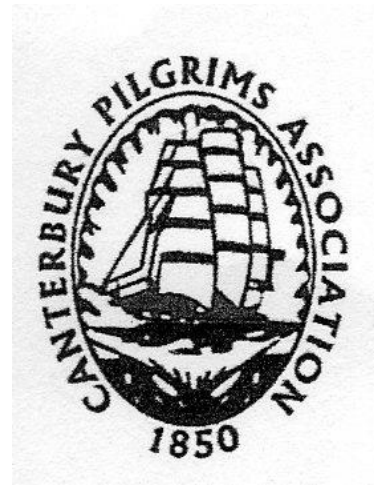


PILGRIMS PRESS

Official Newsletter for Canterbury
Pilgrims & Early Settlers
Association Inc.



P.O.Box 8667

Riccarton

Christchurch 8041

Web Page: www.canterburypilgrims.nz

Facebook : Canterbury Pilgrims& Early Settlers

July 2019

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.

2019 Meeting and Outing Dates

February 17	March 17 AGM	
April 14	May 19	June 16
July 21	August 18	September 15
October 20	November 10	December 16

This Pilgrims Press is printed for **July, August and September**
Contributions need to be received early for inclusion in upcoming issues.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

2019. \$20. per person per annum due now.

Payment of subs is due. Internet payments are to be made to our account at the BNZ 020800-0183140-00 reference, your name and what it is for ie: sub etc. Cheques to our P.O.Box 8667, Riccarton, Christchurch 8041.

CANTERBURY PILGRIMS & EARLY SETTLERS ASSOC INC

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Committee Meetings

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

I sincerely hope you are all keeping warm and well this winter. Here in Christchurch it has been bitter at times, -8 one night. The ice on my outdoor pond was solid for three days in a row and the goldfish seem to have burrowed into the mud on the bottom, Spring will tell the story of their survival or not I guess. Makes you appreciate the wonders of modern home comfort though, I imagine some of those first winters in

Christchurch were pretty miserable for some of the early pioneers, think of trying trying to produce warming meals and bread on an outside kitchen fire! Damper gets to be fairly indigestible on a long term basis, and a lot of the early diaries comment on the monotony of Mutton.

For all those of you on the internet, are you receiving the Canterbury Museum Blog posts? If you go to the Museums internet page, at the bottom there is a box to be filled in if you would like to get their Blog posts. You won't be inundated with mail, but every month or so you will get a Blog on some really varied and interesting subjects, it's all free and fun. Fascinating. Give it a try. Also while you are online take a look at our Facebook page and our website. We have started a new section on the website called Colonists where you can put on about 500 words about an ancestor, preferably with a picture. Take a look and see what is already there and add yours to it. If it all seems to enter the 'too hard pile' send it to me or Linda and we will take it from there.

Our mid winter meal at the Chateau last month was a great success, I mean, good food, and good company, how could it fail! It was lovely to see you all there, looking happy and relaxed and enjoying yourselves.

Our Association Centenary isn't that far off, 2023!!! so we are looking to hear from you as to how you would like to celebrate this. All ideas welcome. The committee is open to all suggestions, you make up the association, so put the thinking caps on while it is so cold out there and let us know your thoughts. Our membership numbers are slowly rising so keep spreading the good word.

The subject of parking in front of the Mural by the Precinct in Lyttelton came up at our last committee meeting and we are going to try and remedy that. It is a shame to have tourists not to be able to photograph it or see it without cars parked in front of it all the time. We are considering a submission to the Christchurch City Council, for some sort of barrier, could be as simple as NP lines on the ground or a chain barrier. It is after all a place of significant historical interest. We will keep you posted.

Kindest Regards to you all, Beverly.

July 21
2pm The Hao Room
Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre
341 Halswell Road
Beverley Evans

Some of you may know Beverley. She has wide and varied interests and it is on some of those interests that we have persuaded her to come and talk to us.



Old gravestone in
Lyttelton cemetery.

Genealogy is the top of the list as well as her interest in old newspapers and old cemeteries.

It was her interest in genealogy 30 years ago that led into transcribing old newspapers for the past 20yrs and photographing old gravestones.

Gravestones tell such stories. Stories of who people were, and the sad stories of young children's deaths. All speak of past lives and loves lost. As she says a lot of the gravestones are now unreadable which is a shame, the Lyttelton and Woolston cemeteries are extremely interesting as some early sailors are buried there.

As we all know it is so easy to get sidetracked in old newspapers when you come across the record of an historical happening like the opening in 1930 of the new Waimak Bridge. What an occasion! I have no doubt that some in the audience could recall the stories from the day of swimming across with your horse and praying you'd both survive. It is still a treacherous river. It all adds to our knowledge of our ancestors lives and the place we now call home.

Beverley's son has been of great assistance to her in setting up a website to enable others to take advantage of her knowledge.

Make sure you have this day set aside to come and hear Beverley talk!



August 21
Tūranga
Central Library
60 Cathedral Square
2pm



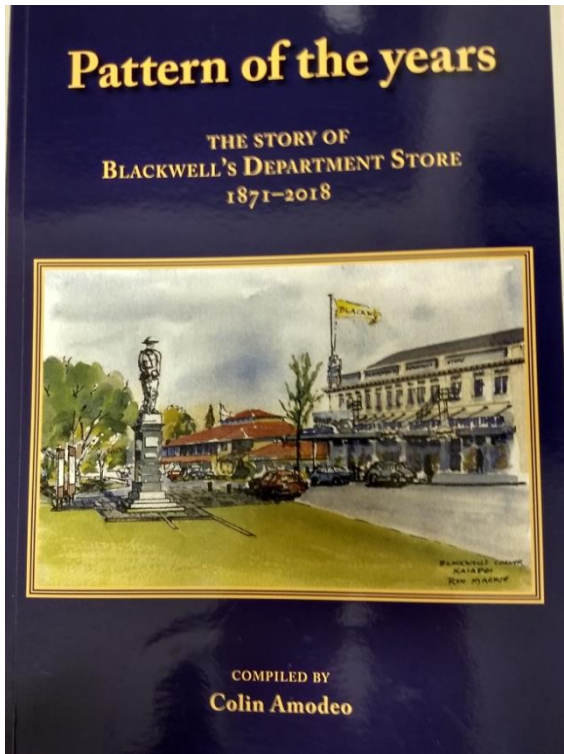
This Sunday we thought it might be nice to have a guided tour around that fabulous award winning building that is our Central Library. To that end we have organized a tour especially for us by a Librarian to show us around. It will focus on local and family history .

We meet in the foyer area at the bottom of the staircase on the ground floor at 2pm. (there is a lift for those that do not want to take the stairs during our tour).

Afterwards those who wish can have a cup of tea/coffee in the Library Cafe. The Library is open till 5pm on Sundays so there is no rush and for the gold card holders among us the buses are free all day, just make sure you are using the Sunday timetable! There is off street parking available around town if you wish to drive in.

The touch screen is magic and you can contribute to it. Take a look on discoverywall.com Looking forward to meeting up with everyone there and exploring this fabulous new facility. Keep the date free.

September 15
2pm The Hao Room
Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre
341 Halswell Road



" Pattern of the Years"
The Blackwell family of Kaiapoi
with their book on Blackwell's
Department Store.

The Blackwell family have been in Kaiapoi for over 150 years with the store operating for nearly as long. Theirs is an interesting story of hard work, family commitment and a strong desire to do well in this 'new land'. That it is still a family run business with six generations still being out at Kaiapoi is a testament to their drive and attachment to the North Canterbury area.

They have had their share of good times and bad as all business do, the earthquakes being the latest, but there were floods in the early days, the Great Depression in the 1930's the loss of the River Port, the Woolen Mills, the Freezing Works and of course the Northern Motorway made a difference to the township through traffic. That the good times outweigh the bad is a given, as it is still a thriving well run business with a strong commitment to the township of Kaiapoi and the people of north Canterbury. The Blackwell family have always contributed to the fabric of the Kaiapoi township, George Blackwell was Mayor from 1876 to 1881. The book talks at times of another era, but the overwhelming impression is of a family who's commitment to caring, and fair and honest trading continues through to today. This book is a personal tribute by the fourth, fifth and sixth generation to the first, second and third generation who founded Blackwell's Department Store.

Make sure you keep the date free and come and listen, it will be well worthwhile.

Canterbury Museum

BREAKING THE ICE 1899-1900 THE FIRST YEAR IN ANTARTICA 18 MAY - 13 OCTOBER

This is the story of Carsten Borchgrevink's *Southern Cross* expedition through objects the explorers left behind in the two huts they built at Cape Adare. They include scientific equipment, clothing and sledging supplies. Borchgrevink and his group of 9 men were the first humans to spend the winter in Antarctica. The expedition was beset with difficulties and in the end, sadly, almost every man who survived regretted his decision to take part. It marked the start of the heroic age of Antarctica exploration that would see Scott, Ernest Shackleton and Roald Amundsen venture onto the ice.

I'm sure you all saw and heard about the Huntley and Palmers fruitcake that was left behind on the ice and its return to Christchurch for conservation, well there was coffee as well. Next time you are out sipping a coffee, just think, this is not a new trend they were enjoying it in 1899 too! What goes around comes around as they say!



Navigational aids before the digital age didn't change much either it seems, I have a sextant tucked away here at home that looks very similar to the one this expedition used. Certainly the same principals were used.

The Antarctic Heritage Trust partnered with the Museum to present this exhibition.

St Saviours Holy Trinity Lyttelton, Belfry.



You will all be pleased to hear that the Belfry fund is fully subscribed, plans have been made and approved, permits obtained and foundations have been started. The inscribing of donors names is being undertaken now on the plaques and bricks where appropriate, so visible progress is being made. We may not hear the bell pealing out this December 16th but certainly will for our centenary in 2023!

Sea Sunday

Will be celebrated at St Saviours Holy Trinity in Winchester Street, Lyttelton on September 29th at 4pm this year . You are all invited to attend as they celebrate and give thanks for the safety of all who go to sea, be they commercial seamen, naval seamen or recreational boaties.

It is later this year, both in date and time, which means no perishingly cold early start in the middle of winter. Got to be a plus.

Christ Church Cathedral

A recording of the Cathedral bells (which are now all repaired after the earthquakes and returned from the UK to Christchurch) will be played each Friday around midday,(12 to 12.30) weather permitting. This is to remind people that progress is being made at last in the Square. So if you are in town at the time, you can believe your ears if you hear bells ringing out. A nice symbol of things to come.

Also at last, while they are clearing away some of the debris, pieces of the rose window stained glass is coming to light for restoration and reinstating. One larger piece slipped down inside between the stone and interior and has remained intact. Would be appropriate if it was a piece with an angel on it, wouldn't it?