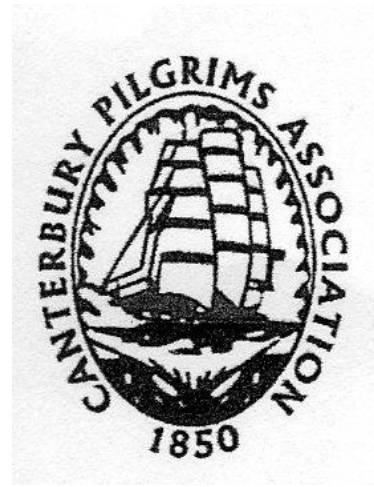


# PILGRIMS PRESS

Official Newsletter for Canterbury  
Pilgrims & Early Settlers  
Association Inc.



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## October 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
<b>October 18</b>	<b>November 08</b>	<b>December 16</b>

This Pilgrims Press is printed for **October, November and December**  
Contributions need to be received early for inclusion in upcoming issues.

# CANTERBURY PILGRIMS & EARLY SETTLERS ASSOC INC

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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,

Spring is certainly here in Christchurch, the blossom trees are out and a sight to behold, the daffodils have all but finished but now it is time for the bluebells in Little Hagley Park to shine. Quite enough to make you forget for a short time about Covid-19 and all its disruptions. It seems to have been a long year this year and I was surprised at how much I resented being sent back to Level 2 for a while, it brought home how lucky we are to have so much freedom in this country to move around as we choose. Of course having all those strong independent pioneer genes helps!!

For some of you this will be your last newsletter, we still have outstanding subs, sad to say, as we are in our last quarter of the year and I do regret this but it is unfair to have financial members support the tardy ones long-term. If you are unsure of your financial status don't hesitate to talk or email Michelle and she will assist you. Internet banking makes it simple to do these days.

As you will see on the last page of this newsletter the Museum has turned 150! A time of joy for all to celebrate. Now the weather appears to have warmed up go and have a look at the exhibition of their treasures that are on show, the cafe (on the same level) is open for when you want to rest the feet! Ravenscar House is on track and at the moment will open late in 2021. Something to note in next years' Diary for a visit.

For our new members information, our flag that we fly in December around town is full of symbolism for our Association. It is the Soames Shipping House flag, awarded to them for *Services to the Country* (Great Britain) and Soames was a strong supporter for the Canterbury Association when the colony was first mooted. His widow donated the land for Christs College and they have a Boarding House called Soames House, you can see it from Gloucester Street. You will also notice too in the last few years the Christchurch City flag flying from the council flagpoles which is great to see, it is largely blue and yellow which stands out well.

I look forward to seeing you all again this month up at the Sign of the Takahe for the tour and afternoon tea and a chat. Take care everyone and stay well.

Kindest Regards,

Beverley Bolland *Hon President.*

**October 18 2020**

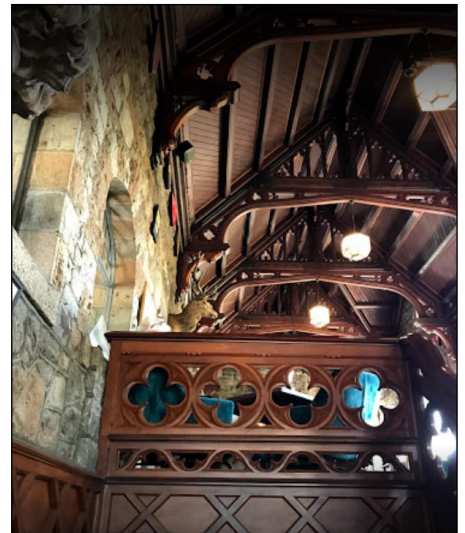
**Sign of the Takahe  
200 Hackthorne Road  
Cashmere  
Afternoon tea 2pm**



This promises to be great afternoon out, they have offered us a free tour around the building, and it is stunning inside once again, all repaired from the earthquakes. The wood work is restored and Harry Ell would be pleased to see it once again in such good order. The windows have been repaired and are now able to be cleaned on the outside once again so on a fine day the views are fabulous .

Afternoon tea is with food from the cabinet and is your own responsibility, whilst they are expecting us we need to advise them of numbers coming, so please make sure you have let either Linda or myself know before the 14th October either by phone or by email (see page 2)

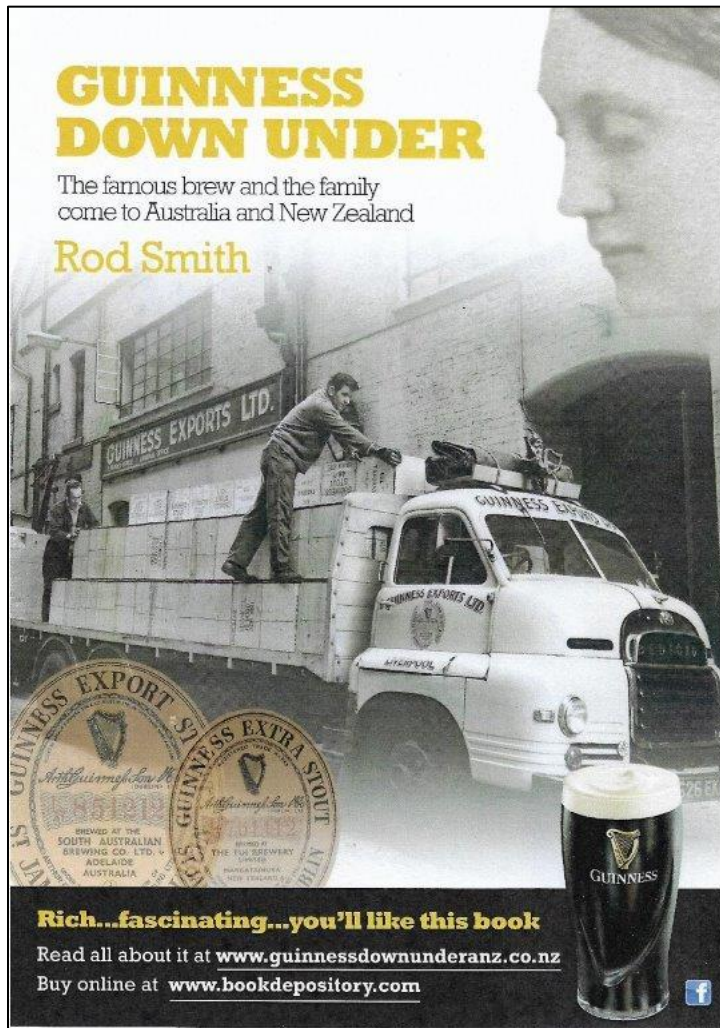
If you need a ride up there please let us know and we will try and arrange carpooling, parking should not be too difficult.



Management have advised us that there is a book in the offing so if you have any information on the building of the Takahe or Harry Ell please remember to let them know on the day. I was up there in the evening earlier this year when we are all allowed to roam freely, and the whole experience was just magic so be sure to come and enjoy it all.

**08 November 2020**  
**2pm The Hao Room**  
**Te Hapua: Halswell Centre**  
**341 Halswell Road**

Rod Smith author of "**Guinness Down Under**"



Please note the change of date, we are a little earlier this month due to what was supposed to be Show Weekend. Dare I mention the word Covid-19! It has been a year of changes. Rod was due to be our speaker in May this year but because of Covid-19 there has been much re scheduling of dates and flight times for everyone as he comes from Tauranga. Guinness is a name instantly recognized the world over - it has been brewed at St James Gate in Dublin for over 250 years, but this story is of the family that moved down under and started the family business up here eventually.

It is more than just a story of the brewery though. It tells of how Sarah Ann Guinness, raised in a comfortable Irish vicarage went with

her father Rev William Guinness to Melbourne in 1855. Sarah married Thomas Minchin, exchanging affluence and comfort for the privations of life as a colonial wife and mother, in New Zealand and Fiji. Descendants still live in NZ today, this is part of their story as well as the Brewery.

I am looking forward to this, it will be an interesting and informative afternoon so make sure you have it marked off in your diaries and come along. While Rod is bringing some copies of his book for sale, I've noted there doesn't appear to be any free samples from the brewery! It has never ceased to amaze me how many breweries were set up here in Christchurch alone. Being a pioneer was thirsty work!!

**16 December 2020**  
**Rock Precinct Ceremony**  
**Lyttelton**  
**10.am**

We will be laying our wreath around this time and Andrew Turner our Deputy Mayor has been invited to say a few words. As it is a week day he is at the mercy of the Council agenda! The Reverend McLister has been asked to give a blessing also as it is 170 years since the arrival of the First Four Ships in Lyttelton. This year may be a little different as with any luck the Church Bell will ring out at 10am. It has been a long time since it was last rung for our celebration on December 16th and I for one have missed it. Please join us.

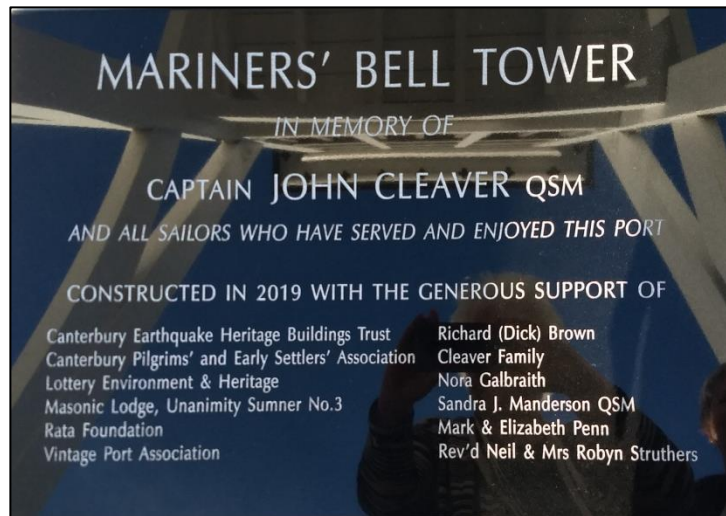
Then on to

**Lunch at the Brickworks 12 o'clock**  
**\$35.00 per person with payment before 7th Dec**  
**69 Centaurus Road**  
**Cashmere**



As everyone enjoyed their meal so much last year we are returning to the Brickworks for our end of year function. Like last year we ask that you make payment to our account **before 7th December** in order for us to confirm our booking numbers and ensure our Treasurer has time to enjoy herself as well. I look forward to meeting you all again looking happy and relaxed, it promises to be a great day.

# Mariners Belfry Blessing



After several delays, due to Covid-19, at having Sea Sunday Thanksgiving and the Belfry Blessing, it was finally held on August 30th at St Saviours Holy Trinity Church where eight of our members attended the service in Lyttelton. The weather couldn't have been better, it was a simple service held outside for the Belfry blessing and the bell ringer was the hero of the hour. You can see and hear the bell on our Facebook page thanks to member Bryan Wilkinson's video skills.

Much to the joy of three of us we tried 'ringing the bell' with the assistance from the Bell ringer. Now how appropriate is that! Pilgrim descendants ringing the original Pilgrims Bell!! Although it is not as simple or easy as it sounds I may add, there is a real 'feel' for it, you have to judge the rhythm of the bell swing, then 'pull' abruptly down. Hard on the hands and arms.



The Sea Sunday Thanksgiving was held inside the Church and our flag was in evidence. It was nice to see it displayed so that you could see it properly, the Navy was not in attendance this year, probably due to Covid-19 restrictions but it was a well attended service for all that.

## Canterbury Museum 150th Birthday!

You will have seen in the local papers and on the TV 6 o'clock news that the Museum is celebrating its birthday with style! There was birthday cake for all the public who went in the morning of October 1st, so hopefully you were one of those who got to partake.

A new exhibition opened the same day celebrating some of the weird and wonderful things that are held there in storage and haven't seen the light of day for years. It's fascinating, a whole Moa skeleton, and we all know Julius von Haast traded Moa bones with Museums around the world when he was starting the Museum collection. Although swapped may be a better word, funds were always in short supply even way back then. They have produced a celebratory book highlighting a 150 treasures, some unearthed from storage, others you may recognize, but all interesting and some downright weird. Some of the original hand written labels are still attached, one is dated 1899, that's 121 years old, no wonder it has yellowed, but it's still legible.

There is the beautiful silk Kate Sheppard dress that she is wearing on today's \$10 note, also an extremely finely woven Maori cape, the weave is so even you would say it had been done on a machine except the date is 1825, it has a geometric design border, it's a stunning piece. There is a Rhino horn cup, from China, ornately carved dated around the 1700's, believed at the time to have magical properties, a hand-made book from Shackletons expedition to Antarctic (done to ward off boredom). A Tasmanian Tiger anyone? The list goes on..... Call in and see them for yourself.

The Book is called 'House of Treasures' it has one treasure to each page, explaining its history and acquisition on one side and a quality photo opposite. Put it on your Christmas list when family come asking "what do you want for Christmas?" You won't regret it.