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### ***Kia ora koutou/ Greetings to all our readers***

It’s spring, we’ve had our AGM for another year (details inside), and Society and Museum are buzzing. Exhibitions, fascinating talks (both in the Museum and Thursday meetings), research, education activities with hundreds of school students in the Museum and in schools, projects with mana whenua, collections, displays, encounters with people with a rich local heritage. Volunteers, interns and staff are all busy in their roles round the Museum and in the community, everyone highly motivated.

We wish to express our sympathy and support to Celerina following her bereavement.

Students are fascinated by the local story, especially when they can identify a site familiar to them. Some of us have been catching up on the writings of New Zealand author Elsie Morton, who spent much time as a child and adult in Red Hill.

History is being made daily. Last month, the seventh Maori King Tuheitia died and was buried on Taupiri in a mass outpouring of grief and respect, and the eighth, his daughter Nga- Wai- Hono-i-te-Po, stepped into his shoes, sharing his goal of bringing people together. Were that there were leaders like that in tense areas of the Northern Pacific, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. The world would be a kinder place.

There is a lot happening in the life of the Society and Museum. We are all part of the grand project. Thanks to all those, including the Local Board, and many of our readers. Here is our latest offering, with our respects.

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### **PAPAKURA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Monthly Members’ Meetings: 4th Thurs, 1pm – 3pm  
Regular Saturday heritage Trips to places of interest

### **PAPAKURA MUSEUM**

**Open: Monday—Friday, 10am—4.30pm,  
Wed open till 6 pm, Sat 10 am—3 pm**  
Accent Point Building, 209 Great South Road  
Ph.: (09) 298 2003    [www.papakuramuseum.org.nz](http://www.papakuramuseum.org.nz)

# Object of the month

## Wendy Deeming

**Pounamu Roimata** (teardrop) pendants. They are said to represent the flow of positive energy, healing, comfort and strength on our journey through life. Traditionally Roimata were given as a token of sympathy during times of sadness, and offer reassurance that we are not alone. Teardrop pendants are generally regarded as touchstones, ideal for meditation. They also represent a connection to the land.



Pounamu (greenstone) is regarded as a stone sacred to the gods by Māori. As a taonga (treasure), it should be worn with respect and pride. Pounamu is a gift from the heart.

*Accession number 6775, 15 August 2000*

**Snow goggles/glasses** are an essential part of skiing and mountaineering gear to protect your eyes from the elements and injury. These sports expose your eyes to prolonged periods of harsh wind and bright sunlight. Unlike sunglasses, goggles seal your eyes from the cold air.



The goggles fit the wearer's face, and one or more narrow horizontal slits are carved through the front. The goggles fit tightly against the face so that the only light entering is through the slits. The slits are made narrow not only to reduce the amount

of light entering, but also to improve the visual acuity. Wider slits result in a larger field of view.

*Accession number 2745, May 1984*

*Accession number 3470 c1900, 8 April 1986*

### **Subscription reminder for 2024-2025 year:**

The subscription remains the same as previous years, i.e. \$25.00.

If preferred, you can make payment directly to the Society's ASB bank account; **12-3031-0166218-03** making sure that you include your name and the reference: Subs 2024-25. Or payment can be made to Edna at meetings.

# Society News and Events.

## The Annual General Meeting

Was held in the Library Meeting room on Thursday 22 August. 32 members were present. Reports were presented by Brian Leonard, PDHS President and Alan Knowles for the Museum, and the subscriptions were renewed at the existing rate of \$25.

Of the outgoing Executive committee, three members, Brian Leonard, Celerina Balucan-Robertson and Mary Ann France, were not available for reelection, and were thanked for their service over the years, in Celerina's case, for over 11 years. Brian has been an active President for the last three years, since 2021, has helped steer the Society through some challenges, and is still part of the group revising the Constitution in line with new legislation. Mary Ann has served with energy and enthusiasm. Most of the members were re-elected, and there were two new nominations.

The new Committee is as follows:

President: Margaret Gane  
Treasurer: Erwin de Raad  
Vice-president/ Secretary: Rob Finlay  
Wendy Deeming  
Sue Smurthwaite  
Wendy Gibson  
Christine Muir.

It is always good to have fresh faces round the table and Wendy G and Christine are very welcome.

The meeting also endorsed Matt Shirley as Hon Solicitor and Charity Integrity Audit Ltd as auditor. Phil Sai-Louie, who has stood down as long-term speaker coordinator was proposed for Life Membership, and this was approved by acclamation.

Following the formal meeting, we welcomed Brent Catchpole, our very supportive Local Board Chairman. Brent had a previous life as a travel guide in Europe, and he regaled us with images and stories of a recent visit to his old touring grounds in Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Austria. His experience helped him to select some of the most dramatic and historic venues, but the sheer crowds caused difficulties that he had not anticipated. It was a feast for the eyes, and Brent is a skilled raconteur. As ever, the meeting ended with afternoon tea, thanks to the catering team.

Members sent their sympathy and love to Celerina, who suffered a sudden bereavement days before the AGM.

## September meeting—Thursday 26 September

### Edward Bennett - How People Travelled from Britain to NZ 1840 - 1940.

Edward guided us through the ever-changing saga of travel, news and mail between Britain and New Zealand with well-chosen pictures and interesting insights. In the 1840s small wooden sailing ships took 90 days with steerage passengers in barrack-like quarters—OK for the better off in their cabins—washing themselves but not their clothes on deck, the crew high in the rigging in all weather. The preferred route, because of the winds—south in the Atlantic to South Africa then west with the Roaring Forties. Some large ships disappeared totally. News from Britain took as long.

The coming of steam meant larger vessels (to hold the engines and the coal) but also more comfortable and roomy voyages (with lounges), and shorter voyages, especially since the Suez Canal opened at about the same time, making it more direct via the Middle East and India. Meanwhile undersea telegraph wires meant the news could get here in only three days.

With air travel, exploratory in the 1930s and commercial by the end of the decade, it could take two

weeks to travel the distance, hotel-hopping night by night in sea-planes that needed little port infrastructure. When larger planes required it, Mangere won out over Ardmore, Whenuapai and a potentially destructive reclamation project in Narrow Neck and Ngataringa Bay as Auckland's gateway to modern international flight.

**Show and Tell** was provided by Erwin de Raad who produced a pair of doll-sized clogs, and the following interesting information, which he has summarised for us:

Clogs—wooden shoes, were once found throughout all of Europe. From around the year 1200 onwards, people started to protect their feet, where it was common to walk on bare feet before that age. So clogs are not unique to the Netherlands. But they were very suitable for the Dutch landscape, full of swamps.

Where rich city dwellers chose nice leather shoes, farmers in the Dutch countryside stuck to clogs. They are robust, safe, waterproof and, as an extra bonus, were cheaper, too. The European Union have even declared them official safety shoes!

They are still the favourite footwear for farmers and gardeners, although in this day and age there is a lively trade in richly decorated clogs in various bright colours for tourists. The designs on these painted clogs reflect the area where they are from.

Inside a wooden clog people wear a thin, black leather inner which also acts as a slipper for use indoors.

Clogs are made from blocks of willow or poplar wood; believe it or not, clogs are warm in winter and cool in summer. (As a young man, Erwin wore them when he dug potatoes for a farmer on an island in the north of the Netherlands. He had not worn the clogs he passed around.)

Another interesting fact is that the clog dance was the forerunner of the tap dance.

### **Forthcoming PDHS meetings:**

**October Meeting: Thursday 24 October**, starting at 1 pm. **Ted Ngataki, of Ngaati Tamaoho**, one of the local iwi. Ted is an elder and carver, and has frequently blessed new exhibitions in the Museum. Ngaati Tamaoho has its centre on Hingaia Road, and provides courses on Maori arts and crafts. Visitors are always welcome.

**November Meeting: Thursday 28 November**— **Lindsay Diggemann- 'Legend of King Arthur'**. Lindsay is a highly regarded authority on early and modern Europe. He is Deputy Dean at Auckland University and an interesting speaker.

This will be the last meeting for 2024.

### **Trips:**

**September trip** was to the Wintergardens at the Domain.

Five participants used public transport (train to Newmarket, then bus from outside the station in Remuera Road straight to the Museum) without hiccups.

Erwin had organized a guide who spoke about its history. In 1913-14, a very successful World Fair was held, with huge tents where the Auckland Museum now stands; it ran for several months and produced a profit of £11,000!

It took a while to decide what to do with to do with these funds and it was ultimately decided to build two big glasshouses, the first of which was erected just before World War 1, with the second to fol-

low quite a bit later.

The original site was a scoria cone; the material was used to drain the playing fields amongst other things; scoria was also obtained from what is now the fernery— an unexpected bonus!

Fairly recently the two buildings were closed for some time to enable earthquake strengthening.

The first glasshouse – nearest the Museum – was full of colour. We were told that the plants are changed every week and all come from Council's own local nursery. The tropical glasshouse did not feel as humid and hot as expected; the heating comes from burning woodchips following an upgrade of the system.

We were shown a cashew nut tree, and also had a sniff of the bark of a cinnamon tree.

Remember the very smelly flower that appears every so often? We were told that the plant died as a result of Covid when it could not get the required attention; however, some small descendant plants are now nurtured in the nursery. By the way, the stinky one only flowers ever 6 years.

{Titan arum, the 'corpse flower' grows in Sumatra , attracts animals and is endangered. Ed}

All in all a very interesting trip, appreciated by all.

Report provided by Erwin.

**October Trip: 31 October:** Onehunga Railway Enthusiasts Museum in Alfred St. Meet at East St Carpark at 10am for shared transport.

In addition, the annual dinner for the PDHS has been booked by Mary Ann France:

**21 November** – lunch will be at MIT, and it only costs \$30 for the full menu..

## Other Society activities

**Education** presented by PDHS members:

Rosehill Intermediate: Rob visited 6 classes to speak about local history, beginning with the Bush which was rapidly whittled back to Kirks, then dairy cattle, strawberries and Mills' farm, horses, and the change brought by the motorway. More broadly , we explored the history of mana whenua, early colonists, Waikato War and its aftermath, confiscation and new settlement, and the growth of Papakura—students love the then and now photos (KFC and Farmers always brings a response.)

## Papakura Museum

**Exhibitions:**

***Dearly beloved: Papakura Church History—the four mainstream churches—*** presented by Tyler Ross-Doone, an intern volunteer at the Museum, as work towards a university paper. He has assembled photos and items from various churches and the Museum's collection.

***Tatau—Samoan Tattooing and Photography Tatau: Tatau Samoa ma ata pu'e.*** This Te Papa travelling exhibition will run from October 12<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> February. The opening day, Saturday, October 12th, between 10 am and 3 pm, is our contribution to the Auckland Heritage Festival, which, this year, has a Pasifika flavour. There will be Tapa, Tivaevae and Lei making, traditional music, siva, historical images of Samoa, and people sharing stories of their personal journey with Tatau. All information and the poster is on the Museum website and facebook pages.

Also, Heritage Festival information can be picked up at the Museum or Library, or online. Check it out: there are exhibitions and events throughout Auckland.



## Museum Talk: held on Saturday 21 September

Dr Adam Claasen spoke on the subject of his latest book, life and times of NZ's top scoring WW1 ace, pilot Keith 'Grid' Caldwell. There was a good crowd and they were not disappointed. Both the speaker and his subject flew high. Claasen kept us spell-bound with the amazing survival stories of this modest Kiwi air ace in World War 1 who tangled with Germans with famous names, and survived. Even if it involved steering a damaged plane to land by standing on a wing. And launching his squadron in a friendly air raid on another British squadron armed with oranges. (In the return raid rotten bananas were used.) After the war 'Grid' was restless but settled on a farm in Glen Murray, until called on to help organise New Zealand's air response in World War 2. Claasen's book is called *Grid*. There were 70 people present.

**Next Museum talk:** Saturday November 9 at 12.30pm. The speaker will be **Paul Brobbel on the life and works of artist Len Lye**. Paul is the leading authority on Len Lye, was the curator the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre and has published multiple works on the subject. Paul is currently the CEO of Uxbridge in Howick. All welcome, gold coin entry.

Alan Knowles, our Curator, has also hosted several group and community visits.

# Kīngitanga – the Māori King movement:

## Kiingi Tuheitia & Kuini Nga-Wai-Hono-i-te-Po

Mana whenua for this area, Te Akitai Waiohua, Ngaati Tamaoho and Ngaati Te Ata Waiohua in particular, are part of the Kīngitanga, and *Sentinel* wishes to express the Society's sympathy over the recent death of Kiingi Tuheitia, and our best wishes for the new Kuini as she takes up the challenge.

Kiingi Tuheitia has earned great respect for his grace, humility and strength as he has acted as a unifying influence, and especially during this difficult year when he hosted leaders from throughout the nation. His recent death following his widely attended eighteenth coronation came as a shock to the nation, and he is mourned by New Zealanders beyond his own iwi, Tainui.

The Kīngitanga was founded in 1858 with the aim of uniting Māori under a single leader so Māori could negotiate with the Government with one voice. While it never had the full allegiance of all Māori, it has, from the first two Kings, Potatau Te Wherowhero and his son Tawhiao, and their advisers, handled big challenges with resolve, strength and sensitivity.

The Kīngitanga has also had remarkable woman leaders. A century ago Princess Te Puea, cousin of the fourth King, Te Rata and aunt of Koroki, the fifth, led a dispossessed and disheartened people through World War 1 and the 1918 flu epidemic, and restored their spirits and economy, collaborating with ministers like Apirana Ngata. Kuini Te Atairangikaahu, Tuheitia's mother, reigned for 40 years at a time of a cultural renaissance, when Governments increasingly recognised Māori needs, and the Waitangi Tribunal restored some resources and economic hope. The new Kuini, Nga-Wai-Hono-i-te-Po stands in this tradition, and she is well qualified to lead her people forward. Hopefully it will be in a collaborative political environment.

## Along the Military Road

# The First Papakura Hotels

Alan Knowles with Neville Williams

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century hotels were popping up in large numbers across New Zealand. Northland saw the establishment of the first hotels in New Zealand. One of the first was established in the 1830s at Hōreke on the Hokianga Harbour. In Kororāreka (now Russell), there were twenty hotels by 1838, albeit most were probably little more than grog shops. Liquor licenses were issued to eight hotels located in Kororāreka in 1840. The first license in the nation was granted to the Duke of Marlborough Hotel. During the Northern War of 1845, the "Duke" was destroyed by fire, and two months later, replacement hotels burned down due to mishaps.

Following the 1840 arrival of settlers from the New Zealand Company, Wellington saw a boom in the construction of hotels. The first hotel was founded by trader and whaler Dicky Barrett, who used a prefabricated cottage that was modified and imported from England. During the 1860s gold rushes in South Island, hotels thrived. Numerous hotels sprang up all around Nelson, the West Coast, and Otago. In 1861, Dunedin had five hotels; four years later, there were 81. As the gold frenzy passed, several hotels closed. Hotels quickly sprung up along the nation's primary transportation arteries. These were essential because of the bad condition of the roads, which frequently left travellers trapped overnight due to a lack of bridges and frequent flooding. Coach services and ferries used hotels as their starting and ending sites.

New hotels were built because of the railway network's expansion beginning in the 1870s. Soon there were "Railway" hotels in numerous towns and cities. Prominent street-corner locations were frequently held by hotels. Hotels in the middle of the 19th century were often two-story wooden structures with a veranda and perhaps a balcony on the first floor, some were English village-inn styles. Subsequent hotels were bigger and more ornately designed, built of brick and stone.

There were numerous varieties of rooms in hotels. In larger hotels, sitting rooms were located on the ground and first floors, sometimes between bedrooms on the quieter upper floors; larger hotels frequently had rooms for smoking, reading, and playing billiards; some even had sample rooms for traveling salesmen to display their wares; and bathrooms were typically shared. Small hotels had bars and dining areas on the ground floor with bedrooms upstairs. Before gas and electric lights became commonplace, fire frequently caused damage or even destroyed hotels. Due to their frequent crowding, oil lamps and candle lighting, and potential for intoxication among its guests, wooden hotels posed a serious fire risk. Within the first half of 1865, fire destroyed five hotels in Dunedin. Advertisements for hotels frequently emphasized the availability of multiple fire escapes as one of the hotel's main features.

The subject of the origins of the Papakura Hotels can quickly get confusing so I'll attempt to clarify things here. For a start there were two hotels that get confused for each other; they had various names and multiple locations. A reference to "Papakura Hotel" is quite misleading because in the early stages it wasn't an official name; it just meant a hotel in Papakura.

Cole's Inn, most likely located in Valley Rd (Porchester Rd), is the first attested establishment we have reference to in Papakura; this was just prior to 1850. In reality this was Cole's home with rooms he was making available as accommodation.

In 1853 the Inn moved to Don Street (Walters Place) and in 1856 became “Walter’s Inn”. Later in 1856 Cole moved to the bottom corner of Cole’s Crescent and was still offering accommodation. Walter’s Inn was refurbished and became the “Globe Hotel” in 1865 and moved to Great South Rd in 1869.

Well’s Inn (owned by Seymour Wells) was a different hotel and was located just south of the Presbyterian Church; the first known reference to this building is in 1858. In 1863, under the ownership of John McWilliams it became known officially as the “Papakura Hotel”. This hotel is visible in the image of Great South Rd Papakura (below) dated to the 1860s located immediately to the right of the constabulary building with the two men standing outside. The hotel appears to be quite large with a verandah attached to the front. A large copy of this image hangs next to Papakura Museum’s front reception.



Great South Road Papakura 1860s. Photographer unknown. Alexander Turnbull Library, NLNZ. Ref E-309-2-q-108-2.

The earliest reference to a hotel in Papakura is the application of Mr Cole to the Colonial Secretary for a special publican’s license which is dated to 1851. Cole relates that due to the growing number of travellers from Auckland to the Waikato he wishes to have a license granted as his house is no longer big enough to handle the increased number of travellers. The application was approved upon payment of two pounds and with the condition that two good bedrooms as well as two stables are provided. The license was prepared in January 1852 and a renewal was applied for in the following year. By December 1853 Cole transferred the license to James McDermott who took over operations in January 1854. This shows a period of only two years in which George Cole was a licensed publican in Papakura.



George G. Walter, formerly steward of H.M.S. *Pandora*, took over Cole's Inn during 1855. Walter advertised that he could confidently guarantee that nothing would be lacking to ensure the comfort and satisfaction of any guests who may choose to stay. As a result, the wines, spirits, and other selections would be made under his own inspection. Walter also advertised a secure and cosy boat that guests could use to enjoy a fun trip to Onehunga or to pass the time on the Papakura River fishing or shooting, "both of which are abundant". Or for those that would rather take an inland drive, a classy car was also available. The hotel also provided a sumptuous selection of food with a superb assortment of all the delectable items that the region was renowned for. The hotel would have been a welcome haven for travellers and locals alike with its amenities and hospitality catering for the growing number of travellers or those wanting to explore the local area.

The hotel served as a meeting place, was used for inquests, public meetings and dances as well as a place of entertainment, as touched upon in our previous article featured in the *Sentinel* on entertainment in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On March 14, 1857, a gathering concerning the state of the roads was arranged at Walters Inn. Construction of a good road between Coles Inn and Wairoa, with special attention to the section that crosses the large swamp closest to the Papakura Hotel was essential. It was decided that Mr. Clow's obstruction over the Great South Rd. was required to be removed right away!

The following year an auction was held by Jones and Allies on behalf of Mr Walter who instructed them to sell every piece of furniture in his home. The listing included a dog cart, harness, glassware, bar fittings, furniture, chinaware and horses. In 1859, Hunt's Royal Mail Van operated a route from Auckland Central to Drury. The Papakura Hotel served as both a booking office and a halt.

A traveller's guide to the Great South Rd and coal fields was published in the *New Zealander* newspaper later that year. Seymour Wells

humbly requested that visitors to the Wairoa, Thames, Hunua, Waiuku, and Waikato Districts pay notice to the hotel, as it is located on the spot where these numerous localities diverge. According to Seymour Wells, "the hotel can provide as much comfort, convenience, and overall lodging as can be found in any first-class facility, whether in town or out of it, at prices that have historically satisfied customers.

Wells stated "that he will always be pleased to provide every amenity within his means to groups coming to these neighbourhoods for business or pleasure. Families, friends, and other groups can be provided with individual bedrooms and sitting areas, along with all the amenities necessary for their convenience and pleasure." The hotel was located approximately 4 miles away from the coal fields at Drury, and Hunt's Vans, which ran twice daily, could take people there. Good stabling was available for hiring, as well as dog carts and

## PAPAKURA HOTEL.

### Notice to Travellers on the Great South Road and Coal Fields.

**S**EYMOUR WELLS begs to call the attention of Travellers to the Wairoa, Thames, Hunua, Waiuku, and Waikato Districts, to the above Hotel, it being situated on the diverging point to these various localities.

S. W. believes this Hotel capable of affording as much comfort, convenience, and general accommodation as may be obtained in any first-class establishment either in Town or elsewhere, at such rates as have hitherto given general satisfaction.

He will at all times be happy to afford every facility in his power to parties visiting these districts either on business or pleasure.

Private parties, families and others, can be furnished with private sitting and bedrooms, and with every attention conducive to their comfort or convenience.

This Hotel is situate about 4 miles from the different Coal Fields, to within a mile of which access can be obtained by Hunt's Vans, which ply to and from town twice a-day.

Dog Carts and Saddle Horses always on hire, with good Stabling.

*New Zealander*, 30 November 1859

saddle horses.

The residents of Drury, Papakura, Wairoa, Mauku, and Waiuku were invited by Major Nixon to meet with him on Monday, April 1860, at 2 p.m. at the Papakura Hotel to discuss the feasibility of organising a Volunteer Rifle Corps. In November 1861, the Papakura Association, which organised the yearly cattle show sale, awarded prizes in the hotel's yard for the best vegetables, butter, cheese, and animals, followed by sale of stock. Seymour Wells, who had won a prize for his filly horse, provided dinner after the event. The event was repeated the following year and became an annual fixture. Interestingly, Wells posted a call for labourers in 1862 to build a road at Papakura.

Ridings and Dowden put the hotel up for sale in February 1863, with possession due fourteen days after the sale date. The advertisement in the *Daily Southern Cross* relates how:

“The well-known hotel in the Papakura village known as the ‘Wells Papakura Hotel’ with a growing business and a prime location near the planned railway station, this property on the Great South Road is a secure investment opportunity for any buyer”.

The property was put up for sale in March, but no one bid and at 1,300 pounds, the Papakura Hotel was abandoned. A meeting concerning the potential prohibition on the importing of cattle from Australia was convened later that month. The whole inventory and assets that belonged to Seymour Wells' estate were scheduled to be auctioned off in April 1863.

The Waikato invasion dominated the landscape in 1863, and there were local indications that Papakura was becoming a military town. The 18th (Royal Irish) Regiment's Ring's/Kirikiri Redoubt, constructed in July 1863, was visible from the Papakura hotel. The Otahuhu Cavalry Corps met in July in order to accept new members. After the Governor's ultimatum to Māori on 9 July, it was decided that a cavalry patrol was needed in reaction to the increased Māori population in the area made up of refugees from the Mangere district, with the aim of driving Māori away. Under the leadership of Colonel Nixon, the cavalry, armed with a variety of weapons, searched the Papakura Valley but turned up nothing.

After traversing the valley to reach Great South Rd and then Papakura, the cavalry returned and came across many Māori. The cavalry stopped and discovered that a detachment of soldiers led by Col. Murray of the 65th regiment was present. Upon deciding to grant Māori one day to depart, the Colonels left a government officer to accompany them to the Waikato. With nowhere else to go, the cavalry made the decision to spend the night at the Papakura Hotel.

The *Daily Southern Cross* correspondent claimed that the accommodation was absurd, that the horses were fed mouldy maize and fusty oaten straw that they refused to eat, and that it was absurd to charge them two shillings apiece. It was advised that the corps bring horse feed with them going forward.

The story did not end there, *The Daily Southern Cross* correspondent's letter to the editor strongly disputed the claims, arguing that the correspondent could not have been a witness, the correspondent could not have been in control of his senses, and that the hotel manager was a trustworthy individual who would never have done such a thing!

Mr. William Hay suffered a tragic mishap at the hotel in August 1863 when one of the chambers of his gun exploded while a companion was inspecting it. Hay was gravely injured when the bullet went through his cheeks, but he made it through the ordeal.

As of August 1863, an advertisement for a three-pound reward for the recovery of a stray horse described as a "flea-bitten mare fourteen and a half hands high, short mane, blood cut tail marked with a d on right shoulder" with Mr. MacWilliams mentioned as a contact at the hotel. Lieut Hazelwood Jones of the 1st Waikato regiment owned the horse. Based on the horse's description

(which hopefully described the colours instead of the condition), most of us probably would have put the poor animal out of its misery, but horses were a precious resource and were possibly worth more than a person's life.

As previously noted in our piece *Caught in the Act*, in the previous issue of the *Sentinel*, the Papakura Hotel served as a venue for entertainment. In 1863, Professor Bushell performed a series of humorous demonstrations of the capabilities of electro-biology. These included experiments involving magnetism, chemistry, and electricity. The performance would "conclude with a highly ludicrous and wonder striking phenomena in electro- biology," according to the advertisement.

William John Jackson was shot and murdered, and an inquest concerning his remains was held in October of that same year. After deliberating, the jury determined that a local Māori killed the unarmed Jackson as he went about his business. The coroner said that since the start of the war, Europeans had been killed needlessly in the bush because they worked irresponsibly there, knowing that armed Māori were close and waiting to take advantage. To avoid more deaths like this one, the coroner advised Europeans to exercise caution when near or in the bush in the future.

John McWilliams received a license renewal the following year at the Annual Licensing Meeting of the Southern Division District, which took place at Drury. Later in the year, Marbin and Graham were given the go-ahead to sell 38 perches of land next to the Papakura Hotel, among other desirable Papakura allotments. This sold for seventy-five pounds

**W**ANTED, a respectable FEMALE SERVANT for the Papakura Hotel; middle age preferred, and one that thoroughly understands her business. Liberal wages will be given.—Apply to WILLIAM SMITH, High-street, or at the Papakura Hotel.

The hotel posted a job listing for a "respectable" female server that year; middle-aged candidates were favoured, as well as those with business acumen; there was to be generous pay.

*Daily Southern Cross*, 22 October, 1864

Following the Waikato War, the Papakura Association's first meeting, presided over by Mr. Hay, took place at the hotel in November 1864. Reviving the association and writing a memorial for the Governor regarding compensation for out-of-state settlers who suffered during the war were the two main goals of the conference.

The *Daily Southern Cross* published an article on November 3, 1864, regarding a court case that took place in Papakura. The case presided over by C Mellsop which involved RM John Cole, a private in the 2nd battalion of the 18th (Royal Irish) Regiment, who was accused of stealing a silver watch and other property worth twenty-five pounds from William Davis, a private in no 2 Company of the 4th Waikato Regiment, while Davis was intoxicated at the Papakura Hotel. Following a considerable amount of back-and-forth, during which it's safe to assume at the time of the incident, many casual conversations took place over a few too many drinks, the accused entered a guilty plea and was given a six-month sentence of hard labour in prison.

A jury and Charles Mellsop held an inquiry at the hotel in December 1864 concerning the remains of Alfred Wilkinson, a soldier in the Commissariat Transport Troops, who fell from a cart at Martyn's Farm and died. After deliberating, the jury concluded that the horse's uncontrollable behaviour caused Wilkinson to fall from the dray he was driving, which caused his death.

The Northern Association of New Zealand had published a petition for the secession of Auckland from the rest of the country, and a public meeting was to be held in the Papakura Hotel in 1865 to get support from Papakura locals. Separatism was a major movement, and the notion, which originated in Otago, had been around for some time. One of the primary reasons for the move of the capital from Auckland to a more centralised Wellington, was fear that the South Island might be-

come a separate colony. Interestingly, local public gatherings at Papakura, Otahuhu, Waiuku, and Drury proclaimed their endorsement of the Northern Association, which opposed Wellington's relocation as the nation's capital and advocated for Auckland to become an independent province.

Crime remained a constant issue, and on March 17, 1865, W. Wallace was found guilty of stealing blankets from the Papakura Hotel. In a court proceeding presided over by C. Mellsop, Wallace was given a month-long prison sentence that included hard labour.

William Canon from Onehunga spent a delightful day in Papakura on June 29, 1865, while paying friends a visit. He tried to leave at night on horseback, but he only made it a few miles outside of Papakura Village before he was involved in an accident with a horse and dray, breaking his right leg. The two things that cause the majority of accidents in today's world—speed and alcohol—were identified as the accident's causes. After being brought to the Papakura Hotel, Canon received medical attention.

On October 18, 1865, Mr. Davis gave an entertaining presentation featuring slideshows depicting the American Civil War, Japanese daily life, and picturesque scenes from Europe. A few days later, a meeting led by Charles Mellsop was convened to discuss the possibility of hiring a resident physician for the region.

The same year, just before Christmas, the *Daily Southern Cross* published an announcement inviting the people of Papakura, Papakura Valley, and the Wairoa to a meeting that would be held at the hotel. They went there to talk about whether or not a wharf could be constructed to facilitate commerce from Onehunga. When it came time to take the chair, Captain Pye explained the advantages of building a public wharf at the creek to facilitate the transportation of goods between Onehunga and Papakura. It was predicted that 200 pounds would be needed for this, what a steal! (although, a large sum of money in those days) and that money would be raised as individual shares.

In 1866, George Walter of the Globe Hotel and Nathaniel Reid (or Reed) of the Papakura Hotel were granted licenses at the licensing meeting. The latter constructed the wharf at Chalky Point (Wharf St) near the flour mill in Papakura that same year. This gave boats a convenient spot to land. There were hopes that a new steamer would be able to run regularly between Onehunga and Papakura. (This did not eventuate.)

The regular monthly meeting of the Papakura Agricultural association was held in the Papakura Hotel June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1866. An interesting point is that the flour mill was laying idle but was kickstarted again during this period with grain sourced locally that could be made into flour to provide cheap loaves for the residents.

Another public meeting was held in 1867 with the goal of eliminating thistles from the district. The group decided to get together in person early in the day and then clear the thistles growing along Great South Rd from Mr. Walters' farm to Slippery Creek by cutting them down and burning them. During the annual licensing meeting in April of that year, George G. Walter applied to have his li-

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NOTICE.

**T**HE INHABITANTS of Papakura Valley, Papakura, and the Wairoa, are requested to attend a PUBLIC MEETING, to be held at the "Papakura Hotel," on FRIDAY, December the 22nd. 1865, at the hour of 4 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of taking measures towards Erecting a WHARF, for the convenience of traffic from Onehunga.

By order of the promoters.  
WILLIAM HAY, } Conveners.  
N. REED, }

Papakura, December 13th, 1865.

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*New Zealand Herald*, 16 December 1865



cense for the Globe Hotel renewed, and Nathaniel Reed (who was now the proprietor of the Papakura Hotel) asked to have his license for the Papakura Hotel renewed.

People were growing increasingly irate by 1869, and a public gathering was organised in the Papakura Hotel to protest the treatment that the villagers were receiving from the government. The *New Zealand Herald* carried a message that was a lot more humorous and was titled "Indignation." The announcement continues by stating that a massive public gathering to oppose "everybody and everything" will take place at the Papakura Hotel.

A gathering of pertinent parties about the completion of the Auckland–Waikato railway took place at the hotel in 1870.

The 1 acre, 20 perches of land and the structures that comprised the Papakura Hotel property were auctioned off in a mortgagee sale in April of 1871. G Walter, who was viewed as a reputable hotel publican retired, and John Hamilton was given the keys to the hotel. The hotel was listed for rent in May for a "term of years" at a reasonable rate. James Harvey Curle received the license three months later. The next year before the police court, the landlord of the Papakura Hotel was fined one shilling for letting a goat wander, and John Hamilton of the Globe Hotel was accused by a constable for selling alcohol after hours. Hamilton was fined one pound plus costs.

The hotel hosted a ball and dinner in 1872, with dancing continuing until five in the morning. After undergoing extensive renovations in April 1873, the Papakura Hotel (now owned by Francis Martin), attracted many visitors who could "find all the comforts of home." Nicholas Simms bought the hotel in September of the same year. He offered reasonable lodging at a suitable rate. All-day meals were available for order, and only the highest-quality liquids were stored. A big hall that could be used for public meetings or entertainment free of charge were further selling points, along with comfortable beds and stables. A well-liked individual, Nicholas Simms was always willing to help in any way that could improve the neighbourhood. In addition to helping to fit out other structures, Simms built the public hall and was a talented violinist.

The hotel, complete with stables and a public hall, was once more for sale in 1874. A public conference was arranged later that year to persuade the government of the significance of opening the railway to Papakura. After Simms departed Papakura in 1876, Charles Augustus Calvert took over temporarily. The town was saddened by Simm's leaving and locals wished him well because he was a well-liked and generous person who brought a lot of people to the expanding town. Horse racing also formed a central focus, and the hotel was used for setting and taking bets for the Papakura Annual Races.

The Papakura Hotel had several owners in quick succession; Charles Limmer took over the license from Calvert and then transferred it to James (or Charles) Mack when he moved to the Globe Hotel and took over the license from Thomas Hollywood in 1878. In 1879 there was a flood which caused damage to roads and bridges. The water in the creek rose so high as to cover about 40 feet of roadway to a depth of a foot. Later in the same year the contents of the Globe Hotel were auctioned off and temporarily closed. William Regan applied to reopen the Papakura Hotel before transferring the license to James Poppleton in September 1880. The Globe Hotel license was transferred from Limmer to Duncan McGregor in December 1879.

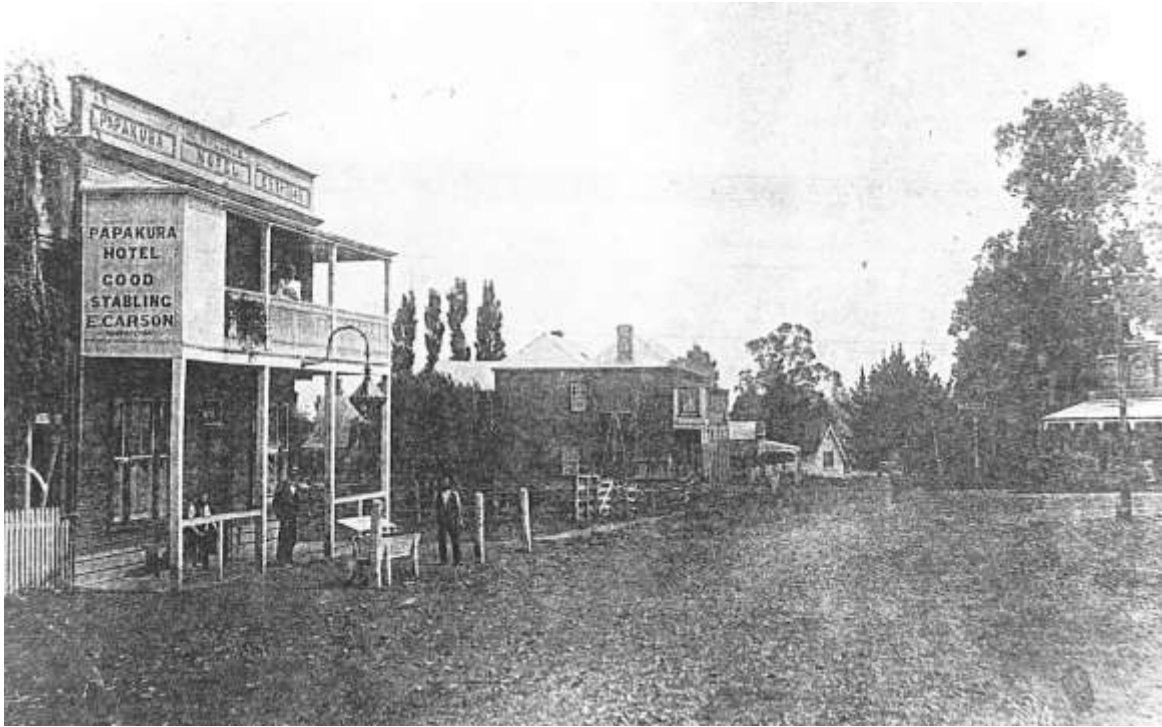
The chance of fire was an ever-present danger, and a minor fire alarm was triggered when the chimney in the hotel stable caught fire, affecting the flue. By 1881 Archibald Leslie had taken over the lease and license of the Papakura Hotel from Poppleton with R C Greenwood now the owner. At this point the hotel was advertised as having sixteen rooms. On September 9<sup>th</sup> 1882 the hotel burnt down.

This article concludes at this point, but we will be writing a second part to this article which will



conclude in the 1930s. Papakura's Hotels were more than just a place to stay; they acted as a nexus point for the town and drew people to the area. With historical charm, location on the Great South Road, comfortable accommodation, delectable dining options and proximity to the town, the hotels offered the perfect base for meetings, socialising, exploring the surrounding area and providing a place for travellers to stay on their journey along the former military road.

[Thanks to Neville Williams for his assistance with this article, his incredible knowledge of Papakura, unearthing new facts on an almost daily basis, and for once again putting up with my humour.]



Papakura Hotel with the Globe Hotel in the background, circa 1894. Papakura Museum Collection 224-1

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# Growing up in Papakura with Elsie K Morton

## Rob Finlay

Several authors and poets are associated with Papakura and Drury. Fleur Adcock, born in Papakura, and Marilyn Duckworth, poets and writers, were sisters with family links with Drury (and to current members of the Society). James McNeish, novelist and playwright, attended school in Papakura. Barry Crump, who needs no introduction, may have found his calling when a Papakura teacher recognized his ability to write.

Then there was Elsie K Morton.

That was the pen name of Katherine Elsie Morton. She was a child of 9 when she arrived in Papakura with her family in 1894, and they made their home for some years in a cottage on the Rhind farm (Rose Brae) in the valley at the top of Pukekiwiriki/ Red Hill.

She never truly left Papakura. As an adult she would return to the same cottage to write, and when Papakura School celebrated its first 50 years in the 1920s, she spoke to the children about the little school which she had attended for several youthful years.

As a journalist, she wrote two books about her experiences and travels, mainly round New Zealand, *Along the road* (1928), and *Joy of the road* (1929). In these and in her 'Boys and girls' pages in the *Herald* in the 1920s and 1930s, we encounter joyous memories of childhood. Interspersed with descriptions of other places round New Zealand and overseas, six brief chapters in the two books deal with youthful scenes or with Kirikiri and its "ten-acre men" and Red Hill, and with the Pukekiwiriki Pa.

Elsie Morton often expressed a great joyfulness in her memories of childhood.

Mornings evoked a day full of promise. There are many distractions in the two-mile barefoot walk, with children from several families—she names Richardsons, Bates, McKinstrys and McLennans, farm kids or sawmill kids— from the top of Red Hill down the white clay road, through the wet grass of Kirikiri farms and then the Railway Reserve, giving many reasons for them to have to run when they hear the school morning bell.

There might be a bullock team, bells jangling, creaking as it hauls a giant kauri log down the rough track to provide a ride for gleeful children, bumping over the rough track. There are the plants and animals along the hedges and in the fields. A wet day with steep roadside ditches running as streams are an incentive to splash along, or more constructively, to create dams with stones.

Mr Clarkson's bridge is flooded and under water: what if it gets washed away? There is a risky crossing to test; and a temptation to slip in the puddles—after all when you're half wet, why not be thorough about it. Her friends who end up drenched return home to dry out (to find out that mother has been watching). But then, if it's really wet, it might be a "two o'clock day" anyway. (And she doesn't say it, but there must be some time spent drying in the classroom by the fire.)

Then when you've walked and skipped past the farms, there is the Railway Reserve (Massey Park today), an awe-inspiring forest of tall gum trees with a dense bracken undergrowth to get lost in, perhaps to hide from the others and invite a search. Beyond the gate into the station area, there are further temptations. Is a train due?, has anyone got a penny or a shilling? to place on the rails so the train can flatten them. Once the train has passed there is a rush to find the results. Watch out for the station master. He doesn't think railway yards is the place for children. (Especially for young Elsie who on one occasion finds amusement in playing with the levers that exercised such power moving the tracks at points, and is apprehended by a very angry Mr Somerville and taken

home to explain herself to an equally angry mother.)

Through the 'kissing gate' on the far side of the station. Then there might—perhaps frequently – be the race to get to school because the first bell has rung.

Elsie doesn't say too much about the next few hours, but then we know she responds at least to language and literature. Maybe she watches with horror as one or two students stand up to the teacher. Or with sympathy for the boy whom learning seems to bypass, until he is asked about the local plants and animals, a subject he understands and has an amazing knowledge of.

Sale days could lead to a mass lunchtime exodus of children from the school grounds, to the heady aroma and excitement of the crowded scene of farmers and their families, horses, dogs and the lowing and bleating animals penned in the yards. Sleepy Papakura Village comes to life, especially in the crossroads around the Papakura Hotel and the saleyards. Drays and wagons fill neighbouring streets, wives and younger children picnic. The calls of auctioneers, energy of working dogs and men, protests of cattle, dust or mud. Normally sleepy holding paddocks between the school and courtyard and the yards hold stock waiting their turn for auction or moving on either by droving or by train.

There is less energy at the end of the school day with the long slow trudge back along roads that seem more rutted or muddy and culminate in the ascent of Red Hill. But wet days—today's teachers and students know the inconvenience too—might become "two o'clock days". And there might be "cocoanut ice" to make when they get home.

Elsie's mother was always busy, a Christian lady who held a Sunday School in the home for the children who would otherwise have to walk three or more miles to church: 30 children turned up. She gave her children a lot of freedom. In 1894-95, the boys kept a diary of their activities.

Virtually every day after school and on Saturdays, her brothers spent a lot of time down at Coulthard's mill where they had access to the boiler house, or found timber to take back to their well-equipped workshop. The children with their neighbours explored Hays Creek, and watched it in flood, and were thrilled spectators when a jumbled cascade of a hundred logs were released in a drive triggered by releasing a driving dam up the creek. Or they scrambled about Pukekiwiriki. The boys went gum-digging and collected birds' eggs. Or ate taraire berries.

Although the family left Papakura to live in Auckland, and Elsie travelled around New Zealand and overseas, she continued to return to the Rhind's cottage, which inspired some of her writing. The older Rhinds and other veterans of the *Viola* spoke of the early years when they arrived in Kirikiri. Sometimes she uses her lyrical voice to describe the beautiful outlook they described from the top of Red Hill, the panorama of bush, golden fern and manuka spreading out from the foot of the hill to the distant glimpses of the Manukau Heads over the harbour waters, the Franklin hills and plains and One Tree Hill.

A chest that stood in the cottage, that had been made by James Rhind in Scotland without use of any nails, was a constant reminder of the *Viola* and the Kirikiri "ten-acre men". A descendant of the Rhind family, Felicity Morgan-Rhind, has sent me this photo of the chest, with permission to use it.







To the left is another photo, of the author with Felicity's aunt Winnie as a child. It looks like a picnic on the Rhind farm, with the summer smell of scythed and raked hay, and maybe a skylark aloft. It symbolizes the positive spirit that comes through in Elsie's writing.

In her hey-day she was an extremely popular writer, and provided encouragement for younger writers. One of her most popular books was *Crusoes of Sunday Island* (1957) about the Bell family of the Kermadecs: the freedom and independence of the Bell children maybe reminded her of her Kirikiri years.

She was also committed to many good causes, including St John Ambulance, the preservation of historic building (she would have been devastated when her Pukekiwiriki cottage burned down) and native trees, and animal welfare. She died in Auckland in 1968.

Thanks to Felicity Morgan-Rhind for the photos.

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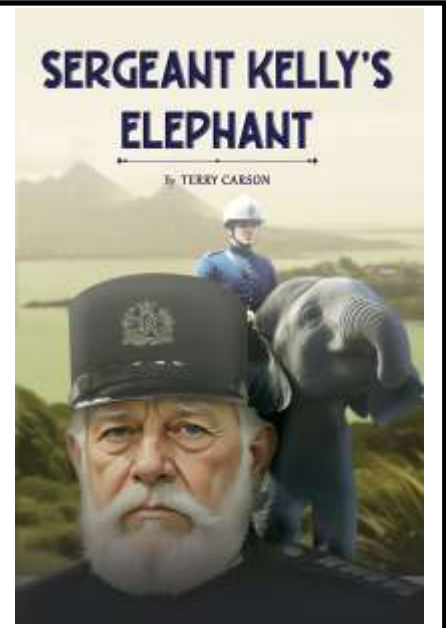
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