

Friends of the Turnbull Library

Annual Report, 1979/80

MEMBERSHIP The number of financial members was 982 as at 31 March 1980.

MEETINGS The Annual General Meeting was held on 26 July 1979. It was followed by an address by Dr J. E. P. Thomson, describing early performances in New Zealand of Ibsen's *The Doll's House*.

On 9 August, Dr David Branagan gave an account of the naturalist Samuel Stutchbury's visit to New Zealand in 1825-26, as part of his expedition to the South-Seas on behalf of the Pacific Pearl Company. Dr Branagan, of the University of Sydney, is editing Stutchbury's journals held by the Library.

The 18 October meeting was a special occasion to mark the exhibition of paintings by Sir Frederick Weld. Dr Jeanine Graham gave an account of Sir Frederick as 'Pioneer Pastoralist, Politician, Painter.' I am glad to report that his paintings have subsequently been added to the Turnbull's collection.

On 7 November Professor A. W. Crosby, Fulbright Research Scholar attached to the Library, spoke on 'Ecological Imperialism in New Zealand', a devastating account of the effects of imported flora and fauna.

On 18 March 1980 a joint meeting was held with members of the Historic Places Trust, when Mr and Mrs Fawcett gave illustrated accounts of large Victorian buildings, and Victorian gardens.

A Special General Meeting was held on 7 May in response to the Librarian's urgent request for greater financial support for the *Turnbull Library Record*. The meeting accepted the Committee's recommendation that the Friends approach the Endowment Trust for at least \$1000 per annum for the time being, and that the annual Subscription be raised to \$10, and that the *Record* continue to be sent to all members.

The debate was followed by a paper from Professor Ian Milner on 'Nelson: The Early Days', as part of his biography of his late father, Frank Milner, Headmaster of Waitaki Boys' High School, the product of Professor Milner's researches while attached to the Library.

It is with regret that I record the death of James Berry, O.B.E., F.R.N.S. (N.Z.), the designer of New Zealand's decimal coinage, for many years a committee member and supporter of the Friends, and a benefactor of the Library.

J. R. TYE,
President