

## The History of the Hawke's Bay Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand

The forerunner of the Hawke's Bay Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand, was the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute, established on 14 September 1874.<sup>1</sup> A public meeting had been called to form under the provisions of the New Zealand Institutes' Act 1867 a branch society. There were nineteen people at the first meeting held in the Provincial Chambers on a very 'inclement afternoon' and chaired by the Superintendent of the province. Mr Colenso was made secretary *pro tem* and instructed to prepare and circulate a pamphlet outlining the objectives and seeking members.<sup>2</sup> The Institute was "founded for the advancement of Science, Literature and Art as well as for the development of the resources of the Colony."<sup>3</sup>

At a further meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October the officers were elected: the President was the Superintendent, J.D. Ormond, the Vice President was the Right Rev. the Bishop of Waiapu (William Williams), the Council consisted of W. Colenso, who was also the secretary and treasurer, J.M. Gibbes, H.R. Holder, S. Locke, J.A. Smith, W.I Spenser and F.W.C. Sturm.<sup>4</sup> Colenso produced the meeting rules relating to the Wellington, Auckland, Otago and Canterbury societies and these were gone into very thoroughly. Finally, at a further general meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1875 the rules recommended by the Council were adopted.<sup>5</sup> The Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute was incorporated on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1875.<sup>6</sup> An extract of the rules provides the following information about the running of the Institute:

1. The annual subscription for each member shall be one guinea, payable in advance, on the first day of January in every year.
2. Members may at any time become life members by one payment of ten pounds ten shillings in lieu of future annual subscriptions.

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<sup>1</sup> *Constitution and Rules of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute*, founded September 14<sup>th</sup> 1874, Napier Printed by Dinwiddie Morrison and Co., 1875

<sup>2</sup> *Hawke's Bay Times*, 15 September 1874, p 358

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HBT18740915.2.7>

<sup>3</sup> *Constitution and Rules of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute*, 1875

<sup>4</sup> *Constitution and Rules of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute*, 1875, p. 1

<sup>5</sup> Bloomer, P.H.E., 1974. "Some notes on the history of the Hawke's Bay Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand Incorporated", in Archive of Hawke's Bay Branch of Royal Society, Box File A p. 2

<sup>6</sup> *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute*, Vol. 10, p xiv

[http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/volume/rsnz\\_10/rsnz\\_10\\_00\\_000050.html](http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/volume/rsnz_10/rsnz_10_00_000050.html)

3. The session of the Hawke Bay Philosophical Institute shall be during the winter months from May to October, both inclusive; and general meetings shall be held on the second Monday in each of those six months, at 8 p.m.<sup>7</sup>

There were 60 members including two women, Mrs Gosnell and Mrs May listed in the first year of the Institute.<sup>8</sup>

By 1874, Napier had emerged from a period of depression and war r one of vigorous economic growth. Wool prices were high, banking brisk, and retail trade, despite ‘elements of unsoundness and over-speculation’, enjoyed a generally ‘healthy tone’. To the relief of many settlers, the 1873 Land Commission had decided against the repudiation of contested Maori land sales. Through Vogel’s public works policy, Napier was linked by rail to Hastings, the first stage of a line that ultimately reached Wellington. English agents of the provincial government sent out immigrants to reduce the shortage of labour in Hawke’s Bay. Napier itself had reached the crossroads, for its progress had created needs which the provincial government could not satisfy. Its response was a petition for municipal status, granted by the Central Government in 1874.<sup>9</sup>

The founders of the Philosophical Institute were important men in the community: Members of the Provincial Council, businessmen, landowners, medical men and the Anglican Bishop. They lived in Napier or reasonably nearby — Hastings, Clive, Havelock (North). Williams, Spencer and Gibbes had medical training; Sturm was a nurse man; and Colenso was a botanist.<sup>10</sup> John Alexander Smith had been the first curator of the Auckland Museum established in 1852.<sup>11</sup> By 1877 there were 69 members.<sup>12</sup> Over half of these people were

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<sup>7</sup> *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute*, Vol. 10, p xvii

<sup>8</sup> *Constitution and Rules of the Hawke’s Bay Philosophical Institute*, 1875:

P.C Anderson, D.P. Balfour, J.S. Ballantine, A.S. Birch, S.G. Brandon, S. Carnell, E. Carter, E. Catchpool, J. Chambers, W. Chambers, W. Colenso, W. Colenso jnr., C.B. Ferris, M.J. Gannon, J.M. Gibbes, T. Gilpin, D. Gollan, K. Gollan, Mrs L. Gosnell, R. Harding, S.W. Hardy, H. R. Holder, R.H. Huntley, M. Hutchinson, J.G. Kinross, A. Levy, S. Locke, T. Lowry, A. Luff, A.H. Maclean, R.D. Maney, W. Marshall, Mrs C. May, J.T. May, F.H. Meinertzhagen, M. R. Miller, C. J. Nairn, F. Nairn, A. Newman, T.K. Newton, J.D. Ormond (Superintendent), G. Peacock, J. A. Rearden, D. Ross, A. Russell, W.R. Russell, H.B. Sealy, J.S. Smalley, J.A. Smith, W.I. Spencer, J. Stewart, A. St. Hill, R. Stuart (Mayor), F.W.C. Sturm, T. Tanner, J. Turley, W. Waiapu (Bishop), C.H. Weber, J. N. Williams, J.W. Witty.

<sup>9</sup> Campbell, M.D.N., 1975. *Story of Napier 1874-1974: Footprints Along the Shore*. Napier: Napier City Council, p. 6

<sup>10</sup> Pishief, Elizabeth, 1990. “A Provincial Expression of International Ideas: The Development of the Hawke’s Bay Art Gallery and Museum, 1859-1940”, Unpublished paper for Diploma of Museum Studies, Massey University, p. 12

<sup>11</sup> Park, Stuart, 1998. “John Alexander Smith and the Early History of Auckland Museum, 1852-1867”, *Records of the Auckland Museum*, Vol 35: 13-43

sheep farmers and landholders. Ten had served on the Provincial Council as members for Napier.<sup>13</sup> But members came from a very wide area, from Poverty Bay to Porangahau and inland to Tarawera and Patea. New members elected in 1877 were C. Nairn from Porangahau; the Rev. F.E.T. Simcox, Porangahau; R. Harding, Waipukurau; Miss Herbert of Porangahau; Sir Thomas Tancred, Wairarapa<sup>14</sup>; W. Heslop of Chesterhope; E. Bold of Napier; and Mr Campbell of Poukawa.<sup>15</sup> There were also several members in other part of New Zealand and overseas.

In 1878 a meeting was cancelled because insufficient members turned up to hear a paper of Colenso's, this started a series of letters in the Hawke's Bay Herald and commentary from the editor. The meeting was arranged for 7.30pm on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1878 and, although the member, Mrs May, was there with four visitors, no other member except Mr Smith came, so Colenso cancelled the meeting after they had waited for 50 minutes. He tendered his deepest apologies to Mrs May and the other ladies for cancelling the evening lecture, and described Mrs May as "(always ready and willing to support everything tending towards the advancement of Science, literature and Art)."<sup>16</sup> It would appear Colenso considered five women and one man to be an inadequate audience for his lecture.

By 1884 there were 111 members, including four women; half of the members were country residents. The peak of membership was in 1886 when there were 140 members, but in 1887 the membership dropped to 123, probably reflecting the start of the long depression. In 1894 there were 99 members but in 1900 there were only 59 members. The membership was composed of (about half) country members, six doctors, several ministers of religion, several teachers and two women.<sup>17</sup> Ten members had belonged since 1877 so it was an 'aging' organisation.

William Colenso was the driving force behind the Institute for the first ten years of its existence. He arranged the meetings, chose most of the books and gave many of the lectures on a wide range of topics. The major activities undertaken by the Institute during the

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<sup>12</sup> Annual Report of HBPI, 1877.

<sup>13</sup> Campbell, 1975, pp. 228-9

<sup>14</sup> The Cyclopaedia of New Zealand [Canterbury Provincial District], 1903, <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc03Cycl-t1-body1-d3-d57-d63.html>

<sup>15</sup> Pishief, 1990, p. 13, citing Philosophical Institute Minute Book, October 1877.

<sup>16</sup> *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 17 July, 1878.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HBH18780717.2.10.1?query=%20Mrs%20May%20Institute>

<sup>17</sup> Pishief, 1990, p. 14, citing Annual Reports for these years.

nineteenth century were the purchase of books for a scientific library, the formation of a scientific museum, and the monthly lecture series during the winter months.

The acquisition of books was the only major activity undertaken by the Institute in its first three years. The very first books ordered were Hooker's *Flora Nova Zelandia* (£14.14.0); *English Botany*, (£18.0.0), and *English Grasses*, (£1.4.0). The titles chosen in the last quarter of the nineteenth century were nearly all English, but the titles of some indicate the vast amount of scientific research in the Pacific area at that time. The Council ordered all five volumes of *Phycologica Australica. Or, A History of Australian Seaweeds*, by W.H. Harvey, which cost £5.17.6; and the five volume, edition of H.H. Bancroft's *Native Races of the Pacific States of America*, for £6.0.0.<sup>18</sup> The society resolved to ask the Secretary "to write to the authorities in Wellington asking that several scientific works published by the General Government be supplied to this Institute free of cost. ... and also, to ask for a room for a library in the Supreme Courthouse, Napier".<sup>19</sup> The Institute had a bookshelf in the Athenaeum Library and paid Mrs Caulton, the resident librarian, three guineas to look after the books.<sup>20</sup> From 1879 they shared a room.<sup>21</sup> In 1881 they decided to lease the room for their exclusive use and take into it the museum belonging to the Athenaeum.<sup>22</sup> The library was in the same room.<sup>23</sup>

Then in August 1877 William Colenso began his remarkable contribution to the meetings, which consisted of talks and exhibits of natural history specimens. He gave three papers: one on Captain Cook's discoveries, the second on a New Zealand butterfly and the third on Sydney Parkinson, the first artist to visit New Zealand.<sup>24</sup> All three were published in 1877 in volume 10 of the *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute*. Other topics he spoke on during the years were "Crossing the Ruahine Ranges",<sup>25</sup> his original paper on the Moa,<sup>26</sup> New Zealand ferns,<sup>27</sup> "The Ignorance of the Ancient Maoris on the Use of Projectile Weapons",<sup>28</sup> "Pope the English Poet",<sup>29</sup> and a jubilee paper on the First Printing of the New

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<sup>18</sup> Bloomer, p.2

<sup>19</sup> Bloomer, citing Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute Minute Book 1 (HBPIMB 1), 30 October 1876

<sup>20</sup> HBPIMB 1, 14 November 1881

<sup>21</sup> HBPIMB 1, April 1879.

<sup>22</sup> HBPIMB 1, 4 October 1881.

<sup>23</sup> HBPI Annual Report for year ending 31 January 1884, William Colenso, Honorary Secretary

<sup>24</sup> HBPIMB 1, 13 October 1877

<sup>25</sup> HBPIMB 1, 13 May 1878

<sup>26</sup> HBPIMB 1, 12 August 1878

<sup>27</sup> HBPIMB 1, 14 October 1878

<sup>28</sup> HBPIMB 1, 14 October 1878

<sup>29</sup> HBPIMB 1, 10 September 1888

Testament in Maori.<sup>30</sup> He illustrated many of his talks with exhibits and natural history specimens — he made important contributions to the study of botany in New Zealand. Colenso had met J.D. Hooker in 1841, which resulted in a fifty-year correspondence and hundreds of specimens being sent by Colenso to Hooker at Kew Gardens.

Other people contributed to the collection of natural history and ethnological specimens and gave papers during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Their papers indicate the three topics that particularly interested the settlers in a new country: natural history, ethnology and the industrial, economic and export potential available from the land. John Alexander Smith read a paper on “Two indigenous productions, which might be fair articles of export: Manganese and *Zostera marina*”,<sup>31</sup> and another on “New Zealand and Australian barks useful for tanning purposes”.<sup>32</sup> Mr S. Locke was particularly interested in ethnology and donated Māori weapons to the museum, which were later returned at the request of his solicitor.<sup>33</sup> He gave a two-part paper on 14th August and 9th October 1882 to the HBPI that was later published in the TPNZI as “Historical Traditions of the Taupo and East Coast Tribes”.<sup>34</sup> In October 1881 he showed some: ‘ancient Maori manufactures’, (which had been dug up out of some old graves in Poverty Bay), and several glass beads that the Maori of the area believed were given to their forefathers by Captain Cook.<sup>35</sup> Dr Spencer arranged exhibitions of slides under his microscope.<sup>36</sup> In 1891 he donated an ‘opossum’ to the Institute which had been found dead in his stable. When he delivered his inaugural address as President in 1889, he said he intended to form a section for the study of Geology, also a microscopical (sic) section, and if possible, a botanical one.<sup>37</sup>

Henry Hill, who was the Inspector for Schools for Hawke’s Bay and the East Coast, joined the Society in 1884 and became President in 1891. He gave many papers on a variety of subjects: “A Plea for National Education,”<sup>38</sup> “Artesian Water Supply,” “Ruapehu,”<sup>39</sup> “The Maori today and tomorrow.”<sup>40</sup> Henry Hill took over the role that William Colenso had had at

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<sup>30</sup> HBPIMB 1, 19 October, 1887

<sup>31</sup> HBPIMB 1, October 1877

<sup>32</sup> HBPIMB 1, October 1878

<sup>33</sup> HBPIMB 1, July 1891

<sup>34</sup> [http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/volume/rsnz\\_15/rsnz\\_15\\_00\\_006020.pdf](http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/volume/rsnz_15/rsnz_15_00_006020.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> HBPIMB 1, 10 October 1881.

<sup>36</sup> HBPIMB 1, 8 September 1884

<sup>37</sup> Henry Hill bought the microscope for the Philosophical Institute after Dr Spencer’s death with £25 from the Colenso Bequest.

<sup>38</sup> HBPIMB 1, August 1884

<sup>39</sup> HBPIMB 1, 13 May 1889

<sup>40</sup> HBPIMB 1, September 1896

the beginning of the Institute, but the topics covered moved away from the emphasis on ethnology and natural history to matters concerning national development and reflecting the changing interests of the time. Hill gave as much support and read numerous papers to the Philosophical Institute, yet he has not received the same recognition as Colenso.

The New Zealand Institute Act 1903 entitled Branch Institutes to have direct representation on the Board of Governors and the Hawke's Bay Institute unanimously elected Mr Hill to be their representative on the Board; he attended the first meeting in Wellington in December 1903.<sup>41</sup> This position he continued to hold, apart from in 1922 when T. Hyde took on the role, until his resignation in 1929 when H. Guthrie Smith replaced him.<sup>42</sup> In 1905 Hill gave a paper to the Society: "Wanted, A Colonial Scientific Advisory Board."<sup>43</sup> In 1909 he gave a paper on "Is it Possible to Formulate a Sick, Out of Work and Pension Scheme for the Industrial Classes of the Dominion." On 1 November 1898, the first Old Age Pension Act in the world became law. It gave a small means-tested pension to elderly people with few assets who 'were of good moral character.' It was one of the major achievements of Richard Seddon's Liberal government.<sup>44</sup>

Another person who made a considerable commitment to the affairs of the Philosophical Institute was Augustus Hamilton, who joined the HBPI in 1883, although he had attended meetings and exhibited specimens for several years before that. Hamilton joined the Institute as a prerequisite to becoming the Honorary Curator of the museum. The following year Hamilton became secretary of the Institute replacing Colenso.<sup>45</sup> He ran the museum with diligence and enthusiasm, and developed his museum skills during the seven years he had this role; this museum expertise contributed to his appointment as Director of the Colonial Museum when James Hector retired in 1903. The Annual Reports during his years as curator include lists of the specimens collected as well as the ones he wanted to concentrate on for the year. His energy and thoroughness enabled him to make a considerable impact on the collection and preservation of New Zealand's cultural, historic and scientific heritage.<sup>46</sup>

In 1896 the Institute allowed the Athenaeum Society to use their room (that they rented for their 'exclusive use' from that Society), as long as the Athenaeum Society ensured no harm

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<sup>41</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 January 1904, Jas Hislop, Honorary Secretary

<sup>42</sup> C.A. Fleming, 1987. *Science, Settlers and Scholars*, RSNZ Bulletin 25, p.321

<sup>43</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 January 1906, Jas Hislop, Honorary Secretary

<sup>44</sup> <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/old-age-pensions-act-passes-into-law>

<sup>45</sup> HBPI MB 1, 4 February 1884

<sup>46</sup> Elizabeth Pishief, 1998, "Augustus Hamilton: Appropriation, Ownership and Authority", p. 47.

would come to the museum. That same year Colenso again became President, having been president during the 1880s. During this period, Henry Hill continued to give numerous talks.<sup>47</sup> All 25 volumes of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, and *Moko or Maori Tattooing*, by Major General Robley were added to the library in 1897.<sup>48</sup>

William Colenso died in 1899 and left a bequest of £200 to the Institute for the benefit of the museum and library. He also left his dried plants and zoological and other wet specimens as well as several pictures. The Council put £75 on fixed deposit and decided to spend the rest on books and a lantern. Ninety-four volumes including two fine volumes of “Archaeological Essays”, presented by Mr J.W. Craig were added to the library, and a first-class lantern was ordered.<sup>49</sup> Some of the money (£25) was also spent on the purchase of Dr Spencer’s microscope by Mr Hill and the President, Mr W. Dinwiddie. They made the purchase without reference to the Council, which, after expressing disapproval, ratified the purchase.<sup>50</sup>

The Council at its meeting on 12 June 1899 made the following resolution:

That this branch of the New Zealand Institute places upon record the great loss it has sustained by the death of the Rev. W. Colenso FRS, FLS, who from its foundation was closely connected with the Society as Secretary, President and member of the Council and as a contributor of papers on Botany, Anthropology and kindred subjects has done much for the advance of science throughout the world.<sup>51</sup>

At this meeting, Henry Hill said that he had written to Sir J. D. Hooker telling him about Colenso’s death and read out a touching letter he had received in reply.<sup>52</sup> Several of Colenso’s Maori curios in the museum including a greenstone adze ( collection item 3D); a carved tinder box (collection item D207); a ceremonial adze from Manaia ( Collection item D22) and a carved paddle were withdrawn from the Museum by Colenso’s son Ridley Latimer Colenso and he was given a receipt for them.<sup>53</sup>

In 1897 the Institute arranged for speakers on popular scientific topics, which greatly increased the attendance at the meetings. The success encouraged the Council to offer a

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<sup>47</sup> Hawke’s Bay Branch of Royal Society of New Zealand Archives Box A: Peter Bloomer: “Notes on History of the branch” (compiled in 1974.) p. 1 of Second Period.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid

<sup>49</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 January 1900, Jas Hislop, Honorary Secretary

<sup>50</sup> Bloomer, 1974 p. 2 of Second Period

<sup>51</sup> HBPIMB 2, 12 June 1899.

<sup>52</sup> HBPIMB 2, 12 June 1899.

<sup>53</sup> HBPIMB 2, 29 January 1900.

similar attractive programme the following year. “They were of opinion that this was an important branch of the work of the Institute.”<sup>54</sup> Dr Milne Thomson took classes in electricity, in 1898, but there was so little interest towards the end of the session that the Council did not continue with the popular talks the following year.<sup>55</sup> Instead their place was supplied by a series of literary and musical lectures promoted by Misses Spencer and Large. The Council had granted the use of the hall free of charge to encourage them, and the series was so successful that the women donated £12 worth of books (18 volumes) to the library.<sup>56</sup> Misses Large and Spencer arranged another successful series of musical and literary lectures in 1901 and gave the Institute £10 for purchasing books.<sup>57</sup>

Early in 1901 the Napier Borough Council wrote asking upon what terms the Institute would convey the Library to the Corporation for use as a reference library. The Council replied that they were willing to deposit the library with the Borough Council on certain conditions safeguarding the rights of members, but heard no more. In 1906 the Institute placed the Library at the disposal of the teachers of the district in an attempt to “widen its scope of usefulness”. Despite only a nominal fee being charged the Council was disappointed that only two teachers had “availed themselves of the opportunity.”<sup>58</sup>

Mr C.E. Fox was appointed curator of the museum, in 1901, and with several members of the High School Field Club, brought some order to the museum. Unfortunately, the work was not finished because he left Napier. The Institute’s assets that year included books, curios, microscope, furniture, and lantern etc. valued at £907. 15s.<sup>59</sup> On 17<sup>th</sup> September 1904 Mr Hamilton attended a meeting of the Council and showed his lists providing evidence that the items had been deposited in his name.<sup>60</sup> He removed a large number of his Maori curios from the museum, but presented the remainder, and a number of botanical specimens to the Society. Mr Cheeseman returned Colenso’s botanical specimens properly catalogued and arranged. Henry Hill communicated with the Premier on behalf of the Institute offering to place these specimens on deposit in the Colonial Museum where they would be of

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<sup>54</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 January 1898, C.E. Adams, Honorary Secretary

<sup>55</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 January 1900, Jas Hislop, Honorary Secretary

<sup>56</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 January 1901, Jas Hislop, Honorary Secretary

<sup>57</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 January 1902, Jas Hislop, Honorary Secretary

<sup>58</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 January 1906, Jas Hislop, Honorary Secretary

<sup>59</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 January 1902, Jas Hislop, Honorary Secretary

<sup>60</sup> Bloomer, 1974.p. 4 of Second Period

considerable use for scientific purposes.<sup>61</sup> They were placed on deposit in the Colonial Museum where they would be safe in 1905.<sup>62</sup>

In 1907 the Town Clerk wrote to the Institute asking for the transfer of the Museum to the Borough Council and offering to take it over and maintain it.<sup>63</sup> The transfer of the Museum to the Borough Council and the opening of the library as a reference library become 'accomplished facts' in 1908. Members retained the right to take out books, but the public was now entitled to use the books for reference purposes. This freed the Institute from the expenses of rent and insurance enabling it to reduce members' subscriptions, but still have a good sum for the purchase of books.<sup>64</sup> But although Museum and Library Collection had been transferred to the Borough Council the Institute continued to keep watch on their former assets. In July 1911 they set up five sub-committees to classify museum objects. Previously a sub-committee had been established to monitor the books and shelving for the books.<sup>65</sup>

A topical subject at the time was public health. Dr De Lisle the Public Health Officer asked if he could give a course of lectures on public health under the auspices of the Institute, and for the use of the Hall and the lantern, all of which were agreed to. Dr De Lisle had recently been to Dublin where he furthered his studies in public health obtaining a Diploma in Public Health in 1902.<sup>66</sup> He wrote innumerable reports on the health conditions of Napier and Hawke's Bay. Dr J. P. D. Leahy gave a paper on "Meteorology in Relation to Public Health," as the inaugural address for the 1903 session.<sup>67</sup>

The Reverend Dr Kennedy gave a lecture on recent advances and discoveries in solar research on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1909. The lecture was illustrated by astronomical photographs, including some taken at Meeanee Observatory. He was responsible for the astronomical and meteorological work at the Meeanee Observatory having used royalties from a book he published to help fund the construction of the observatory which was opened in 1907.<sup>68</sup>

The following resolution, moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. W. Dinwiddie, was carried by acclamation: "That the members of the Hawke's Bay branch of the

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<sup>61</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 January 1905, Jas Hislop, Honorary Secretary

<sup>62</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 January 1906, Jas Hislop, Honorary Secretary

<sup>63</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 January 1907, Jas Hislop, Honorary Secretary

<sup>64</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 January 1909, Jas Hislop, Honorary Secretary

<sup>65</sup> Bloomer, 1974. p. 6 of Second Period

<sup>66</sup> <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/NEW-ZEALAND/2002-08/1030402450>

<sup>67</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 January 1904, Jas Hislop, Honorary Secretary

<sup>68</sup> Hugh Laracy. 'Kennedy, David', from the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/biographies/3k8/kennedy-david> (accessed 12 March 2017)

New Zealand Institute desire to convey to the Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy their appreciation of the great services rendered by him to the cause of science in this district, and, whilst congratulating him upon his promotion to another field of labour, they regret his departure, as representing a serious loss to the community, especially in the astronomical and meteorological (sic) work for which his observatory at Meeanee has become famous.”<sup>69</sup>

The Rev. Dr Kennedy left Hawke’s Bay to take up the position of Rector of St Patrick’s College, Wellington.<sup>70</sup> He became a founding member of the Astronomical Section of the Wellington Philosophical Institute which was established: “To promote the study of astronomical subjects generally, and to secure the establishment of an observatory in or near Wellington”.<sup>71</sup>

H. Guthrie-Smith read a paper on “The Native Birds of Three Hawke’s Bay Runs,” on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1905. In 1910 the Institute decided to encourage nature study, and offered prizes to school children for collections of shells, plants and seaweeds at the Agricultural & Pastoral Autumn Show.<sup>72</sup> The winning exhibits indicated that some children showed great interest in making collections, and the prizes were offered the following year.<sup>73</sup> In 1914 Mr Dinwiddie referred favourably to the newly formed New Zealand Forest and Bird Protection Society.<sup>74</sup>

In 1914 Sir Robert Stout gave a lecture on “The Evolution of Life” which draw a hundred people to it, one of the largest attendances recorded.<sup>75</sup> Another event which attracted a large attendance was the meeting which was held on 3 May 1916 to commemorate the tercentenary of William Shakespeare’s death. Four papers were given on “Shakespeare’s Life,” “The Humour of Shakespeare,” “Reading Shakespeare for Pleasure”, and “Shakespeare and the War.” Mr and Mrs Prime, Miss Large, and Mrs Strachan sang several songs accompanied by

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<sup>69</sup> *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute*, Vol. 42, 1909, Hawke’s Bay Philosophical Institute, second meeting 15 June 1909. [http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/volume/rsnz\\_42/rsnz\\_42\\_03\\_007660.html](http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/volume/rsnz_42/rsnz_42_03_007660.html)

<sup>70</sup> *Dominion*, Vol. 3, Issue 921, 14 September 1910.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/DOM19100914.2.57>

<sup>71</sup> *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute*, Vol. 43, 1910, Wellington Philosophical Institute, Astronomical Section. Meeting, 22nd August, 1910.

[http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/volume/rsnz\\_43/rsnz\\_43\\_03\\_009950.html](http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/volume/rsnz_43/rsnz_43_03_009950.html)

<sup>72</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending 31 December 1910, Jas. Niven, MA, MSc., Honorary Secretary

<sup>73</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for year ending December 7<sup>th</sup> 1911, J.W. Craig, Honorary Secretary

<sup>74</sup> HBPIMB 2, 7 May 1914

<sup>75</sup> HBPIMB 2, 17 June 1914.

Dr Sutton and Miss King and Mr Cargill recited. There were also lantern slides of scenes around Stratford upon Avon described by Miss V. Greig. This attracted about 200 people.<sup>76</sup>

At the meeting called to organise the 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee of the establishment of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute Henry Hill mentioned the number of members of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute who had contributed a total of 179 papers to the Transactions in the past fifty years. People Hill specially mentioned were: Colenso, Hamilton, Spencer, Locke, Goodall, Taylor White, Meinertzhagen, Heath, Hardcastle, R.C. Harding, Father Yardham, Guthrie Smith, Hutchinson, etc.<sup>77</sup> The event was commemorated by a meeting on 27 November 1924 at which Professor H.B Kirk from Victoria University spoke on the work of Colenso and Hamilton; Henry Hill and F. Hutchinson gave very interesting addresses on the past which were accompanied by lantern portraits of early Hawke's Bay residents. A Jubilee programme was issued, which included the list of members in 1874, and a valuable report on the fifty years' work was compiled by Mr H. Hill and is to be published later.<sup>78</sup> On 25 September 1925 Hill gave a paper to the Institute on early New Zealand history with an emphasis on the Hawke's Bay area. The paper was given as a lecture in a hall in Dickens Street, Napier.<sup>79</sup>

By this time the Council had started to try and get well-known out-of-town speakers, but it remained customary for the president to give an annual address, and Mr Hill always found time to give an address on some topic. People who were invited to speak in 1925 included Professor P. Johnson of Auckland; Professor H.B. Kirk of Wellington; Professor P Marshall of Wellington; Professor Cockayne of Christchurch and Mr P.G. Morgan of the Geological Survey, Wellington.<sup>80</sup> There is however no record that any of these people gave lectures in Napier that year.<sup>81</sup>

There is no record of what happened to the lease arrangements which the Institute had had with the Athenaeum for many years, but in May 1922 it was arranged to have meetings somewhere else because there were no chairs in the Athenaeum. In 1925 for example the meeting on 20 January 1925 was held in the Chamber of Commerce rooms in Herschel Street, Napier. Then a general discussion occurred about the question of obtaining proper

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<sup>76</sup> HBPIMB 2; Archives, Notes compiled by PHE Bloomer, p. 7 of Second Period.

<sup>77</sup> HBPIMB 2, 31 July 1924.

<sup>78</sup> Annual Report of the HBPI for 1924, C.F.H. Pollock, Honorary Secretary & Treasurer

<sup>79</sup> MTG Hawke's Bay Museum Napier, Archives: Henry Hill papers m51/7, 79761

<sup>80</sup> HBPIMB 2; Archives, Notes compiled by PHE Bloomer, 1924-25, p. 1.

<sup>81</sup> Bloomer, 1974, (1926)

accommodation for the Society's meetings, its library, and its records. It was felt that an early attempt to find a permanent home for in some suitable building or a building site should be gone into as a matter of urgency. Attention was also drawn to the absence of valuable volumes from the library shelves and it was arranged to have a separate locked shelf for such items. At the February 1926 meeting Henry Hill raised the matter of the neglected state of the museum which was held by the Borough. The Secretary pointed out to Mr Hill that as the museum had been handed over to the Borough some twenty years before the Borough was responsible for the museum's upkeep. Henry Hill raised the matter of the Borough Council and the ownership of the museum the next month and said that the letters of 1907 and 1908 had never been ratified and according the Institute still owned the museum. It was decided to approach the Borough Council on the matter of the museum and the inadequate care of the Institute's library.<sup>82</sup>In 1927 the President announced that an anonymous gentleman would donate £1000 towards a fund for the promotion of an Art Gallery and proper Museum for Hawke's Bay. A meeting was held with the local Arts and Crafts Society at which it was resolved to apply to all kindred organisations requesting these to appoint delegates to a general meeting to be held with the purpose of properly initiating such a fund.<sup>83</sup> In March 1927, the Institute passed a unanimous vote of thanks to the Borough Council for renovating the museum room.<sup>84</sup>

It was suggested in May 1927 that lectures be given to secondary school pupils and the President Mr E. West and Drs Clark and F.C Moore were delegated the task of going into the details. By August the President reported that two lectures had been given, one by Mr Hutchinson and one by himself. They had both been well-attended by the High Schools and two or three more were promised.<sup>85</sup>

A resolution was moved by the President Dr Clark in 1928 "that the purchase of new books be extended to include suitable works of biography, English and Foreign literature, History and the like with a view to attracting a larger circle of membership, such volumes not to exceed the amount spent on scientific works."<sup>86</sup>Then in May a library committee meeting held at Dr Clarke's residence where a circular was drawn up to be sent to a list of 200 people

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<sup>82</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1926), p.2.

<sup>83</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1926), p.2.

<sup>84</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1927-9), p.3.

<sup>85</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1927-9), p.3.

<sup>86</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1927-9), p.3. AGM March 1928

to encourage them to join the Institute. It was effective because at the Council meeting in August 27 new members were elected.<sup>87</sup>

In April 1930 Mr and Mrs Hutchinson, and Miss Spencer spoke as a delegation to the Institute seeking its interest and support in an urgent and general movement for the preservation of the native bush known as Ball's Clearing, Puketitiri. It was resolved to assist in any way possible and a committee comprised of the President, the Secretary and Mr C I Thomas was appointed to co-operate with local bodies, particularly the 30,000 Club. The Institute further resolved to urge the Government to purchase Ball's Clearing as a scenic reserve because of its great natural beauty and scientific value. They arranged to send a copy of the resolution to the Minister of Agriculture and all interested societies.<sup>88</sup> In 1958 the personal intervention of F.R. Callaghan was critical to the success of the Hawke's Bay branch's project for a reserve at Ball's Clearing.<sup>89</sup> Callaghan was Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial research, President of the Royal Society from 1950-52, and a fellow of the Royal Society.<sup>90</sup>

The Earthquake on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1931 affected the Institute, which has no records from that period until 1 October 1931 when an entry reads: "Sundry Minutes – recorded at this date in the absence of the Annual report, Balance sheet and receipt vouchers all of which were destroyed at the time of the Great Earthquake, February 3, 1931."

There is a list of the lectures given during 1930 and the books ordered in March 1930. The entry continued saying:

The Museum Room and Exhibits were badly damaged. The Library shelves were broken in some places. After the cleaning of the Room the Society's Collection was made available to Members & the Public in Oct. 1931. The Lantern and the Microscope are housed in the Museum Room at this date.<sup>91</sup>

The first meeting held after the Earthquake was a Council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1931. It was held for the purpose of an informal discussion on any general matters. There were nine

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<sup>87</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1927-9), p.3.

<sup>88</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1930-3), p. 4

<sup>89</sup> C.A. Fleming, 1987. *Science, Settlers and Scholars*, RSNZ Bulletin 25, p. 237

<sup>90</sup> Galbreath, Ross. "Callaghan, Francis Raymond", from the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. Te Ara – the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/biographies/4c1/callaghan-francis-raymond>

<sup>91</sup> HBPIMB 2, 1 October 1931

resignations, two because people left the district. The deaths of Bernard Chambers and Jas. McFarlane were recorded with much regret.<sup>92</sup> A meeting of the Council was held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1932 at which Henry Hill reported that he was compiling a general account of the Earthquake 1931 for the Transactions of the Institute. Following that meeting there are two entries one recording Mr Fatory's gift of twelve volumes on psychical research and the other the names and titles of the four lectures given during 1932.<sup>93</sup>

The death of Henry Hill on 15 July 1933 had a special entry in the Minute Book. He had been a member since 1884 and was 84 years of age.<sup>94</sup>

Then on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1933 there was a deputation to J. A. Barton, one of the two Commissioners appointed by the government on 11 March 1931, to organise reconstruction. The deputation requested that the Museum and Library be put in order and offered to put the Museum in order as long as the Borough Council would maintain it and defray all costs of blocks and similar repairs that were necessary. They asked for additional insurance and additional shelving for the books. They mentioned that there had been marked hostility from the Town Clerk in the past. Mr Barton expressed sympathy with the request and undertook to pass a special recommendation onto the new Borough Council and the Library committee.<sup>95</sup>

A special meeting was called on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1933 over the concern that the Library Committee and the Borough Council still refused to meet the Institute's Council to go into the matter of the 1908 agreement. It was decided that members would tackle individual Borough Councillors and they would attempt to get the interest of the Mayor in the Library. Finally, in October a library subcommittee of the Institute met the Library committee of the Borough Council and both agreed to ratify the 1908 agreement and to make improvements to the libraries administration. A draft letter was produced by the Secretary to the Council meeting on 22 March 1934 requesting the Library Committee of the Borough Council to ratify the 1908 agreement was approved.<sup>96</sup> In 1935 after very detailed discussions an agreement was made, which is recorded in the Minute Book. It was signed by the President, Herbert Waiapu (Herbert Williams, Bishop of Waiapu); the Secretary George Railton; the

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<sup>92</sup> HBPIMB 2, 6 November 1931

<sup>93</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1930-3), p. 4

<sup>94</sup> HBPIMB 2, 15 July 1933

<sup>95</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1930-3), p. 4; (1933-4), p.5

<sup>96</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1930-3), p. 4; (1933-4), p.5

Mayor of Napier, G.E. Morse; F.A. Watter, Acting Town Clerk; and Councillors, Antony Main and J.H. Oldham.<sup>97</sup>

Two lectures from visitors drew excellent attendances. The first held on 20 November 1933 was an address, illustrated by lantern slides, by WRB Oliver on “Wild Life in the Southern Islands of New Zealand.” The second was given by Professor Easterfield on “The Cawthron Institute and its Work” to a full hall and a keen audience on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1934.<sup>98</sup> On 20<sup>th</sup> July Dr Armstrong of Taupo lectured on “Notes on the Biology of lake Taupo with reference to trout food.” The lecture by W. O’Connell of the Napier Post Office on “The Murray Multipress Printing Machine”, attracted a very poor crowd of only 11 or 12, who all adjourned to the Post Office.

At the AGM held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1934 Dr T.C. Moore, who had been a member for 48 years, was elected an Honorary Life Member, and it was resolved that:

Following the change in nomenclature of the NZ Institute to that of the Royal Society of New Zealand it was now decided unanimously that this Institute be henceforth styled the Royal Society of New Zealand Hawke’s Bay Branch and the necessary changes be effected accordingly.<sup>99</sup>

On 1<sup>st</sup> June 1934, the Minute Book of the Hawke’s Bay Philosophical Institute was closed and a new one under the name of the Royal Society of New Zealand Hawke’s Bay Branch was to be commenced.<sup>100</sup> “Hawke’s Bay was the first member body to become a Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand, being granted permission to do so (and to use the RSNZ badge) in 1934.”<sup>101</sup>

The new minute book opened with a library committee meeting on 15 June 1934 that was the first meeting under the new style of Hawke’s Bay Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand. On 20 February 1935 the President, the Right Rev. Bishop of Waiapu, and Secretary attended the gathering held in Wellington to farewell the Governor General Lord Bledisloe. The President then represented the Branch at the Royal Society’s Annual Meeting in Dunedin on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1935 where he was elected President of the Royal Society of New Zealand. A few months later, on 18<sup>th</sup> July, the new Governor General Viscount made his first visit to

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<sup>97</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1934-5), p, 2

<sup>98</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1930-3), p. 4; (1933-4), p.5

<sup>99</sup> HBPIMB 2, 30 May 1934

<sup>100</sup> HBPIMB 2, 1 June 1934, CP (C Pollock Honorary Secretary & Treasurer)

<sup>101</sup> Fleming, 1987, p. 76

Napier to lay the foundation stone for the new Art Gallery and Museum. The Branch was represented by the President (the Bishop). In August, the Bishop gave a lecture on “The Maori Language in Print” at the St John’s Hall, and presented William Colenso’s printing press to the Branch.<sup>102</sup>

In November 1935, Mrs E.A. Hodgson of Kiwi Valley, Wairoa asked if she could borrow Colenso’s collection of Hepatics and after correspondence with Dr Oliver at the Dominion Museum the selection was made available to her and returned in due course and stored in the Hawke’s Bay Museum.<sup>103</sup> At the meeting in June 1943 EA Hodgson’s paper on “A review of the New Zealand Species of the Genus *Chiloscyphus*,” was formally taken as read, but it had already been accepted by the editor of the Transactions.<sup>104</sup> This is only one of many papers by E. A. Hodgson published in the Transactions.<sup>105</sup> In 1946, Amy Hodgson, as she was known, was made an honorary member of the British Bryological Society, one of a select group of only 12. She was a fellow of the Linnaean Society of London and the Royal Society of New Zealand. At the Council meeting in November 1949 the Hawke’s Bay Branch recommended to Wellington that she should be made a Fellow of the Royal Society.<sup>106</sup> Massey University awarded her an honorary DSc in 1976 when she was 87.<sup>107</sup>

The Hawke’s Bay Art Gallery and Museum was opened on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1936, by Herbert Williams, the Rt. Rev. Bishop of Waiapu and the President of the Hawke’s Bay Branch. A close association was formed between the two societies because the Branch was asked to comment on proposed by-laws of the Museum and four members of the Branch was on the Museum committee at that time. They were: The Rt. Rev. Bishop Williams, Dr A.G. Clark, Mr E.S. West and Mr G.T. Railton. The first lecture given by the Hawke’s Bay Branch in the new museum was by Bishop Williams on “Medieval Costumes and Armour as shown on English Monumental Brasses.”

Mr Pollett, the acting Secretary said at a meeting in March 1937 that locally there was confusion regarding the various societies: Hawke’s Bay Branch of the Royal Society, the Art Society, and the Museum Committee, as books were donated to, or borrowed from one or the

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<sup>102</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1934-5), p, 2

<sup>103</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1934-5), p, 2

<sup>104</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1941-3) p.4

<sup>105</sup> <http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/search/results.html?text=Hodgson>

<sup>106</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1949-1950)

<sup>107</sup> C. Joy Axford, ‘Hodgson, Eliza Amy’, from the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. Te Ara – the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/biographies/5h26/hodgson-eliza-amy>

other organisation, and lectures were contemplated by one or other organisation, so the public did not know what was happening.<sup>108</sup>

In September 1938 the Branch was given numerous very old editions of books. In July 1939, the library committee decided to offer 19 books of no scientific interest to the Municipal Library in exchange for new books that the Society wanted, including *The Silk Road* by Sven Hedin and another called *Siberian Man and Mammoth*. Although the Branch had given its library to the Borough Council it continued to buy books. In October 1941, they ordered books on *Soil Conservation, The Rape of the Earth, Land Utilisation*, and the report on the Hastings Plains. In 1942 they purchased *Soil Erosion and Control*, and *Farm Trees and Landscape*, by Mr Cotton.

In September 1944 Mr Pollock observed that the register showed notably few borrowers of books during the past eighteen months; the new volumes were not being read, but the older ones were. The topics that the public asked about were education, psychology, sociology, psychoanalysis, psychiatry, medical science, free thought, and juvenile crime. By this time the Branch's assets included the library worth £1000 and the microscope valued at £50 plus other incidentals totalling £1085.17s.7d.<sup>109</sup>

In 1945 the idea of the Hastings members forming a committee of their own to hold joint meetings of the Branch and the Hawke's Bay Art Society in Hastings was suggested, and approved by the Council. The Branch was having trouble keeping the interest of members and steps were being taken to revive enthusiasm.<sup>110</sup> Messrs Buchanan, West, Pohlen and Costello spoke about the amalgamation of the Hastings Astronomical Society with the Hawke's Bay Branch, but this was left up to the Council. An Activities sub-committee was set up and reported back that the society should organise sections: Astronomical, Historical, Biological, Physical, Photographic and Literary. At a later meeting, it was decided that there should be an Ornithological section, and administrative details as to rules were established.

During 1945 and 1946 the list of new members was quite substantial and included many of the medical practitioners from the two major towns, Napier and Hastings. In 1947 the Hawke's Bay Art Society and the Napier Public Library became corporate members.

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<sup>108</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1936-40), p.3

<sup>109</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1944-5)

<sup>110</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1944-5), p.5

In 1947 the discussion about separate meetings for Napier and Hastings members was revived, although there was always the right of members to attend at either place. Two meetings were held on documentary films, one in Napier and one in Hastings. Count Wodzicki gave a talk in Hastings on the “Gannets at Kidnappers,” and at the same meeting the formation of the Ornithology section was resolved. During the year three sections were active: Ornithology, Astronomical and Photographic, which all presented reports to the AGM in 25 March 1947. The Hastings Museum and Art Gallery was also connected with the Branch and gave a report to the Branch’s AGM. Sections were popular at the time and H.A. McLean was asked to form a geological section; H. Eric Phillips was asked to form a Hastings Historical section and L.D. Bestall was asked to form a Napier Historical section.<sup>111</sup>

The AGM in March 1947 resolved that “the Branch of the Royal Society to be incorporated.”<sup>112</sup> The secretary reported in June that all the rules, moneys and forms had been filed for incorporation.<sup>113</sup> For the whole of 1948 there was considerable discussion about incorporation including attendances at the Crown Law Office in Wellington trying to get the rules of the Branch accepted. By 31 December 1949 the new rules had been drafted and approved by the Registrar. At the quarterly meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1949 the Branch had to vote itself out of existence and re-register as a new incorporation, with all the new members signing the application form. This was a very large meeting held in Hastings with about 150 people including members of the Public attending. The lecture was given by Dr. Fowler on “Resurrecting Ancient Birds.”<sup>114</sup>

In 1948 it was resolved that “the Colenso Herbarium be offered to Dr Oliver at the Dominion Museum at a price of £1 per type and a minimum of £100 and that the secretary forward the balance of the Herbarium now in the Hawke’s Bay Museum to the Dominion Museum.”<sup>115</sup> After considerable discussion and several visits to Wellington where the collection had been stored for the past year, it was finally sold to the Dominion Museum in 1949 for £100.<sup>116</sup>

It had been appreciated by members that although it had been a good collection and a lot of effort had been put into it, it was still in the dried and withered state that Doctor

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<sup>111</sup> Bloomer 1974. 5 March 1947

<sup>112</sup> Bloomer, 1974. 25 March 1947

<sup>113</sup> Bloomer, 1974. 17 June 1947

<sup>114</sup> Bloomer, 1974. 25 August 1949

<sup>115</sup> Bloomer, 1974. 12 February 1948

<sup>116</sup> Bloomer, 1974 (1949)

(sic) Colenso had left it and accordingly it would need expert attention to look after.<sup>117</sup>

The sections continued to be very active and the Exhibition subcommittee arranged for several exhibits supplied by the Department of Scientific and Industrial research (DSIR), the Department of Agriculture, the Post and Telegraph Department, the Army Department, the Navy Department the Air Department and several industrial firms. The financial reports show that the Exhibition receipts totalled £168.14s.8d.<sup>118</sup>

The Hastings Historical section was very active and the Council began to purchase books for the section. The Astronomical section held meetings every third Wednesday in Havelock North. The President was Mr Malden who was also the representative on the Council, and the secretary was M. Miller. The Geographical section was represented by Mr Fargher, who was the secretary of this section which had no fixed meeting date. The Historical section's president Mr Phillips was the section's representative and Mr Elder was the secretary. The meetings were held on the first Tuesday in the month. The Ornithological section had no fixed date for meetings; the President was Dr Bathgate and the representative on Council was Mr Jones. The President of the Meteorological section was Mr Malden who was also the representative on the Council. This section met on the first Tuesday every month.<sup>119</sup> The Napier Historical section was formed in August 1949 with about ten people attending. The chairman was L.D. Bestall and the secretary was Mr O'Keefe. The idea was to be the hunting out of old documents and interviewing elderly people. A special activity was to keep Colenso's grave in the Napier Cemetery in order. In 1949 the Hastings Historical section advised the Hastings Borough Council to purchase the Ebbett collection under the terms of the Ebbett Trust. This was done and the collection was housed for many years in a building specially built for it.<sup>120</sup>

In April 1950 L.D. Bestall representing the Hawke's Bay Art Society called a meeting to decide what books should be purchased by which of the various libraries to avoid overlapping and to co-ordinate with the availability of National Library Service books. The other people present were Miss A.M. Anderson the Hawke's Bay Art Society librarian, Miss Blyth from the Napier Public Library, Mr J.S. Peel for the Hawke's Bay Branch of the RSNZ and

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<sup>117</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1949)

<sup>118</sup> Bloomer, 1974. 25 November 1948

<sup>119</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1949)

<sup>120</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1949)

Miss Woodhouse as advisor. It was proposed that the Hawke's Bay Art Society take responsibility for the Russell Duncan and McLean libraries and keep them up to date. Local history was to be housed in the Museum.<sup>121</sup>

During these latter years of the 1940s Branch meetings were also held in Hastings and at Hereworth School in Havelock North where J.D.H. Buchanan, a member, and President was Headmaster. Buchanan was the originator of the archaeological site recording scheme that is a database of national significance containing over 60,000 sites, now available in electronically through the New Zealand Archaeological Association's (NZAA) website ArchSite. Buchanan gave a paper to the NZAA conference in the mid-1950s when he explained the history of the scheme and the involvement of the Hawke's Bay Branch of the Royal Society.

The scheme for an archaeological recording system that I have been asked to present to you first took shape after the Science Congress in Christchurch in 1951. Mr H.W. Wellman, now Dr Wellman of Victoria University of Wellington accompanied the archaeologists and ethnologists on a field excursion to Akaroa. I sat next to him on the return journey. He told me something of the Fossil record system that the Geological Survey had recently instituted and suggested that such a system could well be adapted for archaeological recording. The Hawke's Bay Branch of the Royal Society supported the idea and financed the preliminary work. I drafted a scheme, the one you have in your hands, and sent copies of it to all institutions and persons I thought would be interested; and invited their suggestions and criticisms.

It will no doubt be obvious to you that in drafting the scheme I had in mind the circumstances existing in Hawke's Bay: these circumstances include the absence of any professional archaeologists. The intention was to put the scheme into limited operation in Hawke's Bay, as a trial run. In fact, the scheme as (sic) never been in operation. Collecting and collating comments occupied several months: moreover, several moves were being made that resulted in the establishment of the National Historic Places Trust and the N.Z. Archaeological Association: and finally, two illnesses made it necessary for me to leave Hawke's Bay, before I had any opportunity of putting the scheme into operation.

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<sup>121</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1949-50) April 1950

With the emergence of bodies that would be in a position to institute a national scheme, it seemed advisable to let things simmer for a while. Boiling point was reached again a year or so later when Messrs Yaldwyn and Barwick, in consultation with Mr Golson, discussed my suggested record form, and made very sound suggestions for its modification.<sup>122</sup>

Fleming provides more information about the role the Hawkes Bay Branch played. He says:

In 1952 the Hawkes' Bay Branch of the RSNZ, on the initiative of the late Mr J.D.H. Buchanan of Hereworth School, proposed the preservation and marking of archaeological sites. In 1952 with Gilbert Archey's support Buchanan sponsored a recommendation to government that it should legislate to establish an Archaeological and Historical Board with the necessary authority to control and encourage investigation of such sites in New Zealand, and suggested its constitution and functions.<sup>123</sup>

A National Trust, (now Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga) was established by the Historic Places Act 1954.<sup>124</sup> The New Zealand Archaeological Association was established in August 1954 after a meeting was called by Mr Golson.<sup>125</sup> The NZAA's Site Recording Scheme was established in 1958 as a paper-based system that was originally organised into 18 districts with regional file keepers. A duplicate set of each file was held in Wellington.<sup>126</sup>

The books in the library were a constant problem for the Branch because it did not have a place of residence after the Athenaeum had been demolished and the new Museum built. A report to the Branch by the Library Committee in 1965 explained the problem and the resolution:

This branch has for many years possessed a collection of old books, scientific and technical for the most part, which has been a constant problem, mainly from the point of view of storage. ... The plain fact has been that they were almost entirely unused and were more of an encumbrance than an asset to the Branch.

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<sup>122</sup> Buchanan Papers: Box 3, File 3, MTG Hawke's Bay Museum Library, NAPIER. "Script of an address concerning a revised archaeological recording scheme for New Zealand."

<sup>123</sup> Fleming, 1987, p. 245.

<sup>124</sup> Fleming, 1987, p. 245.

<sup>125</sup> Pishief, 2011, *Constructing the Identities of Place: An Exploration of Maori and Archaeological Heritage Practices in Aotearoa New Zealand*. PhD Thesis, Victoria University of Wellington, p. 81

<sup>126</sup> <http://www.archsite.org.nz/glossary.aspx#siterecordingscheme>

The books were stored in the stack room of the Napier Public Library with a few in the reference library. When the library was reorganised the Branch was told that their books had to go because the library need the space for their own books. It was decided after considerable discussion that the library would have to be disposed of. At the Council meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1963 a committee comprising P.J. Grant, Convenor, Dr. R. Lucas and Dr. D.K. Bonisch, was appointed and given the power to act. The books were removed from the Library and taken to the old premises of Lusk Sproule and Willis in Herschel Street. There they were sorted and listed, and a catalogue was compiled. These actions were reported to Council on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1964. The principles governing the disposal of books were:

1. The books which are of value should remain in New Zealand and be in places where they would get the best possible use; (The Council wished to avoid at all costs any of them leaving the country).
2. Within the limit imposed by (1) the books would go to the highest bidder.
3. The Branch would retain one complete set of Transactions or as near complete as it could make by subsequent purchase.

On 21<sup>st</sup> September 1964 copies of the catalogue and a covering letter were sent to educational and other institutions in New Zealand inviting them to bid for the books in which they were interested. Most of those to whom the catalogue was sent replied. The bids were correlated and sorted for each bidder in accordance with principle 2 and the books were despatched by Mahoney & Sons, carriers, with the buyers paying cartage. Some of the books that were not bid for were later bought privately by local people. The sale realised between £1200 and £1300. A master catalogue showing where the most important books have gone was to be lodged with the Librarian in the Napier Public Library.

The following is a list of the Institutions the catalogue was sent to. Those marked with an asterisk made bids.

- Royal Society of New Zealand
- Victoria University of Wellington\*
- University of Auckland\*
- University of Christchurch\*
- Otago University of Dunedin\*
- Massey University of Manawatu\*
- Lincoln College, Christchurch\*

- Department of Scientific and Industrial Research\*
- Dominion Museum\*
- New Zealand Forest Service
- Forest Research Institute
- Napier Public Library
- Hastings Public Library
- Art Gallery Library

The committee considered that by adhering strictly to the first principle it had disposed of the library of the Hawke's Bay Branch of RSNZ for the greatest benefit of science and scientific workers in New Zealand.<sup>127</sup>

The fourth Minute Book opens with a meeting held at the Museum on 20 July 1965. Mrs Winkley was appointed secretary and Miss Saxby the treasurer. Mrs Winkley did not become a member for another two years.<sup>128</sup> The investment of the funds from the sale of the books, £1000, was discussed and it was arranged to invest the money through a solicitor on First Mortgage and any interest earned was to be for the binding of the Transactions and the maintenance of the library. Any balance was to be used to subsidise research grants and provide for lecturers or films of outstanding interest, thus furthering the objectives of the Branch. It was also resolved to purchase a projector.<sup>129</sup>

In 1966 the Council agreed to make a donation of £50 over five years to the Cockayne Memorial Fund.<sup>130</sup> The president was appointed as the representative to the Hawke's Bay University Board Advisory Committee.<sup>131</sup> Miss Banks said she would like to start a Junior Geological Group and Mr Collins said he would help identify geological specimens. Miss Banks was authorised to contact the schools and hold a trial afternoon. In September, she said she had had an interesting meeting and thought the matter should be pursued.<sup>132</sup>

Mr Janisch reported that the rules needed re-writing and he was asked to undertake the task. He was the Assistant Land Registrar and at that time the Assistant Registrar of Companies so

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<sup>127</sup> Folder in Box A "Centennial Publications/Disposal of Library."

<sup>128</sup> Bloomer, 1974. 15 July 1967

<sup>129</sup> Bloomer, 1974. Minute Book 4.

<sup>130</sup> Bloomer, 1974. 7 March 1966

<sup>131</sup> Bloomer, 1974. 11 April 1966

<sup>132</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1966-67)

his duties would have included responsibilities to do with incorporated societies.<sup>133</sup> In 1969 the Council reviewed and passed a considerable number of amendments to the rules.<sup>134</sup>

At the 93<sup>rd</sup> AGM of the Branch on 29 March 1967 Professor J.A.R. Miles the President of the Royal Society addressed the Branch on “The Royal Society of New Zealand – An Historical Survey.”<sup>135</sup> This talk was apparently a precursor to the major celebrations, held in Wellington on 10 October 1967, to commemorate the centenary of the establishment of the New Zealand Institute by its own Act in 1867.<sup>136</sup>

Dr Lucas proposed including social science and technology in future programmes as a way of interesting a new section of the community. Members were to roster themselves to submit reports of the Branch’s activities to the press to publicise the Branch.<sup>137</sup> They also decided to have the annual programme published in the local newspapers.

In 1970 there was a proposal to mark the centennial of the Branch by preparing a history, but as it was not until 1975 it was decided to obtain the booklet published by the Otago Branch as a guide as to how to do it. The Centennial Booklet was discussed in February 1972 and a sub-committee consisting of Messrs Fordyce, Longley and Bloomer was established. At the AGM the President Mr Cunningham asked members to submit information material and facts or ideas on the general membership,<sup>138</sup> but nothing eventuated. At the last meeting in 1972 the centennial publications were agreed on: Climate—Past and Present: P.J. Grant; Geology, Physiology, Soils: D. White; Rivers and Lakes: P.J. Grant; Vegetation — Past and present: A. Cunningham; Birds, Insects, Animals — Past and present: N. McKenzie; Branch History: P. Bloomer; Sociology and Land use: B. Fordyce. These were to be initiated by May 1973, and completed by May 1974.<sup>139</sup> It does not appear that anything was produced, other than the branch history notes referred to in this brief history.

In 1974 two notable members of the Branch died: Sir James Wattie who was also the patron of the Science Fair and Norman Elder whose death was recorded at the September meeting.

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<sup>133</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1966-67)

<sup>134</sup> Bloomer, 1974. 3 December 1969

<sup>135</sup> Bloomer, 1974. 29 March 1967

<sup>136</sup> Fleming, 1987, pp. 260-2

<sup>137</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1968-71)

<sup>138</sup> Bloomer, 1974. 25 February 1972; 19 April 1972.

<sup>139</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1972-4)

<sup>140</sup> Bloomer, 1974. (1972-4)

The idea for a Natural History Museum was first suggested to the Hawke's Bay Branch by Dr Peter Purchas, a Havelock North research scientist, when he was President of the Branch. The Council decided to establish the Natural History Museum to exhibit some of the objects of natural science that are found in Hawke's Bay as the project to commemorate the Branch's centennial. It took several years of planning and fund raising before it was ready to open. A major contributor to the organisation of funds and general running of the museum was Fred Mace. He filled in numerous applications for grants with considerable success and oversaw the running of the museum once it was established. Dr Purchas was only one of many people who worked to set up the displays; he resigned from the Branch in March 1982.<sup>141</sup>

The Natural History Museum was established in the Old Borough Council building at the corner of Herschel and Tennyson Streets and the Marine Parade. The Napier City Council had granted the use of the Chambers rent free. It was opened by the Right Honourable Sir Richard Harrison, M.P. Speaker of the House of Representatives on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1983. He congratulated the members of the Branch for conceiving and completing the interesting and valuable collection. He thanked the talented people who had contributed their collections for the enlightenment and enjoyment of everyone.<sup>142</sup>

A newspaper article from March 1985 describes the museum eighteen months after it was set up. There was a wide variety of natural history specimens collected and arranged by local people. The palaeontology display included bones from prehistoric marine creatures collected by Joan and Mont Wiffin from the Te Hoe River, a tributary of the Mohaka. The specimens of whales and dolphins were supplied by Mr Robson and arranged by Mr Moisley. The entomologist Tom Davies and his wife Jessie, provided a meticulous display of moths and butterflies. A 17-year old Colenso High School student Clive Appleton had a display of native damsel and dragon flies "supported by a sharply defined colour photo sequence of a dragonfly bursting into the world from its nymphal husk." Garth Cockerill, a local dentist, displayed local sea shells most of which he had found himself, although a rare, deep water *Columbarium spiralis* had been given to him by a local fisherman who had dredged it up. There was a display of local rocks by Len Ross and the re-creation of a local alpine herb field assembled by Ash Cunningham and Barry Keating of the New Zealand Forest Service, with the assistance of local botanists Cara Saxby, Rosemary Greenwood and Lucy Hodgson. There was a display of stuffed birds within a large diorama covering those habitats to be

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<sup>141</sup> Archives, Box G, AGM report, 12 March 1982.

<sup>142</sup> HBBRSNZ Archives, Box F: Natural History Museum Day Book, p. 1.

found between the mountains and the sea. The museum was open during the weekends and public holidays from 2pm to 4pm, or other times by arrangement. Visits could be arranged by telephoning either the President of the Hawke's Bay Branch of RSNZ, Alan Gordon, or the Secretary, David Butts.<sup>143</sup> The Natural History Museum continued for about 25 years and finally was packed up in 1999, with a number of specimens being reclaimed by the donors or put into storage. The rocks and other objects were later given to GNS in Lower Hutt.

During the 1970s and 1980s the Branch arranged field trips such as, a tour of the Ahuriri estuary led by Fred Mace on 21 November 1981, and an outing to Makahu Saddle and Ngahere Basin on 20 March 1982.

Encouraging the young people of Hawke's Bay's interest in science has been a major thrust of the Hawke's Bay Branch's work for many years. This had often taken the form of prizes initiated by the Branch or supporting other organisations.

In 1966 the Branch told the General Secretary of the Royal Society about the two annual awards that it presented. The first was the Colenso Memorial prize first made in 1958 when one prize of £3 value of books was made. After Colenso's herbarium was sold the £100 was invested and it was decided to use the £5 interest for a project which had bearing on Colenso's work in the district. The prize was awarded for an ecological survey or biological field study such as might be done as part of the normal work of any fifth form student of general science or biology.<sup>144</sup>

The response for the schools was so good that the second year three prizes were offered. In 1961 two equal prizes of £3 each was awarded, but in 1966 the standard of four entries was so equal that a decision was made to grant four prizes of £2.10s.0d each. This would not be a standard practice. And to cater to younger members of the Community the Royal Society prize was awarded to the best entry of the Hawke's Bay Junior Naturalists' Club Annual Wildlife Exhibition. In 1966 the prize was awarded to Paul Muller of Hastings for his entry on "Introduced Trees."<sup>145</sup>

The Science Fair has been a major activity of the Branch's since the 1960s when it was first started. The idea of the Science Fair was first raised by Mr Fordyce who suggested a committee should be organised to run a science fair for secondary school pupils under the

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<sup>143</sup> Alan Rainbow "Ask and You Shall Find," in *Hawke's Bay Herald Tribune*, March 1985

<sup>144</sup> HBBRSNZ MB 4. "Colenso Memorial Prize".

<sup>145</sup> HBBRSNZ MB 4 11 October 1966

sponsorship of the Hawke's Bay Branch. The Branch decided that its position relative to the current Royal Society's external appeal for funds prevented its sponsoring the science in 1968 but it supported the idea in principle.<sup>146</sup> In August, the idea came up again and the Council decided it would sponsor the fair and offer prizes. It appointed a panel of judges including Mr Malloy, Mr Grant and the Reverend Father Bonisch.<sup>147</sup> The Branch has been an active participant since that time, offering two prizes and often supplying judges. A selection of years is chosen to indicate the type of involvement the Branch has had.

In 1968 the President reported the present situation regarding the Science Fair as reported to him by Mr Fordyce. It was moved by Mr Molloy that a prize of \$20 for the best overall exhibit in the 1968 Fair be awarded by the Branch, seconded by Mr Grant and carried. The Council agreed to appoint to the panel of judges the following members: Mr. Molloy and Mr Grant and it was voted that Father Bonisch should be the Branch's representative on the Science Fair committee.<sup>148</sup>

In 1975 it was agreed that the President of the Branch should be asked to chair the presentation of prizes at the Science Fair. That year there were forty entries, but Napier schools had provided only a few of the entries. Mr Cunningham provided a list of the judges and advised that the new patron would be Mr Gordon Wattie, replacing his father Sir James Wattie who had died. Mr Davies reported on his attendance at the Science Fair committee meeting and asked for a joint meeting with the Branch and the Science Fair committee to discuss the idea of sending a pupil to the USA or Canada on a biennial basis. Mr Cunningham reported that a sum of \$460 had been sent out to schools this year; especially those who had supported the Science Fair.<sup>149</sup>

In 1978 Dr Purchas remarked that the "Science Fair was not strong at the moment." It seemed to be that teachers did not want to be involved in the Science Fair and were critical of the judging standards; they did not appear to want to help the children, the schools were not keen and interest was declining. Dr Purchas said the problem should be "tackled head on" and they should write to the science teachers, the Royal Society and the Science Fair

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<sup>146</sup> Bloomer, 1974. 19 April 1968

<sup>147</sup> Bloomer, 1974. 6 August 1968

<sup>148</sup> HBBRSNZ Minute Book 4, p. 45

<sup>149</sup> HBBRSNZ Minute Book 4, p. 141

committee to arrange a meeting and discuss the problems together. It was noted that no teacher sat on the Science Fair committee.<sup>150</sup>

In 1980 the Science Fair was held in the Cultural Centre in Hastings. Judging took place on Saturday 26 July with prize giving in the evening, with all members being notified that the prizegiving was to be preceded by a dinner at the Apple Inn in Hastings and the whole evening was to be the July general meeting.<sup>151</sup> The 1981 science Fair was held in Napier and the sum of \$200 was granted to the Fair for expenses; this included the \$100 granted by the Royal Society.<sup>152</sup> At this Science Fair a speech competition was inaugurated which attracted a considerable number of entries which was most successful and a very satisfactory poster competition.<sup>153</sup> Later Mr Styles reported on his visit to the national Science Fair held at the Otago Museum in the presence of her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip. The Royal Society Premier Award for 1981 went to Angela Payne of Napier Girls' High School for the purchase of scientific books to further her studies.<sup>154</sup>

In 2004 the winner of the Royal Society prize at the Hawke's Bay Schools' Science Fair was Gabrielle Hornblow of Onga Onga school for a project "Arrest v. Ecovert." The comment was made that: "The Schools' Science Fair is an important local event promoting interest in science and all those who contributed to the Science Fair as organisers, sponsors, participants and judges are thanked for their excellent efforts." The value of the Branch's prize was increased from \$200 to \$300.<sup>155</sup> In 2006 the \$300 prize was won by Jun Kwon of Lindisfarne College who was a worthy representative of the Hawke's Bay region at the National Schools' Science Fair. Several Branch members acted as judges at the Science Fair.<sup>156</sup>

In 2009 the Branch researched the desirability of undertaking an Oral history project with the intention of developing a resource consisting of recorded interviews of Hawke's Bay people who had contributed to science or the promotion or extended application of science. This has subsequently become an archive of radio broadcasts of local scientists. President Lynne Trafford, on behalf of the Branch in conjunction with the local Community Radio Station, Radio Kidnappers, has interviewed many local scientists about their lives, careers and the science in which they have been involved. Scientists on Air plays each Monday at 9:30 am.

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<sup>150</sup> HBBSNZ Minute Book 4, p. 189

<sup>151</sup> HBBSNZ Minute Book 4, p. 227

<sup>152</sup> HBBSNZ Minute Book 4, p.244

<sup>153</sup> HBBSNZ Minute Book 4, p. 246

<sup>154</sup> HBBSNZ Minute Book 4, p.250

<sup>155</sup> Archives, Box G, Newsletter 2004/8 29<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

<sup>156</sup> Archives, Box G, Newsletter, 2007/6 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Replays of aired programmes can be found on the Radio Kidnappers' Internet Radio site. Search for "Scientists on Air". See also our Scientists on Air page.<sup>157</sup>

The branch's major activities in recent years have been the lecture series, the Science Fair and the oral history recording project. A major interest of the Hawke's Bay Branch is to support children and young people in science and technology. The Branch supports local schools and teachers in their teaching of science. Examples of this support include:

- Promoting and supporting the government funded Science Teaching Leadership Programme,
- Bringing New Zealand Scientists to Hawke's Bay to talk to students about their work and the important role of science in our lives,
- Applying for funding from MBIE's Unlocking Curious Minds contestable fund, and running the resultant Science and Technology camp for Year 7 & 8 students and their teachers in 2016 and 2017,
- Annually sponsoring prizes for Intermediate students and Senior students exhibiting excellence and merit in their projects, worth \$500 in 2016, at the Hawke's Bay Science Fair.

The Hawke's Bay Branch organises lectures aimed at the Public, and events supporting the teaching of science. The programme is planned each January and confirmation and more details circulated to members monthly. Important regular events are the annual Earthquake Lecture, detailing some scientific aspect relevant to the Earthquake theme, and the Seaweed Lecture. The Branch also hosts the Royal Society national lectures delivered by award recipients.<sup>158</sup>

The Hawke's Bay Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand plays an important role in the local community, promoting science and technology and fostering and encouraging the teaching of science to children and young people. When the constitution was recently revised "Outreach" was included as one of the significant purposes of the Branch. The Branch aims to "get science out to the community," to promote science and continue the work of our founders in 1874.

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<sup>157</sup> <http://hawkesbay.rsnzbranch.org.nz/category/uncategorized/>

<sup>158</sup> <http://hawkesbay.rsnzbranch.org.nz/events/>

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