



INTERNATIONALLY SPEAKING

The **Wairarapa Branch of the NZ Institute of International Affairs** will be meeting at Rosewood, 417 Queen Street, Masterton at **7.30 Thursday 17th April**.

A cup of tea or coffee will be available from 7pm. Members of the public are welcome with a \$5 koha.

The Institute will host **Alan Emerson** as guest speaker. Alan will be known to many readers, since he has been a columnist for *Farmers Weekly* and the *Wairarapa Times Age* beginning in 2004. He farms near Riversdale. As well as his writing commitments, he is in demand as a speaker, drawing on his experiences with Federated Farmers, his ownership of a public relations firm and his experience in television and radio current affairs.

After graduating from Lincoln University, Alan worked as a farm advisor and animal nutritionist. In 1973 he started his journalism career, working for television and on radio presenting rural programmes. He then switched to current affairs, becoming a national editor in 1980. During those years his media involvement led him to travel professionally to the UK, USA, Germany, Italy, Bosnia, Kosovo, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt, Mozambique and in Asia.

Subsequently, he was a founding partner of a communications firm based in Wellington – with government and major commercial clients. He worked on the campaign to reduce tariffs and promote free trade. It is that experience he will share on Thursday night, as he explores the new tariff war, Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs, the response by Europe, China and Canada, and the likely impact here in New Zealand.

Despite various international trade agreements, and a global push towards free trade, the United States has, in recent weeks, upended the international order and begun instituting an array of tariffs. The President's thinking (we assume!) is that the rise in prices of items imported to the USA will encourage American consumers to buy American, and thus reduce trade deficits with other nations. The concern, of course, is that Trump's actions will in fact reduce overall trade, slow economic activity and lead to a recession.

Of course, all this is causing anxiety amongst the major trading partners, at a time when solidarity is important, especially for the war in Ukraine.

It is these aspects that Alan will discuss in his talk, which will occur after the AGM of the Branch. (A short AGM is expected and Branch members are encouraged to attend.)