

The mind it does play tricks

I'm told there's a burdizzo  
I said, "What if it fails?"

Brian said, "Don't fret yourself about that one  
It's for emasculating males!"

And then there's Health and Safety  
Our Kelvin leads the list  
He's always falling over  
With knickers in a twist

The workshops for the children  
We don't have Builder Bob  
Just lots of willing helpers  
With Norm, school masters' job

And then of course our volunteers  
We couldn't do without

To answer phones and questions  
Your value is paramount

Whether it's mend or fix it  
Or working on the till  
Front of house or workshop  
It never does stand still

I hope you drive home safely  
Be ready along the way  
You might just get a phone call  
'You're on duty today.'

**Jan Keightley** 21.06.2018  
*Composer of poems for special events  
and occasions*

### **Charles E Wildbore - beekeeper, dairy farmer and photographer.**

A Century Camera, which was used to take negatives on glass plates was recently brought to Smoko by Keith Maegaard, prompted this article.

Charles Wildbore, who was born in 1861, came to New Zealand in 1874 from London, England. He lived in Pohangina between the 1890s and the 1920s. He was a beekeeper, a dairy farmer and dabbled in photography. Charles and Emily Jane Wildbore had a large family. He died in 1937 and is buried in the Pohangina Cemetery.

His photographs were captured on glass plates, creating glass negatives. 130 photographs depict his collection and were on display in the Pohangina Country Fayre Museum.

He photographed what was around him; capturing the environmental change of that time. He probably didn't think of his photography as being part of anything significant. He took photos of village life and his surroundings.

In March 1893 he won a ballot for a 50 acre section on the eastern side of the Pohangina River. He sold this 3 years later and bought a section in the Pohangina township. Here he grazed his dairy herd and established a honey business, known as

the Pohangina Valley Apiary.

The land he saw was still relatively untouched. One of the historic photos taken by Charles Wildbore in 1904 showed a land-clearing burn between Coal Creek and the present Pohangina Valley West Road. A series of photos pictured the process of transforming the forested parts into farmland. He photographed saw milling, huge draught horses pulling logs, and saw milling camps. He captured weddings, community events and even set up shots with him posing among his children, as a tinker.

It is thought he destroyed many of his negatives in 1931 when he had two boys clean the plates of glass so he could make some cloches for his garden.

Excerpts from: article by Jim Lundy, 1994. R H



The Tinker

# Coach House Chronicle

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## Telling Our Story...

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of June many guests, Trust Members, Volunteers, Friends, and invited guests gathered in the foyer of the museum for a sumptuous dinner and to hear a brief resume of the Coach House history – how did we get here?

Rob Lloyd, the M C For the evening welcomed the Mayor, Helen Worboys and introduced Bryan Guy, the present Chairman of the MHVC Trust. Bryan briefly explained the groups who had been involved in establishing the museum; Feilding and Districts Historic Society, Feilding Promotion, Manawatu Museum Society and New Zealand Society of Genealogi-

sts. He described the museum as a fantastic public asset, bringing together the people in the community. He thanked the volunteers for giving their time; they do so much good and are the foundation of the community.

David Bowler, past Chairman of the Manawatu Society for the Preservation of Horse-drawn Vehicles, 1964-1998 took us through their extensive steps to find suitable storage for their saved vehicles, which later became the Core Collection of our museum. David ended his presentation with this topical quote, 'Nothing gets done until somebody does some-



Colin Trotter

David Bowler

Jan Keightley

David Bowler from the original Society who gifted the horse-drawn vehicles to The Coach House speaking prior to Colin Trotter telling of the origins of the Bowen Street Museum's establishment. Jan Keightley on the right summarises the journey to success in humorous prose, of the of the shift to South Street in 2012.

thing.'

Colin Trotter, Chairman from 1995 to 2003 spoke of being approached to establish a working party to locate a suitable building for this collection of vehicles. It was the time when Cyril Symes decided to sell the Feilding – Kimbolton Coach, which was thought to be an icon of the district. It was purchased by Feilding Promotions for this cause.

Peter Olsen began trekking, gathering interested people together to promote the establishment of a museum, with the first trek to Napier in 1997.

Finally, 38-40 Bowen Street premises, an old auction house became available and loans were raised from the Manawatu District Council, Eastern and Central community Trust, Central Energy Trust, Lotto, Service Clubs and residents. The story described in the museum was of the settlement of the Manchester Block in 1874 to the arrival of the Ford Car in the early 1900s. After hours and hours of volunteers help, under the guidance of Consultant/ Designer Don Irvine and history writer Dorothy Pilkington, the Open Day for the Coach House Museum ultimately eventuated in May 2002.

Colin and Helen Trotter both enjoyed their time and effort they put into the museum.

Brian Hunter, Chairman from 2003 to 2015 spoke of the introduction of the Feilding and Districts Community Archive-the Trotter Room, and how essential this part of the museum is today. He spoke of further

### Auckland Weekly News

The pink 'Auckland Weekly News' occupied the position of the premier weekly journal of New Zealand. Founded in 1863, its popularity in the town and country districts was proved by the large circulation it enjoyed. It was distributed throughout New Zealand, Australia, the Islands, America and England.

Much of the writing was advertising, covering a large variety of goods. There was the Country News, with considerable space devoted to the practical work of the

occasions held to promote the museum.

The Guy Gallery was established to display the significance of agriculture in the Manawatu. At this stage the museum was open for business every day, with the help of volunteers and Service Club members. Before long space for displays became critical and the decision was voiced, 'To stay as we were was not an option. Do we buy or build?'

In time we heard the Higgin's family, Patrick and Bernard Higgins had purchased the Wool Spinners' building at 121 South Street. With their help and the family's generosity, the Trust will be forever grateful. Manawatu District Council purchased 38-40 Bowen Street and again, with a grant from Eastern and Central Community Trust and Central Energy Trust we could now think of moving.

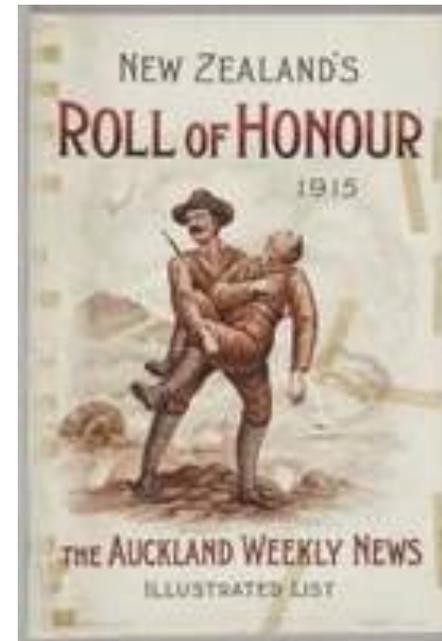
2011 the foyer was constructed by Humphrey's and after hours of work by volunteers the Coach House Museum was opened with a Dawn Blessing on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2012. Now in 2018 the museum is an integral part of the Feilding Community.

Mayor, Helen Worboys congratulated everyone and said she had been proud to help this happen. It was great to have such a vision that has become a fantastic success.

Our very own Jan Keightley, composer of poems for special events and occasions, entertained us with one of her unique writings, 'The Coach House, Our 20 Year Memories.' R H

farm and all subjects relating to Agriculture. Sports and Racing were fully chronicled with attention also given to games such as Chess and Draughts. It was a Family Journal with articles for the Children, Health Tips and remedies. Nature, Art and Science featured and there was Parliamentary News, the Money Market, Court Cases and Military News. The Weather forecast, Fashion News and Humour were included. Shipping Arrivals were filed. It contained a weekly history of the News of the World.

Serial stories were contributed and there was a Sermon, with a Sunday Reading



each week. It wasn't until 1898 that the central, glossy photographic pages were introduced.

The Weekly was published by Wilson and Horton of Queen Street, Auckland and withdrew from publishing in 1971.

What was your memory of the Auckland Weekly? Mine was having enough patience to wait until my family had finished reading its extensive pages, and then I could enjoy the Children's pages.

And when we had all finished reading it, Mum cut the print section into small squares to hang on a hook in the 'outhouse'! The shiny centre pages of pictures were often used for school projects. Nothing was wasted.

With thanks to David Guylee who has a near complete collection of the Auckland Weekly which was printed over 108 years. The Weekly has been digitized in partnership with Auckland Libraries. R H

### The Coach House – Our Memories

This is a special occasion  
Twenty years of long hard slog  
The volunteers have changed a bit  
Our history is now a blog

Our early photographers were Charles and Bert  
And then there was Ivan Mandahl  
They worked their skill and took the shots  
And carefully hid any scandal

The Trust, they sit there at the helm  
Their skills and brains full bore  
We need a lot of guidance  
To do our job and more

We have Brian H, past Chairman  
He's scrubbed up well I see  
Brian led us all for many years  
And now we have Bryan G

We have the Morning Smokos  
Where Kelvin holds the reins  
Where men just sit and gossip  
And bullshit baffles brains

All the ones behind the scenes  
I just can't name you all  
White hair, and bald heads showing

Not blond, just wise and tall  
We have the 'Kitchen Bitches'  
And Rob who cuts the ham  
The salads and the sweetsies  
And scones to calm the man

We have the Banking Team no less  
Two ladies and a man  
The Shop with all its bargains  
The awesome new wall plan

Trev takes the Chevy to the Levy  
Every Friday morn  
The tables and the trestles  
The Archive and the lawns

We have Joe and all the 'Mouse Men'  
And Len and Denis too  
Making our displays look good  
Jobs for the old and new

There's a pea mower and some saddles  
A shearing stand and all  
A Phaeton and some wagons  
A wool bale if you fall

A whim for six wild horses  
A clay mixer for the bricks  
Spades, shovels and crescents