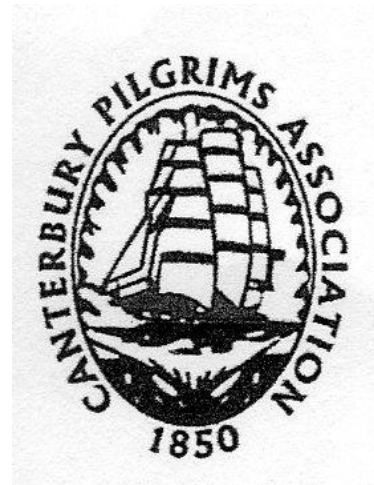


# PILGRIMS PRESS

Official Newsletter for Canterbury  
Pilgrims & Early Settlers  
Association Inc.



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## July 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 **July, August and September**  
Contributions need to be received early for inclusion in upcoming issues.

# CANTERBURY PILGRIMS & EARLY SETTLERS ASSOC INC

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<b>Auditor</b>	Mr Victor Sykes (C.A Ret'd)	

### 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,

As I write this the New Zealand Garden bird count is taking place so I hope you have been participating. It only takes an hour of your time to record the birds that are visiting your garden. My garden is currently full of finches, waxeyes, thrushes and blackbirds along with the odd starling. Nothing too exotic but in some suburbs now there are native pigeons, tuis and bellbirds returning which is great. Riccarton Bush is awash with birdsong at certain times which makes it a pleasure to walk through. Now that we are entering the 'new' normal (where have I heard that phrase before, earthquakes?) from the lockdown of NZ and the Covid-19 pandemic your committee is busy trying to get our program back on track. Fingers crossed we have it right! What is it they say of mice and men?

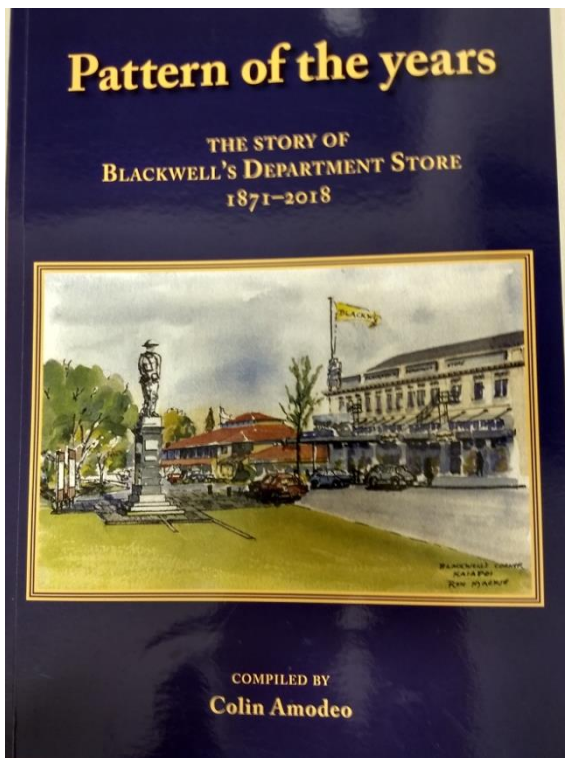
You should all have had an **account for our subs** by now and hopefully have paid them. **Is yours still outstanding?** Have you overlooked it while we have been trying to keep out of harm's way during lockdown? Prompt payment makes life so much easier for our Treasurer to run the Association efficiently. Chasing late payments up is stressful for us all.

Sad to say we have had two longstanding members die recently. John Thompson, who many of you will remember as our vice President for many years. John was one of those quiet men who set about doing things for us without fanfare. His woodworking skills are in evidence each time we have a meeting, from signs to raffle box. He will be missed by all of us. The other was Robyn Hewland. Robyn attended our last AGM and spoke a little about the times she had had with Pilgrims. We had been a large part of her life, Robyn was a Life Member, having joined in her teens I think, and her Father had been President for a number of years. She recalled the sub committees that she had been on when they organized Balls. It seems hard to imagine future meetings without either of them. They will both be missed.

Have you got a badge? please wear it often. Not only are they attractive they are a real ice breaker and advertisement for our Association.

Beverley Bolland. Hon President

**19 July 2020**  
**2pm The Hao Room**  
**Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre**  
**341 Halswell Road**



**"Pattern of the Years"**  
*Andrew Blackwell will talk to us about the Blackwell family and their store out at Kaiapoi.*

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, Covid-19 being the most recent. The earthquakes took their toll, 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 along, it will be well worthwhile.

**August 16**  
**Wigram Airforce Museum**  
**45 Harvard Avenue Wigram**  
**1.30pm**



Please note the earlier start time. The Museum closes at 4pm, the Cafe at 3.30pm.

Things have been happening at this Museum since we last visited 5 years ago. It has always been an interesting place so you will not be disappointed. It is warm and inviting with plenty of free parking and easy access so no matter what the weather throws at us this year we will be dry. Mind you with all this recent rain we may have webbed feet, surely it can't last forever!

Please be sure to wear your badges as there is a possibility of a free guided tour. They are staying abreast of the Covid-19 rules and things change on a weekly basis, so we are checking in with them the week before about this.

The cafe has had a revamp with the tables now located inside the previous exhibition area and you get the benefit of the big windows and light as well as the fun of having a coffee surrounded by full sized restored aircraft.

Did you know that the new Archives Building is right next door? It will be closed on a Sunday but if you ever need to use their records it well worth a visit. They have some nice etched glass panels as part of their architecture. It is another nice warm building so don't let winter put you off from some research out there.

Make sure you have this marked off in your Diary as a must do and come and join us. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again.

**30th August**  
**Sea Sunday & Mariner Bell Tower Blessing**  
**9.30am. St Saviours Holy Trinity Church**  
**17 Winchester Street**  
**Lyttelton**

The service will be for Sea Sunday, followed by a blessing of the Mariner Bell Tower, where it is hoped we might at long last be able to hear the bell ring again. It has been a long time coming one way or another, so come and help us celebrate. We donated \$5000. to the repairs and it will be wonderful to hear the bell ring out again on December 16th as we celebrate the arrival of the first four ships. Sea Sunday celebrates the men and women who go to sea albeit in Commercial ships, Naval ships or 'just muck about in boats' . As an association we should be ever grateful for their skills in bringing the early settlers safely to these shores.

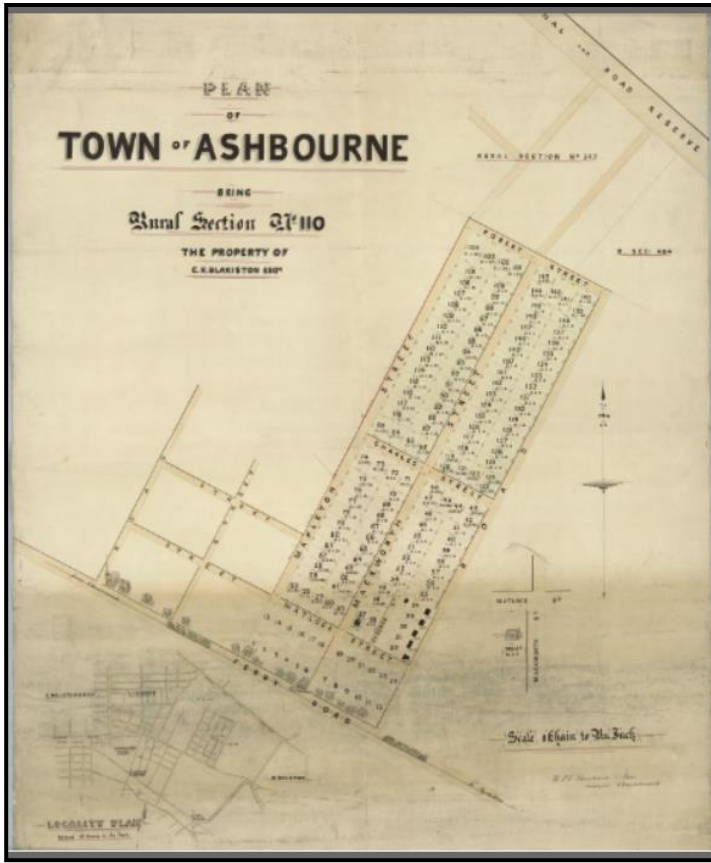
**20 September 2020**  
**2pm The Hao Room**  
**Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre**  
**341 Halswell Road**

Oh my word, you are in for a treat this month as we are having Margaret Copland the actress and storyteller coming to introduce us to one of her ancestors. Complete with period clothes and accent. Margaret grew up in Rangiora, she is an ex history schoolteacher who now tells original stories, stories of immigration, and stories of pioneer women. As a storyteller she tells the universal story of ordinary folk using her research skills and point of view to bring them to life. Margaret will set her story in early Canterbury .

It will be a most interesting and extraordinary afternoon so make sure to come, keep the afternoon clear in your Diaries and come along to be entertained. Your committee looks forward to seeing you all once again.

# Ashbourne Town Woolston

Some of you may have seen in The Press that the Christchurch City Council is going to make some improvements to Ferry Road in the Woolston area. This brought to mind a little treasure of a map that I had seen of Ferry Road and Charles Robert Blakiston's plans for Ashbourne Town on his RS110 allocation.

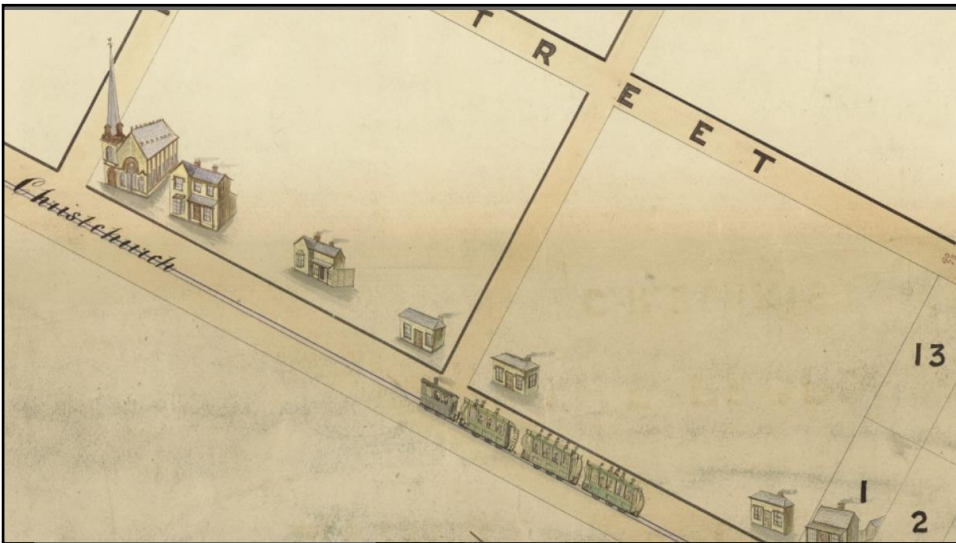


Ferry Road always had importance from 1850 onwards as timber, luggage and goods were shipped from Lyttelton around to the Heathcote wharves, over the Sumner bar. The wharves that were along the Heathcote River are commemorated with plaques and our Association bollard. Well worth a visit sometime if you are in the area. Their names are still familiar in Christchurch today ie; Aikman Heathcote, Landsdown, Milton and Thacker's jetty. It was a thriving area.

The track that opened up to Christchurch became known and called Ferry Road. Later on still the railway opened up Lyttelton to Christchurch so that by 1865 shipping fell by the wayside. We have a plaque in Ferrymead commemorating the first railway station there. In 1882 trams took over reaching Woolston, then Sumner in 1887, via Ferry Road.

In general it was a farming area with industry growing over time. By 1887 there were 7 scouring works and 5 tanneries alongside the Heathcote river. You will recall in a previous newsletter a poem we printed from a member regarding the awful smell that swept over those who lived in the vicinity of Woolston. A hot topic in the early 1900's that was thrashed out in letters to the editor in the Press. The

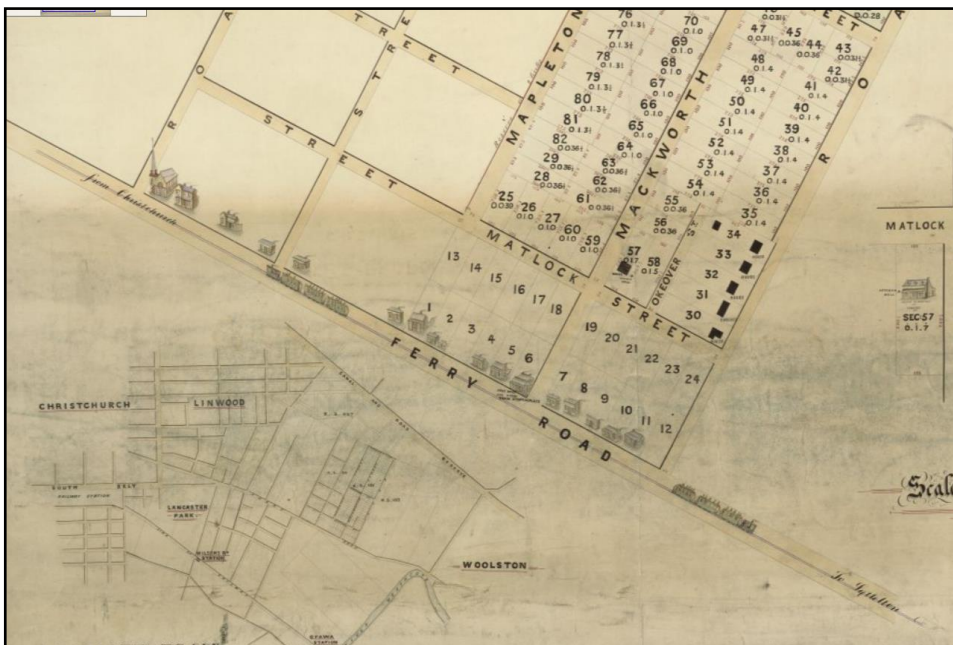
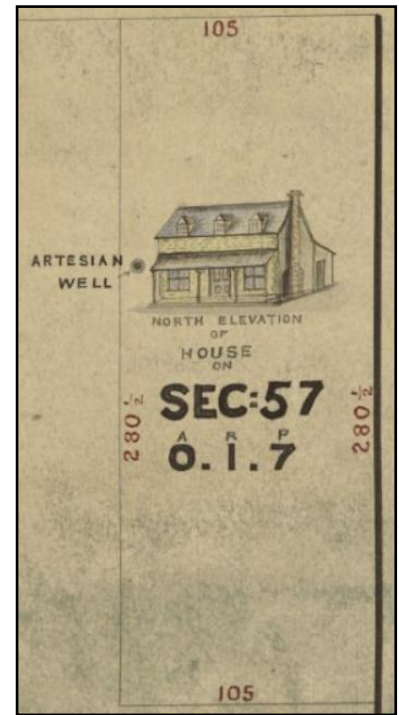
Heathcote River remains in a poor condition especially after the earthquakes when its bed rose by a metre in places. Woolston is still mainly an industrial area.



Woolston grew as work and land became available and by 1887 had a population of 20,000. It became a Borough in 1893 with its own meeting hall, library and a plaque. Charles Robert Blakiston's RS110 section included a Ferry Road frontage, this he sectioned

off and sold, subdividing the rest during the 1880's for Ashbourne Town.

This map is the only one I have seen in NZ with existing houses drawn in, not to mention the Trams trundling along complete with passengers. Section 57 has an artesian well marked so perhaps it was the Blakiston homestead. It is drawn 1 chain to the inch I think, reminiscent of the English 1inch to a mile Ordnance Maps. All in all a real treasure of a map. Do we have any Blakiston descendants as members?



Permission has been given to show this map in our newsletter by The National Library. You may view it in greater detail online through Tūranga our Central Library. Google it for the links.