

### *Scrope family donates Weld watercolours*

The Library benefited from the donation, in March, of twenty-four watercolours by Sir Frederick Aloysius Weld, documenting the early period of settlement of the country. Weld came to New Zealand in 1844 and joined his relatives Petre, Clifford and Vavasour sheep-farming in the Wairarapa, then moved to Marlborough and finally settled at Brackenfield in Canterbury. He soon became involved in political life, as Member of The House of Representatives for Wairau in 1854, eventually becoming Premier in 1864-1865 until ill-health forced him to retire.

Weld was a talented watercolourist, and this collection remained with his descendants until it was presented to the Library by Mrs Mary Scrope, a granddaughter of Sir Frederick, who has recently returned to New Zealand to live in Blenheim.

Chiefly landscapes of Marlborough, Canterbury, Taranaki and the Thermal Areas, dating from the 1850s and 1860s, the paintings have been on long-term loan to the Library since 1976. From September to October an exhibition of these and other Weld paintings from the Canterbury Museum was mounted. Dr Jeanine Graham of the History Department, Waikato University, whose doctoral thesis was entitled *Frederick Weld: a Political Biography*, addressed a meeting of the Friends of the Turnbull Library on 18 October to launch the exhibition, 'Weld: pastoralist, politician, painter'.

### *Grants for research*

The Board of the Turnbull Library Endowment Trust at its November meeting considered several applications for grants to assist scholars wishing to conduct research towards a publication based on the Library's collections. From the Research Fund two grants were made, one of \$5,000 to I. F. G. Milner towards the expenses of a visit to New Zealand to work on the Library's collection of the papers of Frank Milner for a biography, and one of \$2,000 to John Thomson for further research in the Library's Archive of New Zealand Music for his history of music in New Zealand. An application from Vincent O'Sullivan for \$1500 for assistance to travel to the University of Texas at Austin to consult documents essential to his work on the Oxford edition of Katherine Mansfield's letters was met by a grant from the ordinary funds of the Endowment Trust.