

NZ-UK LINK FOUNDATION

MINUTES OF THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING OF FRIENDS HELD AT HOMEWOOD ON THURSDAY 25TH MARCH 2010 AT 5.30 PM

PRESENT

His Excellency Mr George Fergusson and Mrs Fergusson, Mr Mark Horton (Chairman) and Mrs Horton, Mrs Jane Aim, Ms Suzanne Blumhardt, Mrs Elizabeth Boag, Mr and Mrs Brian Busby, Mrs Jillian Carpenter and Mr Euan Wright, Mr and Mrs Errol Clark, Annette Lady Cooke, Ms Marion Cowden, Mr and Mrs Giff Davidson, Mr and Mrs Alfie des Tombe, Mr and Mrs Howard Duff, Mrs Philippa Falloon, Mr John Garmonsway, Mr Michael Gibson, Ms Josephine Hughes, Mr and Mrs Denis Kirkcaldie, Mr and Mrs Brian Lynch, Mr and Mrs Denis McLean, Professor and Mrs Athol Mann, Professor and Mrs David Middleton, Mr and Mrs John Moles, Audrey Lady Mowbray, Mr and Mrs Brett Newell, Mr and Mrs Paul Officer, Mr and Mrs Ronald Potts, Mr David Ryan, Ms Colleen Scott, Mrs Joan Sherley, Ms Amanda Skoog, Mr and Mrs Richard Spencer, Dr Steve Thompson, Mr Don Walker, Mr Mark Williams, and Mr Tony Fryer (Executive Officer).

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed those present to the Meeting, and thanked His Excellency Mr George Fergusson and Mrs Margaret Fergusson for once again making Homewood available for the Foundation's New Zealand Annual Meeting and Reception.

APOLOGIES

A total of 57 apologies for absence were received, including those of the Vice-Patron, His Excellency The Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand GNZM, QSO, Governor General of New Zealand.

Moved that apologies be received: Chairman, Seconded Joan Sherley. Carried.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting held on 23 April 2009 were taken as read and confirmed.

Moved Chairman, Seconded Peter Willis. Carried.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

In presenting his Report, the Chairman:

- noted that the restructured Linking Minds programme will enable four teachers from schools where Maori is spoken to visit schools in Wales where the Welsh language is taught as a second language. This will provide mutual benefits for teachers in observing how the Maori and Welsh languages are taught in schools;
- acknowledged the continuing support of noted UK based New Zealander chef Peter Gordon to the NZ-UK Link Foundation Culinary Exchange. Thomas Williams, the New Zealand

2009 winner, will gain experience in some of London's finest restaurants and at the Gleneagles Hotel;

- observed that the Cranfield NZ Alumni MBA Scholarship had a record number of applicants in 2009, and in the last two years each of the Link supported scholars have come top of their course. The Chair acknowledge the presence of David Ryan, chairman New Zealand Cranfield Alumni, and thanked him for his and the Alumni's support of the scholarship;
- announced that the endowment fund for the Elman Poole Southbank Fellowship which assists a New Zealander to take up an internship with the Southbank Sinfonia Orchestra will expire in 2010, but it is hoped that new funding will be forthcoming enabling the award continuing beyond the current year;
- announced with regret the discontinuation of the Benfield Link Foundation Reinsurance Scholar award. The Group of which Benfield is now a party has its own insurance scholarship for Australia and New Zealand. The Chair thanked Helen Middleton for her work in establishing the Scholarship, liaising with Benfield, and managing the Link interests;
- noted the proposed Wine Fellowship, in partnership with Wine Marlborough, is progressing well and it is expected that the first scholarship award will be made in 2011;
- announced that as a cost saving measure requested by the Foundation's London trustees, the number of issues of the Link Newsletter will be reduced from three to two in each calendar year;
- thanked the Management Committee and Executive Officer for their support over the past year, and noted the contribution of both Giff Davidson and Lawrie Bryant who resigned from the Committee during the year. The Chair also regretted that the list of the Management Committee set out in the Annual Report omitted the name of Judith Hopkins; and
- noted the significant contribution of Ali Spencer who has resigned from the Management Committee. The Chair reviewed her considerable association with the Foundation which had started in London in 1990. In particular he noted her outstanding work on publicity and promotions, including editorship and publication of the Link Newsletter and ongoing management of the web site.

At the invitation of the Chair, Ali responded. She said that retiring from the Committee had been a hard decision, but after eight years she decided it was time to move on. She spoke of the many highlights experienced, the enthusiasm of the scholars and fellows, their accomplishments made possible by the Foundation's financial support, and the increasing contribution of the New Zealand Friends organization as it has grown and developed..

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2009, which had been approved for issue by the Management Committee and circulated with the Annual Report, were tabled. The Chairman noted that an unqualified audit report had been given to the Statements.

It was resolved that the Financial Statements be **approved**

Moved Chairman, Seconded Athol Mann. Carried.

CONFIRMATION OF AUDITORS

It was resolved that Munro Benge Chartered Accountants Limited be re-appointed as auditors for the current year.

Moved Chairman, seconded Giff Davidson. Carried.

RETIREMENT OF GEORGE FERGUSSON

The Chair noted that George Fergusson will shortly retire as the British High Commissioner to New Zealand,. During the period of his appointment since 2006 he has been an ex officio member of the Management Committee where his advice, encouragement and assistance has been greatly appreciated. The Chair commented on the warm welcome received from Mr and Mrs Margaret at the many functions held at Homewood over the past four years and thanked them both for their outstanding support of the Foundation in New Zealand.

As a token of the appreciation of the New Zealand Friends, the Chair presented Mr Fergusson with Link embossed cuff links. The Chair also announced that in consultation with the gardener at Homewood, an azalea bed featuring evergreen varieties is to be established, and the bed will be attributed to the NZ-UK Link Foundation to honour George and Margaret Fergusson.

George Fergusson thanked the Friends for the presentations. In doing so he commented on the strength and value of the Foundation in assisting the continuation of the close ties between the United Kingdom and New Zealand. He had very much enjoyed his association with the Link and hoped to continue an association in some form on his return to the United Kingdom.

CLOSURE

The Meeting closed at 6.05 pm when those attending enjoyed a presentation by Mark Williams, Exhibitions Manager and Project developer at The New Zealand Film Archives who had recently received a Link discretionary award which help funded a three month internship with the London Film-makers Co-operative. Afterwards a social gatherings hosted by Mr and Mrs Fergusson and the Chairman was held.

Approved

Chair

Date