



The Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society

Dear Members

A big thank you to all delegates and members for their contribution to the Society's 2009 annual meeting, hosted in Christchurch by St Patrick's Branch No 82, Christchurch on Saturday 25 July. Thank you to the members of St Patrick's Branch for being our hosts.

Elections for Board of Management saw retiring board members Br Robin Adair and Sr Colleen Petricevich replaced by Br Paul Ramsay and Br Mike Petricevich, and sitting member Br Leo Neal returned to office.

The Board for 2009/10 is Br Ian Bailey, president (Woodville), Br Mike McBride, vice president (Nelson), Sr Jane McKee (Blenheim), Br Leo Neal (Auckland), Br Mike Petricevich (Auckland), Br Paul Ramsay, trustee (Wellington), Br Gordon Stewart, trustee (Wellington) and Br Jim Sweeney, trustee (Wellington), and secretary/manager Mr Peter Gibson (Wellington).

During this year, my last as your president and as a board member, I hope that we are able to make good progress towards achieving the aims of the Society's strategic plan.

Society's National Office - Reduced Hours of Business

Effective from Monday 1 June 2009 the hours of business at the Society's national office were reduced to four days per week. National office now operates Monday to Thursday inclusive, and is closed on Friday.

The situation is simply that there is insufficient work to keep all three staff fully occupied five days per week. Two staff were already working reduced hours and the closure on Friday will result in some further reduction in staff salaries and related costs.

In taking this decision the Board was mindful that it has embarked on a strategic plan that will involve steps to increase the Society's business. At the same time the Board is confident that even with a significant increase over the current levels of new business being written, the volume could still be handled comfortably over a four-day week.

The new office hours are 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday inclusive.

Ferrymead Heritage Park Lodge Hall

Seven years ago, five Christchurch based friendly societies (Druids, Foresters, Hibernians, Manchester Unity, Oddfellows) decided to combine to build a replica Lodge Hall at the Ferrymead Heritage Park, mainly as an educational resource, records storage and photograph display facility and meeting venue. With a contribution from each of \$10,000 and a free site offered, plans were drawn up for a hall to accommodate up to 150 people, with a separate small display room for each of the societies, and a kitchen.

A committee was formed to oversee the building programme, that included a large amount of voluntary labour, donated materials and various grants from trusts. The hall was completed and officially opened on 22nd October 2006 by local dignitaries and members of Parliament. Since then the hall has been handed over to the Ferrymead Trust, that handles the management and day to day running of the building. It has proved a popular function venue.

The lodge hall was visited by a number of Society members on the Sunday following the Society's annual meeting.

Pat Curran Memorial Hibernian Centennial Trust

Up to the time of the Society's annual meeting, monies subscribed toward the raffle totalled \$375. Further donations and auction proceeds received in Christchurch totalled \$397. Added to that total of \$772 was the generous donation of \$1,000 from St Patrick's Branch No 82, Christchurch so the Trust Fund benefited to the tune of \$1,772 - a significant and welcome boost for which we are truly and humbly grateful.

For the benefit of those members not at the annual meeting the wooden stands, turned and donated by Br Hurring, were drawn by J Dwyer (Oamaru), L Hall (Rahotu), M Martin (Hastings), D Boyens (Dunedin), R Adair (Waikanae), J Jones (Christchurch), K Frost (Palmerston North), Mrs Vine (Dunedin) and K O'Leary (Patea).

E S Friel (Settlor)

Yours fraternally

Ian Bailey, President

