

Heritage Today

The FEBRUARY / MARCH 2014 issue of the Wellington Region Heritage Promotion Council (WRHPC) newsletter

Greytown's first Methodist church (1865) presides over the monthly Cobblestones summer market, where a major redevelopment has started. See story below right.



How do you explain the multiplying effect of family trees to a nine year old...the way you leap from the manageable number of

four grandparents, back to 16, 32 and 64 and so on, into time - then describe the dizzying number of descendants that inevitably results? It's a bewildering enough concept for an adult let alone a child, but one that had to be at least sketched out when we attended my paternal great aunt's 100th birthday celebration in Whanganui in December. "I can't believe all these people are *my* relations!" exclaimed Max as we walked in. Then it was the challenge of explaining what a second cousin was, an idea he accepted a shade too readily - perhaps thinking this 'new' cousin was only second in a long list of cousins both known and yet to be met - rather than actually 'removed'! In this issue, Adele Pentony-Graham tells how she got hooked on studying gravestones, immersing herself in her region's family trees for the past decade. We hope the year has started well for you and you have many fascinating heritage journeys of your own in 2014!

Anne Taylor, HT editor / designer.



Cobblestones revamp underway

An ambitious new entrance and exhibition space is taking shape at Cobblestones Museum on the main street of Greytown. The project, with an estimated total cost of \$974,000, will see specialist collection storage facilities provided for a number of the museum's vintage horse drawn vehicles, such as the pre-1919 Pride of the Valley passenger coach. Cobblestones boasts six NZHPT Category 2 listed buildings, with the original stables and cobbled courtyard still on site. The stables were operated by mail company Cobb & Co and the Hastwell family, dating from 1866. The new building, designed by Accent Architects, is due to be completed in June/July 2014 with the fit out completed later in the year. Next Summer market days 16 February, 16 March, 10am-1pm. Founders Day village fete, 30 March, 10am-4pm. <http://www.cobblestonesmuseum.org.nz/>.



An artist's impression of the new Cobblestones entrance.



Visual of the Attic.

Seeking stories from the regions

Wellington Museum of City & Sea intends to work with local historical societies, museums and historic sites as it widens its focus beyond city boundaries and aims to tell "1000 stories" by 2019. "We'd like to see what stories they would like told and set up links between [existing] stories in the Museum and those that have a home in the region," says Paul Thompson, Deputy Director, and Head of Learning, Experience & Content. Paul says the aim is to broaden the audience base, stimulate interest in regional historic stories and prompt people to visit venues outside the city. "For example, a story about Octavius Hadfield will heighten interest in Otaki and its historical sites, and a story about Wi Parata could prompt a visit to Waikanae Museum," he says.

The 'Attic' of the Museum, previously used as an office and collection space, will be stripped back to its original condition (see above left) to showcase an innovative 16 metre 'Long Table'. "This will be the 'brain' of the museum, giving an overview of the major changes in our region and detailing what can be found in the rest of the museum," says Paul. The room will incorporate Victorian technology, such as Pepper's Ghosts and simple mechanical devices to tell stories: "Our approach is as much theatrical as it is informational," he says. The project requires an additional \$12 million in funding, extra sponsorship and (likely) staff, with the museum being kept open for the duration. The Attic is due to be completed by mid 2015, the 150th anniversary of Wellington becoming the capital. Nearly \$1 million has recently been received from the Lotteries Commission.

Our Taonga: Exploring gravestones & cemeteries

Armed with perseverance, a great memory, and what she calls her Irish sixth sense for a good story, Adele Pentony-Graham has been seeking out the stories behind gravestones in her local Wairarapa, and further afield, for the past decade. The gift of a computer was a turning point, setting her on course to becoming a fully fledged taphophile.

Adele says she is happy to be in a cemetery whatever the weather, and on the day we met, a bitter southerly was ripping through the shelter belt pines. This was no deterrant however, as she pointed out gravestones and their backstories, and various landscaping jobs that have helped make Clareville Cemetery, just north of Carterton, a tidier and more pleasant place to be.

Adele is English and came to New Zealand in 1970. She dates her interest in gravestones and cemeteries to the period when she was nursing her husband through what would be his last illness. She had time on her hands and would visit the peaceful Clareville Cemetery nearby. After her husband died, her family bought her a computer which she used to research the family names she was coming across. "It was the best present ever," she says. "Suddenly I could find out whatever history I needed, and the world was at my finger tips!"

She had been a secretary for many years so could touch type: "Who would have thought this skill would be so useful in my retirement!" She later worked as a saleswoman in the school uniform department of James Smith. Since her 'career change', she is now the 'go-to' person for those researching family buried in the region. She often works closely with Gareth Winter of the Wairarapa Archive to provide information for families overseas, and leads tours of Clareville Cemetery. Emailing globally,

she has made a number of trips abroad to further her research. The study of gravestones can be a circuitous business. "Some years back, there was a couple from Kent who came here biannually to search for Alexander Svend Dreyer, who was supposed to be at Clareville," she says. "It was only when the council decided to put Clareville Cemetery on its database, that I noticed a similar name. Bingo that's it, I thought. I managed to contact the descendants of the Dreyer family in Australia who offered to put money towards the headstone with a bit of help locally. Alexander now has a headstone, though we still cannot locate his grave. However at least he is remembered and visitors can find the headstones."

Adele is now working on rehabilitating gravestones of WW1 soldiers in Featherston, many of which have laid broken and covered in undergrowth at the cemetery boundary. She can be contacted on E: pentonygraham@xtra.co.nz.

A red letter day at Clareville Cemetery

All her discoveries at gravesides, one stands out: "In 1999, my husband and I were walking around Clareville Cemetery. It was a bit overgrown in places, and it was hard to read

many headstones," she says. "Suddenly I stopped in my tracks, incredulous at what I was reading: *Ellen Dougherty, First Registered Nurse in the World*. I had never heard of her, despite my late mother having been a registered nurse....researching Ellen's life, we found that England did not begin registration of nurses until 1919, the year Ellen died. New Zealand, therefore, leads the world in Registration of Nursing, something of which we can be very proud."

"It was shortly after finding this grave that my husband and I began weeding the overgrown old cemetery, and finding more interesting graves, which I've continued to do. I put a bouquet of flowers on Ellen's grave every 10 January, the anniversary of her registration."

A dedicated life: Ellen Dougherty

Ellen was the fourth daughter born to Sarah and Daniel Dougherty. Inspired by learning about Florence Nightingale, she started her nursing training at Wellington Hospital, aged 41, also studying chemistry with Charles Barraud. She gained certificates with distinction in nursing and senior anatomy.



Adele Pentony-Graham at Clareville Cemetery.



Ellen Dougherty's grave.

In 1901, State Registration became law in New Zealand - pre-dating England's move by almost 20 years - and Ellen's name was the first on the list, thus becoming Registered Nurse No.1 in the world. She became Palmerston North's first matron, and was greatly admired for her work.

Before Wellington Hospital was rebuilt, her medal was on loan to the Nurses' Chapel there. Ellen retired to live with her married sister in Lincoln Road, Carterton. In 2000, her grave was rededicated for the Centenary of Registration of Nursing, an event organised by the Nursing Council of NZ, with input from Adele. Many extended family attended, including Ellen's great niece Patsy Hutchison (nee Drummond), who has since died, in her 101st year.



Ellen Dougherty, the world's first registered nurse.

New vision for Glenside Halfway House

Historically, 'halfway houses' were coach staging posts built at strategic places along a journey, and three were built in the 19th century to shelter travellers on the route between Wellington and Porirua. The last of these is still standing next to Twiglands Garden Centre on the original route now called Glenside Road (see below). The c.1895 building is now being renovated, a partnership project between the owner Wellington City Council and the Glenside Progressive Association. It will see the building brought up to a safe standard and renovated, and the grounds developed using heritage plants and flowers. Read more about the project at: www.glenside.org.nz/halfway-house.



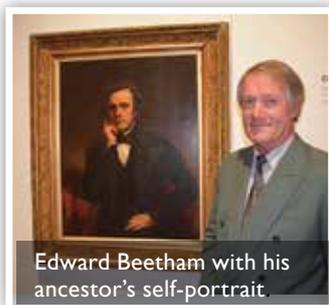
Epic treks

Paul Lambert (vice chair of WRHPC and newly elected Upper Hutt City councillor) first saw the award-winning one man show *Tom Crean - Antarctic Explorer* in Ireland two years ago. He enjoyed it so much that he's going back when is tours to the region in March as part of the NZ Festival. Crean was one of the few men to serve with both Scott and Shackleton, and his 36-mile solitary trek to rescue comrades is described by some as the finest feat of individual heroism of the era. Paul has organised his own trek - a free guided heritage walk of central Upper Hutt, taking in Golder Cottage and the Blockhouse (donations appreciated at both venues). He will highlight the Bengel and Pratt fire and explosion of 29 March 1914 which resulted in eight deaths. *Tom Crean - Antarctic Explorer*, Soundings Theatre -Te Papa, 6-9 March; Little Theatre, Lower Hutt, 11 March; Kuranui College, Greytown, 12 March; Civic Theatre, Otaki, 13 March. More details: <http://festival.co.nz/tom-crean-antarctic-explorer/>. Guided Heritage Walk, Sun 23 March. Meet Limelight Cafe, Expressions, 1.30 pm. For bookings T: 04 526 3660 or E: spellbound@xtra.co.nz.

Portraits give window on Victorian rural life

An exhibition of portraist by William Beetham at Aratoi, Masterton, is giving a rare insight into the lives of pioneering Victorian farmers and merchants. Beetham, a professional artist who came to New Zealand in

1855, established with his sons Brancepeth, a 10,000 acre station east of Masterton. In its heyday, the sheep station was one of the largest in the country, with 300 employees, its own school, post office and an extensive library, now housed at Victoria University. Based at Brancepeth, Beetham spent three decades painting Maori rangatira, politicians, pastoralists, merchants, and their wives, along with his own family. He was a founding member of NZ Academy of Fine Arts, and its first president. The exhibition was developed with a Wairarapa focus from the larger show *Te Ru - Movers and Shakers - Early New Zealand Portraits by William Beetham*, held at the NZ Portrait Gallery last year. Many of the items here have not been seen in public before. Having been overlooked for many years, Beetham is now recognised as a significant figure in New Zealand art history. Aratoi - Wairarapa Museum of Art & History, Bruce St, Masterton, until 23 February.



Edward Beetham with his ancestor's self-portrait

From the archives: End of an era for Unilever, Petone

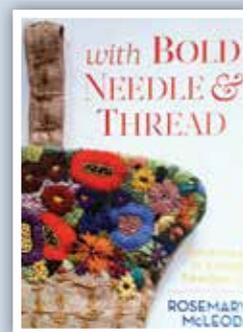


Photo: Hutt News

An almost fully automated production line would likely have been beyond the imagination of these Unilever workers. But this is one of the factors behind the imminent closure of Petone's soap and detergent factory after almost 100 years. Originally known as Lever Brothers, it began by producing candles using surplus tallow from the Gear Meat Company, also in Petone. In 1919, it purchased 10 acres of land at the opposite end of The Esplanade, and diversified into Sunlight and Lifebuoy soaps, and Rinso soap powder. Twenty years later the company began to refine glycerine, a soap by-product used in the pharmaceutical and food industries. The late 1970s saw a shift in focus to exporting, and producing toothpaste, shampoo and conditioners. At its peak, Unilever produced 50,000-55,000 tonnes of detergent each year, and employed up to 600 employees. Recent years have seen a drop in production due to increased demand for super-concentrated powders. Detergent production will shift to Thailand, with closure planned by December 2015. **Source: Hutt News.**

The Book Corner

A cursory dip into Rosemary McLeod's *With Bold Needle & Thread* and I was inspired. I had been looking for a 1950s teacosy pattern to make for the curator of the Janet Frame House, Oamaru, who gave me a lovely homemade afternoon tea there last April. This book has several teacosy patterns from that era - in fact, it is a veritable compendium of vintage needlecraft from the 1920s to 50s, detailing over 40 knitting, sewing and embroidery projects based on textile items in the author's own extensive collection, and from period magazines and pattern books. The pages, with photographs by Jane Ussher, are interspersed with historic advertisements, posters, magazine spreads, and historic timelines, which provide a context for the designs. We learn as much about the times that produced these items - the tastes, values and social mores - as we do about the items themselves. McLeod is a generous and amused commentator, particularly when describing the more ridiculous preoccupations of and expectations on women of bygone days. Underlying the warm and witty tone is extensive research and a profound respect for women's handwork, which continued to bloom through war and economic hardship. A social history with a refreshingly different perspective. *Random House New Zealand, 2013. We would love to hear about a book on history that you have enjoyed. Send your 'review' and an image to editor@wrhpc.org.nz.*



Masterton's Wairarapa Times Age building.



Love blossoms with Queen's Wharf cupids

Love is in the air at Wellington Museum of City & Sea for Valentines Day. Wellington artists will give a free performance of love songs on Thursday 13 February, starting at 6pm. Bring a gold coin for love song requests. And for the truly amorous, there is 'Couplets for Couples' on Friday 14 February from 5.30-7.00pm. The PlayShop Performance Company will devise couplets personally for guests, who will also be plied with strawberries, bubbly and chocolate as they stroll around the Museum. All couples receive a couplet to take home. Bookings on T: 04 472 8904. Tickets \$36 per couple. R18.

Japanese culture on show at Minoh House

There are two upcoming opportunities to visit the historic Minoh Friendship House in Normandale. This month, visitors will be able to meet a range of tutors who share the skills of Ikebana, calligraphy, origami, Japanese language and Kyudo (Japanese archery). And there will be a Martial Arts Expo in autumn. Pictured below is Nelson-based calligraphy grand master Akiko Crowther (left), and students from the Wainuiomata-based Wellington Region Karate Academy demonstrating at last year's event. These are fun family events in a picturesque setting. Meet the Tutors Day, Sun 2 Feb, 1-4pm; Japanese Martial Arts Expo, Sun 16 March, 1-4pm. Contact Rosemary McLennan T: 04 586 4180 E: rmclennan@vodafone.net.nz. See map for directions: <http://wrhpc.org.nz/ht/minoh-map.htm>.



Walk the Labyrinth - a peaceful way

A scene from the popular Christmas concert at the Labyrinth, Hutt Hospital, where people of all ages experienced the fascinating circular route in a festive mood. Merran Fleming, chairperson of the Labyrinth committee, which organised the concert, would like to see more people enjoying the iconic feature on World Labyrinth Day, Sat 3 May. People will be walking labyrinths as a peace event worldwide, starting in New Zealand. Be part of it at the Hutt Labyrinth at 1pm.



Wairarapa Times Age beauty: New owner local developer David Borman says it was "an investment and a passion" to strengthen and renovate the 1938 listed building. He chose the new colours (above right) from Resene's Art Deco range. The building now houses a smaller group of newspaper staff along with business tenants. He plans to illuminate it at night, as he did to celebrate the birth of Prince George last year (above centre).

FEB - MARCH CALENDAR

Feb	Book now for the 2014 NZ Federation of Historical Societies AGM & Conference themed around 'The Path of War'. Te Awamutu, 11-13 April. See http://www.nz-historicalsocieties.org.nz/whatwedo/conference.htm .
Feb - 6 Apr	<i>Chocolate</i> , an exhibition including the history of local company Whittakers. Pataka, Norrie St, Porirua.
6 Feb	Public Waitangi Day celebrations at Orongomai Marae, Upper Hutt with special guest The Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae. Bookings required for Hangi. Contact Paul Lambert E: spellbound@xtra.co.nz .
6 Feb	Golder Cottage open day. 707 Ferguson Drv. 1.30-4pm.
7 Feb	Jazz concert. Old St Paul's, Mulgrave St, 5.30pm.
13 Feb	Opening of <i>PET</i> moving image exhibition. NZ Film Archive, 6pm. Exhibition runs 14 Feb - 12 April.
14 Feb - 21 Mar	<i>A Whole Little World</i> - still life paintings from Katherine Mansfield Birthplace by Glenda Randerson. KM Birthplace, Tinakori Rd.
19 Feb	WRHPC meeting. Meet Ground Floor foyer by 1.50pm. National Library, Molesworth Street, 2pm.
21 Feb	Cologne Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra. Old St Paul's, Mulgrave St, 8pm.
22-23 Feb	Vintage harvest rally. Dalefield just south of Carterton. For more details contact Henry Christensen T: 06 3725859, E: h.christensen@xtra.co.nz .
3 - 24 Mar	<i>Behind the Facades - Victorian Wellington</i> : Monday lectures by Joanna Newman, Mt Victoria Historical Society. 6-8pm. More information: http://cce.victoria.ac.nz/courses/200-behind-the-facades-victorian-wellington .
25 Feb	Porirua Historical Association AGM with guest speaker. Helen Smith Community Room, Pataka Museum, Norris Street Porirua 7.30 pm.
7 Mar	Jazz by Andrew London Trio. Old St Paul's, Mulgrave St, 5.30pm.
8 Mar	Mini Train Festival hosted by Cross Creek Railway Soc. Clifford Square, Featherston, 10am-4pm.
20 Mar	Petone Historical Society AGM with guest speaker Clark Stiles, Manager Hutt City Heritage talking about accessing local archives. Petone Town Centre, 7.30pm.
29 Mar	<i>Behind the Facades - Victorian Wellington</i> : Walking tour 10am-2pm. For more information: http://cce.victoria.ac.nz/courses/200-behind-the-facades-victorian-wellington .

Please send your April / May 2014 dates to the Editor E: editor@wrhpc.org.nz.