



Tena Koutou Katoa

Greetings to all from President
DALE WEBB.

Very warm festive greetings.

May your Christmas be spiritually uplifting with family and friends and the New Year be pleasant and prosperous for us all. Whatever your beliefs may be, it is for all a time to relax, enjoy good company and reflect on the results of a hopefully good year; I hope you are able to do that.

Business in the Museum and Archives continues to go well and there have been many highlights during the year. One of the best had to be the evening when we launched both our *"Friends of the Museum"* programme and the *"Living Cultural Treasure"* awards. What a great first recipient **Peg Moorhouse** is. As well as her inspiring work as a weaver it is her attitude as a person that impresses so many. I hope I am quoting her correctly when she said *"I got my first computer at the age of 90 and now couldn't do without it"*. It takes a very vibrant spirit to embrace challenges like that.

MARK THE DATES

SUNDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2013

Day Cruise to SHIP COVE to celebrate
100 years of the Cook Memorial

SATURDAY 6th - SUNDAY 7th APRIL

Four-Wheel drive expedition through
MOLESWORTH, RAINBOW & UPPER WAIRAU
including overnight stay at Hanmer.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL – 578 1712

CHANGE - and the development that goes with it - has shaped the world since we started recording history. It is the ability to meet the challenges of change that has seen us make the progress we have. If our Society is to remain a leading member of Marlborough's heritage community rather become a dusty relic, then we as an organisation must be like Peg and meet the challenges, make the changes and show what a vital spirit we have.

As you may have seen in the *Marlborough Express* **nominations are now being called** for the next recipient of the *"Living Cultural Treasure"* Award. If there is somebody that you would like to nominate then please do so. *"Culture"* has a very wide definition so don't be concerned that the work of the person that you have always admired and respected isn't "cultural". If it is admired and respected it is part of our culture. The nomination forms are at the Museum. Marilyn has just left on a well deserved break but Jillian is holding the fort and will be delighted to give you one.

Looking to other things in our future the details are in this newsletter for two great trips that are coming up. The first to **Ship Cove** in **February** is to celebrate the centenary of the cairn that commemorates **James Cook** and the visits he and his crews made. Then in early **April** we have a unique **two day four wheel drive trip** through the **Awatere, Rainbow** and very **Upper Wairau valleys**. The natural history of the landscape here is as interesting as the social history of its inhabitants.

Once again best wishes for Christmas and 2013, and thank you all again for your support as we continue to preserve and celebrate the great heritage of Marlborough.

Dale Webb

dale@vinastra.co.nz

MARLBOROUGH MUSEUM **ON-LINE**

RON HEBBERD MOTORCYCLES



We are continuing to catalogue this significant collection, with 101 items now finished. Having been a two-wheel enthusiast in my younger years, I really enjoy this task.

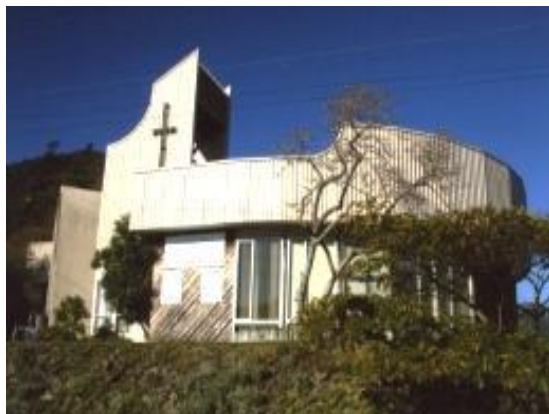
Yes, I know the link goes to a 3-wheeler...

DUMGREE



Thanks to Megan and her team in Archives, we can display these images of Dumgree Station from an 1890 album.

MARLBOROUGH TODAY



A Photo Historical Record by Lloyd Kerr

INSPIRING GENERATIONS

This month's update includes a large number of photographs from the Gamble Collection which is formed from photographs of Marlborough taken in the late 1800's and early 1900's. New in this update is an interesting look at what I am thinking of as 'current history' in the form of a series of photographs by Lloyd Kerr, who has captured the essence of Marlborough so those who come after us will have a perspective, just as we look back on those photographs in the Gamble series. We also have a new exhibit called 'Dumgree', drawn from the material from Flaxbourne Settlers Association. From the South of the province we have also added to the on-line exhibit of Ron Hebbard's motorcycle collection.

If you are reading this Newsletter in E-form on your computer, just click on the pictures to go directly to the items on the exhibits website.

The exhibits website now attracts almost 1000 visitors per day. To see what they are looking at, just use the links below. While the Archives and photographic exhibits are quite large, the others are smaller and a visit will not occupy much of your time.

As before, if you know others who would like to receive update news - OR if you would prefer not to receive updates at all, just email me at –

museums@penney.co.nz

John Penney

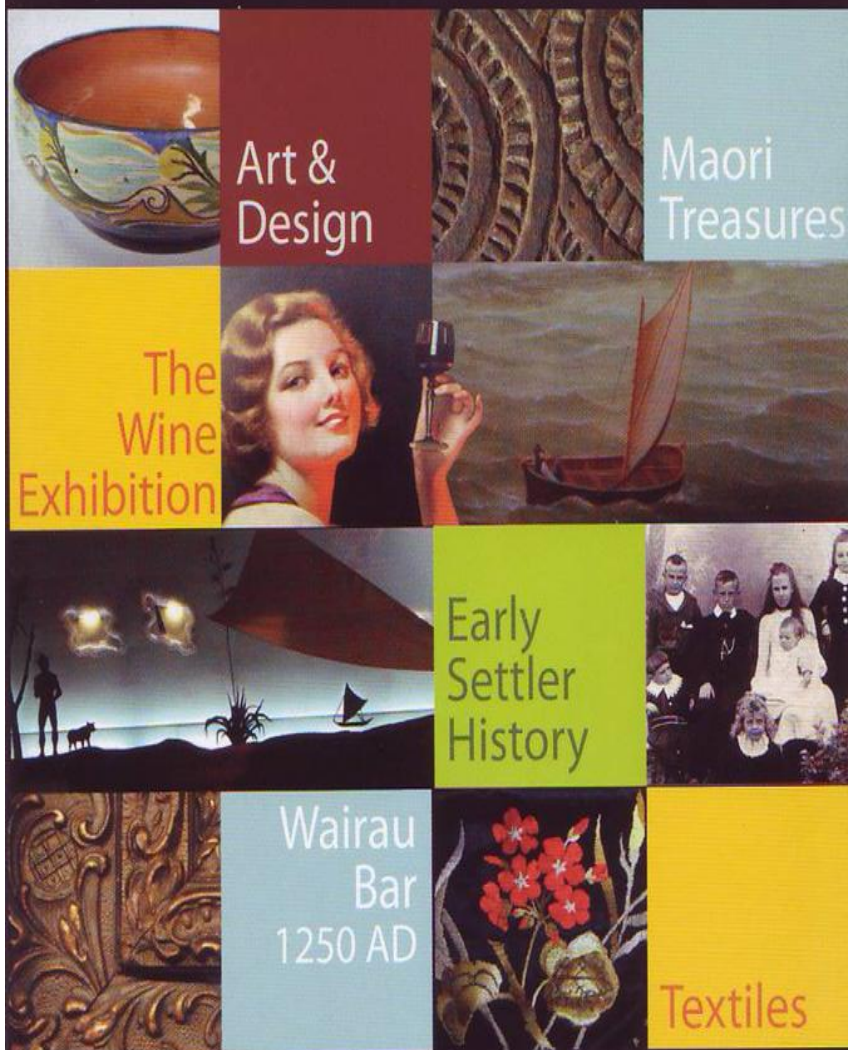
GAMBLE PHOTOGRAPHS



From the Gamble and Stace collections

You can view the exhibits at any time by visiting www.marlboroughmuseum.org.nz and choosing "View Collections"

MARLBOROUGH
MUSEUM 
inspiring generations



Open 10-4 daily

26 Arthur Baker Place, Blenheim . Ph (03) 578 1712

www.marlboroughmuseum.org.nz

NEWS

Chief Executive STEVE AUSTIN is hosting his personal guided tour of the new WAIRAU BAR 1250 AD Exhibition on THURSDAY 27TH DEC and FRIDAY 4TH JAN. Starting 2pm.

A great holiday afternoon.

Cook Memorial day trip to SHIP COVE with Beachcomber Cruises departs from Picton at 8.30am, SUNDAY 10TH FEBRUARY.

\$50 members, \$60 guests.

Weekend 4WD Trip through MOLESWORTH and RAINBOW departs 8.30am SATURDAY 6TH APRIL. \$10 members, \$15 guests plus vehicle and accommodation costs.

KARLA HERMON has started as our new Museum Cleaner, having recently returned to Blenheim after some years in Nelson.

The annual HERITAGE DAY at Brayshaw Heritage Park will be bigger and brighter than ever on Wednesday 6TH Feb - WAITANGI DAY,

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of long-time Society member DAVE TREVENA who passed away recently.

Museum Hosts JILLIAN JOHNSON and NIGEL BEEVIS are working extra shifts over the holiday period while MARILYN LOWE enjoys a break with her family in Australia. SARAH and RACHAEL SCLATER are on duty over the weekends.

On 26TH November PAUL DAVIDSON presented his new film "Past Forward" to a public meeting hosted by the Brisbane Historical Society. The film is an intriguing history of South Brisbane made with Dr Bill Metcalf, Griffith University researcher and historian. You can watch it at – <https://vimeo.com/49193964>

CONGRATULATIONS to SARAH SCLATER and our teacher ROD McCLOY who have both recently announced their engagements (to other people – not each other!)

Committee, staff and partners recently enjoyed an end-of-year barbeque hosted by REX and LAURI ASHWELL.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL !**

The tale of ADA REDWOOD

Politics, scandal, feuds and firsts – another story unearthed from the Archives

By **JENNY PIERSON**

It started with three initials, A.A.S., on the front cover of a photograph album found in Archives. After much digging and delving those initials became a name – Annie Agnes Smith. A number of photographs inside the album were of Mac and Ethel and after more digging they became Ada MacDonald and her daughter Ethel. Annie and Ada [Mac] were sisters.



Annie Agnes Smith was elusive. Ada McDonald was easier to trace. She said she was a widow in 1908 when she married Frederick Redwood, gentleman sheep farmer of Spring Creek, and they were together until his death in 1919 age 71. Fred was one half of the flour milling Redwood Brothers, the other half being Joseph (Joe) Henry Redwood, who died in 1918. Fred and Joe were the only sons of Henry Redwood, usually titled “Father of the New Zealand Turf”. They had a sister, Frances, but both she and her husband died in 1878 leaving their very young son, Edmund Eccles, to be brought up at Spring Creek by his Redwood grandparents.

By 1908 the Redwood grandparents were both dead and Fred and Joe were living in the family home at Spring Creek. Their nephew, Edmund Eccles, had recently married and he and his wife, Maude, were living on the property. Joe’s son and daughter-in-law, Hamilton and Marjory Redwood, were also recently married and also lived at Spring Creek. Joe’s wife, Kate, lived in Australia.

When Fred brought his new wife, Ada, into this happy family arrangement it caused major disruptions. Maude Eccles took an instant dislike to her. Joe resented her interference in the family business and her presence in what he considered his family home. Hamilton backed his Father. Maude vented her anger by attacking Ada’s reputation in public, Joe was perhaps more subtle, merely

making her life a misery on the home front. Within four months of her marriage Ada brought things to a head when she pointed a loaded rifle at Joe Redwood. Hamilton had her arrested. The Marlborough Express had a field day. But no evidence was offered and the case was dismissed. The judge commenting how, “unusually for Blenheim, a number of ladies occupied seats in the gallery”. The results of Maude’s gossip no doubt.

After that humiliation Ada was quiet for a while, but Maude was not and eight months later Ada charged Maude Eccles with using insulting language toward her and asked that she be bound over to keep the peace. Once again Ada and Maude slugged it out through the newspaper and this time they dragged Ada’s daughter, Ethel, down with them. Ethel was having afternoon tea at Scott’s tearoom in Market Place, when Maude, who had just come in, proclaimed to all and sundry that, “She was surprised that people would mix with the daughter of Mrs Fred Redwood”. Once again the case was dismissed, the judge saying there were no threats of personal violence towards Ada.

Things could not go on like this. The Redwood Brothers had dissolved their thirty-eight year partnership in December 1908, and in August 1909 the clearance sale of their estate was held at Spring Creek. Fred kept the house and property at Spring Creek, Joe got the Okoha property in Pelorus Sound and moved there with Hamilton and Marjory, Edmund and Maude Eccles moved to Grovetown. Ada had what she wanted, a doting older husband, Fred was 61 to her 42, a large house and property and enough wealth to keep her in the manner to which she aspired. That her reputation was in ruins was perhaps a small price to pay.

Maude Eccles was not just telling tales when she gossiped about Ada. Ada and Annie – remember Annie? She was the one who’s initials on a photograph album started this story – had a past. They were born Martha [later Mac/Ada] and Annie [later Agnes] Lee, Martha in 1867; Annie in 1870, their early life has yet to be unearthed. Martha appears in my records in 1887 when she gives birth to Ethel Maud Matilda Lee. No father is named. Annie appears in 1889 when she marries John James Smith. He’s a rogue and leads her a merry dance, both in Australia and New Zealand, but she soon learns how to survive. So much so that her husband sues for divorce, claiming his wife committed adultery with four men. Turns out the four men were aliases of one man, but John was granted his divorce in 1899. Annie’s new man is no better than her old one and by 1900 she is living with her sister, Martha.

Martha may have been involved in the theatre in some way. In 1898 she married Christchurch theatrical agent George Spencer McDonald. He was a partner in the firm Gardner and McDonald, “Theatrical, Advertising, House, Land, Estate, and General Commission Agents” (as their advertising blurb says in 1883), also “Rents and Debts collected”. George was obviously a man of many talents. He had been married before and was divorced in 1891. George died, aged 45, at his residence in Dunedin in June 1900, so that, although Martha had an illegitimate child, she really was a widow when she married as Ada McDonald in 1908.

The firm of Gardner and McDonald was dissolved soon after George’s death and Martha and Annie made themselves unpopular in Christchurch by chasing up old debts. Martha applied for probate of George’s will and presumably inherited his estate, perhaps including his residence in Smith Street, Dunedin. The first photograph in Annie’s album is of, “Dear Mother, Mac and Self, Dunedin” and the third one, reproduced with this article, is a mourning photo of, “Mac and Ethel” in 1900.

(continued next page)

ADA REDWOOD *continued*

When and why Martha decided to call herself Ada is not known, nor do I know if she met Fred Redwood in Dunedin or Christchurch, but by April 1908, Martha McDonald, known as Mac by her sister Annie, and Ada by her fiancée Fred; Annie Smith, now known as Annie Agnes Smith; and Ethel Maud Matilda Lee, now known as Ethel Maud MacDonald, are living in Blenheim prior to Fred and Ada's marriage in June. That Maude Eccles had got a whiff of their less than conventional early life must have caused Ada a few worrying moments, but after a rocky start she earned herself a reputation as someone who was not afraid to stand up for what she believed in and as a person who got things done.

In April 1917 Ada was elected a member of the Wairau Hospital & Charitable Aid Board. She topped the poll with 716 votes; J.J. Corry was next with 581. The Marlborough Express informed its readers that it was, "the first time in the history of the Board that a lady is a member", and noted that she had already done good work for the Beautifying Society, Red Cross, Marlborough Horticultural Society and other organisations.

"On Freddie's Verandah - April 1918"



Annie Agnes Smith, William Banon?, Miss Coakly, Ada McDonald

Then in October 1919 Councillor William (Billy) Carr lost his seat on the Blenheim Borough Council, because of non-attendance without leave, creating an extraordinary vacancy. Ada stood against him and William Joseph Humphreys and won, still, 50 years later, "the only woman councillor in the Borough's history", when Beverley wrote his book on the Borough of Blenheim in 1969. "I am Alice in wonderland here, I am not yet fully conversant with the procedure", Ada said at her first Council meeting, where she began by advocating for a women's rest room in town. "The men were well catered for," she said, but, "women had been suffering real hardship". She fought long and hard for a women's rest room, coming up with a plan for adding one to the Town Hall and getting the Plunket Society involved, but it was the New Zealand Clothing Factory (Hallenstein Bros Ltd) who were the first to provide one. When they upgraded their Market Street premises in December 1920 they advertised, "in addition to the shopping facilities we have a ladies rest room which should be found a convenience by our numerous lady customers".

Ada held her own in the rough and tumble of local politics, standing down in 1927 when she was 60 years old. She died in Blenheim in 1943. These days, her 'firsts' on the Hospital Board and the Blenheim Borough Council are largely forgotten.

Jenny Pierson

December 2012

ARCHIVES REPORT

Another year has just flown by here in Archives with all our volunteers having kept things going smoothly.

We continue to get about the same number of researchers visiting the building but are experiencing an ever increasing workload via the Internet, many thanks to the wonderful online exhibits provided by John and Maree Penny. During the year Doreen Fowler and Lloyd Kerr have dealt with a large number of the researchers both visiting the facility and making online enquiries. Elspeth Wells has embarked on a long term project indexing the Dobson Diaries. Our other volunteers - Ilona Alloway, Maureen Joyce, Joy Parker, Melanie Newman, Andrea Barnard, Brenda Oldfield and Tony Preston = are all involved in a range of projects from scanning photographs to indexing and library maintenance. Lauri Ashwell continues to catalogue all new acquisitions onto the database. All our volunteers help willingly and professionally with research enquiries from the public.

PETER THOMSON has been in high demand for his knowledge of the waterways and the Local Government of Marlborough. His extensive knowledge of both these areas have proven to be invaluable. This, along with his long term involvement with the Marlborough Historical Society and the Museum buildings has made him one of our "go to" people. Peter's engineering background contributed greatly to the development of the Archive storage facilities to the high professional standard that has allowed us to maintain official Repository status. We all enjoy working with him and value his skills and experience.

Megan Ross

Archives Manager

MHS *e*LETTER

BIGGER BRIGHTER BETTER

This Newsletter is also available in emailed form for members with internet access. The digital e-version has the advantage of being in FULL COLOUR which certainly shows the visual content at its best. It also has ACTIVE HYPERLINKS for one-click access to extra stories, and is a big saving in printing and postage.

To receive the emailed Newsletter and other Museum updates, please phone or email the office to let us do this. New privacy laws mean we have to have your explicit permission first. Email "yes" to –

info@marlboroughmuseum.org.nz



From the **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

It's a wonderful time of the year to look back and reflect on what has been accomplished.

In summing up the year, there have been many highlights. The Wairau Bar exhibition is looking great, and after four years of determined work, we now have an excellent account of Marlborough's first settlement around 1250 AD. The work primarily draws on the publications of Dr Janet Davidson, a truly inspirational archaeologist. Janet is the former Curator of Pacific Collections at Te Papa. The exhibition is open for viewing now, but the official opening will be in 2013.

Rangitane have generously contributed a DVD, covering the reburials on Wairau Bar, to the exhibition ... *but wait there's moa!* Dr Richard Holdaway assisted with our section on moa, we are very fortunate indeed. The exhibition tells a unique story which has national and international significance. We are grateful for funding from NZ Lotteries and Canterbury Community Trust to make it all happen.

The appointment of Toni Gillan as the inaugural Museum Ambassador and the formation of the Friends of the Museum were other landmarks in our history. The Museum and Society's development of the Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure Award, in partnership with the broader community, has been another highlight. Peg Moorhouse, the first recipient, is a true treasure. Nominations forms for the 2013 awards are now at the Museum, Marlborough Express and our "Embassy" in town – BookWorld.

About to start is a \$70,000 conservation project (including Stage one of earthquake strengthening) at Cob Cottage - thanks to MDC and NZ Lotteries. This is a long held aspiration of mine, it is going to be a long, slow but worthwhile process.

The sign at the corner of Arthur Baker Place (planned since 2009!) is the realisation of another long held aspiration. We have just distributed more than 8,000 rack cards advertising the museum to people across Marlborough, and 600 complimentary entry vouchers have gone out too. Wow!

Treaty 2U is our first exhibition from Te Papa and will run until the end of March. Our exhibitions over the summer include: Wairau Bar AD 1250, Treaty 2 U (including a film clip of the 1940 re-enactment of the signing), Cuppa Culture (textiles relating to tea culture from the first part of last century).

The Victorian rooms now display a pair of huia! Post Office History of Marlborough is a fascinating look at postal history of the province. Don't forget: Girlings is all lit up every evening from 9 p.m. thanks to the talents of Pam Saunders, and her talented friends.

Look out for the 10 new stories we have prepared for the Marlborough Express. Focusing on collection items in the Park, they will appear throughout the holiday season.

The Society is fortunate to have a talented and passionate governing body, committed and expert staff, generous, knowledgeable volunteers, keen members, enthusiastic Friends and widespread community support.

I appreciate all your encouragement, support and interest in the development of the Museum. All the best to you and your families for a truly brilliant 2013.

Steve Austin

