fourth most serious in aviation history at the time.

From the very first telephone call between the then President of the New Zealand Embalmers Association, Derek Hope, and the eventual Disaster Team Co-

ordinator, Peter Strong, it was evident that our Association could be of benefit to the authorities in the ensuing operation and it was decided that we would officially offer the expertise of our members to the authorities concerned.

The very nature of their training and daily function prepares embalmers for the handling, disinfection, preservation and presentation of dead human beings, the latter often involving the restoration of mutilated features in accident victims.

It was indicated that Air New Zealand would repatriate all the dead in the most professional manner possible, and as the company was most concerned that the relatives were accorded the best possible service, our Association was contracted to fully embalm all those victims who were being transported from Auckland to their home towns.

Because of weather and other conditions at the crash site, it was not until over a week later, on December 6, that the first airlift of bodies was made to the new Auckland mortuary complex.

Autopsies were performed by forensic pathologists, and each victim was examined by a medical team, a dental team and a Police team. The work of the embalming team in those first days was limited to facial restorations for visual identification until the time that the Coroner released all bodies for full embalming.

New Zealand law does not permit preservation of the body before formal identification, autopsy, and subsequent release from the Coroner, who has total control over the body until this point. The mortuary refrigerators could not be reduced in temperature enough to protect those working constantly in the mortuary receiving area, and together with a time delay of up to three weeks in the whole procedure, the result was the partial decomposition of many of the victims. The products of this decomposition caused discomfort, especially to those young policemen and women required to work in that area.

For the purposes of this report Disaster Embalming is defined as: 1. Returning the victim's body as near as possible to its original form and appearance; 2. Preserving the tissues of the body to maintain that form and appearance; and 3. Disinfecting the body to render it bacterially harmless.

The majority of the victims were grossly mutilated; all ankles were fractured, and there were usually compound fractures of the tibia, fibula and femur bones. Surrounding tissue of the extremities was severely torn and after straightening the skeletal structure, the tissue was returned to its original position and sutured in place.

The thoracic and abdominal regions were severely lacerated and required extensive suturing. In several cases, arms and legs which were attached by only a small fragment of tissue were completely sutured back in place. This practice assisted in the subsequent preservation process by making the location of arteries easier, as well as the moral responsibility of the embalmer to return the victim's body to relatives in the most presentable form.

Eighty per cent of all the victims were unable to be visually identified and became so only through dental and pathological examination. Miraculously about two per cent suffered virtually no facial damage other than surface burning, and were therefore easily identified. The remaining eighteen per cent were prepared for visual identification by means of returning the cranium to its normal shape by wiring fractured bones together, intradermally suturing all the facial lacerations, cleaning the surface tissue, washing and drying the hair, and medically dressing the parts which were missing.

This created an acceptable appearance for those relatives required to identify the body. It was found that relatives anticipated a much worse appearance than that with which they were confronted, and often expressed their relief. Embalming preservation was achieved by the injection of a dilution of an aldehyde-based solution equivalent to a 5% formalin index. This injection was made arterially and where the arteries were missing, hypodermic saturation of the tissue achieved the same result. Exposed tissue and body cavities were dusted with a paraformaldehyde powder. The viscera was sectioned, washed and soaked in strong preservative solution and then replaced in the thoracic and abdominal cavities with the application of a preservative compound.

The preservative treatment together with the careful disinfection of all orifices and surface tissues resulted in the embalmed bodies being bacteriostatic and negating the health hazard two hundred and fifty seven disaster victims create. Every member of the embalming team performed his task in the expected professional manner and although working very long hours, overcame fatigue and supported each other emotionally therefore successfully coping with the stress created by the physical condition and sheer number of victims.

It should be noted here that the core of the team worked at the Auckland Mortuary for 17 consecutive days with approximately half this time involving 12 to 14 hour days and making a total of 1100 man hours worked. For their expertise in preparing bodies for visual identification, the embalming team earned the gratitude of both Police and Air New Zealand personnel, and when full scale embalming treatments were being performed, it was not uncommon to have Police and medical personnel stop by the operating room and show extreme interest in what was happening.

A total of 160 victims were fully embalmed, a further 43 victims were prepared for visual identification without embalming injection, and the remainder were partial bodies, or indeed, parts of bodies, which were treated separately. Over 200 professionals were directly involved as front line personnel in "Operation Overdue".

The recovery team of 53 worked on the ice at Mt. Erebus, and the Auckland mortuary complex was staffed by 120 police, nine forensic dentists, seven pathologists, four mortuary technicians, four representatives of the Funeral Directors Association and 10 embalmers. The Auckland Coroner, Mr Alan Copeland, confirmed the identities of 19 of the 20 crew and 194 of the 237 passengers. He said, "Completion

of the mammoth recovery and identification task had been a masterpiece of organisation and co-operation," and he publicly commended the work of all involved. On Tuesday, February 12, 1980 Air New Zealand held an interdenominational burial service at Auckland's Waikumete Cemetery for the 44 victims whose bodies were not identified. At the debriefings held in Auckland at the conclusion of "Operation Overdue", the New Zealand Embalmers Association made a number of recommendations to the relevant authorities, one of which was, that, due to the delays in release for embalming, and the resultant deterioration problems, the bodies of disaster victims be prepared for visual identification and fully embalmed immediately after autopsy examination procedures are completed.

The New Zealand Embalmers Association team proved the value of professional embalming in a disaster recovery situation. This has been endorsed by the inclusion of our embalming procedure in the official New Zealand Police Disaster Manual. Our Association has a specialised team of experienced embalmers available to assist with the processing and repatriation of victims from any future disaster either within or outside of New Zealand.



Celebrating
20
Years



Embalming Awards

The Noel McNee Memorial Award

This annual award, presented to the student who obtains the highest mark in the Practical Examination, is given in memory of Noel R. McNee, who died in September, 1982.

Noel served his apprenticeship in the furniture manufacturing trade, and then worked as a cabinetmaker on his own account for some 26 years, during which time he made caskets as part of his business.

He commenced full time employment with Lychgate Funeral Services Ltd. in Wellington, in 1972, gaining his TP Certificate in 1973.

Noel attended many study courses in embalming in the ensuing years, and in November, 1980, was admitted to NZEA membership following his successful completion of the Five Year Plan course. Noel said at the presentation that NZEA membership was the highlight of his working career.

Being the oldest recipient of membership—no mean achievement—moving entirely from one type of skill to another so late in his life caused Noel to be held in very high esteem by his colleagues in funeral service.

The trophy was made by Cudby & Meade Ltd. of Lower Hutt from a piece of mahogany donated by MacDonald & Weston Ltd. of Invercargill. The design was by Peter Cohen.

The first awardee was Laurie Rickard of Christchurch, who was presented with the trophy by Noel's wife, Joyce, in November, 1982.

Awardees:

1981 / 82: Laurie Rickard
 1983 / 84: Graeme Rolston
 1985 / 86: Johanna Kinvig
 1987 / 88: Rod Demler (the first student to take this award together with Watson Victor Award)
 1988 / 89: Michael Hope (the second double winner)
 1990: Kirsty MacKenzie



Michael Aro receives top student award from President Francis Day and Watson Victor rep Bernie Richmond, the prize was the Watson Victor award. November 1982.

The Watson Victor Award

Watson Victor Ltd., embalming trade suppliers have since 1982 sponsored an award for NZEA, for presentation to students attending the CIT course.

The award is in two parts, the first, awarded at the end of Module 1 to the student who has shown the most progress and willingness to learn in all aspects of training, is two textbooks, while the second part of the award is a cash prize going to the top student from the course. The second award is made at the Annual General Meetings of the Association, following presentation of their certificates to the newly qualified embalmers.

The first award was made to Robert Laird, of Gore. Robert received his award from Bernie Richmond representing the company. Peter Strong, Chairman of the Funeral Service Training Committee was present to say a few words of encouragement to the other students, while NZEA was represented by President Francis Day.

A report in the September, 1982 issue of the FDANZ Journal stated that Robert had been greatly encouraged in his training by a NZEA past President, Derek Hope, of Dunedin. It was hoped that this award would provide new enthusiasm and incentive for future students, further raising standards.

NZEA remains truly grateful to Watson Victor Ltd., and is most encouraged to see such awards being made by trade suppliers, who have been such good supporters of training programmes over the years.

Awardees:

1981 / 82: Robert Laird and Michael Aro
 1983: Brenton Faithfull and John Peryer
 1984: Campbell Weston
 1985 / 86: Ashley Beer
 1987 / 88: Bruce Hanrahan and Rod Demler
 1988 / 89: Nigel Greenwood and Michael Hope
 1990: Stephen Romanoff and Neil Little

The Regal Manufacturers Award for Top Overall Direct Entry Student for 1990 went to Kirsty MacKenzie.



Presidential Memories

Derek Hope

My earliest memories are of being extended an invitation to join NZEA in 1972, with qualification of the FDANZ TP Course gained in 1966, at Sibuns, under Harry Rollo, his last student.

This stemmed from an inaugural meeting held by Alan Irvine & Co. in 1971 to boost membership. Joining NZEA was one of the best decisions I have made. The first meeting I recall attending was in Nelson in 1973 (I think), where Albert Marker, who resigned his membership; something I've always regretted, because he was most helpful to me after my TP course in giving advice and encouragement.

1973 was the year The Embalming School of NZ held a Restorative Art Course. Myself, Francis Day, Collins Opie, Ernie Pailthorpe, Lionel Griggs attended this. What a tremendous week, learning and playing and lasting friendships made.

Since then I doubt I have missed any AGM's held in Wellington and many half-year meetings held all over the Country, coupled with many excellent seminars which have fostered learning within the embalming field. Served as Treasurer, Secretary and finally elected President for 1980-81, a term I thoroughly enjoyed; in fact the Hopes had control—Peter was also the FDANZ President!

Many events come to mind over the years. Will we ever forget that tragic day when the Air New Zealand 747 crashed on the slopes of Mt Erebus, Antarctic, which involved that tremendous team of embalmers from NZEA, so ably led by Peter Strong, who took part in 'Operation Overdue', assisting the NZ Police with visual I.D. before embalming and embalming all the remains. This was a most important development for embalming in NZ, gaining recognition and much praise from all Authorities concerned with the disaster.

One Seminar of note that comes to mind, was the May 1980 Auckland Seminar 'Operation Overdue': a real eye-opener and most worthwhile exercise.

The Education was the other important scene, great strides being made; 1980 being the completion of the first eleven students to complete the CIT Course and gaining full membership of NZEA—the first Government sponsored course in the Western World in embalming.

The same year also saw the completion of the Five year Plan Student scheme with six students gaining full-membership, a very gratifying result with seventeen new members admitted.

The other concern, of course, was Registration of the funeral industry and a joint committee was formed with FDANZ and NZEA to meet and deal with the Director General of Health. This was a complex problem and I feel we did all that was required of us as a committee, of which I was a member, and Dr Collins, the then Director-General, did give us some hope, but it was not to be. I think we honoured all our requests for standards etc, but were let down.

1981 I led seven members with our wives to the IFTA—FIAT Conference in Sydney, to see how this organisation worked. We had a marvellous time socially; business wise the outcome was that we resigned our membership upon our return to N.Z., after seeing no benefit in being members.

I have enjoyed my 19 years association with NZEA, meeting many people, learning much from Seminars and meetings, making many friendships, some still in the industry, others moving to other employment. I find attending meetings these days that there are not quite so many familiar faces. We have had a lot of 'characters' within the Association, who in their way contributed much to NZEA. Alan Irvine, Peter Strong, David Morris, Roger Burgoyne, Lionel Griggs, Barrie Head, Eric Maffey, Francis Day, to name just a few. All have made and some still making great contributions to the Association.

I feel that the Association is in very good heart at this moment. Twenty years on with 100 members and I think we can stand proud of the achievements in education and professional standards we have strived for. It certainly has not always been plain sailing; we have had a few waves on the way.

Neil Hickey, President, 1984-86

Having been a member of NZEA since 1975, I have been privileged to serve as conference and seminar convenor, executive member and president for two terms. I have watched the steady growth of NZEA and made many friends and been able to share in knowledge and learn new skills, and have had total support from members while in office.

I must pay tribute to my employers and fellow employees over the years who supported me while in office, for it is these people who make the extra effort to 'carry' a person whilst engaged in association business and still continues today in present employment.

The highlight during my term as president was the visits by overseas experts Don Sawyer and Bob Inman who were both very willing to share their experience and knowledge of embalming. They quickly adapted to the Kiwi style and shared many of their past experiences with tact and humour. It was pleasing to note that they both credited New Zealand embalmers with having high

standards and good skills, which reflects in the education programme begun by association members back in 1974.

The association membership over the years has equipped itself to cope with major incidents and I believe rates very highly in the worldwide scene. Public awareness is improved with members promoting embalming in their local communities and are willing to share their vocation speaking to groups.

I have enjoyed attending meetings and seminars over the past sixteen years meeting new members and participating in workshops and education programmes. I look forward to the many years to come attending meetings, participating and joining in fellowship with members and wish future presidents and executive members every success for the future of NZEA.

Mike Wolfram, President 1988-90

My term as president of NZEA is recalled as one of the highlights of my career in the Funeral Industry. A member of NZEA since completing the embalming course at CIT in 1981, I left the industry for a short time in the early eighties and really only became involved in the administrative side of the Association upon resuming practice in 1985. Service with the Executive came firstly as Treasurer and at the end of President Eric Maffey's term I had the difficult task of following in his footsteps.

NZEA represents for me the grouping of professionals who seek to improve on standards adopted by the industry, through education and by the practice of their skills in a technically advanced manner.

During my term as President I was fortunate to be involved with an Executive which was made up of hardworking and dedicated members who were always keen to improve the knowledge and understanding of the principles and practice of embalming.

Two matters stand out as major achievements of the Association during this period.

Early in our term as executive we approached the Department of Health with a view to having some say in the formation of the "Health Burial Regulations", then under review. Thus began a process of meetings and exchange of ideas which eventually led to the publication by the Health Department of the booklet "Procedures for Embalmers Preparing Infectious Dead Human Bodies".

This joint effort between our Association and the Health Department was a landmark in our history in that it provided hard evidence of N.Z.E.A. being accepted as the authoritative voice on Embalming in N.Z. It is interesting to note, incidentally, as I write this nearly three years later, the Health Burial Regulations changes are yet to be passed.

The Executive took special interest in the planning and preparation for the first A.I.D.S. seminar which was to be presented by F.S.T.C. in Auckland. This very successful and necessary seminar, and those that followed, was timely to say the least.

At a time when some Funeral personnel were subject to scrutiny by newspapers and being questioned by interest groups about their seeming tentative reaction to the handling of A.I.D.S. related diseases, N.Z.E.A. led the way in the education of its members and the Funeral industry as a whole in showing that these cases may be handled with the dignity and respect shown in all other aspects of our work. For me there were to be a number of moments during the planning and preparation of the first of these seminars which proved to be emotionally poignant and were valuable lessons in the heroism of human beings in adversity.

I have always felt myself to be the receiver in my relationship with N.Z.E.A. I value highly the education and professionalism this organisation has afforded me and I value greatly the friendships I have been able to make through my association with the Embalming fraternity (and sorority).

Congratulations N.Z.E.A. on your 20 years of growth, may you continue to grow and to be the fulfillment of the foresight of your founders.



Pictured at the Annual Dinner are: (l. to r.) Barrie Head (Immediate Past-President of NZEA), Don Sawyer, David Stewart (Sirom Distributors), and Neil Hickey (NZEA President).

The 13th AGM in 1984 featured the presence of Don Sawyer, of the Dodge Chemical Company, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A. Don was in New Zealand along with his wife, Melba, and son, Mark, to present the Dodge Seminar in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

The total number of people attending the three seminars was 114. Thirty registered for Christchurch, 44 for Auckland, and 40 attended in Wellington.

The Wellington Seminar took place in Wellington Hospital's Pathology Teaching Room where Don demonstrated his practical abilities on a number of cases.

It was worth noting that permission was sought from families to make their deceased available for demonstration. This permission was readily granted by the families concerned, who in fact expressed their appreciation that special care and attention by a leading embalmer was being accorded to their loved ones.

Don returned to New Zealand in 1989 with Seminars again in the main centres.



Jock Atkinson, long-time funeral director and NZEA member retired in November, 1987.

At his retirement function in Te Awamutu, Jock was presented with a scroll by President Eric on behalf of N.Z.E.A. "...as a token of the esteem in which he is held by members of the New Zealand Embalmers Association and to mark the occasion of his retirement after 45 years of selfless and unstinting commitment to the practice of his profession."

The following article was printed in the local Te Awamutu newspaper:

'Treat People As Family' Maxim Of Retiring Funeral Director

Treat a grieving family as your own was the successful maxim retiring funeral director Jock Atkinson worked by.

The popular 70-year-old yesterday officially retired after 45 years in the embalming and funeral business, the last 34 years spent in Te Awamutu with Clarke's Funeral Services.

Mr Atkinson learnt his trade as an assistant embalmer for 11 years with the Wellington firm of E. Morris Junior before working for a brief period for Scrimshaws of Hamilton.

A chance discussion with some workmates where he overheard a position was available in Te Awamutu saw him take up residence and work in this town.

Although he will always be a 'Wellingtonian' at heart, Mr Atkinson is particularly fond of the Waikato and Te Awamutu in particular.

He and his wife Maisie raised a daughter, now Margaret Lewis, in Te Awamutu and there would be few families in the area who have not come into contact with Mr Atkinson one way or another.

At times the funeral business can be depressing according to Mr Atkinson. He attributes his long service to an ability to 'switch off' when he finishes for the day.

"I have never been one to take the worries of my work home with me," Mr Atkinson said.

Detach

Mr Atkinson said that while he can detach himself from his work out of hours, his job philosophy of treating each funeral as though it were one of his family sees him involved in other people's worry.

A genuine liking for people has seen him readily accepted into other families at times of stress.

"The secret is to put yourself in the mood of the people. Some can be particularly sad and grieving while others may be putting on a brave face and are a little more light hearted. You have to match their feelings."

Over the years Mr Atkinson has dealt with hundreds of grieving families and has made some interesting observations on how people handle death. He said the Maori people probably handled it best.

"They are often so keen to see the body and take it away with them I hardly have time to finish the embalming work."

Amusing

He remembers one amusing incident at the chapel where a large Maori family were waiting, a little impatiently, to take the body of a relative away to their home marae.

"There was a buzzer worked by a light beam and with such a large crowd milling round the unit was working constantly, just about driving me crazy in the embalming room."

"I went out and gave them the message that if they didn't stop coming in and out I would never get the job done. All went quiet and I did not hear the buzzer until I had finished the work and as they left with their deceased relative, one came back in to rewire up the buzzer they had disconnected!"

His work as an embalmer has seen him go to many different places, facing an endless change in situations which have death as their only common denominator. Mr Atkinson was one of a team of embalmers who were called to the Tangiwai rail disaster on Christmas eve 1953.

Dug Up

He and the other embalmers prepared 139 bodies for burial in a massed grave only to have to dig them up again after the service to allow for further identification.

"I remember when we went to lift some of the caskets their bottoms fell out as the glue used in construction was affected by the water in the ground."

During his many years in the job Mr Atkinson has embalmed a number of notable New Zealanders, the most famous being Peter Fraser, the Labour MP who headed the country during the Second World War years. Mr Atkinson is full of praise and respect for the New Zealand police with whom he has had close dealings over the years, mainly in stressful situations.

"They have a great team in Te Awamutu, probably the best I have worked with."

Aquariums

Outside of his work as a funeral director, Mr Atkinson and Maisie are best known for their involvement with the Aquarium Society and as supporters in the past of Te Awamutu United rugby teams.

For many years Mr Atkinson took along the club's adopted mascot Scottie, a West Highland white terrier, who was always immaculately turned out in the United's green and white colours.

"Scottie has been to just about every football ground in the Waikato," Mr Atkinson said.

At 14 years of age Scottie met his unfortunate demise in a swimming pool after breaking free of his securing chain.

In his younger years Mr Atkinson played a great deal of sport and while no longer an active participant, he is a keen follower of many codes.

Loyal Support

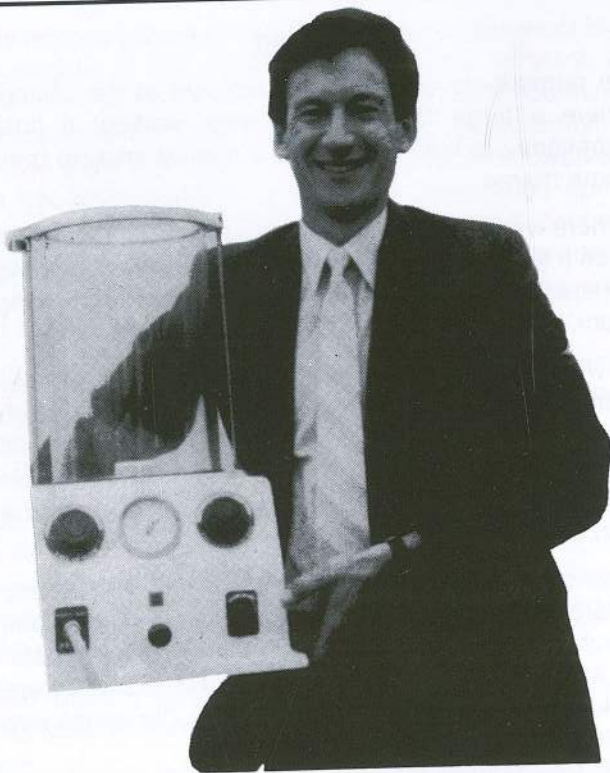
Speaking of his wife Maisie, Mr Atkinson said he would not have been in the job so long had it not been for her loyal support.

"Maisie hates funerals, but she has been a great strength to me at home, answering the phone and lending support."

Mr Atkinson also has special praise for his employers, Mike Doherty and Kevin Lalor, commenting they were a 'great pair' to work for.

"They are always having me on and pulling my leg," he quipped.

Although yesterday Mr Atkinson officially hung up his penguin suit, he will now have more time to devote to his fish, his family and doing what he enjoys a great deal, meeting and talking with people.



Have Porti-Boy, Will Travel

It was 6.30a.m. one Saturday in 1987 when Mark Rowley of Dil's Funeral Services, received a phone call that a person had been killed on Niue Island and the family wanted the deceased brought back to Auckland.

A hurried call to the airport confirmed that a seat would be available if Mark was at the airport in time for the plane to leave at 8.30a.m. So it was a scramble while a suitcase was filled with enough clothes to last a couple of days and a mad dash to the workplace, where an embalming machine was hurriedly packed into a cardboard box and then off to the Auckland International Airport with only a very few minutes to spare.

As Mark fastened his seatbelt on the plane he mentally checked over the instruments he would need to embalm in a faraway island perhaps under primitive conditions.

Arriving at the island, after a three and a half hour flight, Mark explained to the captain, the purpose of the trip, but as the plane could only stay on the island for an hour, it was necessary to transport the deceased to Rarotonga for the embalming procedure.

The tropical heat in Niue and the delay in putting the deceased in a cooler made the embalming very necessary by the time Rarotonga was reached.

Mark was appreciative of all the help the officials on the islands gave and also the employees of the hospital in Rarotonga.

There was very little time for relaxing in the tropical paradise, as arrangements had to be made for the return journey to New Zealand.

When Mark arrived back at Auckland the Customs officers had raised eyebrows at the embalming machine and the fact that he could not produce any export or import papers for the machine, however they did accept the explanation and he was allowed through Customs.

Mark came back from the islands without having his passport stamped at either Niue or Rarotonga and so he will never be able to prove that he ever went to a Pacific Island Paradise. In fact it was all over too soon to leave any lasting impressions.



Fully Qualified Lady Embalmer

Sponsored to the recently completed course at the Embalming School of New Zealand by her employers, Gee and Hickton Ltd., Lower Hutt, Sheyrol has succeeded in passing the theoretical and practical examinations instituted by the New Zealand Embalmers' Association. By her successful efforts she thus became New Zealand's first fully qualified lady embalmer.

Sheyrol is convinced of the total value of embalming, and finds tremendous satisfaction in being able to present to a bereaved family their deceased loved one in the best possible way.

To Sheyrol, who already does hospital removals on her own, this is the first major step in her ambition to become a qualified funeral director. Believing as she does that there is a place for women in the New Zealand funeral scene, she would encourage any younger women to enter this field.

Sheyrol's interest in embalming was initially one of simple curiosity, until a friend working for a funeral firm encouraged her to take a greater interest in it. However, on her first approach to a principal of a funeral firm seeking information as to a possible career in this field she was firmly discouraged from further participation. Nevertheless, with the helpful interest of her present employer she has won her first battle, and believes that all the study and hard work was well worth while. She deserves her place in New Zealand's embalming history.

Since this article was written in 1978, 6 further women have been admitted to N.Z.E.A. membership; namely, Judith Allen, Vivienne Gill, Kelly Gillions, Johannah Kinvig, Maureen Oulaghan, and Joanne Williams and Sue McGregor is a student member.



A Woman's View

by Judith G. Allen, Regd.FD., MNZEA, MAIE

On July 3, 1978, I started my career in funeral service.

It has been an interesting 13 years: training at the CIT, becoming qualified, attending various meetings and seminars, enjoying the company of other members, and, dare I say it, putting up with no small amount of male chauvinism!

Within three weeks of joining the firm—at the lowest rung of the ladder—I was left on my own to run the business. This was probably my best learning experience as I had to swim or sink, and personally, I feel that I swam very well!

Later that year it was suggested that I undertook the CIT training. I started on the embalming course and overlapped it with the funeral directing course. This, at my age, was rather difficult, and I also had a young daughter and an ill father to look after.

My first day at the CIT was a rather harrowing experience, but one of the Wellington firms arranged a "get together" for all of the students, and this broke the ice. I was the only female on the course, and by far the oldest student.

I have to say that the support I received was wonderful. In fact, everyone on the embalming course supported each other, and we all made lasting friendships.

I feel that these courses are very important; the embalming course taught us, amongst many other things, to be careful, and to understand the problems that may occur in the preparation area. It has been said to me, by "practical" embalmers, on occasions, that "I can embalm just as well as you can, and I haven't any qualifications." I have no doubt that a number of them can operate much better than I; however, they do not necessarily understand diseases and their consequences, or anatomy and physiology, or microbiology, or fluids.

The embalming tutors at the CIT were all qualified practitioners who gave up their time to form and run the courses, and who had to arrange for locums to run their various businesses. This is another thing I appreciated.

All the people who became members of N.Z.E.A. were enthusiastic, and their enthusiasm for the art and science was infectious. I sometimes feel that perhaps some of that enthusiasm is now flagging.

The embalming and funeral directing courses at the CIT are, in my opinion, on a par with those established in North America, and I only wish that all funeral service firms in our country would recognise this and send staff to Wellington for some of the best training in the world. Learning from these courses, and learning from each other as students, and attending the on-going seminars, are great ways to extend our knowledge and keep up to date with all that is happening in our profession.

I was very proud when I received my Certificate in Funeral Service. In 1986, I was appointed Manager of my company, and have worked very hard to help make it the success that it is.

I have thoroughly enjoyed thirteen years in funeral service, and I have gained immense satisfaction from helping families and hopefully educating the public through the many talks and seminars with which I am involved.

I find this particular area of public relations heartening, as it is only in recent years that embalmers and funeral directors have started talking openly about their roles, and by so doing, have helped to allay many of the misconceptions and fears that are so prevalent in the public mind.

N.Z.E.A., I salute you. I hope that a further injection of enthusiasm will bolster our Association, and that it will achieve much more in the next 20 years.



The first course on restorative art, left to right: Lionel Griggs, Collins Opie, Derek Hope, Ernie Pailthorpe, Francis Day, Roger Burgoyne.



*Annual General Meeting, Wellington, November 1976.
Front row, left to right: Peter Beauchamp, Eric Maffey, Neil Hickey, Derek Hope. Second row, left to right: Peter Yearbury, Robin Burns, Vern Warren. Third row, left to right: Lindsay Helson, Ernie Pailthorpe, Peter Strong, Barrie Head, Robert Pattinson. Back row, left to right: Collins Opie, Francis Day, John Levens, Roger Burgoyne, Noel McNee, Alex Hird.*



Albert Marker, Founder Member



Half-Yearly meeting, Nelson, May, 1981.



Jenny and Peter Cohen, Half-Yearly meeting, Nelson, May, 1981.



1983-84 C.I.T. Embalming Course.



Is Francis Day lighting the cremation pyre? and what is Grant Hurrell pouring out in the background? Something was afoot at the Half-Yearly meeting, Nelson, May 1981.



Executive 1984-86. Back row, left to right: Laurie Rickard and Michael Aro. Front row, left to right: Murray Hird (Treasurer), Neil Hickey (President), John Peryer (Secretary).



Executive 1981-83. Back row, left to right: Neil Hickey, Peter Beauchamp. Front row, left to right: Barrie Head (Secretary), Francis Day (President), Peter Cohen (Treasurer).



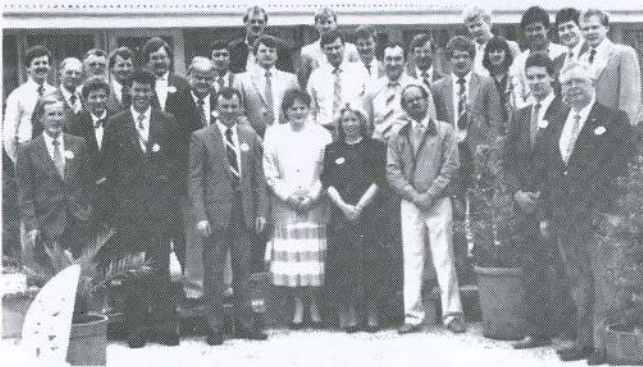
1985-86 Embalming Course. Students photographed with Mike Marfell-Jones (sitting front left), Head of Health Sciences, C.I.T. and Francis Day (standing, front right).



Retiring President Neil Hickey presented his successor Eric Maffey with a gavel, for use in maintaining the expected decorum at future NZEA meetings!



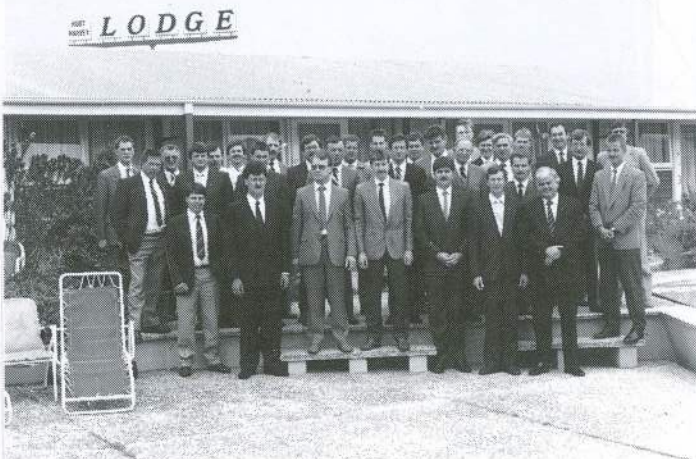
Peter Beauchamp pays tribute, on behalf of the membership, to the efforts of Neil Hickey in advancing the Association during his two years as NZEA President and three years as an Executive Member.



Members who attended the 1986 Annual Meeting of NZEA gathered at the poolside of Shaw Savill Lodge in Wellington. Pictured from left to right are (Rear) Peter Cohen, Ernie Pailthorpe, Barrie Head, Ashley Beer, John Peryer, Eric Maffey, Murray Hird, Peter Beauchamp, Graeme Cummins, Simon Manning, Derek Hope, Brent Fraser, Francis Day, Bernie Richmond, David Parker, Peter Williams, Joanne Piper, Stuart Wheeler, Michael Aro, and Wayne Askew. Front: Brian Rumble, Kelly Gillions, Campbell Weston, Neil Hickey, Johanna Kinvig, Vivienne Gill, Peter Graham, Mark Pattinson, and Bob Inman.



In November, 1986, FSTC / NZEA in conjunction with Watson Victor Ltd. and the Champion Company, brought Robert Inman from the U.S. to run embalming clinics in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. He presented membership certificates at the 1986 AGM, and here is shown with Ashley Beer, Mike Marfell-Jones, and President Eric Maffey.



NZEA AGM, Wellington, Nov. 1988.



Executive, 1986-88. Back row, left to right: Graeme Rolston, Mike Wolfram (Treasurer), Laurie Rickard. Front row: Vivienne Gill (Secretary), Eric Maffey (President).



Francis Day receiving his Life Membership Certificate from Past President Eric Maffey at the Annual General Meeting, Wellington, November, 1989.



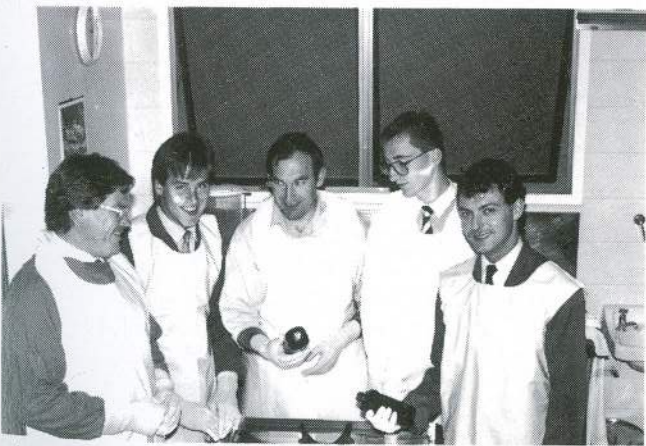
Sawyer Seminar attendees, Dunedin, Nov. 1989.



1987-88 Embalming Course.



Sawyer Seminar attendees, Christchurch, Nov. 1989.



Australian students with Francis Day 1987-88 Embalming Course.



Sawyer Seminar attendees, Wellington, Nov. 1989.

Autographs