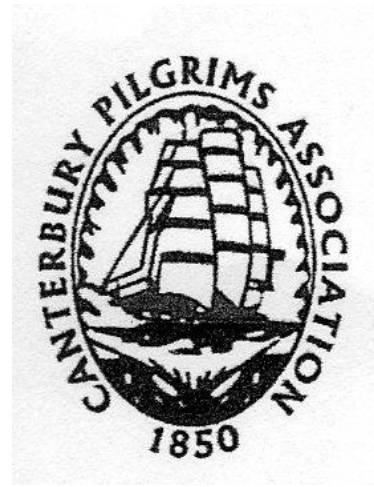


# PILGRIMS PRESS

Official Newsletter for Canterbury  
Pilgrims & Early Settlers  
Association Inc.



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## April 2020

### Meetings and Outings

Unless otherwise notified meetings and outings are held on the third Sunday of each month, with meetings being held in the, Te Hāpua Halswell Library Centre, Halswell Road at 2pm.

### 2020 Meeting and Outing Dates

February 16	March 15 <b>AGM</b>	
April 19	May 17	June 21
July 19	August 16	September 20
October 18	November 08	December 16

This Pilgrims Press is printed for **April, May and June**

Contributions need to be received early for inclusion in upcoming issues.

# CANTERBURY PILGRIMS & EARLY SETTLERS ASSOC INC

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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### Canterbury Museum Trust Board 3 Year Representative

Beverley Bolland

### Committee Meetings

Generally the committee meets directly after each meeting in the Te Hāpua Halswell Library Centre, Halswell, or on the following Thursday morning.

#### DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in any letters or articles in this newsletter are the authors own and are not necessarily those of the Canterbury Pilgrims & Early Settlers Association Inc or the Editor

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Dear Members,

The corona virus has affected us all one way or another. Your committee decided that sadly we would not be able to continue with our program this quarter as we head further into unknown waters with this pandemic, so it has all been put on hold and this newsletter reflects that. It is something that remains

under review however and as soon as it is safe for everyone to be out and about again we will spring into action once more!

Perhaps you could during this time if you are isolated do some of the jobs that you promised yourself you would 'when you had time'. What about that book? family history? projects? make a bucket list! But above all keep well and safe there is still a lot to look forward to.

How about posting on our website or facebook page? They are there for that purpose and to keep our interests out there in the public.

You should all have had an account for our subs by now and hopefully have paid them. It really does make a difference to the running of the Association if all the subs are paid smartly, the committee tries to keep the costs down but thin air is a tad difficult to do it on\*smile\*

Our AGM went smoothly this year and it was a pleasure to see many of you there. I was delighted at the number of photographs that were brought, tables full of them, I do wish I had as many as some of you do. Linda had pictures of both sets of first ancestors to come here to NZ. Amazing! Peter Williams came with his book on the Stokes family and it looked stunning, full of photos and beautifully presented. Peter spoke about the family reunion last Labour Weekend that was held in Kaiapoi and Christchurch, the logistics and work that went on to make sure it was enjoyable for everyone. They had a huge turnout, around 365 I think it was. A large contingent coming from a branch in Australia.

Our annual financial returns are posted on the Government site for Incorporated Societies for all to see so you are welcome to peruse them there.

Kindest Regards, to you all, Beverley

## MUSEUM REPORT for 2020 AGM

The Museum numbers rose again in 2019 to 766,200 visitors, both the Museum and Quake City, the second highest number ever. Quake City continues to be popular and had a surplus of \$496,500 for the year. So the appeal of the Museum is far from waning. A further 287,500 people saw the touring exhibitions in the Canterbury area. Think about that, it is over a million people, roughly a quarter of the population of NZ. It is something to be proud of.

While we are on numbers 35,000 people took part in some sort of public educational program This includes 16,500 school children. No wonder sometimes when I go into the board meetings the whole place is humming, with children and adults alike queuing up to get on the penny-farthing bike and have their photos taken. They love it!

It isn't all fun and games though, Museum researchers had 29 peer- reviewed papers accepted for publication , 53 articles published, and on top of all that there were 15 conference presentations. A busy year for everyone.

One final number to contemplate, the Museum cares for more than 2.3 million artefacts. Mind blowing isn't it and they are all there for you to see sooner or later, put it on your bucket list!

2019 saw the repatriation of some skulls to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation, Oregon. Originally the acquisition of material for the Museum had been by exchange of Moa bones or by donation and this was probably how we acquired them in the first place. Julian Von Haast wanted the museum to be a window on the world for Cantabrians. But times have changed. Human remains are being repatriated world-wide when requested these days. It was a moving ceremony for all concerned.

March 15 shootings affected the Museum in a different kind of way, everyone was humbled by the outpouring of flowers and tributes that were laid along the fence line in Rolleston Ave next to the Museum doors, although I thought it must have been emotionally exhausting to pass everyday on your way to work home each day. The Museum is working on preserving and displaying the tributes left there.

The exhibition Squarkzilla based on the fossils found at St Bathans captured world -wide attention as did the 1.6 metre high Penguin, and a bird fossil with bony teeth found near Waipara. I went to the opening and found it fascinating.

Arctic Voices was another exhibition that really appealed to me as it is an area where my husband worked for a few years on the Canadian BMEWS Line run by the Canadian Airforce, I promptly came home and fished out some of his old photos. Brought back lots of good memories.

For a hit of nostalgia make sure you go to see 'A Slice of Life' the Dunedin documentary that recorded for 40 years the lives of 1000 kiwi kids. I didn't know whether to be pleased or horrified that so much of it seemed to be familiar. It's a visual exhibition that causes many comments and smiles on the whole to all visitors.

Ravenscar House is progressing apace, the excavation and basement are nearly ready for the rest of the House to be built and this is anticipated to be complete early 2021 when the Trust will gift it to the Museum. It will be used to display the Ravenscar Collection of NZ Fine arts, sculpture, designer furniture and classical antiquities and be open to the public.

The Robert McDougal Art Gallery which has been looked after by the Museum since 2002, continues to be a contested matter between various people and the CCC, the Museum is awaiting the outcome.

As I have been on the lookout for family photos after inheriting some un-named ones, I was lucky enough to get assistance from Dr. Jill Haley the Museums Human History Curator in identifying an un-named WW1 soldier from his uniform and insignia. So if you need help with something, keep the Museum in mind and give them a call, especially now they have the Standish and Preece Photographic company negatives. By the same token if you have some old original photographs, named, and no-one is interested in keeping them, donate them to the Museum, they will be well looked after.

On a personal level I missed one Board meeting in August last year and attended as many of the social occasions as possible. They are always enjoyable, interesting and well worthwhile.

I have only touched on some of the things that have been taking place at the Museum, more details can be found in the Museums Annual Report that I will table for anyone who is interested to peruse.

Finally, thank you all for having the confidence in me to do this on your behalf, it has been a pleasure.

Beverley Bolland  
*15March 2020*

Please note that the Museum is currently closed to the public due to safety concerns about the corona virus. It will reopen to the general public when it is safe to do so.

## **AGM 2020 Presidents Report**

Where did this last year go? We started off the year with a picnic afternoon tea out at Amberley after being hosted by the Amberley ladies through the Sod cottage and Suffrage Hub out there, the weather was fine and it was nice just to relax in the sun and chat to you all afterwards. A really nice way to start a busy year.

Our outings last year were all favoured with fine weather. David Bundy gave us a most informative talk through the old school house in Governors Bay and the Lock Up in Teddington which was tiny. We managed to squeeze almost all of us in, standing room only!

Still with fine weather our lunch at the Chateau was great, we wined and dined in style and of course with the usual fine company, no complaints from anyone so we must have got it right. The afternoon tour of the new Central Library in August was well attended too, some of us caught the bus in although the weather was crisp. Then in October we used Heritage Week to go and have a generous afternoon tea in the Transitional Cathedral followed by a tour of the Christchurch Club which was most informative and interesting. The views from the upstairs windows were surprising now that the surrounding area has been cleared from the earthquakes and made reserved land. Lots of sunshine streaming in and probably more like it was originally when it was built.

Once again on Dec 16th the weather was fine, not hot but fine, I live in dread of another wet miserable sou'wester day on the 16th like we had a few years ago. Quite puts a dampener on what should be a celebratory day. The Reverend McLister gave us a blessing and afterwards there was much chatter before we

adjourned to The Brickworks for lunch. It was nearly 4pm by the time I returned home, needless to say it went well.

We were lucky with our Speakers too this last year. While Annette Bulovic couldn't make it to the meeting she had made a film on Addington Prison that we showed after the AGM. The video from the Torpedo museum was interesting too, access to the Museum was difficult hence the video but I believe they are in the process of improving the steps and walkway so it remains on our list of possible visits for the future.

Beverley Evans came and talked about her collection of old newspapers and her family history trees, all off the cuff, as well as some of her family tree presentation pictures, sending us home with lots of ideas. No doubt about it to see a face alongside a name gives it a whole new feeling. I have spent a lot of time since looking for family photos with varying degrees of success.

September our speaker was unable to come due to a family bereavement, so Peter Williams stepped up and talked about the amount of work that was going into his upcoming family reunion in October, including a family history book no less. What a marathon effort. We are lucky enough to have Peter agree to show us the book today and tell us how it all went.

Finally in November Ken Booth agreed to come and tell a little of the early Anglican church here in Christchurch and it's hopes and aspirations from England. Not all of which came about as we are all aware. Ken was an interesting speaker with a great grasp of his subject and he conveyed it all with enthusiasm and humour. We have asked him to come back again this November!

Our membership in 2019 increased with 13 new members, the majority from the Canterbury region which is heartening news. However we don't want to rest on our laurels we still need more members to ease the strain on our budget and the committee. We run a tight ship and the last couple of years our finances have almost managed to break even. Next year we should with any luck be back in the black. We do not aim to 'make money' but we need a cushion against inflation for our Centenary and any donations we may wish to make to worthy causes.

One such worthy cause we donated \$5000 to is the Mariners Bell Tower at St Saviours Holy Trinity Church in Lyttelton which is now completed. You are all invited to attend the opening ceremony on March 29th at 9.30am when there will be a blessing service and no doubt a ringing out of the Bell. Linda and I will find and photograph the brick with our name on it. A descendant of the original bell donors will be there, Mr. Somers-Cocks, which I think is quite fantastic.

In September we had a Special Meeting at which you all approved some Rule changes for the betterment of the Association. These were passed and approved by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies and are now on their website for all to see. It was 16 years since our Rules were reviewed and the changes were surprisingly small to bring us into line with the upcoming Act changes.

The fact that we had a successful year is due in no small part to the hard working efforts of your committee. Mara who was our Treasurer for so many years has decided to step down from the committee and devote more time to her family. We thank Mara for the work she has put in over the years on the committee. Mara has accompanied me on occasion 'to hold my hand' when I have been asked to give a talk and it has been appreciated.

Linda keeps me on track and although working manages to do all those extra jobs that a good Secretary does with great efficiency and goodwill, it makes a huge difference to our association.

Our new Treasurer Michelle who put her hand up when we needed her has worked wonders and dealt efficiently with the BNZ and streamlined our system. It has made a real difference, thank you Michelle.

The rest of our committee are equally generous with their time and efforts for which I give my heartfelt thanks, you all make me look good and for that I thank you most sincerely.

To you the members, I couldn't have done it without your support, you all greet me with a smile and it makes everything so much easier. Thank you everyone. We can all look forward to 2020 being really interesting.

Beverley Bolland. Hon President

Please note that there was no blessing service on March 29th for the Mariners Bell Tower at the St Saviours Holy Trinity Church in Lyttelton due to the corona virus ban on gatherings currently in place. Perhaps the bells will ring out when this lockdown is a thing of the past.



# ANZAC DAY

## *Lest we forget*



I have no doubt many of you who saw Peter Jacksons Exhibition in Wellington will remember this. It is one of models that reduced me to tears, I found it heartwrenching. I have no doubt it is a scene that was replicated many times in homes across the country upon the receipt of a telegram or letter telling of the death of a much loved son, brother or husband.

New Zealand sent over 550 nurses to WW1, over one quarter of the nursing service at the time. The reasons they enrolled to go were the same as the men really.

Sixteen Nurses lost their lives in addition to the ten on the 'SS Marquette' when

she sank. The 'SS Maheno' made five visits to Gallipoli in five weeks in 1915, anchoring off shore to take the wounded off and provide care. The nurses worked punishing hours in dreadful conditions usually from 6.30am to midnight. Some of the nurses still found time to write to loved ones at home about the soldiers in their care, describing how much they tried to do to alleviate their suffering. While it all may all seem a bit primitive now it was the best care at the time. To see so many young men in their prime killed or maimed is a dreadful thing, and yet still we start wars over beliefs and boundaries. It beggars belief really. This ANZAC think of all those who died in all our wars, including Nurses of whom we have some in our current membership, working and retired, although none from any War thankfully, that I am aware of.