

40 YEARS  
1971 – 2011

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Editor Kelly Judkins      Assistant Editors      Andy Ellis      Neil Hickey      Mike Wollfram

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## Editorial Foreword: Kelly Judkins

It is an absolute pleasure to be part of the team bringing this magazine to you. It is a collaborative effort made by not only the writers of each individual story, and the 'behind the scenes' people editing, spell checking, and generally placing photos and checking the order, but also the effort of every member of the NZEA. Be proud to be a member. Know that your membership stands for something. Forty years of high standards being protected, ethics and ideals being not only helping you to be a professional who belongs to a quality professional association but also being a member who is challenged and rewarded with

ongoing education and knowledge of what is newly available in our field.

We are, at the time of issue, almost at the close of our fortieth year. In this magazine you will find stories from our founders, right through to web site technicians and the occasional errant president!

Enjoy your read, and congratulations to the New Zealand Embalmer's Association on forty years of respected association membership.



**Past Presidents gather at the President's Reception.**

*L to R back row: Francis Day, Lindsay Helson, Eric Maffey, Neil Hickey, Brenton Faithfull, Mike Wolfram, Derek Hope, David Parker, Johanna Kinvig, Mark Pattinson.*

*Front row: Andy Ellis, Peter Strong, Michael Hope, John Schipper, Andrew Malcolm, Wade Downey.*

## Foreword: Alan Irvine

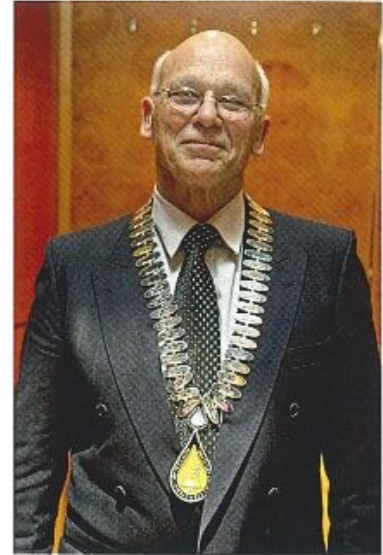
The acceptance of New Zealand embalming practices as witnessed today through the media and in general parlance bear testament to the success of NZEA and are a tribute to the foundations and to the building of this dedicated group within the funeral industry.

The association can be justly proud of the vision and tenacity with which the standards and practice of embalming have been pursued and implemented and I am privileged to be associated with these outcomes.

The history of embalming in NZ can be traced back to A.G.(Sorny) Sibun who graduated from Worsham College in Chicago 1933. This was embalming to achieve temporary preservation and

Sibuns were very generous in fostering this practise in NZ. In the 1950 & 60's embalming had progressed in the USA and Canada and that was why Cedric Little and I found ourselves in San Francisco in 1962. It may come as a surprise to our current members just what a struggle it was to get the NZ industry to embrace modern embalming.

As you celebrate your anniversary you can take great pride in your achievements over these last forty years and in the regard in which you are held, both here in New Zealand and overseas.



*Alan Irvine.  
Founding member, Life Member.*

## Foreword: Francis Day

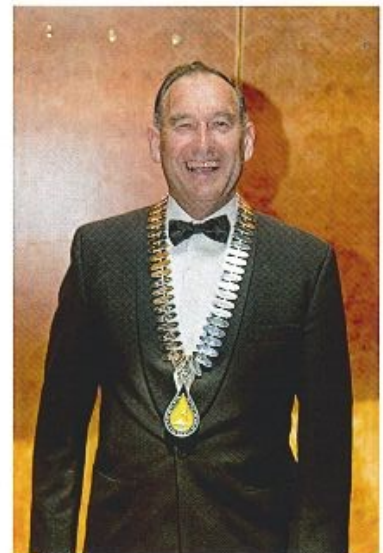
'We Have Come of Age' through forty years of following, with determination the aims and objectives of a group of embalmers who established the New Zealand Embalmers Association on 2nd October 1971.

Those objectives were to raise the standard of training and skills of embalmers throughout New Zealand in order that the funeral profession could offer in the treatment of human remains a high standard of sanitation, preservation and a natural approach to better enable the funeral profession of New Zealand a greater opportunity to assist families in the grieving process and in the funeral management.

To assist in making the work place safer and improving the environment in which we work and to provide an association where embalmers could share their knowledge with each other and enjoy the fellowship.

A solid foundation has been formed over the last forty years with the continuing education programme, meeting around the country and improvement in skills.

With this solid foundation we can advance into the future with pride.



*Francis Day  
Founding Member, Life member,  
Past President.*

## A Word From The President - Andy Ellis

Greetings to all of you.

As President during the fortieth Celebrations it has been an amazing experience to be a part of what forty years means to the New Zealand Embalmers Association (Inc.) Being able to meet and talk with so many of you and to put names to faces has been a humbling experience.

From just a mere thought to an idea whose time had truly come, NZEA has grown from early beginnings to the present day as an association for the individual and a leader worldwide for its beliefs and culture of how we New Zealanders handle human remains and return them back to their families assisting them in their grieving process.

Many members of yesteryear have preserved the learnings of the past, it's now up to our incoming members to present the future and carry on the science and art of embalming in New Zealand.

As our Industry Training Organisation (ITO) for funeral service in New Zealand The Funeral Service Training Trust (FSTT) continues to be an extremely valuable

asset to our industry with its ongoing work in developing, organizing, and delivering high quality seminars and workshops throughout New Zealand.

The National Diploma in Embalming as delivered out of the Weltec Building in the Wellington CBD is recognised across New Zealand and overseas as an excellent qualification in funeral service.

Health and Safety continues to play an important part in our daily work places. Over recent years the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA [now EPA.

Environmental Protection Authority]) has set rules for the safe use of hazardous substances resulting in industry personnel obtaining an ERMA Approved Chemical Handlers Certificate for the safe use, storage and handling of embalming chemicals in our mortuaries.

The Disaster Response Team (DRT) was engaged to assist the Christchurch Funeral Directors with the aftermath of the February 22nd 2011 6.3 magnitude earthquake. Many people in our industry volunteered to help out on the team which was an amazing response. For some, this was their second disaster

response deployment in thirty years. I was fortunate to be a part of this experience and work alongside many dedicated professionals; this is something that will remain with me for a long time.

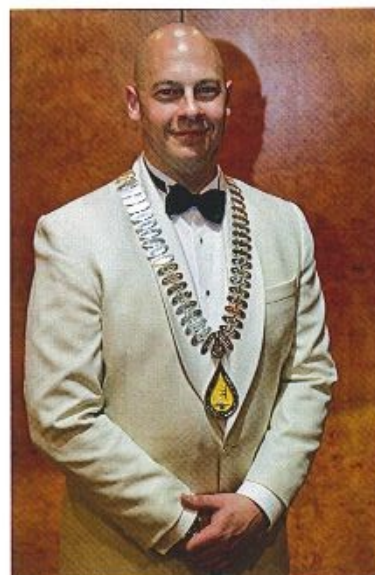
We are nearing 200 members of our Association and I'm sure the membership will continue to grow in a healthy manner as the years go by; meaning the legacy and foresight of our founding fathers will live on for a long time to come.

What will the future hold... the New Zealand Embalmers Association (Inc.) is very focused on its members getting involved. There are many current members actively involved as representatives from NZEA to various other organisations within New Zealand.

You only get out of something what you put in...

Andy Ellis Dip. Emb, Dip. FD, MNZEA,  
Reg. FD (FDANZ)

President 2009 - 2012



Andy Ellis  
President 2011-12

## Founding Chairman: Peter Strong

**FORTY YEARS ON** (adapted from the famous song of Harrow School, written in 1872)

*Forty years on, when afar and asunder,*

*Parted are those who are singing today,*

*When we look back and forgetfully wonder*

*What we were like in our work and our play:*

*Brotherhood strong and teachers devoted,*

*Assembly, Chapel, the House where we grew, .....*

"Forty years on, when afar and asunder" rings the opening words of my college school song.

These words are particularly appropriate for the New Zealand Embalmers Association which was formed by a small group of like-minded enthusiasts who at the time were not catered for in terms of fellowship or training.

As it turned out "brotherhood strong and teachers devoted" were words which became particularly significant to the early days of NZEA and, as many of the current members will testify, is still significant today.

These were the main two aims we all felt were important in forming an Association; that we could stand alongside each other as equals in qualification and in the task we performed daily.

This was displayed admirably with the NZEA response in 'Operation Overdue' and on a regular basis at each meeting of the Association.

Training was an important issue at this time too and although acknowledging the importance of the 'TP' certificate, most agreed that there were limitations which needed to be addressed.

The development of private embalming schools must be commended for the advancement of embalming which guided many through to being accepted as NZEA members and many of those through to BIE membership.

The 'Five Year Plan' also took many with the TP certificate through to full membership of the Association. The time and effort of the Examiners was an important independent standard-setting role which is still functional today.

The early days of developing the industry training programme and lengthy negotiations with Government organisations took an enormous amount of work but all Foundation Members are hugely proud when we now witness the graduation ceremony of each new intake of student members.

History too will record that the formation of NZEA alongside the development of the Industry Training Programme was particularly significant in allowing 'outsiders' to become part of our industry and be recognized as being qualified to be there.

No longer was the workforce limited to family members inheriting a job. The whole industry has grown over the last forty years and all NZEA members can stand tall as being a part of this growth.

There are those from the established FDANZ membership which must be acknowledged as being so supportive that without them NZEA would not have happened back in 1971. Today the same is true and although each NZEA member has individually proved themselves

as qualified we must remember and acknowledge those firms who continue to support the training programmes and supporting members' attendances at the regular NZEA functions.

The final verse of the old school song probably applies to many who were there at the start:

*Forty years on, growing older and older,*

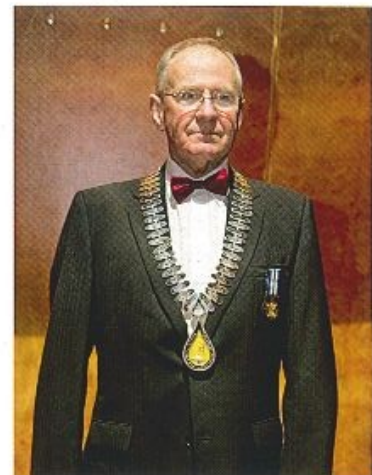
*Shorter in wind, as in memory long,*

*Feeble of foot, and rheumatic of shoulder,*

*What will it help you that once you were strong?*

After the next forty years..... will we be as strong as we were forty years ago, as we are now, will we be still learning more than we know now, will we be as supportive to each other, will we have responded to a community need, will we be growing, will we .....

Each generation does have a responsibility to the next generation.



*Peter Strong  
Founding Member, Life Member, Past Chairman*

## FDANZ President: Tony Garing

President Andrew Ellis, Executive, and members past and present, it gives me great pleasure as FDANZ President to offer, on behalf of all members and affiliates, greetings and congratulations to NZEA on achieving this milestone of forty years service.

New Zealand has a long and proud history of funeral service to communities the length and breadth of the country.

From those very early days when funerals were furnished as part of other aligned businesses, to the present high quality specialist funeral homes, we have seen continual improvement in service and standards.

Our profession took a huge leap forward with the establishment of NZEA forty years ago.

The dedication and passion that NZEA members bring to their specialized role has been instrumental in placing New Zealand among the highest echelon of funeral providers in the world.

The quality of embalming education and the ongoing learning opportunities are testament to those industry pioneers who had the collective foresight to recognize embalming as one of the cornerstones of

professional funeral service.

As the landscape of our profession evolves we see more and more young, and not so young people choosing funeral service as a career choice, with greater prospects for advancement.

Many funeral homes around the country have invested heavily over the past few years in re-modelling and re-building their facilities.

Consequently, mortuaries have evolved into highly sophisticated and high-tech workplaces. Part of the FDANZ inspection regime focuses on the mortuary and it is always gratifying to see the thought and care that has been put into these core areas.

It is equally impressive to see and hear the pride that embalmers have, not only in their profession but in their work environments as well.

I believe that we, as an industry, are facing more challenges than at any time in the past.

All over the world, and indeed here in New Zealand, we are seeing more and more dialogue and debate about traditional funeral service, as we know it.

One of our collective strengths is the fundamental belief in what we do, and the way we do it. It is our responsibility to maintain the dignity and integrity of the funeral, while at the same time embracing the changing needs and wants of our society.

Those who are strongly opinioned but uneducated about funerals will never quite understand the role that professional embalmers and funeral directors have to play.

As a group we can offer solutions to the need for "Green" funerals and other alternatives that people are presenting us with.

NZEA is an organization blessed with highly experienced and knowledgeable senior members, dedicated and committed leadership and a clear vision for the future.

To those of you who have been there since the beginning I offer the heartiest congratulations and admiration, but to all the membership, I wish you well for these celebrations and beyond as you carry NZEA into what promises to be an exciting and diverse future.



*FDANZ President Tony Garing*

## From the Convenor: Neil Hickey

It was with great pleasure and honour that I was trusted with the task of organizing the fortieth Jubilee conference AGM & seminar.

Having organized a number of AGMs over the years including the twentieth, twenty first, twenty fifth and thirtieth I knew the task ahead of our organising committee would be challenging.

This was to be no ordinary Jubilee, as time has marched on and age has caught up we wanted to ensure that we reached and encouraged as many founding members, past executive members, Presidents, Honorary and Life members, past and present members, friends and associates of NZEA to celebrate this wonderful milestone in the history of embalming in funeral service in New Zealand and to encourage them to attend the festivities in the 'Coolest Little Capital in the World', Wellington City New Zealand.

This Jubilee had been talked about planned and budgeted for from our thirtieth AGM Celebrations in November 2001 which were highlighted with the Induction of our first woman President, Johanna Kinvig.

Our Jubilee committee comprising the Executive of the day along with Kelly Judkins, Johanna Kinvig, Simon Lyford, David Parker, Jenaya Pascoe and Mike Wolfram soon swung into action, with tasks allocated no stone was to be left unturned, there was the Jubilee Logo to design, past and present members to be contacted, venues to be sorted, functions

to be themed, memorabilia, sponsors, special awards plaques and certificates honouring achievements for members who had given their time tirelessly over the past forty years to steer the NZEA to where it is today, historic photos, the list goes on.

It was decided after a subcommittee meeting in Wellington in April 2011 that we would reprint the Silver Jubilee twenty fifth Publication whilst we had the old artwork. It wasn't in a modern format and Jenaya Pascoe quickly stepped up to the task and retyped every word into electronic format, arranged, edited and printed this historic publication.

Being domiciled in Christchurch you can imagine this was no mean feat in a year (2011) of turmoil for Cantabrians.

Venues were visited and selected and pencils were sharpened to get the best deals around town.

It was auspicious that the opening function, the President's dinner and presentations were hosted at Strawberry Fare, the former funeral home of E Morris Jnr where one of our founding members David Morris had plied his trade for the family firm; unfortunately he wasn't able to join us in the celebrations.

The three days of celebrations rolled by with record numbers attending all functions. As Convenor I was delighted with the attendance and it was great to see so many familiar faces from the past; for our younger members and new graduates it was an opportunity to put

faces to familiar names from the historic past.

I must sincerely thank all of those involved in making this fortieth Jubilee such a wonderful occasion and sincerely thank all of our sponsors who gave their time, gifts and sponsorship.

Thanks to all the funeral companies who encouraged and supported their staff to attend, this was greatly appreciated. Sincere thanks to the past and present members for their attendance in making this a truly memorable occasion.

On a personal note I would like to thank my wife Jane for the quiet background support over the past thirty five years.

Also to my company for their wonderful support and assistance in helping bring the fortieth Jubilee to fruition. Finally to my Jubilee committee thank you one and all for a job well done. Bring on the fiftieth I look forward to a seat in the back row!!!

Neil Hickey Past President, Life Member, Retired Convenor.



Neil Hickey  
Life member, Past President



## Five Presidents from one Class: David Parker

There was "Something special in the Air" on the Embalming course of 1985/86.

Past Presidents - Mark Pattinson (1992-1993) John Schipper (1993-1995) Johanna Kinvig (2001-2003) David Parker (2003-2006) Andrew Malcolm (2006-2007)

The presentation by the then NZEA President, Neil Hickey highlighting what the association had to offer to our embalming careers, certainly had an impact on the fourteen students on the course.

The tight five (no not an Enid Blyton novel) had a passion about the association, the principles and the objectives of NZEA.

We all spent time in different roles as secretary, treasurer and executive members before we took on the challenge of "President" but in our real lives we were Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

My personal involvement was eight years from 1998 to 2006 and two years previously alongside President Mike Wolfram, a total of ten years.

I spent eight years on the executive and that is unique, because I had great people to work with, like Bronnie (Bronwyn Macey), a nuclear power plant in Kelly Judkins and Johanna Kinvig.

To be an effective president of NZEA under the current criteria, you must be surrounded by a great executive with a range of different ideas. A mix of gender was helpful too. I was fortunate to have good stable leadership by previous NZEA executives and presidents. This allowed me to put a huge effort into Occupational Registration for Embalming and an Industry Code of Practice, which

at that time NZEA membership felt strongly about.

I also had to preside over the day to day management of the association.

Writing an NZEA submission and presenting it to the Select Committee and reviewing the Health Practitioner's Competency Assurance Bill was difficult.

NZEA wanted embalmers to be included in the same category as nurses, physio's etc, which would mean a qualification was needed to practice.

This was largely based on the Coroners recommendation for some sort of "Industry Registration" in the year 2000 following allegations that a body "came alive" on an embalmers table in Lower Hutt.

I learnt that the power of a Coroner's recommendation sometimes can be like a Mellow Puff!!

Not to be beaten, NZEA also sent a submission to the Select Committee reviewing the Human Tissue Act and after much debate the end result was self regulation with media highlighting incompetent embalmers.

Embalming is regulated in some ways now through the Approved Handlers Certificate and tracking of embalming chemicals from suppliers to funeral homes.

The IT era happened very quickly in my three year term as President. Encouraging all members to use email took at least twelve months. Circulation Magazine went electronic then stopped. We combined "Circulation" with the new Funeralcare Magazine. The NZEA website was developed as our new communication tool to link us to the world.

Future Presidents of this association I believe, should spend time as either Secretary or Treasurer before being nominated.

The idea of an overall Chief Executive Officer of both FDANZ and NZEA with the presidents of both Associations working alongside them, should always remain in our minds as a possibility for the future.

In conclusion it was great to be a small part of the forty year history of NZEA and I feel privileged to have been the first President to have served three terms in office.

I have enjoyed working and meeting with like-minded people and it was also fantastic to see FDANZ Executive and members sharing in the celebration of this wonderful milestone for NZEA.

David Parker

Past President NZEA 2003 to 2006

National Diploma in Funeral Services



Past President David Parker  
First 3 yr term President

## First Woman President: Johanna Kinvig

It was a great privilege being elected the first woman President of the New Zealand Embalmers Association (Inc.).

In 1983 when I began my career, there were very few women involved in the funeral profession. Of those qualified the names that spring to mind are Sheyrol Todd (the first woman to obtain a qualification from the NZ School of Embalming – six week course) and then Judith Allen (the first woman to obtain a certificate in both Embalming and Funeral Directing through C.I.T.).

By the time I attended C.I.T., Joanne Williams (nee Piper) and I were only the fourth and fifth women to qualify through C.I.T., Kellie Gillions and Vivienne Gill having preceded us.

Back then we were a rarity, and comments like “that’s a woman driving” were alive and well. “Are you really going to drive the hearse?” “Can you manage to lift?” There were and maybe still are some prejudices about women in this profession.

There was the idea that women got married and had children, so why would you put all that cost into valuable time and training? There was also the public

perception that the traditional role of a Funeral Director, Doctor and Minister should be male. How times have changed!

There are now many women in the funeral profession. Men and women bring different aspects to the profession and each strive to achieve a common goal; to look after and care for the dead and to care for the living.

There have been many other changes in the funeral profession since I began. The advancement of embalming fluids, supplementary treatments, refinement of instruments, providing the deceased’s own clothing, viewing, a more personal approach, are just some of the changes that have been made.

There is an openness to talk about death, dying, funerals, embalming and general curiosity as to what happens that leads to a discussion.

My two year term as President was eventful to say the least. The highlight was when the Executive and I faced the select committee in Dunedin to try and gain registration for all embalmers. An interesting experience: however the outcome was not to be in our favour.

It was said that because of our high standards, code of ethics and our ability to self regulate within the Association, that there was no need for registration at that present time.

I also had an awesome executive. My thanks go to Kelly Judkins, Bronwyn Macey, David Parker and Todd Wearne. It was definitely a team effort.

Johanna Kinvig



Past President Johanna Kinvig

## Weltec: Cameron Moray-Smith

### *The History of the Embalming course and The move from the Central Institute of Technology (C.I.T.) to Wellington Institute of Technology (WelTec)*

#### **“A time of change for embalming education in New Zealand”**



The Central Institute of Technology (CIT) has been synonymous with Embalmers and Embalming education for a substantial period of the NZEA's forty year history.

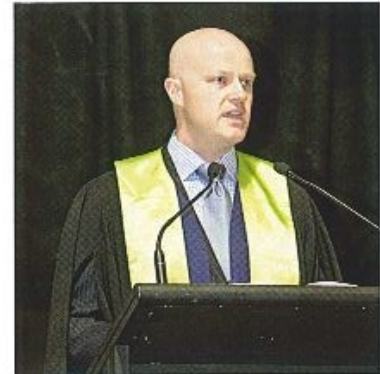
At the time of NZEA's twenty fifth Silver Jubilee, David Dew reported "The future of embalming education seems to be changing, with the introduction of the unit framework by NZQA. There will be differences in the delivery of training, but the basis of our work as embalmers remains the same..."

By 1997 the changes David alluded to were well underway. These changes were part of a nationwide shift in educational delivery in the Tertiary sector. Work commenced in the early 1990's as NZQA began development of a national qualifications framework that would include all qualifications (including Embalming). The outcome being that a unified system known as

the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) was introduced in November 1991. Given such substantial changes it was only a matter of time before the embalming programme would experience its first major overhaul since its inception in 1979.

As the ITO for funeral service education, FSTT was tasked with developing a portfolio of unit standards for funeral service education and by 1996 the draft unit standards were complete. During the unit standard draft hearing, a number of minor issues arose between FSTT and NZQA and resulted in the final publication of the unit standards being delayed until 1998. This saw the embalming course continue on at the CIT until 1999 as the Award in Embalming.

During this time CIT was undergoing major institutional changes of its own. After nearly ten years of failed merger talks with other New Zealand institutions (including the Open Polytechnic, Auckland Institute of Technology, and Waikato University), CIT became so indebted financially that it could no longer continue to operate as a stand-alone institution. It was at this time in 2000 that the Hutt Valley Polytechnic based at Petone, entered into formal discussions with the Ministry of Education about the possibility of these two institutes merging. After



*Cameron Moray-Smith  
Tutor, Past Executive Member*

much negotiation between the two institutes and the Ministry, a formal announcement to merge operations was made in December 2000. The result was that the Hutt Valley Polytechnic would be rebranded as the Wellington Institute of Technology (WelTec) and the CIT would be disestablished.

Despite what must have been an intense period of upheaval for all of the tutoring staff CIT, the Award in Embalming was still successfully delivered in 1997. The changes within the programme continued during this time with the Award in Embalming changing from a twelve month programme to a fifteen month programme. By September 1999 the unit standard draft review had been completed the newly registered unit standards were ready for delivery with Programme Coordinator Rod Demler successfully overseeing the transition of the embalming qualification to National Certificate status during 2000 and 2001.

CIT was finally disestablished on 1st July 2001 and whilst most courses were transferred to WelTec at the commencement of Trimester 2, the embalming course continued on at CIT until the conclusion of 2001, before being transferred to WelTec ready for the new student intake in February 2002.



It was at this time that Rod Demler decided to hang up his 'teaching trencher' and return to active funeral service, opening the door for the appointment of the first full time Programme Coordinator for Funeral Services based in Wellington. This role was filled by Mark Stanton of Auckland who as a very recent graduate of the Funeral Directing course had the unenviable task of not only completing the transition of the course to National Certificate status, but also the transition into a completely new institute.

Mark's tenure at WelTec was to be short lived as he (like Michael Aro) was drawn to the call of the Police force. That being said Mark achieved a remarkable amount and was instrumental in implementing a great deal of change within funeral service education during his two year tenure in 2002 and 2003; including the completion of National Certificate transition, Institutional transition and the implementation of a programme of Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) for holders of the Award level qualifications.

In late 2003, WelTec began its search for a new programme coordinator / specialist tutor to take over the Funeral Service portfolio. In December 2003, Michael Wolfram, having recently sold his funeral business in Tokoroa, decided to take up the opportunity to enter the field of education. In 2004 Mike commenced the first of five intakes of embalming and funeral directing students. Mike brought with him an unprecedented amount of experience from all facets of funeral service; including embalming and funeral directing, ceremony and celebrancy, as well as his knowledge and experience in funeral home ownership / management.

During Mike's five year tenure, the funeral service programme portfolio continued to change and evolve, although much of this was not related to the embalming course; this evolution saw the creation of an experienced practitioner's course

for Funeral Directing, Qualifications in Trauma Management and Ceremony and Celebration. In respect of the embalming course Mike continued to develop the programme he inherited from Mark Stanton, in which his focus was on the digitisation and modernisation of course work material that was previously contained on OHP's and hardcopy documents produced on a type-writer!

In 2008 Mike, in conjunction with FSTT commenced what would be the second major overhaul of the funeral service qualifications. NZQA had (in 2007) advised that the National Diploma in Funeral Service would no longer be able to be awarded to those students who graduated with both the National Certificates in Embalming and also in Funeral Directing. The decision was made by NZQA and FSTT that each of the National Certificate level qualifications would become National Diploma's in their own right. This was a project that Mike (and the Academic board of WelTec) was heavily involved in during 2008 in preparation for the inaugural delivery in 2009, although he made the decision to leave WelTec prior to seeing this project come to full fruition.

In February 2009 Cameron Moray-Smith was announced as the new Programme Coordinator for Funeral Services, Ceremony and Celebration. With Mike remaining on with WelTec to complete the delivery of Funeral Directing Block 1, my first class was that of launching the new National Diploma in Embalming (Level 5).

The first year of the National Diploma in Embalming was extremely hectic as I settled into a brand new role and career pathway within education and continued on and completed the work that Mike had started. Throughout 2009 my focus had been centred on the transition of the National Certificate to National Diploma; including the introduction of the Diploma, the completion of the National Certificate, and a transition pathway for graduate holders of the Certificate.

For the three of us who have been employed as Full Time tutors at WelTec since 2002, we all quickly came to the realisation that despite the on-going evolution of the course structure since the

mid 1980's, the course content and course delivery methods had not evolved at the same pace and often contradicted the required learning outcomes stipulated in the unit standards.

Both funeral service disciplines have been completely reviewed, re-worked, re-moderated and re-launched in 2011. For the embalming course this has seen the amalgamation of multiple logbooks, modernisation of the resource pool, full review and rewrite of all assessment tasks including the practical examination, which has been widely regarded as the defining measure of embalming competency in New Zealand for over 30 years.

As we move forward into 2012 we can start to see the next round of evolution for the National Diploma in Embalming. Next year will see the qualification go through a review by NZQA. This review seeks to address the over population of qualifications throughout New Zealand tertiary training providers and will begin the shift from 'National' qualifications to 'New Zealand' qualifications. What else this review might mean for the embalming course – we can only speculate at the present time, but it can be reasonably assumed that the National Diploma in Embalming will stand out in this review as a qualification that delivers high quality education in the art and science of embalming, producing high quality graduates that are well respected here in New Zealand and abroad.

#### Embalming Course Statistics

Since 1979 there have been approximately 280 graduates of the Certificate in Embalming, the Award in Embalming, the National Certificate in Embalming and the National Diploma in Embalming (Level 5). This represents an average of eleven graduates per annum and a total graduate success rate of approximately 95% of all initial enrolments received.

When compared against other programmes within CIT, WelTec and nationally, this figure makes the Embalming course one of the most successful courses in the New Zealand tertiary education sector.

## Top Students 1999 – 2010

1999	=	Alistair Black (Wellington), Anthea Baxter (Auckland)
2000	=	Steve Hibberd (Napier), Kris Klier (Wellington)
2001	=	Mark Baker (New Plymouth), Hayden Cotton (Palmerston North)
2002	=	Andrew Maffey (Dunedin), Bridget Hoult (Nelson)
2003	=	Fiona Harvey (Dunedin), Nik Straugheir (Wellington)
2004	=	Brad Morris (Wellington), Barry Holmwood (Nelson), Clive Cooper (Wellington)
2005	=	Corinne Hilliard (Wellington), Carmen Stewart (Mosgiel)
2006	=	John Franklin (Napier), Alana Burt (Wellington)
2007	=	Kim Cornwell (Tauranga)
2008	=	Jenaya Pascoe (Christchurch), Nichola Hayes (Waipukurau)
2009	=	Trent Barton (Wellington), Julie Hayman (Auckland)
2010	=	Taina Savage (Tauranga), Mel Sparks (Dunedin)

## Teaching Staff 1999 – 2011

### Programme Coordinator / Specialist Tutor

David Dew (Masterton)  
 Rod Demler (Tauranga)  
 Mark Stanton (Auckland)  
 Mike Wolfram (Wellington)  
 Cameron Moray-Smith (Wellington)

### Assistant Tutors

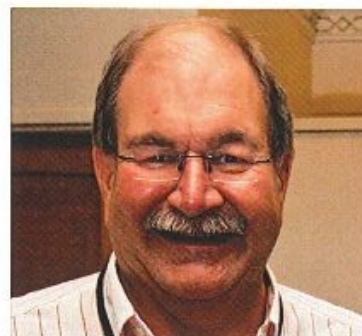
Geoff Boon (Microbiology, Chemistry)  
 David Cathcart (Anatomy, Microbiology, Chemistry)  
 Pierre Erasmus (Embalming)  
 Ptries Herst (Anatomy)  
 Janine Howard (Embalming)  
 Andy Imrie (Anatomy)  
 Sue Marlow (Anatomy)  
 Katie Marshall (Embalming)  
 Anne Southern (Microbiology, Chemistry)  
 Jamie Stewart-McDonald (Anatomy)  
 Peter Osborne (Chemistry)  
 Jan Osborne (Chemistry)

## FSTT: John Peryer



### THE FUNERAL SERVICE TRAINING TRUST OF NEW ZEALAND

1996 - 2011



In the years from 1996 to 2011, the Funeral Service Training Trust of New Zealand (FSTT) continued to serve the New Zealand funeral service industry with skill, commitment, knowledge, enthusiasm and dedication to further the aims and objectives of the Trust and to enhance and promote training to the highest levels of service and professionalism.

The FSTT is the Industry Training Organisation (ITO) for funeral service in New Zealand - a role it has maintained since the inception of ITO's under the Industry Training Act 1990. Every five years, the Trust has had to undergo an extensive and rigorous re-examination to retain its ITO status and has been successful on each of the three separate occasions this has occurred to date. The ongoing support of the NZEA and other industry Associations in endorsing the Trust as its ITO has been much appreciated. The Trust has continued to serve the Wellington Institute of Technology (Weltec) as its Advisory Board and has played an integral role in ensuring the standard of tuition provided by Weltec delivers the quality graduate that the profession demands.

The FSTT has also functioned over the past fifteen years as the Standard Setting Body for the industry. Under its supervision, our unit standards and national qualifications have been constantly monitored, reviewed and updated - as required by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). The Trust maintains an effective and positive relationship with both the NZQA and the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to fulfill its numerous audit, moderation and statutory obligations as an ITO.

The year 2000 saw the introduction of our first "National" qualifications. The National Certificate in Funeral Directing, National Certificate in Embalming and the National Diploma in Funeral Services were the result of many hundreds of hours of work by a large number of people with the drive and foresight to further improve the educational standards of our industry. The two national certificates underwent further refinement and up-grading in 2009/10 to become National Diplomas in each field. These changes have reinforced the long-held national and international recognition and acknowledgment of our qualifications as among the best funeral service training offered in the world!

During the period under review, industry associations introduced Practising Certificates which stipulated a number of training hours credits (THC's) to be completed over a given time. The Trust's role was to determine and approve THC's for training courses held around the country. To date, numerous training programmes and seminars covering a diverse range of topics have been developed and completed. Additionally, the Trust, in collaboration with Industry Trade Suppliers, has hosted a number of international speakers on a variety of technical and grief-related topics. Such presentations have achieved wide acclaim and the Trust is indebted to those suppliers for their continuing support of the FSTT training programme.

The Trust established a Secretariat in Wellington in 1995 and, since 2003; its duties have been carried out by Fiona Gillespie in a professional and courteous manner.

Current Trustees (year of appointment in brackets) are: Professor Mike Marfell-Jones, (Chair and Founder Trustee 1991), John Peryer (Executive Officer and Founder Trustee 1991), Anne McGuire (Education and Maori representative, 2003), John Schipper, (NZEA 2007), Alistair Ferguson (NZEA 2010), Danny Langstraat (FDANZ 2009) and John Duncan (FDANZ 2011).

The Trust also records its thanks to former Trustees Ian Parker, Andrew Malcolm, Mark Pattinson, Simon Manning, Bruce Hanrahan, Tony Garing and Stephen Dil for their service and contribution to the Trust during the past fifteen years. Special thanks and appreciation are extended to Francis Day, the Trust's founder Chairman, who retired in 2004 after guiding the Trust so effectively in its formative years.

The next few years will continue to provide the Trust with opportunities to further enhance the level and standard of funeral service training in New Zealand. New short course programmes, for example, designed to assist the Funeral Home owner in staff recruitment; induction and retention have been developed and will soon be offered. Though the Trust will be ever vigilant for any signs that may negatively impact on the standards it and the profession demand, it looks forward with confidence to a very positive future.

John Peryer, National Diploma in Funeral Services.

Executive Officer

Hastings, March 2011.

## Peer Support: Michael Wolfram

### Peer Support in the NZ Funeral Industry.

In 1996 on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee for NZEA I described the introduction of Peer Support programmes to NZ Funeral Service in 1993 as one of the key developments in the progress of our industry.

In our fortieth year as an Association I am both encouraged that Peer Support still exists in some form, it having taken an active role in events in Christchurch February 2011, and somewhat discouraged that the programme enjoys a diminished place within our industry's understanding of what I consider an important responsibility directed at the Health and Safety of all Funeral Service workers.

The Role of a Peer Support Programme is to offer to all members of Funeral Service who may experience reactions to encounters with trauma or incidents of crisis, the opportunity to normalise, share their feelings, consider their vulnerability in a safe environment, be assured of confidentiality and be able to do so without loss of status or respect amongst their colleagues.

Peer Support helps to validate people's reactions in both individual and group settings to the more stressful aspects of the work we do. Peer Support also provides opportunity for reflection on difficult or unpleasant responses that we may encounter and utilises a referral system for more specific information and professional personal support where that might be necessary.

Because by definition it is support given by Peers, the 'culture of funeral service' issues that arise through consultation with professional counsellors do not occur. Peer Support, provided safely and from a well funded base, is insurance for the industry's employers that cannot be

purchased as cheaply elsewhere.

In its near twenty years of existence this programme enjoyed considerable industry funding in the first few years to aid training and delivery of services, today the programme holds a lesser priority in the budget of the industry and relies heavily on the volunteers to deliver services.

Under the quiet, low profile leadership of Barrie McIntosh and a very small group of volunteers the Peer Support Team struggles on.

As far as I am aware there has been no new training or refresher training for volunteers since 2006 and this in itself is dangerous both for the volunteers and for those who may wish to use their services.

Members of the DRT in Christchurch in February 2011 benefited from Peer Support in two ways, with Team members contacting all families of team members during their rotation time in Christchurch and by the compulsory daily debriefings offered to NZEA team members on site.

Today, the team is so much less effective than it might be were the industry to fully endorse its use and to pay more than lip service to their responsibilities to mental health under their Health and Safety in Employment responsibilities.

Peer Support is in dire need of refresher training, new members, and the introduction of more contemporary understandings for post critical incident management.

This is unlikely to be funded by the industry unless employers see a need that brings them tangible benefits or understand this to be an important and over all less costly means, to fulfill their responsibilities under current legislation.

As NZEA members and Mortuary staff are most often at the forefront of the industry's encounters with traumatic events, be that in their day to day life or in disaster response it would be pleasing to see Peer Support Programmes championed by the Association.

In this our fortieth year of existence, NZEA could be no better than to promote debate amongst its members about the need for and usefulness of a Peer Support Team in NZ Funeral Service.



*Mike Wolfram  
Past President*

## Disaster Response: Simon Manning

The Disaster Response Team continues to work hard behind the scenes to ensure that should it be required a professional and integrated response will occur.

The team co-coordinator is a member of the New Zealand DVI team which meets annually. This team is managed by NZ Police and is made up of representatives from Forensic Pathology, Odontology, NZ Army, Civil Aviation, Coronial Services and ESR.

From time to time the team includes representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, The Prime Ministers Department, Victim Support and other parties which may require consultation.

The global climate in which we work today requires the NZ DVI team and NZ Government to consider multi-death situations more than ever. Any event which attracts large numbers of people will require planning for deaths.

In the past few years we have lived through SARS, and different virulent influenza's seems to be commonplace, Governments respond, and our profession like many others have to consider how we will respond should the worst scenario occur.

The NZ Disaster Response Team is made up of members from NZEA and FDANZ. From time to time the industry is requested to do audits, so we know what manpower, facilities and equipment are in which areas in NZ; this is important in planning for multi-death situations.

With the lack of funding available for most things in NZ, we provide all of our current services free of charge. All those who are called to assist on NZ disasters do so with the sole purpose of wanting to help their colleagues and those affected by the disaster.

Disasters today are projected into our living rooms as they are occurring; this makes the work of those assisting in a disaster much more difficult. The NZ DVI team are very much aware that communication must be at a level that not only informs families but always satisfies the insatiable appetite of the world's media.

The response to any disaster today is judged by talk shows, on investigative television and newspapers. This makes the atmosphere in which we have to provide our services much more stressful.

On February 22nd 2011 as a nation, we all shared in the disastrous events that followed the Christchurch earthquake. The NZ Funeral Disaster Response Team provided support to the local funeral companies of Christchurch by providing assistance with embalming, casketing, transfers, administration and management of 181 releases.

The lesson again for disaster response is that every situation that we are called in to assist with requires flexibility as every disaster presents its own unique set of issues.

190 embalmers and funeral directors in New Zealand put their names forward to assist. The final team saw 47 embalmers and funeral directors travel to Christchurch over a period of three weeks to assist in maintaining a professional response in this disaster situation.

The team functioned extremely well and from the executives of both NZEA and FDANZ perspective the profession's response couldn't have been better.

The generosity of members of NZEA again shines through, this generosity ensured that the families of those facing a death in the family as the result of the earthquake were dealt with in a dignified

manner and every opportunity was given for families to spend time with the person that had died.

The level of service provided to families of Christchurch never faltered during this disaster.

Information on the Disaster Response Team is available by emailing Simon Manning at [simon@funeral-link.co.nz](mailto:simon@funeral-link.co.nz)



*Simon Manning  
National Diploma in Funeral Services.*



## Operation Overdue

At 12.49 pm on 28 November 1979, Air New Zealand flight TE901, a DC10 carrying 20 crew and 237 passengers, crashed on the slopes of Mt Erebus in Antarctica. There were no survivors. What followed was the biggest disaster relief

operation ever mounted from New Zealand. At the forefront of the identification process were members of the Embalmers Association. This is an abridged version the report of President Derek Hope and secretary Barrie Head on that involvement.

## The report on Operation Overdue

From the very first telephone call between the President (Derek Hope, Dunedin) and the eventual Disaster Team Co-ordinator (Peter Strong, Lower Hutt), it was evident that the New Zealand Embalmers Association, although shocked and dismayed at the immensity of the disaster, could be of benefit to the authorities in the ensuing operation.

It was decided that NZEA would officially offer the expertise of their members in whatever manner the authorities decided.

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

The eventual team of embalmers had no conception of the task and duties they would be called upon to help in the operation.

Every team member performed their 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 Coroner's Office Mortuary for 17 days consecutively with half of this time involving 12-14 hour days.

## Medal recipients



P.A. Strong  
Gee & Hickton, Lower Hutt



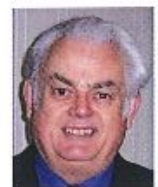
L.G. Nelson  
The Wilson Funeral Home,  
Wellington



S.R. Wheeler  
Gee & Hickton, Lower Hutt



R. Battersby  
Battersby Funeral Services,  
Auckland



E. W. Maffey  
Nowberrys Funeral Home,  
Whangarei



S.L. Stout  
James R Hill, Hamilton



C. J. Little  
Davis Funeral Services,  
Auckland



M. Heiherington  
W.H. Tongue, Auckland



F. H. Day  
Marsden House Funeral  
Directors, Nelson



P.A. Beauchamp  
Morris Jnr  
Wellington



M. Battersby  
Battersby Funeral Services,  
Auckland



P.C. Yearbury – assistant  
Yearburys Funeral Services,  
Auckland



K.B. Osborne - assistant  
J.R. Hill Ltd  
Hamilton

## Erebus Embalmers Honoured

Thirteen embalmers who helped identify and process victims of the Mt Erebus air tragedy in 1979 have been awarded the New Zealand Special Service Medal (Erebus).

Team Leader Peter Strong received the medal on behalf of the 13 at a special ceremony at Parliament in March.

Executives of the New Zealand Embalmers Association and the Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand are working together on a forum and venue for industry recognition of the achievements of those involved.

The medal, awarded by the New Zealand Defence Force, recognises the services of those who were involved in body recovery, crash investigation and victim identification.

The embalmers were awarded the medal along with 133 police and other personnel.

Air New Zealand flight TE 901 crashed into Mt Erebus, on Ross Island, Antarctica, on 28 November 1979, with the loss of all 257 on board. It was on a non-stop return sight-seeing flight to the ice.

The embalmers worked at a temporary mortuary set up at the Auckland School of Medicine.

The president of the Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand, Michael Hope, said the large number of victims and the gravity of the injuries meant it was a physically and emotionally difficult job.

Of the 13, seven are actively involved in the day-to-day funeral industry: Francis Day, Stan Stout, Peter Beauchamp, Stuart Wheeler, Mark Battersby, Peter Yearbury and Keith Osborne.

Also awarded the medal is Stuart Houchen, of Cambridge Funerals, who was on the police list.

The embalmers worked between 12 and 14 hours a day over a period of 24 days, and at one stage embalmed 151 bodies in seven days.

The core of the team worked for 17 consecutive days and a total of 1,117.5 hours.

One of them, Peter Beauchamp, later wrote of the enormity of their task:

"We each managed three or four embalming procedures a day. It would take, on average, four to five hours for each full embalming. I'm sure I sutured at least 10 kilometres of tissue.

"A memory I will always have is collapsing on my bed back at the motel after a 14-hour day. We were constantly on our feet walking around our embalming table. The highlight of the day was when we finished an embalming we would walk down to collect another so we could spend four to five hours walking around the table again."

The Government announced the New Zealand Special Service Medal (Erebus) on 28 November last year, the 27th anniversary of the disaster.

Announcing the medal, Prime Minister Helen Clark said: "The crash of flight TE 901 was without question the bleakest moment in the history of New Zealand's 50-year presence in Antarctica.

"The work of those involved in what was called Operation Overdue was critical in supporting the victims' families and helping our nation come to terms with the tragic deaths of so many people.

"The recovery team at the crash site consisted of experienced Search and Rescue personnel, including police and Federated Mountain Club members, together with support personnel."

Victims recovered from the site were flown to Auckland for identification by teams of pathologists, dentists, police, and embalmers.

Until the New Zealand Special Service Medal was instituted in 2002 there was no suitable way of recognising the extraordinary service of those involved in Operation Overdue.

The medal recognises service or work for

New Zealand in very difficult, adverse, extreme, or hazardous circumstances which falls outside the boundaries of what individuals could normally expect as part of their routine duties or work.

"The work of personnel involved at Mt Erebus far exceeded the boundaries of what could be expected in the course of normal police, search and rescue, or air accident investigation duties. The circumstances were extreme: a hazardous physical location, extreme climatic conditions, dangers presented by the wreckage, the psychological strain of recovering the victims, and highly demanding physical work," Ms Clark said.

"This medal also recognises the unique psychological risks faced by those who worked to identify successfully 214 of the 257 victims. The identification team's complex work was exhaustive and painstaking. It was undertaken in harrowing circumstances well outside the boundaries of what would normally be expected in the course of routine duties.

A Special Service Medal was last awarded in 2005 to recognise New Zealanders who were involved in rescue, relief, and rehabilitation efforts in areas devastated by the [Boxing Day 2004 earthquake and tsunami](#). Timaru embalmer Dick Ireton was awarded that medal in recognition of his work in Thailand (as reported in [Funeralcare](#) in December).

Two of the honoured police officers are still serving: Sergeant David Templeton, who worked with the disaster victim identification teams in Auckland, and Southern District Commander Superintendent George Fraser, who worked with the embalmers in Auckland.

## The 'Erebus Medal'

The NZSSM (Erebus) recognises the service of New Zealanders and other people from other countries who were involved in the extremely difficult and very unpleasant and hazardous body recovery, crash investigation and victim identification phases of Operation Overdue.

The recovery and investigation phase lasted in Antarctica from 29 November 1979 to 12 December 1979. The identification phase of the operation at the mortuary of the Auckland University School of Medicine lasted from 6 December 1979 to 12 February 1980.

The NZSSM (Erebus) is the third NZSSM created to recognise service in extreme and hazardous circumstances. The NZSSM (Nuclear Testing) was instituted in 2002 to recognise the service of personnel who were part of an official government presence at an atmospheric nuclear test between 1956 and 1973. The NZSSM

(Asian Tsunami) was instituted in 2005 to recognise New Zealanders involved in rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts in areas devastated by the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami.

slopes of Mount Erebus left a black streak across the polar ice). Black and white are also regarded as the national colours of New Zealand.

The ribbon was designed by Mr Phillip O'Shea, CNZM, LVO, the New Zealand Herald of Arms.

## About the ribbon

The ribbon is 32mm in width and is composed of seven vertical stripes: dark blue, light (or astral) blue, white, black, white, light (or astral) blue, and dark blue.

Dark blue alludes to the sea that surrounds Antarctica, and also alludes to the New Zealand Police who were involved with the recovery and identification of bodies. Light (or astral) blue alludes to the sky and to Air New Zealand. White alludes to the ice and snow of Antarctica. Black alludes to the aircraft disaster (the aircraft crash on the



## Breakout Quote

The core of the team worked for 17 consecutive days, with half of this time involving 12- to 14-hour days.

Peter Beauchamp tells of the gruelling job of dealing with the aftermath of New Zealand's biggest disaster



## Recollections of an embalmer

At 12.49pm on 28 November 1979, the deck altitude device began blaring a warning but there was no time for Captain Collins to save the situation from disaster. Six seconds later Flight 901 hit the side of Mt Erebus and disintegrated. So close to Christmas. 257 dead.

I can remember exactly what I was doing when Flight 901 was first reported missing. The series of news flashes that followed said Flight 901 could no longer be flying as it would have run out of fuel. Eventually, as the nation listened, the inevitable was announced. The aircraft had been found.

It was not until we saw more than 100 caskets laid out in the hospital basement that we began to realise the magnitude of the disaster: New Zealand's single biggest tragedy, with one more death than the Napier earthquake.

The only positive advantage of the location of the crash site was of benefit to the embalmers: we had instant refrigeration – there was no decomposition. [Search and rescue teams would later report how they had to use ice picks to free bodies from the ice – Editor]

There was also another advantage, in that the rescue team sent to the ice had time to plan a strategy. A grid system was set up to try to identify victims in relation to seat numbers, although this proved impossible because most passengers were standing up at the time trying to get a good look out of the windows.

A plan was put in place to receive the victims in Auckland, where the identification process would begin. Dental records had to be obtained from all over the world and as many sets of fingerprints as available were sent to the command centre. This was just the beginning.

Seven days after the crash, word came that the first victims would be arriving the next day.

The Embalmers Association had, by this time, offered to assist and had arranged

a tentative team of 12 experienced embalmers from throughout the country. Equipment and supplies were sent to Auckland.

Have you ever arrived at an Air NZ check-in with a Porti-Boy under your arm? NZEA's Peter Strong arrived to set up our response team, and the first victims arrived the next day.

The process was to try to put a name to each victim, then the embalmer did his best to restore features to make it easier on relatives. This reconstructive work had to be done after autopsy but on unembalmed tissue. Then they went off downstairs for the family to identify.

To our horror, we discovered that the victims were stacked on top of each other in body bags in the chiller. You can imagine what happened to our intercranial wiring and reconstructive work. Francis Day put an immediate stop to this practice.

Very slowly the momentum was building, and victims for repatriation to town or country of origin started to come through.

We each managed three or four embalming procedures a day. It would take, on average, four to five hours for each full embalming. I'm sure I sutured at least 10 kilometres of tissue. You can't imagine how sore your feet become.

A memory I will always have is collapsing on my bed back at the motel after a 14-hour day. We were constantly on our feet walking around our embalming table. The highlight of the day was when we finished an embalming we would walk down to collect another so we could spend four to five hours walking around the table again.

At the end of each day we would meet up in the motel dining room for a meal and a little alcohol – an essential act of camaraderie and unwinding.

The core of the team worked at the Coroner's office for 17 consecutive days, with half of this time involving 12-14 hour days.

Every member performed exceptionally well in the expected professional manner. We supported each other emotionally and, as a result, coped with the stress caused by witnessing horrific mutilation and the sheer number of victims.

Six months after the disaster we were asked to attend an individual interview and fill out a questionnaire about our experience. This was done at Victoria University. We have never been told about individuals' abilities to cope, other than "the embalmers handled the experience far better than the police".

Whenever "The Erebus Disaster" is mentioned, I automatically think about the trip to Singapore and Malaysia that Air NZ kindly shouted me. The trip was in recognition of the work put in by our disaster response team.

Eric Maffey, Francis Day, and I travelled on the inaugural flight of Air NZ's 747. I prefer to think about that trip because the work we did on the Erebus Disaster is still a haunting memory.

Abridged from an article in Circulation magazine in 2002



## Embalming of unidentified disaster victims



By Lindsay Helson

The Coroner decided that in all cases a positive identification was required before any consideration would be given to allowing embalming or disposal.

This meant a series of post mortem and dental examinations were carried out for all victims fairly quickly. No preservation was permitted, and once the post mortem and dental work was done, the whole procedure became one of delays and awareness of time passing.

It was this time passing which allowed several factors to create the problem of decomposition. Despite the fact that the aircraft crashed into sub-zero terrain and the casualties were transported to New Zealand frozen and refrigerated immediately in three very large refrigerators, by the weekend of 15 December a very characteristic odour became apparent. It grew stronger and more unpleasant as the various police and pathology teams worked feverishly to examine new ideas and evidence.

The factors that helped create the problem of decomposition were:

1. Keeping the fridge doors open.
2. Moving victims in and out of fridges.
3. Because of the numbers involved, body stacking in very cramped quarters resulted in some damage to facial features.
4. Extensive use of plastic bags accelerated decomposition and the proliferation of various molds.

Whereas these procedures could not be avoided, by Saturday 15 December there was a definite preservation difficulty. Immediate embalming and careful handling would have made a significant contribution to halting decomposition and therefore achieving more identification.

It was on Thursday 20 December that the NZEA team received the verbal request via the FDANZ secretary that all remaining victims be embalmed in an effort to overcome the problem of decomposition odour. Additional qualified personnel were employed and work began immediately.

### The procedure

Victims ranged from unmarked whole cases to charred carbonised torso fragments, with the majority flash tinged, arms and legs badly gashed, (usually) ankles broken, and feet either dangling or missing, the stumps badly macerated, with various degrees of skull damage, usually with massive fractures and some fragments missing.

Torsos and thighs were badly lacerated, with metal fragments of considerable variety to be found.

Generally the embalmers were confronted with a large plastic bag (in many instances, several) which, upon opening, revealed an unrecognisable mass of humanity, thick with aviation fuel and hydraulic oil, with hydrocarbons dissolved in it, which gave off a strong and characteristic odour. The oiliness was removed by using diluted Savlon (15%) which was an excellent aid.

In the later stages [decomposition was much more advanced.]\*

The grid number allocated to each casualty by the recovery team on Mt Erebus was recorded and the tags and markers carefully cleaned and retained. [Then followed procedure to seal the bodies].

Injection of the victim was considered next, and where possible a normal six-point injection, or a variety according to the nature of the injuries, was contemplated. The overriding concern was for preservation.

To this end, it was clear that the fluid needed to be one which would treat frozen and thawed tissue, traumatised and blanched. The whole embalming operation was complete before any real problem occurred. There were some notable exceptions towards the end.

Champion fluids were used almost exclusively, with the stocks held in Wellington being considered sufficient to see the whole embalming operation out.

Specialist fluid was in short supply and used fast, along with HiForm, Tissue firm and other high index fluids. Most of the work was done with PLX or FAX

fluids, with the use of the additive Di-San. Injection was usually rapid with considerable leakage. There were a number of bodies that were unable to be treated arterially by reason of their virtual destruction. These bodies were treated with a preservative powder and sealed in polythene bags.

Once the tissue was abundantly saturated, work was begun on the head.

There was real satisfaction on taking the completed work in for photography, to be seized by a member of the ID team who excitedly recognised the face, got the files out and eventually reported that relatives had been able to confirm the identity of the victim. This from an 'all leads exhausted' situation.

The head was left at the completion of suturing treatment and no attempt was made to use cosmetic or wax techniques. Hair was washed and blown dry, where possible.\*

The broken limbs received special attention, in that after they had been realigned and sutured together, they were wrapped in a plaster of Paris impregnated gauze which was then wet and, with care in prior packing and in smoothing the bandage, a plaster cast providing a very pleasant and professional alternative.

Due to the congestion in the three fridge rooms, a fourth room was designated (fridge D), which was a classroom. It was a room of 30ft x 18ft and into it were put the embalmed bodies, not in plastic trays but covered with a clean sheet. In direct contrast to the freezers, which smell of kerosene and decay, this new 'fridge' remained clean.

Intelligent use of the advantage gained by the extra fridge gave the team a morale boost that kept each on top of his work.

It is worth mentioning that the decision to use 'fridge D' came from the police, who came to profoundly appreciate the advantages of embalming and who showed a real faith in the embalming team.

(Abridged)

## Equipment and supplies

It was obvious from the beginning that each embalmer would need a full set of instruments and an embalming machine. Therefore, each was asked to bring and be responsible for his own instruments with the view that he would be totally independent in his operation.

This proved most successful with the exception of a few specialised instruments which were either borrowed or purchased.



Embalming machines were hired from the following firms:

The Wilson Funeral Home, Wellington

Davis Funeral Services, Auckland

Marsden House Funeral Directors, Nelson

Lychgate Funeral Services, Wellington

Watney Sibun's Sons, Auckland

Dil's Funeral Services, Auckland

J R Hill, Hamilton

E Morris Jnr, Wellington

Mortuary facilities at Auckland Medical School were of the highest calibre and ably suited for embalming work. They were made available to NZEA at a later agreed hireage of \$250 a day. NZEA would like to record its thanks to Professor Herdson, Dr Cairns and Mr John Russell for their cooperation.

All materials were purchased and brought in with the exception of linen. The Medical School towels, sheets, gowns and over-trousers were hired on site.

The only problem encountered was that of supply of the correct type of embalming fluid. Because this is only obtainable from the USA, and there was insufficient supply locally, an alternative blend was used.

If ever similar need arises in the future, this fluid would need to be air freighted immediately into the country.

## Conclusion and recommendations

- NZEA was privileged to be involved in Operation Overdue.
- A total of 1,100 man-hours was spent on the operation at Auckland Coroner's Mortuary.
- There were 43 victims prepared for identification (without embalming injection).
- There were 160 victims fully embalmed.

NZEA wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. Disaster victims be prepared for visual identification and fully embalmed immediately after post mortem examination procedures are completed (recognising that this may make re-examination awkward).
2. Disaster victims are:
  - NOT held in polythene bags.
  - NOT stacked one on top of another.
3. A specialised team of experienced embalmers from throughout New Zealand be made available to the Police Department to assist with the processing of disaster victims.
4. A specialised team of experienced embalmers with full equipment and supplies be made available to Air New Zealand to assist with repatriation of victims from a disaster, either within or outside New Zealand.

## Disaster response team formed out of report

Following the funeral profession's response to the Erebus Disaster, a recommendation was received requesting a formal structure be put in place. The profession's New Zealand Disaster Response Team was the result of that request.

The team consists of:

- A National Co-ordinator, who communicates between the organisations involved.
- Mortuary Support, who obtain chemicals and equipment and deliver them to the site.
- Team leaders, embalmers and assistant embalmers, who embalm the deceased to a level that allows the funeral processes to take place, giving due consideration to the cultural and religious beliefs of the deceased and their families.
- A logistics team, which is supplied by FDANZ, and whose role will be to provide administrative equipment and staff, provide the caskets, and co-ordinate the repatriation of deceased persons, whether it be within New Zealand or overseas.

The Disaster Response Team has access to the Peer Support Team, whose members are specially trained to debrief those involved and offer ongoing support to them and their families.

The Disaster Response Team is voluntary and, because of this, relies on the generosity of the team members and their employers. Any member of NZEA and FDANZ may be asked to help in disasters.

Contact with the Disaster Response Team can be made through the National Co-ordinator, Simon Manning (Harbour City Funeral Home 04 387 8301), or either the president of NZEA or the president of FDANZ.

Simon Manning says the recommendations in the Erebus Report that victims be prepared for visual identification and be fully embalmed immediately after post mortem examination, and that victims are not held in polythene bags or stacked one on top of another would be considered by the team on a case-by-case basis.

"It is understood by police and coroners that funeral personnel would be able to work during the evening and pathologists during the day, to ensure the fastest releases for the families involved.

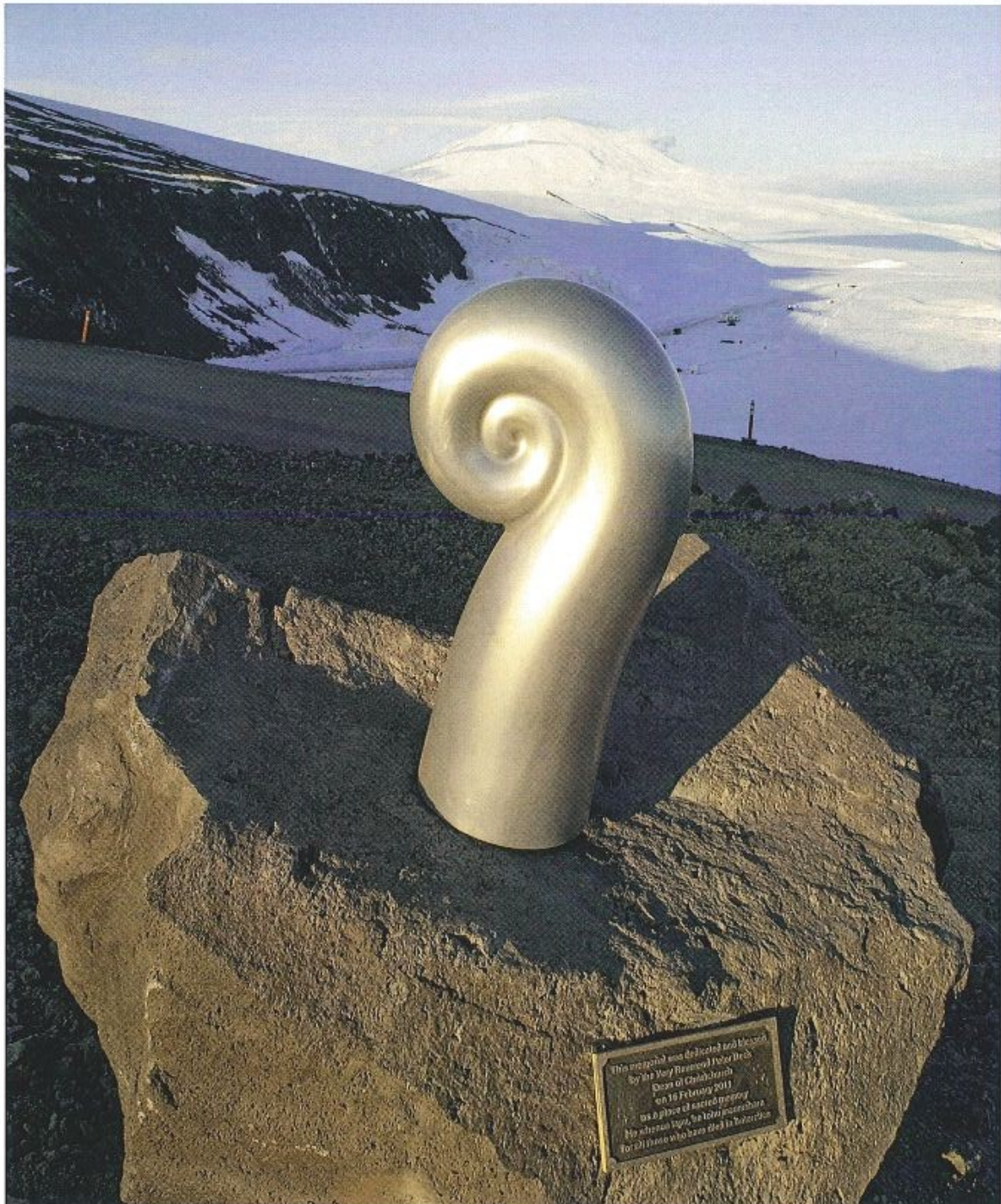
"However, if a mortuary facility has the room then embalmers would be able to work alongside pathologists. It would very much depend on the scale of the situation.

"Disaster victims would still be stored in polythene bags, but some advancement in the quality of these bags do allow for better storage ability.

"Stacking plans have also changed but again this depends on availability of space."

Mr Manning is also the funeral profession's current representative on the Disaster Victim Identification Committee, which meets with Coroners' representatives, police, army, pathologists, odontologists, Air New Zealand, and Victim Support. This appointment was in response to the Erebus Disaster.







## Eco Embalming: Wade Downey

Maybe we've been doing it all along?

From salt bathing and evisceration to arsenic and aldehydes, to whatever is deemed as environmentally friendly and sustainable.

NZEA is celebrating the past forty years yet changes have been happening in the way the deceased has been preserved for thousands of years. The essence of why we embalm probably not altering as much as the way we do it.

The past decade has seen our industry, along with others, receiving increasing attention in regard to the environmental impact it may be making. This is not news to any of us. However, an assessment must be made of the validity of some of the statements and the longevity of this "environmental awareness" campaigning towards funerals and how we react to it.

People are being told that "Embalming is not needed because there are no health or visual threats posed by at least 95 per cent of dead bodies", "Embalming fluid serves no purpose before burial", and "Embalmers are more likely to get brain cancer". We all know that New Zealand funerals are globally recognised for families being able to make choices which meet their individual needs and beliefs. These choices include embalming; it really has become part of New Zealand's funeral culture.

There is no denying that formaldehyde can be hazardous, many things we come into contact with every day are. It is more an issue about the volumes used, at what concentrated levels and what direct exposure there is with it in its desired form, the risk factors being more prevalent in some industries than others.

Formaldehyde is a naturally occurring organic compound that we all produce. It is a very basic carbon compound (carbon, hydrogen and oxygen). It does not accumulate in the environment or within plants, animals or humans – it quickly breaks down into its basic elements.

On average, the index percentage of

formaldehyde used when embalming may be between 1.5 and 5 per cent. The intention for that percentage is to be disbursed throughout and contained within the body interacting with protein to inhibit bacterial growth and subsequent decay, that contact in turn neutralises the formaldehyde.

The unsubstantiated claims that embalming is bad for the earth could be seen as a concern for our professional industry as it could perhaps raise questions about the integrity of what we do. Some articles claim that embalmed bodies release toxins into the environment as the biological decay of the body occurs. Those opinions represented are portrayed as indisputable fact, with no evidence to back their statements.

Material I have read, based on studies carried out by independent international councils, chemists, and our own former Assistant Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, suggest there is no contamination of soil or the water table, and any formaldehyde that may be released is quickly neutralised.

Biologists Braun, Gest and Mayer say bacteria can remain viable for decades, even centuries, which raise concerns about the negative effects that un-embalmed bodies have on the cemetery environment, including the water table, in a negative way.

Perhaps embalming, the sanitising of the body and elimination of possible harmful bacteria are better for the environment, or those living in it.

This shows that the environmental impact of embalming chemicals is still being determined through extensive laboratory testing. My research shows the impact to be minimal, at worst.

The topic of "embalming and the environment" has been raised at meetings of NZEA. From these meetings it has been decided that those who would label embalming as being bad for the environment may have judged too

quickly, and not have had all the facts.

The truth is that a forest fire will produce formaldehyde gas. This might have more of an impact on the environment than embalming, especially in New Zealand.

Maybe "using oils such as frankincense and lavender" are "natural ways of scenting and preserving the body", although I'm not sure for how long. I see more requests for "no embalming" rather than "eco-embalming" and the reasons vary; cultural, past experiences with viewing etc. it's up to us to share our knowledge then follow the families' requests one way or another.

As professional individuals we adapt to provide for all cultures. Done willingly and without prejudice, the "Green" funeral could be seen as another culture to provide for and provide we must. As with anything, we are obligated as professionals in our field to pass on what we know as fact, not what we believe to be hearsay.

It's not going away, Eco-prep as a type of embalming, Eco-embalming products for arterial injection as well as for the washing of the deceased, Eco-Funerals, we can provide them all.

May we adapt to the changes the next forty years brings us and never see the New Zealand Non-Embalmers Association.



Wade Downey  
Past President  
National Diploma in Funeral Services.

## Noel Mcnee Memorial Award: Neil Hickey

This annual award is presented for excellence in practical embalming

Noel's achievement was outstanding, Noel was born in Wellington in 1914 and on leaving school he commenced and completed an apprenticeship in cabinet and furniture making.

This in turn led Noel to a position of manufacturing caskets for a local Wellington Funeral Company, E Morris Jnr, which was also his introduction to funeral service.

Noel had extremely high standards and his cabinet making skills were of a very high quality, with the introduction of mass casket production in the early 1970s Noel ceased casket manufacturing.

In 1972 Noel accepted a position at Lychgate Funeral Service in Wellington were his duties included, casket trimming, removals, vehicle maintenance, general funeral home duties and of course embalming. He gained his Temporary Preservation certificate in 1973; this certificate was awarded after a short course which taught applicants general disinfection feature posing and cavity aspiration and injection procedures.

Lychgate Managing Director, the late Ian McIntyre offered Noel a place in the embalming class of 75, this programme was to be a one-off for senior personnel and the period of study was to be for five years, so at the tender age of sixty one Noel took up the challenge.

These senior students had to complete most of the course work which was being offered in the then C.I.T. Award in Embalming education programme which was no mean feat when you are going back to school at sixty one years of age.

Noel excelled at the art of embalming his standards were high a reflection to his cabinet making years.

In November of 1980 at the age of sixty six Noel was presented with his Certificate in Embalming from the NZ School of Embalming along with his membership to

NZEA and to this day holds the distinction of being the most senior person admitted to membership of this association. Noel commented at his presentation that it was the highlight of his working career.

Sadly two years after graduating and a short period of illness Noel died at the age of 68.

We are fortunate to have Noel's achievement and memory live on through this award to be given to the Graduate attaining the highest practical exam mark.

This award was first presented at the NZEA AGM in 1982 to Laurie Rickard from John Rhind Ltd of Christchurch it has been presented on twenty six occasions, has been awarded jointly on four occasions, there have been eighteen male recipients and eleven female recipients, the award has been won by ten from the South Island and fourteen from the North Island.

The first woman recipient was Johanna Kinvig from Hope & Sons Dunedin in 1986, the first direct entry recipient was Kirsty McKenzie from Guardian Funeral Home Porirua in 1990, and the first Joint recipients awarded were Mike Lucas from John Rhind Ltd Christchurch and Adrienne Heremia from Lychgate Funeral Service Wellington in 1992.

The timber which the trophy is machined from is a piece of mahogany donated by NZEA member the late George Seator of McDonald & Weston Funeral Home in Invercargill.

The machining and manufacture of the trophy which represents the NZEA Logo was kindly donated by Cudby & Meade furniture manufacturers of Lower Hutt Wellington. The logo design is by NZEA member Malcolm Harding of Hawera and the trophy design is by NZEA Past President Peter Cohen.

We have been fortunate to have Noel's widow Mrs Joyce McNee present this trophy to the recipient each year since its inception.

To mark this special occasion this year for the first time miniature trophies modeled off the original trophy (which is returned each year for re-presentation) were presented by Joyce McNee to all previous recipients present, these trophies were kindly donated by Past President Mark Pattinson they will also be presented for future recipients, a wonderful tribute to the past and future recipients of this Premium award.

### *In Memory of Noel McNee 1914-1982*

Contributed By

Neil Hickey

National Diploma in Funeral Services

Life Member Past President



*Neil Hickey and Laurie Richard  
First recipient*

## Noel McNee Memorial Award Recipients

### FIRST AWARDED NOVEMBER AGM 1982

1982	LAURIE RICKARD	John Rhind Ltd, Christchurch
1984	GRAEME ROLSTON	Gee & Hickton, Lower Hutt
1986	JOHANNA KINVIG	Hope & Sons Ltd, Dunedin, (1st Woman Recipient)
1988	ROD DEMLER	Jones & Company, Tauranga
1989	MICHAEL HOPE	Hope & Sons Ltd, Dunedin
1990	KIRSTY MCKENZIE	Guardian Funeral Home, Porirua City (1st Direct Entry Recipient)
1991	COLIN BULL	J R Croft, Lower Hutt
1992	MICHAEL LUCAS	John Rhind Ltd, Christchurch and
	ADRIENNE HEREMIA	Lychgate Funeral Services, Wellington (Joint Winners)
1993	DOUGLAS WALLACE	Gee & Hickton, Lower Hutt
1994	JOHN THOMSON	McDonald & Weston, Invercargill
1995	SARAH DANDY	Gee & Hickton, Lower Hutt
1996	RAMSAY JOYCE JNR	Lagoon View Funeral Services, Auckland
1997	STEPHEN DIL	Dils Funeral Services, Auckland
1998	No Award	
1999	ALISTAIR BLACK	Harbour City Funeral Home, Wellington
2000	STEVEN HIBBERD	Beth Shan Funeral Services, Napier and
	KRISTOPHER KLIER	Gee & Hickton, Lower Hutt (Joint Winners)
2001	HAYDEN COTTON	Robert J Cotton & Sons, Palmerston North
2002	BRIDGET HOULT	Marsden House Funeral Directors, Nelson
2003	NIK STRAUGHEIR	Ninness Funeral Home, Porirua City and
	FIONA HARVEY	Gillions Funeral Services, Dunedin (Joint Winners)
2004	CLIVE COOPER	Gee & Hickton, Lower Hutt and
	BARRY HOLMWOOD	Marsden House Funeral Directors, Nelson (Joint Winners)
2005	CORINNE HILLIARD	Gee & Hickton, Lower Hutt
2006	ALANA BURTT	Gee & Hickton, Lower Hutt
2007	KIM CORNWELL	Jones & Company, Tauranga
2008	JENAYA PASC.OE	Canterbury Christian Funeral Services, Christchurch
2009	TRENT BARTON	Harbour City Funeral Home, Wellington
2010	MEL SPARKS	Hope & Sons Ltd, Dunedin

## Website: Edward Brackenbury-Gray

**MEANWHILE**

BEHIND THE FACADE OF THE INNOCENT LOOKING FUNERAL HOME.....

This could be the introduction to a 1955 10 cent edition from Tales from the Crypt.

However it's a fitting introduction to what the NZEA webpage delivers to an inquisitive public. The webpage allows the unveiling of the mask from what is generally considered a very clandestine profession. The webpage has offered a fascinated public, access to informed information that has been penned directly from embalmers and industry personnel. This allows for *modus vivendi*; but will always offer a platform for healthy public and professional discussion, either in an open or secure format.

The embalming profession is one that continues to evolve and adjust to changing trends, needs and demands of clientele and the professional embalmer. The continued support and involvement from members and the NZEA, shows how the New Zealand industry is committed to furthering itself to push past primitive tradition in favour of evolution. The evolution of the webpage is true evidence of this.

I was handed the reins of webpage administrator from Kelly Judkins after its inception and then continued the upgrading that Cameron Moray-Smith

had begun. Through input and support from the NZEA executive and members, I was able to shift the webpage from a very simple format, to a more complex yet very user friendly interface. Throwing a petrol bomb on the old site to rebuild it from scratch was a little illogical and excessive on my behalf. So armed with my restricted knowledge regarding FTP, HTML, and MYSQL, I pushed myself and the limited software provided further than it was designed to go. We then unveiled the new NZEA website. Our web page now has a live forum plus a very secure member's area; members are able to chat to other NZEA members over the forum or add and edit their online profile, also enabling members to view their updated training hour credits. Our webpage also combines third party sites such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter to further the catchment of interested search engine users. Our webpage offers revenue to the NZEA through advertising and employment classifications and has continued positive feedback from users and an inquiring global public. The webpage is still very much in its infancy and has scope for education, sales, and global networking.

The webpage generates a large amount of global emails requesting

information regarding study and insight to the embalming profession, from professionals, suppliers and interested future embalming students, and has continued to show growth in traffic figures. Developing and designing the webpage has been a huge learning curve that I have greatly enjoyed.



Edward Brackenbury-Gray  
Website Technician

[www.nzembalmers.org.nz](http://www.nzembalmers.org.nz)

## The Sovereign Industries Endeavour Award in Anatomy and Physiology: Debbie Lockhart

What on earth is this??? You may well ask!

It acknowledges and celebrates, the journey as well as the destination; and was something that we were more than proud to carry on with after the change in ownership of Sovereign Industries in 2008.

This award recognizes that those receiving formal training in the industry have outside lives. Certainly they are holding down responsible positions, have family obligations and may have been out of formal education for a while – in other words there are more pressures than on school leaving tertiary students.

This situation is particularly dear to our

hearts. I for one juggled a full time career and babies with tertiary study. Time was surprisingly the least of the issues! I had decisions like where to sit with a preggy tummy (standard lecture theatres are not designed for this eventuality); and then would this work, if I had to make a discrete getaway should I go into labour. After which child minding became an instant consideration.

We recognise the incredible winners each year, with a specially chosen piece of New Zealand art. This piece is designed to be enjoyed at home, as an acknowledgement of how much working in our industry impacts on personal lives.

We congratulate our recent winners

(2008) Phillip New, (2009) Alastair Hebbard, David Rush (2010), Murray Crozier and Sarah Grieg (2011) and look forward to continuing this celebration of effort, persistence and achievement.



Debbie Lockhart  
SOVEREIGN INDUSTRIES 2008 LTD

## Regal Supreme Award: Ian Christison

Like many manufacturing businesses of the day, Regal Manufacturers began in the basement garage of a residential home in Tawa, Wellington in 1957. The government of the day decided that many imported items could be and should be manufactured in New Zealand, and assisted those people in sourcing materials and machinery to enable manufacturing to commence. Originally side sets and breastings were the main items manufactured, however, over the ensuing years a more diverse range of products allied to the Funeral Directing profession were introduced.

In the early 1970's a committee set up by the Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand and the Central Institute of Technology began the first formal training of Funeral Directors in New Zealand. This was followed by the establishment of the Funeral Services Training committee, a body made up of representatives of Funeral Directors Association of New

Zealand, the New Zealand Embalmers' Association and the Central Institute of Technology.

In 1979 the C.I.T., in association with the F.S.T.C., introduced a course for the formal training of Embalmers. Both the Funeral Directing and Embalmers courses are in operation today, with the exception that the Central Institute of Technology are no longer the educators having been replaced by WelTec.

Regal have had a policy of reinvesting in the industry by way of education and have, along with The Dodge Company, been responsible for providing visits to New Zealand by world class educators to conduct seminar programmes throughout the country.

An award, known as the Regal Supreme Award, was created to honour the top overall graduate separately for Embalming and Funeral Directing. These awards are presented to each organisation at their

Annual Graduation Ceremonies.

We have enjoyed our long association with the NZEA and congratulate you all in achieving forty years of solid performance and look forward to offering you our continued support.



Ian Christison Honorary Member  
Director Regal Manufacturers Ltd

## Regal Supreme Award Recipients

1990	Kirsty MacKenzie	Guardian Funeral Home	Porirua
1991	Ruth Manze	Lamb & Hayward Ltd	Christchurch
1992	Glen Mitchell	Te Puke Funeral Services	Te Puke
1993	Doug Wallis	Gee & Hickton Ltd	Lower Hutt
1994	John Thomson	McDonald & Weston Ltd	Invercargill
1995	Danny Langstraat	Harbour City Funeral Home	Wellington
1996	Ramsay Joyce Jnr	Lagoon View Funeral Services	Auckland
1997	Stephen Dil	Dils Funeral Services	Auckland
1998	No award		
1999	Anthea Baxter	Davis Funeral Services	Auckland
2000	Steven Hibberd	Beth Shan Funeral Directors	Napier
2001	Mark Baker	W Abraham Ltd	New Plymouth
2002	Andrew Maffey	Hope & Sons Ltd	Dunedin
2003	Nik Straugheir	Ninness Funeral Home	Porirua
2004	Brad Morris	Harbour City Funeral Home	Wellington
2005	Carmen Stewart	Campbell & Sons Funeral Services	Mosgiel
2006	John Franklin	Beth Shan Funeral Directors	Napier
2007	Kim Cornwell	Pellows Funeral Services	Hamilton
2008	Nichola Hayes	CHB Funeral Services	Waipukurau
2009	Trent Barton	Harbour City Funeral Home	Wellington
2010	Taina Savage	Legacy Funeral Services	Tauranga

## Circulation: Peter Williams

### "Good News For Embalmers"

David Morris proposed in April 1972 that a newsletter be started; it was not until 1974 that "Super Troc" burst into life as a monthly publication. The newsletter was known by this tongue in cheek title for only one or two issues before reverting to the more formal "NZEA Newsletter" in April 1975. David Morris was from E Morris Jnr which started in 1876. Today the E Morris Jnr premises house a Wellington restaurant called Strawberry Fare.

In the June 1979 issue a competition was announced to find a new name for the newsletter.

The prize was advertised as \$2.00 cash. The names were to be short snappy and embalming oriented. A judging panel of experts was formed. Alan Irvine was the lucky winner with his entry of "Circulation" judged the winner on two counts, one it was the best and two it was the only entry received. So the name "Circulation" became the masthead for the newsletter.

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, Francis Day and Peter Beauchamp. This motto graced every issue from December 1981.

Circulation changed format again in 1986 when it was printed A4 size but not folded in half. Simon Manning took over as editor from Eric Maffey. Publishing costs were sponsored by advertisers. In June 1988 after producing some nine issues Simon passed the pen to Brenton Faithfull of Auckland. Another format change occurred in 1990 when the A4 format became A5 and contained sixteen pages. At the time of the 100th issue of circulation (December 1990) became a bi monthly publication.

Following the November 1991 AGM

Andrew Malcolm was appointed editor. With a suggestion from Andrew circulation became a quarterly publication. The new circulation had a colorful cover, reports on the AGM and photographs of the meeting and dinner, certificate presentations, past presidents and a photograph of founding members present. The new look circulation included personal profiles, reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer, and additional reports from the executive. The new look circulation included a funny page, and many interesting articles and events. In November 1995 Andrew passed the pen onto Peter Williams who carried on with the new format.

In the beginning of my term as editor I produced most of the magazine on a 386 computer using "word" then transferred it to a disk. I took the disk to work and printed it out on the new laser printer. I had to cut out by hand and manually layout the magazine.

A pass through the photocopier and I had a page. My first edition had twenty four pages. Then it was off to the copy shop and everything was photocopied from a photocopy, except the cover page which was scanned and digitally printed. Then usually a few days later it was back to work or home and manually collate the magazine and staple it together.

Then stuff the envelopes and post them. Overtime I collected some digital printing tools like adobe pagemaker a full version of photoshop a portable cd burner and a scanner. I was then able to make the magazine at home burn it to disk and take it to the copy centre. The magazine came back a few days later collated and stapled, all done by machine.

I had wonderful support and motivation from the executive members, great support from advertisers, and many members contributed some fantastic articles. Some were slightly controversial like embalming with milk which came

from a very well known North American funeral publication, and a very creative article from the Hydroponic Society of Australia about natural disposition.

Brenton Faithfull then took over as editor at the end of 2001. Brenton kept the new format but added his own personal and professional touch.

Fraser Stewart took over as editor in 2002, where it became understood that the Circulation magazine had grown and production was a time-consuming project and associated costs had increased.

The NZEA Executive and membership decided to take the offer from FDANZ to be part of the Funeralcare Magazine which was a professionally produced magazine. Fraser Stewart oversaw the evolution of Circulation Magazine to an email format with technical information and Kelly Judkins joined him on the editorial board of the Funeralcare Magazine.



*Peter Williams  
Past Editor & NZEA Member*

## Funeralcare: Kelly Judkins

And so from Circulation which was a great magazine, grew another idea. Both the NZEA and the FDANZ had grown past placing the responsibility of their respective magazines entirely with one editor and began to see the benefits of a combined effort. FSTT was also brought on board, and so Funeralcare was born in the year 2003. The pooling of ideas, articles and resources from NZEA, FDANZ and FSTT meant that a range of topics could be covered for the reader. The magazine was not meant purely for the bottom of an embalmer's filing cabinet anymore, but more with the funeral home coffee table in mind. The funeral industry now had a vehicle which to educate the public through, provide interesting articles to its members, a communal area for which members could advertise, and create a bigger pool of authors to write for the magazine. The concept of a joint magazine was met with a little resistance from members due to less 'technical' information being printed, and so the compromise was the introduction of a technical 'e-magazine',

plus the 'coffee-table' concept of Funeralcare. To ensure that input was equal from all areas, a board was comprised of two representatives from each organisation. Fraser Stewart and Kelly Judkins from NZEA, Wayne Lyons and Peter Giddens from FDANZ, and Stephen Dil and John Peryer from FSTT were the inaugural editorial board.

The articles in the first edition included a feature article titled "The Waters of Sorrow" by Fraser Stewart marking the 50th anniversary of the Tangiwai disaster, articles from the chair, or President of each organisation contributing to the magazine, and an article summarising Tim Collison's recent visit to New Zealand. The magazine has gained strength from its contributors, with some articles being reproduced in the UK, such as the "Why we do what we do" and the corresponding article. Proudly, our magazine is now sent to subscribers in Australia, England and even America.

Today, some nine years later the articles

continue to be of an extremely high calibre, and still reliant on contributions from these three organisations. Of course, articles will be welcomed by the editorial team! In the year of 2012, the magazine is ably manned by the board: Michael Wolfram and Simon Manning (NZEA), Gary Taylor, and Gaynor Campbell (FDANZ), John Duncan, and Alistair Ferguson (FSTT).



## Logo: Malcolm Harding

The "Fluid Drop" was designed by Malcolm Harding of Hawera and has been incorporated on all Association publications, stationery, cuff links, and badges since 1980.

The design encompasses many aspects of the art and science of embalming, and symbolises the modern practice of embalming. Even given our modern age, the logo also recognises the ancient origins of embalming.



Malcolm Harding



### **The Ancient Age is represented by...**

**The Pyramid -** signifies the embalmers of ancient cultures

### **The Modern Age is represented by...**

**The Fluid Drop -** signifies modern arterial embalming practice

**The Human Figure -** signifies human achievement in the advancement of modern embalming art, science, and practice

**The Open Text Book -** signifies the continuing quest for learning through further education and training

**The Stylised Embalming Table -** signifies the dignified and proper care of the deceased

**The Southern Cross Constellation -** signifies New Zealand



## Now And Then, An American Perspective: Todd Van Beck

Problems and difficulties are part of life. No one escapes this glaring reality. No matter what the pop psychologists tell us non-stop about being happy, thin, beautiful, and live a carefree life, well such a thing just ain't possible.

However here and there, just every now and then, once in a while, every so often in a blue moon life presents an unmitigated joy and pleasure. You know what I mean. The unexpected joy, the unplanned experience – in other words that time in life when you are at the right place at the right time. My wife and I just had such an experience.

We took this trip. It was a trip that had been bantered around for almost a quarter of a century. Finally the trip became a reality, but not without some compunctions in preparation. The trip was three weeks on a lecturing tour of the country of New Zealand.

For many years, particularly when certain Kiwi's would make the trip from New Zealand to Hawaii for the Dodge Seminars the conversations would sometimes include this remark, "Hey, Todd you need to come to New Zealand." I would always nod in the affirmation, and would thank the person or persons for their kindness, and then invariably fly back to the mainland, fall back in my routine and in short order another year would pass or three, or five, or ten, or twenty two year.

However in 2011 my good friend and esteemed funeral professional Neil Hickey sat my wife and I down, and we hammered out the arrangements, then the details, and then in late October off we went, and what a travel experience that was. Of course the airline messed up, but the thirteen hour trip to New Zealand seems to just "fly" by (pardon the pun).

In time we were in Wellington and then the joyful experience of meeting and commiserating with some of the finest funeral professionals I have ever encountered began.

Truth is I really had no idea what to expect. I have experienced international lecture tours before, sometimes there is a connection, but sometimes there is not. I need not have worried any concerning this trip to New Zealand.

I won't bore the reader with the itinerary, or the lecture material, or even the different places we lodged in, lectured in and traveled to, save for this suggestion. If anybody reading this, anyplace on the earth, has never been to Queenstown, New Zealand – well I would strongly suggest that you add this one single destination to your "things to do before I die list" and if you doubt the veracity of my opinion just Google "Queenstown, New Zealand".

This short essay is about the funeral community, the funeral professionals that I encountered on this memorable visit.

Several adjectives come to mind as I am writing this, but as memory serves me the actual action adjectives which I heard my wife and myself repeating as we travelled from one location to another were words like "nice, quality, kindness, dedication, creativity, innovation, care, mission, compassion, pleasant surprise, excellence," well the list could and should go on and on.

All professions ultimately rest upon the mission upon which a group of kindred spirits is set upon. This is true of all professional callings. I was struck time and again by the serious mission of service to humanity that I saw in the actions and attitudes of the funeral professionals in New Zealand, and this statement is no idle compliment, it is a living breathing reality.

This mission, the devotion to quality was evident in conversations, and it was not fake or phony. You could see it in people's faces, in their countenance, in the expressions. In other words what I experienced in my trip to visit New Zealand funeral service was an experience of seeing firsthand the ancient philosophy which goes this way: "You cannot enrich

yourself unless you enrich others first."

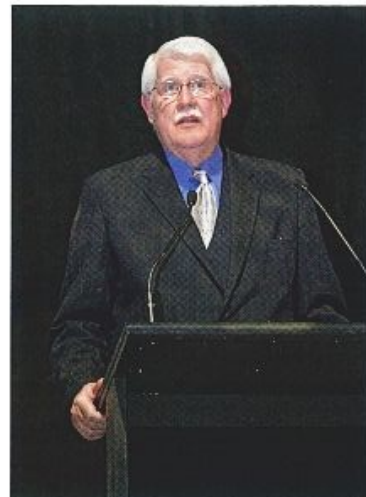
It is true that I have certainly experienced this philosophy in the states, in England, in South America, many different places, but for the life of me I can't remember when I experienced such a consistent concentration of funeral service excellence. In New Zealand it was everywhere.

The old saying is that imitation is the greatest form of flattery. If this sage piece of wisdom is true, then I am a frontrunner in flattering the New Zealand funeral community for the simple reasons that I returned to the states with tons of quality service concepts which I plan to put into action. Imitating New Zealand funeral service, I have definitely concluded is indeed a worthy ideal, and I have always been mighty attracted to worthy ideals.

My hat is off to my new friends and colleagues in New Zealand. Well done, you have left your mark on this funeral director and you will not be forgotten. It was one of those joyful experiences in life.

Thank you.

Todd .W. Van Beck



*Funeral Educator,  
Historian and Consultant*

## Coroners Changes: Judge Neil Mclean

A former Chief Coroner of Ontario once said that the role of the Coroner was "to speak for the dead in order to protect the living". This perhaps best describes the most vital function of the modern Coronial System. It is only through a transparent, openly therapeutic,

Inquisitional Court process that we can identify practices that have cost human life and then modify or eliminate them.

Since my appointment as the Chief Coroner under the new Coroners Act 2006 ("the Act") my main focus was

setting up the first ever Coronial Services Unit to support the sixteen full-time Coroners. This involved the transition from a part-time service to a 24/7 coronial system.

### What are the significant changes under the new act?

The most significant change under the Act was the restructuring of the whole coronial system with the object of creating much more national consistency of procedure

Many of the other changes focused on improving communication and the relationship between the Coroner and the victim's family or whanau. It is important to incorporate the spiritual and cultural needs of the individual into the coronial process. The issues around the early release of bodies and whether or not there should be a post mortem are to be

considered against a background of awareness of concerns of the Māori community and other ethnic groups of abhorrence to the concept of post mortems and a requirement for early, if not immediate, release of deceased persons to whanau or family.

This change in the Act has addressed the issues of the past that were causing discomfort for grieving family members. The Act seeks to provide an appropriate balance between the cultural and spiritual needs of families by –

- Introducing a requirement to notify the family and family representatives of significant matters throughout various stages of the coronial process;
- Introducing a limited right to object to a post-mortem examination in non-suspicious deaths;
- allowing families, with the coroner's permission, to view, touch or remain near the body;
- introducing requirements for removal and retention of body parts and bodily samples;
- extending the circumstances in which a post-mortem can be performed early.

Another matter that was addressed in the new Act and perhaps one of the more difficult issues impacting the coronial process is that of suicide. One significant change through the Act is that suicide inquests are no longer mandatory.

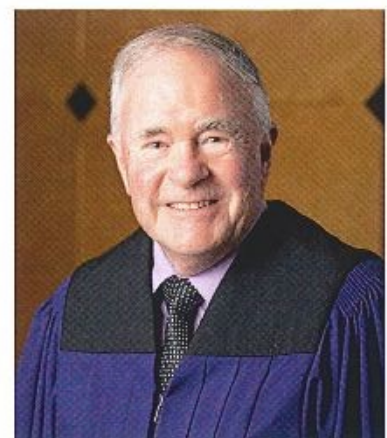
Suicide has always been and will continue to be a rather contentious issue. There has been heated debate surrounding the issue of the censorship of suicide in the media.

My recent comments in the media were to de-stigmatise the taboo surrounding the discussion of suicide. The reality is, Coroners deal with over 540 suicides a

year and it is by far the largest class of death seen before the Court.

The question is - how much of this needs to be out in the open to reflect the true, frightening level of how much suicide impacts many New Zealander's lives?

The new legislation takes a more flexible approach. Details beyond the name, address, occupation, and the finding of self-inflicted death can only be made public when authorised by the Coroner. Circumstances when a Coroner can make these details public are clearly defined under the Act.



Judge Neil McLean  
Chief Coroner

## After Hours Facility-NIO

In December 2008, we commenced a new system for dealing with coronial issues outside normal weekday working hours. We set up a National Initial Investigations Office (NIO). This is a stand-alone facility in Auckland running 24/7, specially employed staff work after hours on a rostered shift basis. They are called National Coronial Referral Advisors (NCRA).

Generally NIO is working well, there are still some ongoing niggles particularly with clinicians wanting to discuss a troublesome case with a Coroner in the small hours of the morning. We have reached a degree of an ad-hoc understanding that if the matter has been raised to consultant

level and a consultant would like to talk to a Coroner then our after-hours staff will facilitate that. Otherwise the staff who are becoming very good at the job as they develop expertise simply keep things moving, deal with the paper warfare, get the details loaded into the computer system and have the file in a tidy progressed state ready for handover to the Regional Coroner at 8:30am. Generally the system enables Coroners to work a five day week 8:30am to 5:00pm and that is one of the major spinoffs of this system.

## Greatest Challenges that have faced New Zealand Coroners

### Swine flu

For better or for worse after consultation with our Chief Forensic Advisor we decided to take a more proactive stance when deaths were reported which had a potential element of H1N1 2009.

We worked on a hospital death reporting process which we had put in place with a standardised hospital death reporting form to be sent immediately whereby we knew of deaths where there was the possibility of flu-like symptoms prior to death. We were able to ensure through our pathologists that swabs were

done or lung samples taken. We wanted Virology information - to know whether the test was positive or not so that when we were then at an early stage of talking to families we could give them a heads up on it either by way of reassurance or if necessary that they should be thinking about some precautions. We also put in place, with a good degree of co-operation with others, a contact facility to which people could be referred by our staff for further advice as to what to do.

### Christchurch

On Tuesday 22nd February 2011 at 12.51pm work in the Christchurch Coronial Services office came to an abrupt standstill as the massive 6.3 earthquake shook the offices damaging the building, and traumatising and injuring staff. The day after the Earthquake Coroner Sue Johnson in Christchurch received the first notification of the then 75 earthquake deaths. For the first few days she worked from her car with no administrative assistance. She was able to establish identities and release the few deceased who were in the Christchurch Hospital mortuary. The rest of the by now 181 bodies were taken to Burnham Military Camp temporary mortuary which was built by the NZ Defence Force in two and half days.

Coroners and co-ordinators from other parts of the country all

came on board and assisted the Christchurch staff though this busy time. It was not until the 12th of October that things had sufficiently improved enough for the Christchurch Coroners and staff to at last be able to take over all the new (non-earthquake related) deaths which the Hastings Coroner and staff had been handling since not long after the earthquake. While the aftershocks continue, Coroners and Staff, who for the first time were actually themselves all involved in the very incident that killed the people whose deaths they were dealing with, have developed a new appreciation and closeness with their work-family as well as gaining a new awareness of how quickly life can change.

## What lies ahead for the Coronial Services Unit?

The Coronial Services Unit moves into the twenty-first century with a focus on prevention. This is achieved with proper resourcing by identifying trends and looking at issues in a wider context. As part of this we have had multiple inquests being held together including Coroner Matenga inquiring into a spate of Cycle Deaths and Coroner Shortland inquiring into Quad Bike Deaths. This takes a more community-based approach to prevention.

With a national structure now in place coupled with the ability and powers I have under the Act of general overseeing of the

system, we are able to provide national consistency to the coronial process. That, with a publicly accessible database of Coroner's recommendations and the ability to issue practice notes and amend forms as required, means we are generally "lifting our game".

The well resourced and supported coronial team currently in place is better equipped than coroners have been in the past to provide a coronial system that is of real value to modern society.

*Judge Neil McLean  
Chief Coroner*

## On Your Fortieth Birthday: Jeffrey Chancellor

It has been said many times about many things and in many places! Good things come in small packages. It has been my particular experience in New Zealand too. New Zealand is the real package!

Sure, compared to many countries New Zealand is small and compared to some of the giant funeral homes in the larger countries many Kiwi funeral homes are quite small but don't ever let size fool you! Good things come in small packages!

It was quite an unfortunate coincidence that I was unable to share in the festivities during the NZEA's fortieth birthday celebration because I was actually working with a funeral provider in the fortieth country of my death care journey.

I have had the great pleasure of visiting and sharing with more than 1,500 funeral providers around the world and during my travels I am often asked "where is the best place in the world for death care?"

I must confess that my answer since 2005 is always the same; New Zealand and Canada and Canada and New Zealand! Honestly it is difficult to determine which Nation takes the lead since both nations have a zeal for innovation and are the embodiment of traditional values.

If you do not believe me just go to the UK or the Netherlands, the cultural parents of the many Kiwi's.

You will be hard pressed to find as professional an embalmer possessing the same excellent skill sets while working in the same quality of embalming

centres while using the same quality of technique, chemicals and equipment while serving the same diversity of clientele!

I am no doubt prejudiced in my opinion being a Canadian and having always felt the kindred Commonwealth spirit in New Zealand but it goes deeper than that. Canada has had a form of national funeral director and embalmer association and held conventions and workshops for over ninety years while New Zealand is just celebrating its fortieth.

That is an indisputable measure of the excellence of NZEA members in my book.

Both nations have small populations. Small markets breed fierce competition. Losing a client hurts more when there are not so many to be found! This I believe is the taproot of excellence found in both New Zealand and Canada.

Both of our nearest neighbors are bigger countries with bigger funeral homes and bigger populations and although they also began as colonies of Britain they embody a more of a frontier attitude and a boom and bust philosophy of business.

The Kiwi and the Canuck are more invested in community and legacy and that extends to death care.

Bigger is not always better! I have visited more than seventy funeral companies during my numerous visits to New Zealand and believe that the quality of embalmer and embalming is leading the world!

I say congratulations to NZEA for forty years of continuously raising the bar for all of us through education, innovation, passion and professionalism!



*Yours in service,  
Jeffrey Chancellor, CFSP*

## Conference Overview: David Buckley

### Fortieth Ruby Celebration of the New Zealand Embalmers Association.



Even the strong Wellington wind wasn't enough to keep nearly two hundred attendees away from celebrating forty years of the New Zealand Embalmers Association in Wellington over the first weekend of November 2011.

For those who attended, a truly great weekend was had. Conference convener Neil Hickey and his organising team put together a trip down memory lane as young and old got together to share stories and pictures of the past forty years.

The weekend started on Thursday for the Executive to put together the final touches for the upcoming celebrations. This meeting was to be the last for Barry Holmwood (Treasurer) and Paolo Guglietta (Executive Member) who were stepping down from their roles at the AGM. A big note of thanks was given to both for all their time and effort with the Association over many years.

The celebrations started on Thursday evening with the President's Reception which was held a short walk from the hotel at a restaurant called Strawberry Fare. This building held memories for many who attended this function as it was once the funeral home "E. Morris Jnr" and this name can still be seen on the front of the building. Many stories were re-lived and I'm sure added to as those who worked in this funeral home travelled back in time and re-lived memories of the past.

During the dinner the Past Presidents were presented with a commemoration plaque honouring their past involvement with the Association. The evening ended with a fine meal and a few taking

advantage of the Wellington night life on their way back to the hotel.

Friday saw a few sore heads heading to the conference room for the 9 am start of the Todd Van Beck seminar. This full day seminar could have easily gone on for a week as Todd Van Beck (the best funeral industry speaker I have heard) spoke on the changing force that the embalmer brings to the funeral industry and the ethical values that we as embalmers must set, not only for our business's but also as individuals. Quotes such as "You can't enrich your own life until you enrich others first" and "Just as you live so you will care for the dead" were reinforced with his own personal stories of over forty years in the funeral industry.

Many of these were very humorous but all had a point to make that reinforced his message in a very powerful way. There will be many that attended this seminar that will have gone away thinking very seriously about work habits and thought patterns that may need to be changed, myself included.

Friday evening saw many of us catching two buses and heading out of town to Houghton Bay to The Pines venue where we acknowledged the Life Members and Honorary Members. The setting was on the beautiful south Wellington coast overlooking Cook Strait and the South Island (if only the cloud had lifted). The evening was a resounding success with many taking part in the karaoke, dancing and catching up with old friends.

On Saturday evening the highlight of the weekend's festivities the evening got under way in the ballroom of the Amora hotel, headquarters for our fortieth

celebrations at the early time of 5pm for drinks and nibbles. A great time for friends and families to catch up with old friends and graduates. There was time for photos and last minute adjustments, a group photo which is always a challenge with two hundred participants to organise, making sure everyone can be seen. With everyone seated, our evening began with the graduates and special guests procession, followed by a stirring rendition of the NZ Nation Anthem sung eloquently by Sam and Lulu Parker of Gisborne. President Andy Ellis welcomed everyone, Wellington Mayor Her Worship Celia Wade-Brown officially welcomed all members and guests to Wellington and set a wonderful tone for the evenings celebrations.

Weltec graduation followed with six Graduates receiving their National Diploma in Embalming Achievement awards were presented for Top Theory, Practical and Endeavour with the pinnacle being the Supreme Award for the top overall graduate.

This year to celebrate this historical occasion, for the first time miniature trophies of the Noel McNee Practical Award were presented to all previous recipients who were present. These were kindly donated by Past President Mark Pattinson. Once again it was a delight to have Joyce McNee present these trophies.

Special awards were presented to NZEA members Stephen Day of Nelson (Practical) & Peter Fleming Waipukurau (Theory) who attended and graduated from the First CIT award in Embalming Certificate programme (1979-80).

## Conference Overview: David Buckley (Continued)

Special guest funeral educator and historian Todd Van Beck from (Alabama USA) gave the keynote address, reinforcing the values of embalming in funeral service and the tremendous work performed by embalmers throughout the world. The Graduates were presented with their NZEA membership certificates by President Andy Ellis and Todd Van Beck, FDANZ. President Tony Garing (Christchurch) presented a Presidential chain of office on behalf of FDANZ, which was warmly received by President Andy Ellis.

NZEA founding members were

introduced. This gave those present an opportunity to see the founding fathers of NZEA, Alan Irvine and Peter Strong addressed the audience on the trials and tribulations of the early days setting up NZEA. The fortieth Jubilee cake was cut by Alan and Peter with founding members Francis Day, Cedric Little and Eric Maffey alongside.

As the night progressed the incoming executive for the fortieth year were introduced, followed by a highlight of the evening, the presentation of the highest office, Life membership was introduced by past executive member

Peter Beauchamp. Peter gave a colourful address on the achievements of Past President Barrie Head (New Plymouth) which was supported by a DVD presentation on Barrie's achievements to the theme music from the "Godfather". Barrie was overwhelmed by this presentation but replied admirably in accepting his award. A great way to finish three days of celebrations. The evening concluded with Sam and Lulu Parker providing wonderful entertainment.

A memorable time and great occasion to bring so many past and present members, sponsors and friends of NZEA together.

## Barrie Head Life Member

Life Membership was bestowed upon Past President Barrie Head on the occasion of our fortieth celebrations. The category of Life Membership is awarded to those who have served both profession and association in an outstanding manner.

Barrie entered funeral service in 1956 with his grandfather Willie Abraham in the New Plymouth family business. His first tasks were in the joinery shop making caskets. He attended a course in Temporary Preservation in Auckland around 1972 under Harry Rollo at Sibuns, and earned his embalming certificate in 1973. Barrie often recounts these early years in the industry - hand mixing his own chemicals from drums of formalin and making an embalming powder compound using sawdust.

Barrie was an embalming pioneer, experimenting with different methods and equipment - including the gravity fed embalming machine (a 5 gallon bottle that was hoisted on top of a high shelf). His favorite injection site has always been the brachial artery. The only health and safety policy in place at that time was "If

your eyes are stinging, turn your head away!" Barrie describes the early years of the NZEA "meetings" as a good excuse to spend a couple of days in a pub with friends and colleagues.

However from his earliest times with NZEA Barry has supported formal qualifications in the industry and continues to put students through the courses available to the funeral profession. He has always supported NZEA meetings and has attended numerous seminars both in New Zealand and overseas and encouraging his staff to attend also.

Barrie has held the position of executive member, secretary and finally president over the space of about ten years. He was Secretary of NZEA during the Erebus disaster in 1980.

His long time colleague and good friend Peter Beauchamp together with members of Barrie's family worked to provide a wonderful presentation of Barrie's achievements and involvements with NZEA and funeral service over fifty six years.

Barrie continues to be involved in funeral service and is still active with NZEA as one of the two Trustees of the association.

### Melbourne Cup party

These were days when the AGM coincided with the Melbourne Cup. Meetings all ended in time for the members to partake in the Hotels Melbourne Cup Party. Barrie considered this the highlight of the AGM for many years.

The association extends to Barrie very warm congratulations on the achievement of Life Membership.



Barrie Head  
Life Member

## Fortieth Half Yearly General Meeting: Napier

NZEA held its fortieth Half Yearly General Meeting in Napier on the 17th May 2012. The three day conference started off with the arrival of the Executive Committee on the Tuesday afternoon in readiness for their traditional Executive Meeting the day prior to the General Meeting.

A small rowdy group of members attended the Early Birds dinner at the Scenic Hotel Te Pania restaurant which gave the opportunity for those present to reacquaint themselves with each other and the wine list.

An early start of 8:30am the next day greeted a small group of members for the General Meeting which was held "over the road" at the War Memorial Centre.

A brilliant venue that over looked the South Pacific Ocean. President Andy and his Executive held a thorough meeting with healthy discussion especially towards the review of the association's rules.

John Duncan through the Executive will distribute a discussion document seeking all members' comments and feedback to aid in the review of the rules. With the small attendance at the meeting it was discussed if future half yearly meetings be held over one or two days as opposed to three.

This would mean the meeting and seminar on one day with a dinner that same night, and the possibility of a social event the next day.

All in attendance were in favor of that happening and it was also mentioned that more members might be able to attend a one and a half day conference. With the meeting finished at 12:30pm, lunch was taken then those interested took a short walk up the hill to the old Napier prison for an afternoon of frivolity and amusement behind bars.

They learned of the history of the old historic landmark and its inmates from recent times and well over a century ago. Thursday night saw witness to a stunningly beautiful venue for a dinner and a show. The Old Church on Meeanee Road usually plays host to weddings, not a group of embalmers looking to let their hair down and have a good sing along. The wine and food was top notch, it's just a shame the same can't be said for some of the Executive's dancing and singing..... David.

Reality was brought back to us all on Friday as Simon Manning (Disaster Response Team Leader), Gavin Murphy (Team Leader), Peter Beauchamp (Team Leader), and Andy Ellis (NZEA President & Senior Team Member) presented a seminar on the teams involvement with the Disaster Response Team response after the February 2011 Earthquake which devastated Christchurch.

Although there were a large number in attendance who were in Christchurch, those who weren't were able to interact with those who were and discuss and understand what went on and what was involved.

Malcolm Burgess (John Rhind Funeral Directors) and Simon Lyford (Canterbury Christian Funeral Services) both of Christchurch shared their stories before, during, and after the 22nd which further added to just how raw and real it was for those directly involved.

A further de-brief and discussion time was held shortly after the seminar had finished to make ourselves aware of the process required when such an event happens and what we should be aware of if we are called to help out.

For those who weren't heading home straight after the seminar the Filter

Room put on an alcoholic taste test and lunch, which was a nice way to relax and finish the conference. A huge thanks and appreciation must go to the two convenors, Janine Howard and Nic Hayes for their planning. They even managed to keep us all to the set times. Well done ladies.



Andy Ellis  
NZEA President

# 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.





***Past Presidents New Zealand Embalmers Association Inc.***

Peter Strong	1971 – 1973 [Founding Chairman]
David Morris	1973 – 1975
Graham Shirley	1975 – 1977
Lindsay Helson	1977 – 1979
Derek Hope	1979 – 1981
Francis Day	1981 – 1983
Barrie Head	1983 – 1984
Neil Hickey	1984 – 1986
Eric Maffey	1986 – 1988
Michael Wolfram	1988 – 1990
Peter Cohen	1990 – 1992
Mark Pattinson	1992 – 1993
John Schipper	1993 – 1995
Michael Hope	1995 – 1997
Alistair Ferguson	1997 – 1999
Brenton Faithfull	1999 – 2001
Johanna Kinvig	2001 – 2003 [First Woman President]
David Parker	2003 – 2006 [First 3 Year Term President]
Andrew Malcolm	2006 – 2007
Wade Downey	2007 – 2009
Andrew Ellis	2009 – Present

***Founding Members*****Roll Of Honour Founding Members 2nd October 1971**

Jack Airton  
Lionel Griggs  
Albert Marker  
Harry Rollo

**Living Founding Members**

Roger Burgoyne  
Francis Day  
Alan Irvine  
Cedric Little  
Eric Maffey  
David Morris  
Graham Shirley  
Peter Strong  
Stan Stout

**Life Members**

Alan Irvine  
Peter Strong  
Eric Maffey  
Francis Day  
Neil Hickey  
Derek Hope  
Cedric Little  
John Peryer  
Barrie Head

**Honorary Members**

David Cathcart  
Ian Christison  
Professor Mike Marfell-Jones  
Bernie Richmond  
Geoff Shapland

***New Zealand Embalmers Association Inc. Office Bearers 1971 – 2011***

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>
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 J. 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 – 91	Peter J. Cohen	Gerard Boyack	Stephen Hilliard
1991 – 92	Peter J. Cohen	John Schipper	Stephen Hilliard
1992 – 93	Mark Pattinson	John Schipper	Michael J. Hope
1993 – 94	John Schipper	Mark Rowley	Michael J. Hope
1994 – 95	John Schipper	Mark Rowley	Michael J. Hope
1995 – 96	Michael J. Hope	Brenton Faithfull	Alistair Ferguson
1996 – 97	Michael J. Hope	Brenton Faithfull	Alistair Ferguson
1997 – 98	Alistair Ferguson	Brenton Faithfull	Craig Little
1998 – 99	Alistair Ferguson	Brenton Faithfull	Craig Little
1999 – 00	Brenton Faithfull	Johanna Kinvig	Bronwyn Macey
2000 – 01	Brenton Faithfull	Johanna Kinvig	Bronwyn Macey
2001 – 02	Johanna Kinvig	Kelly Judkins	Bronwyn Macey
2002 – 03	Johanna Kinvig	Kelly Judkins	Bronwyn Macey
2003 – 04	David Parker	Kelly Judkins	Bronwyn Macey
2004 – 05	David Parker	Kelly Judkins	Bronwyn Macey
2005 – 06	David Parker	Cameron Moray-Smith	Andrew Malcolm
2006 – 07	Andrew Malcolm	Andrew Ellis	Wade Downey
2007 – 08	Wade Downey	Andrew Ellis	Barry Holmwood
2008 – 09	Wade Downey	Andrew Ellis	Barry Holmwood
2009 – 10	Andrew Ellis	Blair Sanson	Barry Holmwood
2010 – 11	Andrew Ellis	Geoff Botherway	Barry Holmwood

**Roll of Honour**

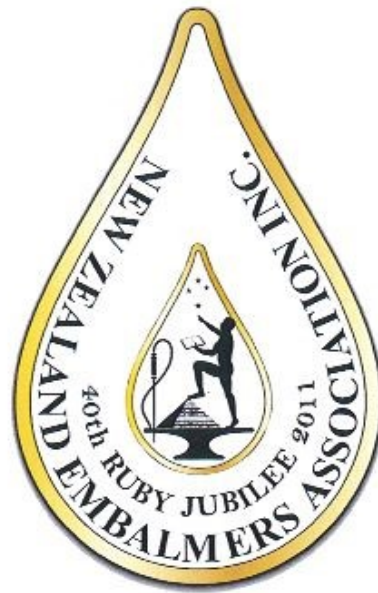
Jack Airtron	Auckland
Percy (Jock) Atkinson	Te Awamutu
Eric Boland	Sydney, Australia
Dennis Bourke	New Plymouth
Robin Burns	Whangarei
Norman Cotton	Feilding
Walter Cotton	Feilding
Patrick (Pat) Day	Nelson
Wilfred (Will) Dil	Auckland
Ivan Fleming	Wanganui
Lambert Fountain	Auckland
William (Bill) Gilvear	Wellington
Richard Geard	Kaitaia
Lionel Griggs	Palmerston North
Alex Hird	Wanganui
Hugh (Bill) Jones	Tauranga
Ross Jordan	Whakatane
John Levens	Wellington
Albert Marker	Christchurch
Noel McNee	Wellington
Philip (Phil) Meredith	Palmerston North
Collins Opie	Paraparaumu
James (Jim) Ritchie	Dunedin
Harry Rollo	Auckland
Stephen Romanoff	Christchurch
George Seator	Invercargill
James (Jim) Southwood	Auckland
David Still	Auckland
Samuel (Sam) Tong	Hastings
Desmond (Des) Peryer	Hastings
Ronald (Ron) Weston	Invercargill

**40th Jubilee Committee**

Neil Hickey	Wellington
Kelly Judkins	Hawera
Johanna Kinvig	Dunedin
Simon Lyford	Christchurch
David Parker	Gisborne
Jenaya Pascoe	Christchurch
Michael Wolfram	Wellington



# NZEA



# Membership List

While all care has been taken in the preparation of this document NZEA accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

ALLEN, Eddie (Full)	BURGESS, Malcolm L (Full)	DOBSON, Paul (Non-Prac)
AMYS, Cheryl Joy (Full)	BUTLER, Steven (Full)	♣ DOWNEY, Wade (Full)
ARMSTRONG, Arlen C (Full)	CATHCART, David (Honorary)	DUNCAN, John (Full)
ARMSTRONG, Arlen P (Full)	CHECK, David (Student 2012)	ELLIS, Andrew (Full / President)
AUSTIN, Janine (Student 2011)	CHRISTISON, Ian (Honorary)	ERASMUS, Pierre (Non-Prac)
BAKER, Mark James (Full)	CLEVELAND, Craig (Non-Prac)	EVANS, Nickolas E (Full / Executive)
BARR, Hannah (Student 2011)	CLEVELAND, Rhys (Student 2012)	♣ FAITHFULL, Brenton B (Non-Prac)
BATCHELOR, Hamish (Student 2011)	COOPER, Clive (Non-Prac)	FEATHERSTONE, Adrian R (Non-Prac)
BARTON, Trent (Full)	CORNWELL, Kim (Full)	♣ FERGUSON, Alistair K (Full)
BATTERSBY, Mark (Full)	COTTON, Hayden Trevor R (Non-Prac)	FLEMING, Peter (Full)
BAXTER, Anthea (Full)	COTTON, Shane (Full)	FRASER, Wilson J (Full)
BEAUCHAMP, Peter (Full)	CROFTS, Murray Richard (Non-Prac)	GILMORE, Nikki (Full)
BLACK, Alistair (Full)	CROZIER, Murray (Full)	GILLIONS, Kellie (Non-Prac)
BOLTON, Christopher (Full)	DACOMBE, Lloyd (Full)	GOSS-DRUMMOND, Jordan (Student 2012)
BOTHERWAY, Geoffrey (Full / Secretary)	♣ DAY, Francis H (Life)	GRAHAM, Peter (Full)
BOWEN, Christopher (Full)	DAY, Stephen C (Non-Prac)	GRAHAM, Bruce (Non-Prac)
BRACKENBURY-GRAY, Edward (Full)	DEADMAN, Marissa (Student 2012)	GREIG, Sarah (Full)
BRITTENDEN, Jeremy (Full)	DEMLER, Rod (Full / Examiner)	GROOBY, Robyn (FDANZ - Honorary)
BRODIE, Angus (Non-Prac)	DEW, David P (Full)	GUGLIETTA, Paolo (Full)
BROWN, Timothy (Student 2012)	DIL, Stephen (Non-Prac)	GURZHIY, German (Full)
BUCKLEY, David (Non-Prac / Executive)	DOBSON, Bill (Non-Prac) Western Aust.	HAMMOND, Wayne (Student 2011)

HANRAHAN, Bruce (Full)	HURRELL, Grant (Non-Prac)	LITTLE, Craig M (Non-Prac)
HARDING, Malcolm (Full)	HURST, Kelvin B (Full)	LITTLE, Neil (Non-Prac)
HAYES, Nichola (Full)	HUTT, Annette (Non-Prac)	LOCK, Maria (Student 2012)
♣ HEAD, Barrie C (Life)	HYNDMAN, Jenna (Full)	LOCKINGTON, Charles (Full)
HEBBERD, Alastair (Full)	IRVINE, Alan K (Life)	LYFORD, Simon (Full / Examiner)
HEDGES, Derek (Full)	JACOBSON, Brenden J (Full)	LYNCH, Morgan (Full)
HETET, Juline (Non-Prac)	JAMES, Timothy G F (Full)	MACEY, Bronwyn (Non-Prac)
HIBBERD, Steve (Non-Prac)	JENKINS, Donna L (Non-Prac)	MAFFEY, Andrew (Non-Prac)
♣ HICKEY, Nell F (Life)	JOSEPHS, Blair (Non-Prac)	♣ MAFFEY, Eric (Life)
HOLMWOOD, Barry L (Full)	JUDKINS, Kelly (Full)	MAHUIKA, David (Full)
HOLTZ, George Vernon (Non-Prac)	KERR, Craig (Non-Prac)	♣ MALCOLM, Andrew (Non-Prac)
HOMAN, Katie L (Full)	KIMBERLEY, Joshua (Non-Prac)	MANNING, Simon (Non-Prac)
HOOPER, Rhiannon (Student 2012)	♣ KINVIG, Johanna E (Non-Prac)	MANUKONGA, Simon (Full)
♣ HOPE, Derek (Life)	LAKE, Clyde (Non-Prac)	MANZE, Ruth (Non-Prac)
HOPE, Elizabeth A (Non-Prac)	LANGSTRAAT, Danny (Non-Prac)	MARFELL-JONES, Prof Mike (Honorary)
♣ HOPE, Michael J (Non-Prac)	LEVESQUE, Lucie, (Full)	MATAUA, Ken (Non-Prac)
HOPKIRK, Rodney (Student 2012)	L'HUILLIER, Paul (Full)	MacLACHLAN-GLOVER, D'artagnan
HOUCHEM, Stuart Charles (Full)	LIGALIGA, Fa'apo F (Non-Prac)	McCREEDY, Benjamin L (Non-Prac)
HOULT, Bevan (Full)	LIGALIGA, Filippo (Full)	McDONNELL, Michelle (Full)
HOWARD, Janine (Full)	LIGALIGA, Phillip (Non-Prac)	MEHRTENS, Kirsty (Student 2011)
	LITTLE, Cedric J (Life)	

MILLAR, Janette (Student 2012)	♣ PATTINSON, Mark (Non-Prac)	SHAPLAND, Geoff. S (Honorary)
MILNE, Robert J (Full)	PATTINSON, Robert F (Non-Prac)	SINCLAIR, Robert H (Full)
MINTER, Kim (Full)	PEIPI, Andrae (Non-Prac)	SMITH, Keith (Full)
MOIR, Tony James (Student 2011)	PERYER, John F (Chief Examiner, Life)	SMITH, Lawrence (Non-Prac)
MONK, Wayne (Full)	PICKERING, Gary (Full)	SOLOMON, Rikki (Full)
MORAY-SMITH, Cameron (Full)	RAVEN, Tania F (Student 2011)	SQUIRE, John Gordon (Full)
MORRIS, Brad J (Full)	REID, Alastair (Full)	SPARKS, Melanie J (Full)
MORRISON, Roger J (Full)	REINSFIELD, Mark David (Full)	STEANS, Murray D (Non-Prac)
MOSSMAN, Derek J (Full)	RENNER, Joanne (Full)	STEPHEN, Graham S (Full)
MURPHY, Gavin J (Full / Examiner)	RICHMOND, Bernie (Honorary)	STEWART, Carmen Jane (Non-Prac)
NEW, Phillip (Full)	ROBERTS, Stephen (Student 2012)	STEWART, Fraser (Non-Prac)
NEWMAN, Dean (Full)	ROLSTON, Graeme J (Full)	STOUT, Stan (Full)
NICHOLSON, Chantal (Non-Prac)	ROSSITER-CAMPBELL, Glen (Non-Prac)	♣ STRONG, Peter (Life)
NORRIS, Duncan (Full)	RUSH, David (Full)	TARRANT, Kim (Student 2012)
ONG, Lavender (Student 2011)	RUTLAND, Phillip (Full)	TATTERSALL, Paul (Full)
ORCHARD, Graham (Non-Prac)	SANSON, Blair R (Full)	TATTLE, Robyn (Full)
♣ PARKER, David (Non-Prac)	SARDELICH-MCNUTT, Victoria (Student 2012)	TATUPU, Uiese Ese (Full)
PASCOE, Jenaya (Full)	SAVAGE, Taina M F (Full)	TAYLOR, Darlene (Full)
PATERSON, Sonia (Non Prac)	SAYERS, Jason (Full)	THOMAS, Gareth (Non-Prac)
PATTERSON, Andrew (Full)	♣ SCHIPPER, John J (Non-Prac)	THOMSON, Robyn (Full)

*WALKER, Alan (Full)*

*WALLACE, Duncan (Student 2011)*

*WARREN, Vern (Non-Prac)*

*WEARNE, Todd (Non-Prac)*

*WHEELER, Stuart R (Non-Prac)*

*WILKINSON, David (Student 2011)*

*WILLIAMS, Martin (Full)*

*WILLIAMS, Peter (Non-Prac)*

*Member Id : 626*


*WILSON, Jane (Full)*

*WILSON, Victor (Full)*

*WINTON, Roy (Non-Prac)*

*WOLLERTON, Philip (Non-Prac)*

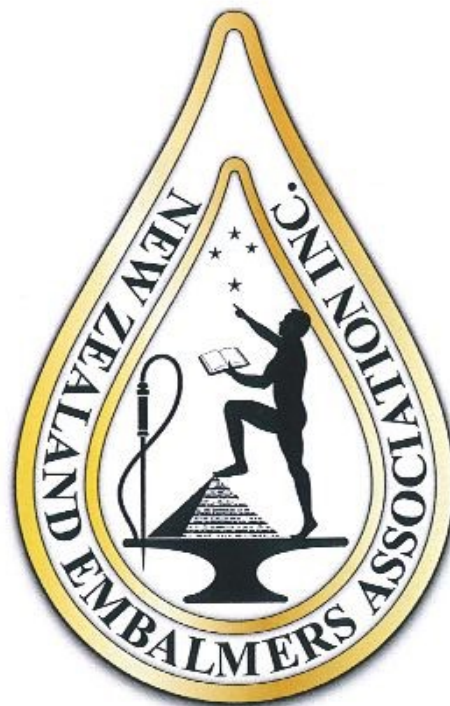
*WORTHINGTON, Matthew (Non-Prac)*

 *WOLFFRAM, Michael (Full)*

*WYBROW, Gary (Non-Prac / Treasurer)*

*WYLIE, Lewis (Full)*

 *Denotes Past Presidents*





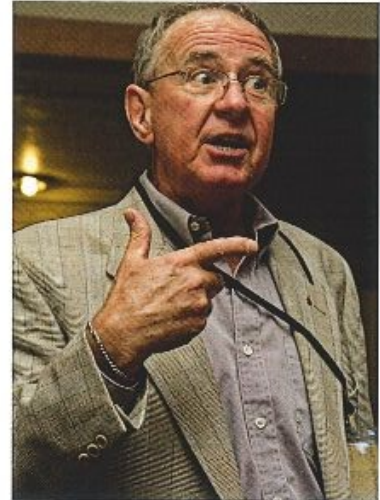
## The President's Reception



*Andy Ellis, Gary Wybrow*



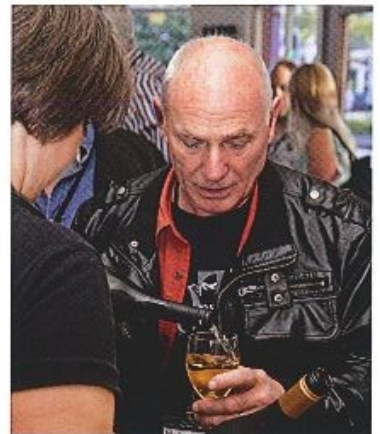
*John Schipper, David Parker*



*Peter Strong*



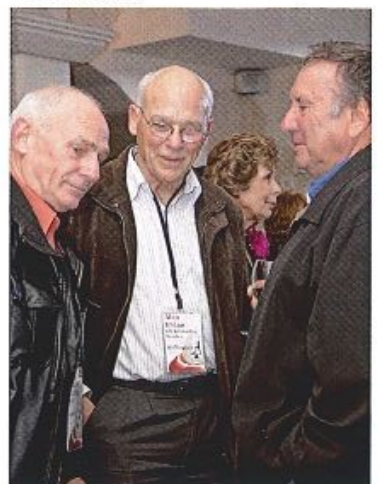
*Michael Hope, Jannette Hope, John Peryer*



*Malcolm Harding*



*Members and Guests at Strawberry Fare*



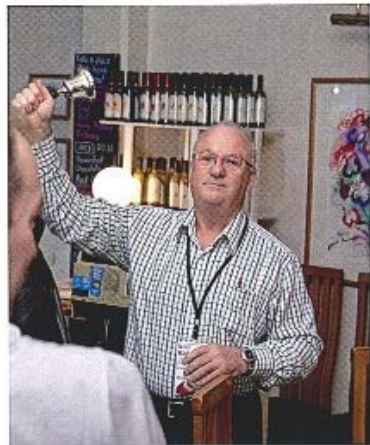
*Malcom Harding, Alan Irvine,  
Robert Pattinson*



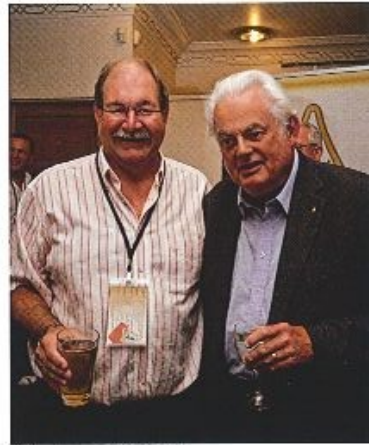
Joanne Williams, John Peryer



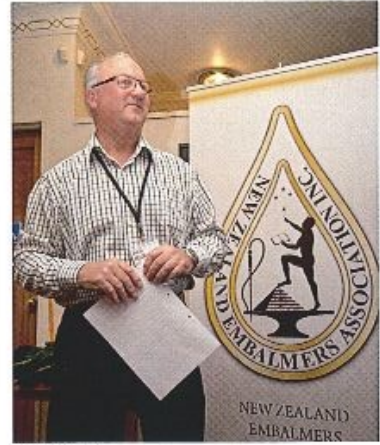
Lucie Levesque, Janine Howard, Duncan Wallace



The Town Cryer



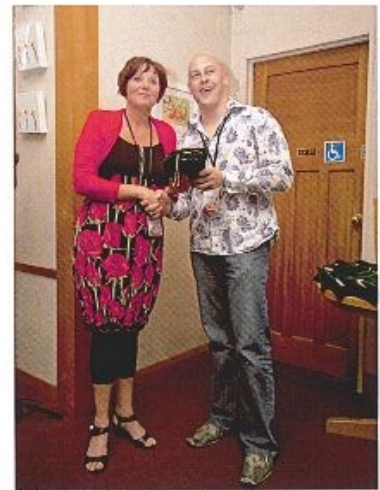
John Peryer, Eric Maffey



Neil Hickey



Members and Guests at Strawberry Fare



Johanna Kirvig (First Female President),  
Andy Ellis

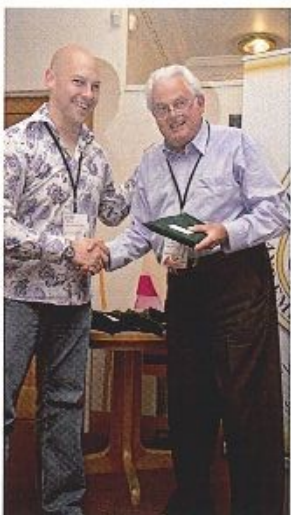
## The President's Reception



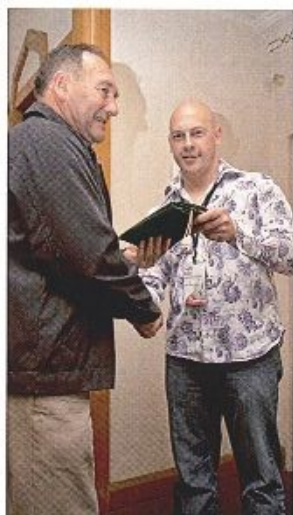
*The Class of 85/86*



*Derek Hope, Mike Wolfram  
The Crusty Old Demons*



*Andy Ellis, Eric Maffey*



*Francis Day, Andy Ellis*



*Peter Strong, Andy Ellis*



*Andy Ellis, Michael Hope*

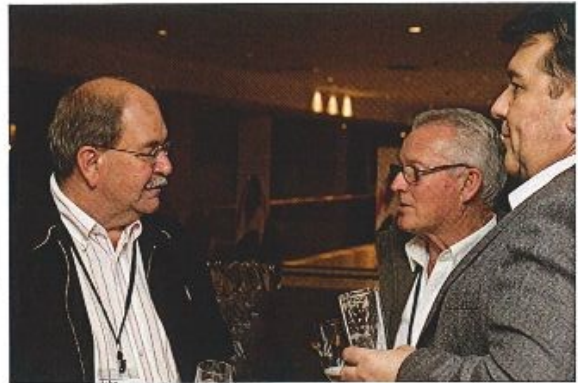


*Francis Day*



*Strawberry Fare (previously E Morris Jnr and known affectionately as Head office)*

## Registration and Executive meeting



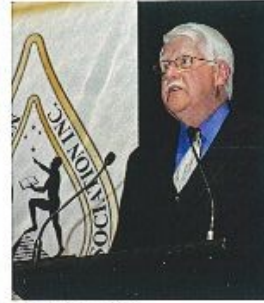
## Life Members and Honorary Members Reception



## Fortieth Anniversary



*Graduating Students*



*Todd Van Bek*



*Professor Mike Marfell-Jones*



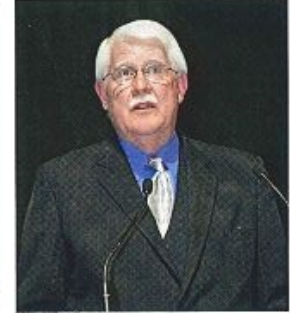
*Chief Executive Wellington Institute of Technology  
Dr Linda Sissons*



*Sarah Greig, Jenna Hyndman*



*Matt Worthington*



*Todd Van Bek*



*Cameron Moray-Smith*



*Mayor of Wellington  
Celia Wade-Brown*



*Life members with President Andy*



*Bruce Reid*



*Debbie Lockhart*



*40<sup>th</sup> Committee (absent Kelly Judkins)*

# Fortieth Anniversary



Fortieth Committee (absent Kelly Judkins)



Cutting of the fortieth Anniversary Cake.



Founding Members of NZEA



From "The Life of Barrie"



Alan Irvine



Neil Hickey



Alistair Ferguson



Andy Ellis



Johanna Kinvig, Michael Hope, Derek Hope.



The Class of 85/86



The Head Family with Peter Cohen



Barrie Holmwood, Stephen Day, Bridget Hoult

## Past Presidents present at the fortieth Jubilee



*Barrie Head*



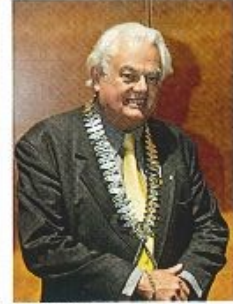
*Derek Hope*



*Francis Day*



*Andrew Malcolm*



*Eric Malley*



*Neil Hickey*



*Brenton Faithfull*



*John Schipper*



*Peter Cohen*



*Alistair Ferguson*



*Mark Pattinson*



*Michael Hope*



*Wade Downey*



*Mike Wolfram*



*Peter Strong*



*David Parker*



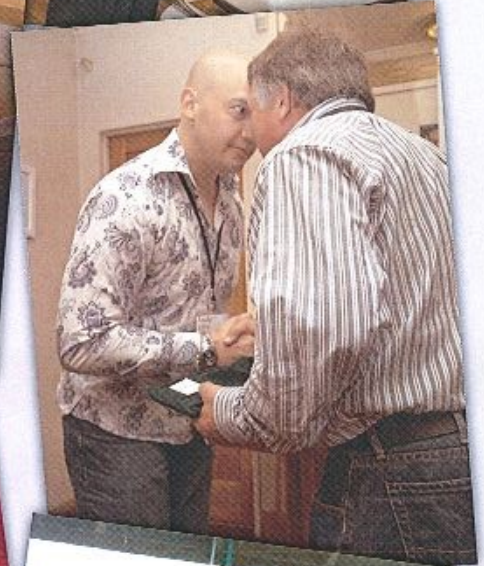
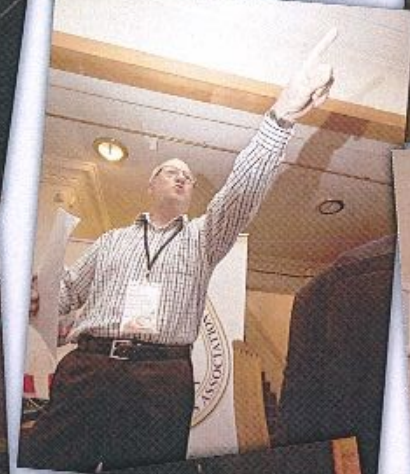
*Johanna Kinwig*



*Lindsay Helton*

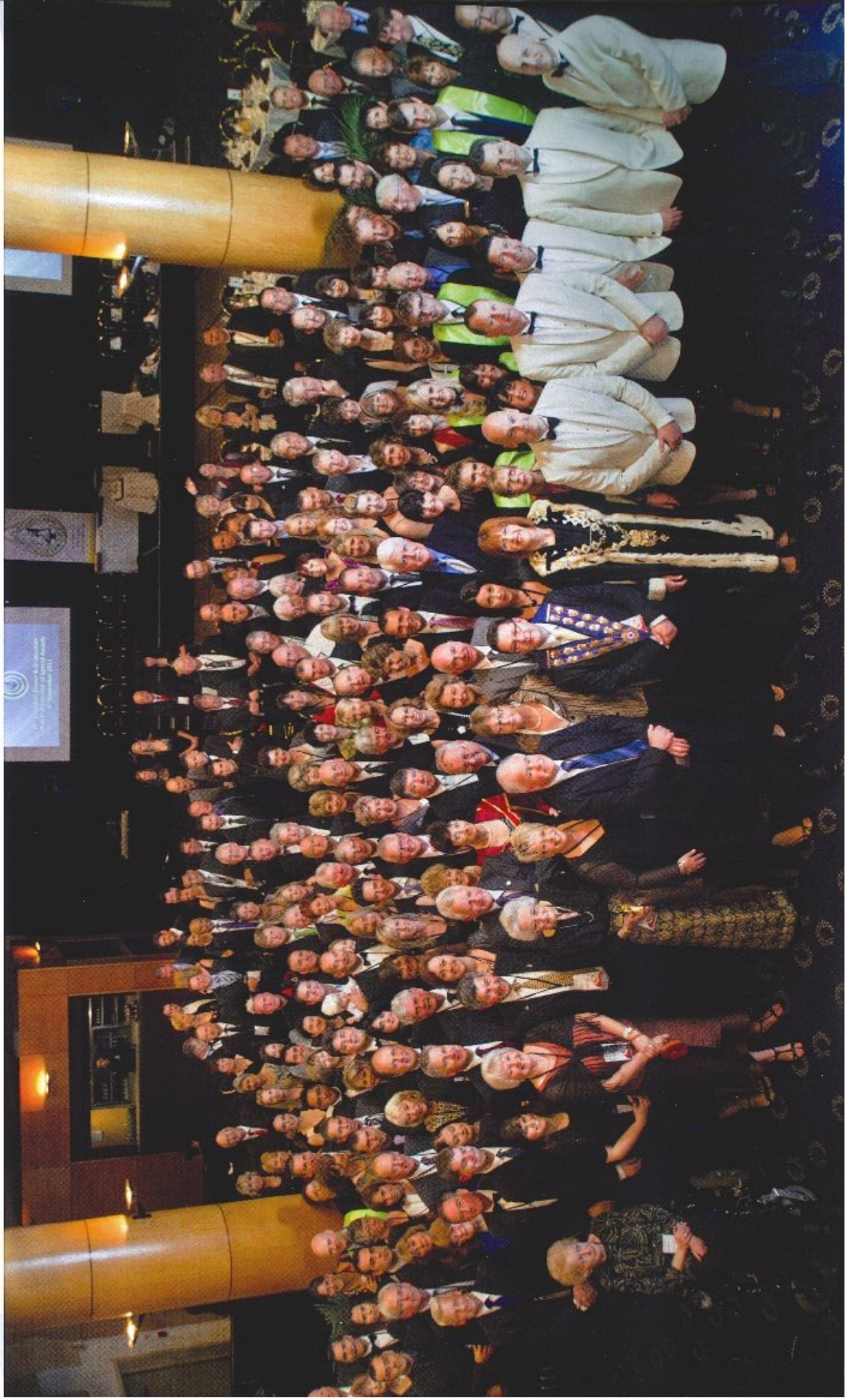


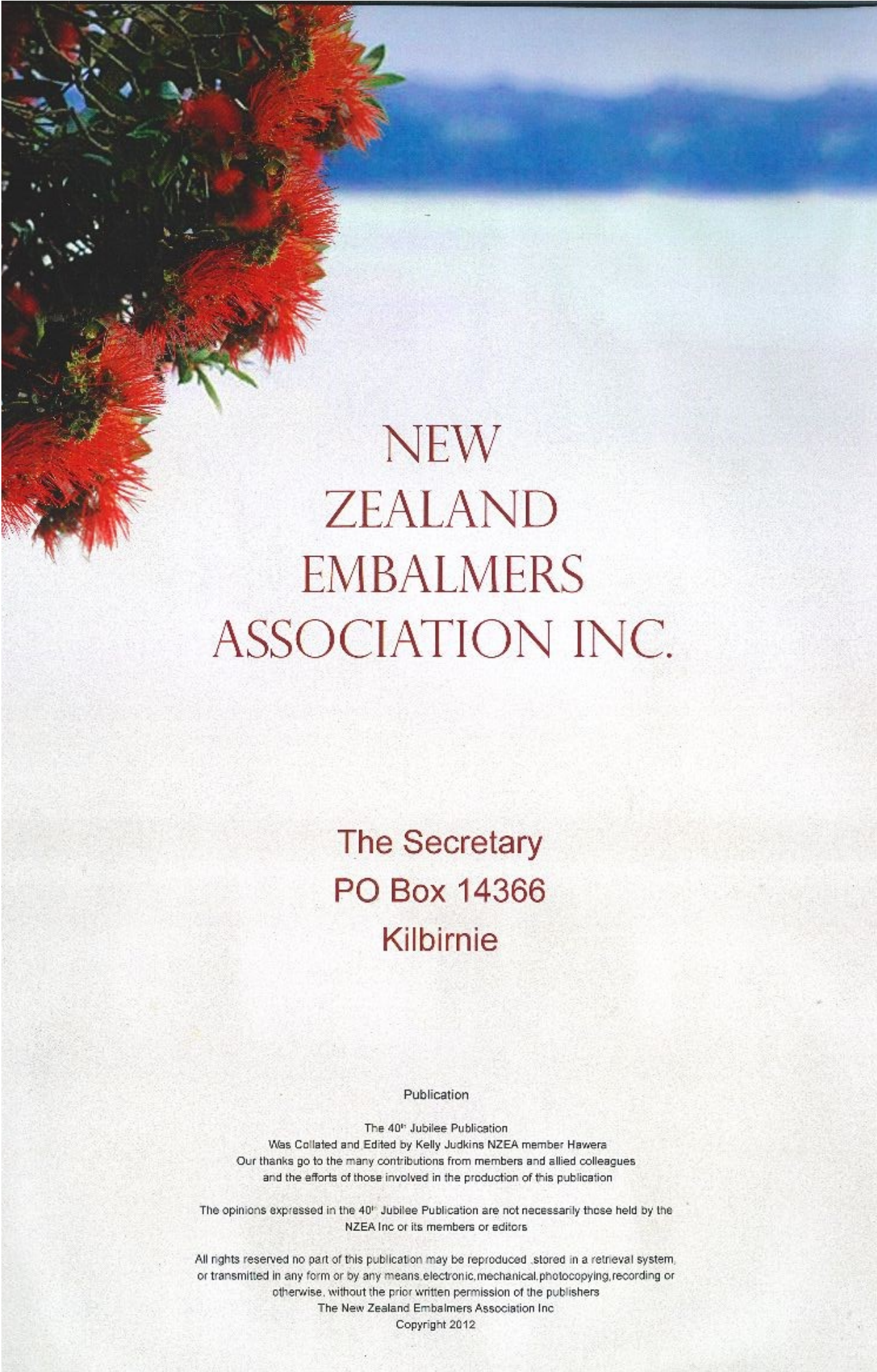
## Fun Montage





# Attendees at the 40th Anniversary





NEW  
ZEALAND  
EMBALMERS  
ASSOCIATION INC.

The Secretary  
PO Box 14366  
Kilbirnie

Publication

The 40<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Publication

Was Collated and Edited by Kelly Judkins NZEA member Hawera  
Our thanks go to the many contributions from members and allied colleagues  
and the efforts of those involved in the production of this publication

The opinions expressed in the 40<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Publication are not necessarily those held by the  
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