



*William Colenso.*

WILLIAM COLENZO  
BICENTENARY

A CELEBRATION  
OF HIS LIFE  
AND IDEAS

HAWKE'S BAY  
9-13 NOVEMBER 2011

## WILLIAM COLENZO BICENTENARY PROGRAMME

DAY ONE

10 NOVEMBER 2011

8.30am	<i>REGISTRATION</i>
9am	<i>WELCOME</i> <b>Douglas Lloyd Jenkins</b> , Director Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery
9.15am	<b><i>Key note presentation</i></b> <b>Peter Wells</b> <p>Peter Wells, MNZM, is a writer and film-maker. As a writer, he has won the NZ Book Award for Fiction for his first book of short stories, <i>Dangerous Desires</i> which was published by Viking Penguin in New York and Secker and Warburg in London. His memoir <i>Long Loop Home</i> won the 2002 Montana New Zealand Book Award for Biography. <i>Lucky Bastard</i>, a novel, was published in 2006. In 2009 Peter Wells won the CLL Award to write a book on William Colenso and in 2011 was awarded the Michael King Fellowship.</p> <b><i>Everybody has their own Colenso</i></b> Since William Colenso was so many things - explorer, printer, missionary, dissident, intellectual, reprobate, immoral person, Cornishman, Pakeha tohunga, 'prince of humbugs', fond father/bad father, insightful individual, politician, father of New Zealand botany or 'species-monger' there is plenty to choose from. Everybody has the opportunity of choosing their own favourite Colenso and making that aspect their own. In this keynote paper, Peter Wells talks of 'his Colenso', a personal relationship with a controversial historical figure, tracing the journey of a relationship which turned into a book.
10.30am	<i>MORNING TEA</i>
11am	<b>Ann Collins</b> Direct descendent of William's brother Edwin Colenso and coordinator of the <i>Colenso One Name Study</i> <b><i>William Colenso's roots and early influences</i></b> William Colenso was born in Penzance Cornwall in 1811, the eldest child of a saddler. This paper will explore the influences on his family and his childhood that contributed to his exploratory and controversial spirit.
11.30am	<b>Keith Newman</b> Award-winning journalist, producer and author <b><i>Contending for the Faith</i></b> William Colenso as the tormented, head strong loner and theologian. This paper considers Colenso the man, his religious zeal, his battles with authority and why this colourful character was so determined to trek across great tracts of land to preach the gospel.

12 noon

**Dr Dianne Bardsley**

Director of the New Zealand Dictionary Centre at Victoria University of Wellington, lecturer in New Zealand English in the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies and author

***The significant lexical legacy of William Colenso***

William Colenso provides a veritable storehouse of both personal and public written material. This paper examines the vocabulary of this significant New Zealander and the extent to which it influenced, and was influenced by, his social, cultural and physical environment.

12.30pm

LUNCH

(1 – 2pm AGM Colenso Society)

2pm

Panel Conversation

***Efforts in ecological restoration in Hawke's Bay - a report to William Colenso***

**Jim Watt, John Gould and Mac Kirkwood** and panel of key environmentalists from Saint Columba's Havelock North Environmental House Group (SCHNEHG)

*To William Colenso*

*On the 200th anniversary of your birth we would like to acknowledge your many contributions and achievements in this corner of our world and show you the Hawke's Bay of today. It must be so very different from the landscape of the 'yesterday' that was on your platen. We are sure you would recognise plenty. But you may also be both joyfully surprised, and possibly upset, at other 'developments'.*

2.45pm

**Ian St George**

Editor of the New Zealand Native Orchid Journal, convenor of the Colenso Society and editor of its monthly newsletter eColenso

***Colenso's Orchids***

William Colenso discovered more New Zealand native orchids than any other individual; at first he collected and shipped them to WJ Hooker at Kew, and later to his son JD Hooker. He was criticised as a "splitter" by TF Cheeseman, but today we recognise the great majority of Colenso's species as valid.

3.15pm

***Colenso Society Report***

Ian St George reports from the Colenso Society AGM

3.30pm

AFTERNOON TEA

3.45pm

**John Adam**

Garden and landscape historian, joint award winner of the New Zealand Fulbright Fellowship in 2002 and Director of the company *Endangered Gardens*

***Dr Schmidt, Hero or Villain visits William Colenso***

In the summer of December 1854 Dr. Gustalf F.R. Schmidt H.M.S.M visited Waitangi, Napier, for less than 24 hours. This paper traces the mystery surrounding Schmidt's visit to New Zealand, his meeting with Colenso and impressions of the Waitangi mission garden, and his death in the Catlin's area of Southland in 1855.

4.15pm

**Dr James Braund**

Research Assistant and Honorary Research Fellow in the University of Auckland's School of European Languages and Literatures

***William Colenso and Ernst Dieffenbach: Convergent and Divergent Lives***

This year marks not only the bicentenary of the birth of William Colenso, but also that of one of the many notable visiting scientists who called at the Bay of Islands while Colenso was living there – Ernst Dieffenbach (1811-1855). Colenso and Dieffenbach's separate paths converged – in a literal sense, at least – only once for a period of several weeks over the summer of 1840-1841 and this paper will consider five common themes in their otherwise divergent lives.

4.45pm

CLOSE

**DAY TWO**  
**11 NOVEMBER 2011**

9am *WELCOME*

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9.15am **Key note presentation**

Sponsored by Hawke's Bay Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand and The Webb Foundation

**Dr Jim Endersby**

Jim Endersby has a PhD in the History and Philosophy of Science from Cambridge University, where he was a post-doctoral research fellow at Darwin College. He is an award-winning author, editor and has been a historical consultant for BBC television. He is a senior lecturer in the History Department at the University of Sussex, UK.

***The nations and empires of plant***

William Colenso took a fierce pride in the plants of his adopted country and was eager to prove that New Zealand's flora was as rich and diverse as that of any comparable country. This "botanical nationalism" led him to name many new species, many of which were immediately abolished by his friend Joseph Hooker. Hooker, who was director of Britain's national botanic gardens at Kew, argued that Colenso lacked the expertise and resources to name plants, while Colenso believed his first-hand knowledge of New Zealand's living plants was worth more than the dried specimens and printed descriptions held at Kew. Understanding the arguments between these two friends reveal a lot about the two men involved, but more importantly they allow us to understand how modern science shaped – and was shaped by – Britain's global empire.

10.30am *MORNING TEA*

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11am **Professor Kay Morris Matthews**

Research Professor in Education and Social Sciences at EIT- Hawke's Bay

***Intersections of provincial politics and education 1859-1878***

William Colenso made important contributions to colonial settlement, particularly during the thirteen years he was involved in provincial politics and the eleven years he served as provincial Inspector of Schools. This paper examines Colenso's balancing of these roles to achieve gains for settler children and to return to higher levels of settler society following his dismissal from the Anglican Church in 1851.

11.30am **Tanya Zoe Robinson**

Higher Degree by Research student at Deakin University, Melbourne

***For 'their' Museum: William Colenso's role in the development of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute's museum collection, 1874-1899***

From 1874, work for the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute occupied much of William Colenso's time. He was regarded as the 'life' of the Institute: taking on the roles of Secretary-Treasurer and later President. Central to the activities of the Institute was the development of a museum collection. This paper examines Colenso's role in the collection developed by the Institute during the period 1874-1899, its purpose and its use.

12 noon **Professor Lydia Wevers**

Director of the Stout Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington and author

***Colenso and Africa***

In a footnote to a paper William Colenso read to the Hawkes Bay Philosophical Institute in 1887 he wrote that in his youth he had devoured '*diligently and repeatedly every work on African travel I could obtain*'. This paper will discuss Colenso's borrowing from Park and also Denham, Bruce and Clapperton, and consider how his reading shaped and formulated the impressions he gave of his New Zealand experience, and how he departed from it.

12.30pm *LUNCH*

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1.30pm

**Dr Sydney Shep**

Senior Lecturer in Print and Book Culture at Victoria University of Wellington and The Printer at VUW's Wai-te-ata Press: Te Whare Tā o Wai-te-ata. In 2009, Dr Shep was awarded a three-year Marsden Fund grant to study Robert Coupland Harding and the nineteenth-century typographical press.

***Robert Coupland Harding and the memorialisation of William Colenso***

Printer, typographer, and journalist Robert Coupland Harding first met William Colenso at a book auction in Napier when he was eleven years old. This paper charts the relationship between Colenso and Harding that survived political, religious, personal, and professional upheavals and the role Harding played in memorialising Colenso.

2pm

Panel Discussion

***Writing Colenso's biography***

*The challenges of rethinking Colenso's biography in the twenty-first century as collaborative, collective, and digital enterprise*

**Ian St George, Sydney Shep and Peter Wells**, chaired by Douglas Lloyd Jenkins

*Is it time for a new biography of this extraordinary man? One that seeks to place him more clearly in a national, as well as a Hawke's Bay provincial, context? One that adequately explores his legacies to printing, Christian thought, Maori-European relationships, politics, natural history, exploration... We believe this is a good time to start, and we seek your views.*

3pm

AFTERNOON TEA

3.30pm

**Professor Sarah Carter**

Professor and Henry Marshall Tory Chair in the Department of History and Classics, and the Faculty of Native Studies of the University of Alberta, Canada. Dr Carter's research focuses on the history of Western Canada and on the critical era of the late nineteenth century when Aboriginal people and newcomers began sustained contact.

***Fragments, challenges, questions: tracing the life of Wiremu Colenso***

Tracing the life of William Colenso's son Wiremu (1851 – 1903) poses challenges to the historian. While his first two and a half years are well documented, there are few traces of Wiremu's life that he himself composed or produced. This paper emerges from a short book-length project to be co-authored with University of Alberta historian Jane Samson and will provide the scaffolding of Wiremu's life, drawing attention to the gaps and challenges with the hope that an audience of New Zealand and Colenso experts can provide valuable assistance, direction and insights.

4pm

**Stuart Webster**

Partner of Sainsbury, Logan & Williams, Hawke's Bay

***Estate of William Colenso***

William Colenso died on Friday 10 February 1899 and was buried after Church on Sunday 12th February. In comparatively meteoric fashion, Probate of his Will was granted the following Wednesday 15th February. Sainsbury & Logan (established 1875) were instructed by the Executors and Trustees of the Estate to prepare the Probate Application for Colenso's last Will and Codicil and act on the Estate. This paper examines significant new material relating to Colenso's estate from the collections of Sainsbury, Logan & Williams and offers insights into some of William Colenso's personal financial affairs, his assets and his business dealings.

4.30pm

SUMMARY and CLOSE



**WILLIAM COLENZO  
BICENTENARY PROGRAMME**

**Wednesday 9 November**

*William Colenso Bicentenary* Launch at the Hawkes Bay Club, 6pm

**Thursday 10 November**

Day one *William Colenso Bicentenary* Conference, 9am – 5pm

Launch of *The Hungry Heart – A Journey with William Colenso* by Peter Wells at The Dome, 6pm

**Friday 11 November**

Day two *William Colenso Bicentenary* Conference, 9am – 5pm

*Choral Evensong* at the Waiapu Anglican Cathedral, 6pm

*William Colenso Bicentenary Dinner* at the Hawke's Bay Club, 7pm

**Saturday 12 November**

*Billy K and Me* artist floortalk, Hastings City Art Gallery, 11am

*William Colenso Pilgrimage*, Napier, 1- 4pm

**Sunday 13 November**

*Tramp to Colenso Spur*, Ruahine Ranges, 8am-5.30pm

*Billy K and Me* Victorian letter folding and bookbinding workshop, Hastings City Art Gallery, 11am – 3pm

*Sunday Service* at the Waiapu Anglican Cathedral, 6pm

**Please go to [www.williamcolenso.co.nz](http://www.williamcolenso.co.nz) for more information on  
the Bicentenary Event Programme**



PLEASE CONTACT

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