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She was to stay at the Front in Flanders on and off until June 1917 and the brutality and horror of the war was soon to become apparent in her letters home. New Year's Eve 1914, the French Admiral Ronarc'h published a special Order of the Day commending Dorothea for 'showing, almost every day, the finest example of devotion and of disregard for danger.' For this, she would later be awarded the Croix de Guerre and in early 1915, the Order of Leopold II. In August 1916, she was also the first woman to be awarded the Military Medal, a decoration that had only been established in March of that year. In recommending the award, a British Commander noted that:

'Lady Dorothea Feilding was thus frequently exposed to risks which probably no other woman has undergone. She has always displayed a devotion to duty and contempt of danger which has been a source of admiration to all.'

The king himself presented her with the medal at Windsor Castle on 6 September 1916. **Thanks to Dawn Nolan for this story.**

All contributions to The Chronicle gratefully received and usually printed. Tell us about your Feilding experiences school years, growing up, first cars, learning to drive—so many stories so put pen to paper or fingers to computer and save your memories.

HAPPENING IN APRIL AT THE COACH HOUSE MUSEUM.

The second pioneer cottage donated by Rob Green, Kimbolton is now safely in position at the Museum thanks to the sterling efforts of 'The Team' aided by the wonders of modern machinery. 'Never was so much owed by so many to so few' slightly misquoting Sir Winston Churchill. There is still work to be done before it is open to visitors.

25 April 9.30am A.N.Z.A.C. Service followed by a shared Morning tea (bring a plate, please).

War movies to be shown in the theatre following morning tea. **11.30am - 3.30pm** There will be no charge prior to 1pm.

The Coach House Museum will be closed to the public until 1p.m on ANZAC Day. As movies are to be shown in the Museum theatre, movie goers already present are an exception.

6.30am Service at the Cenotaph, Manchester Square Feilding

27th & 28th April 7am –9am Vintage Car Club Rally 100 pre 1951 vintage vehicles will be gathering at CHM.



FEILDING – A NAME TO BE PROUD OF

LADY DOROTHEA MARY EVELYN FEILDING 1889 – 1935



"The awful thing was that when you had got your wounded away from the lines, there was nowhere to take them. The hospital could only take in the practically dying men Please, God I shall never see men suffer in conditions like that again."

The second daughter of the ninth earl Of Denbigh, Lady Dorothea Feilding was one of the most decorated ambulance drivers in the First World War; she was awarded the British Military Medal, the French Croix de Guerre, and was made a Knight of the Belgian Order of Leopold II.

Her father was a military man through and through and that sense of patriotic duty passed down to his children: three of Dorothea's sisters and all of her brothers were to serve alongside her in WWI.

On 25 September 1914, a few weeks short of her 25th birthday, Dorothea arrived in France as part of Dr Hector Munro's Ambulance Corps, charged with ferrying wounded soldiers from the frontline to clearing hospitals. **Continued on back page**



Feilding Little Theatre Players Inc.

Have you missed being entertained at Feilding Little Theatre for several months? The theatre has been unable to be used for public performances since 2021 as, after an annual building inspection, rot was discovered in the north west wall (nearest to Kimbolton Road). This has disrupted programmes and performances by several users of the theatre—two of those being the Little Theatre and Feilding Music Society. During this time a stalwart member of the theatre, Peter McKenzie wrote and performed two stories of two men's experiences in WW1. Both were multi media productions and were able to be performed at different venues such as the Senior Hub and the Coach House Museum. Bill Smith's WW1 story was the first production presented by Peter at the theatre after renovations by Peter 'The Dog Logs' was presented at the Saleyard Café and directed by Michael Rewiri-Thorsen and Dan Mateer. Feilding Little Theatre has a proud history of providing entertainment. In 1938 a 'theatre Group' was established by the Feilding Community and the first production was in October of that year. Sometime in 1942 the thespians became known as "The Feilding Community Players' and again, in 1996, the name was changed to 'Feilding Little Theatre Players'.

The theatre has seen Shakespeare; Gilbert & Sullivan; many one act plays and a variety of large and small cast productions. Most years there were two to four presentations but in 1950 just three weeks before a production of 'Merrie England', a comic opera was to open, the then owners of the building, the Education Department, advised the building was condemned because of structural weaknesses making it unsafe. Instead of a total rebuild, the decision was made to renovate and in 1951 plans were drawn. 1951 to 1952 saw many alterations including a new kitchen being constructed. In December 1952 Feilding's rejuvenated theatre was opened.

Manawatu Daily Times

28 September 1938

Drama in Feilding

On Thursday, October 6, Feilding is to see the first production of the **Community Players**, a new group formed in connection with the work of the **Community Centre**. Five one-act plays, mostly comedy and tragedy, will be presented. The incidental music will be supplied by the string group of the **Feilding B.M.S.**



Len Gray Murals skills needed; with the time to commit; the cost of scenery, lighting, music and production rights are an increasing obstacle as more and more 'competing activities' are presented to those most likely to be part of a production. There is a certain satisfaction gained by learning the local cop, the doctor, your favourite barista or just someone you know has a talent for making you laugh or cry. In the very early days of settle-

ment, entertainment was more likely to be small gatherings in private homes where a musician was available to accompany a sing along. Schools and halls were built and became venues for entertainment. These days, in larger centres with a guaranteed audience, thousands pay mega dollars to attend concerts by popular musical stars at very large venues. Today technical advances of lighting, sound and enormous screens show a close up version of the on stage action to the many thousands of attendees. The increasing obsession with sports and sport watching, television(long gone are the days of limited channels to watch), a variety of devices, travel and the world wide effect of Covid has greatly influenced our lives. Amateur theatre is something we should value. Long live amateur theatre!

Since then each year has seen productions by talented directors, actors and all people needed to bring a successful production in front of an audience. Some larger musicals have been performed and presented in the Civic Centre but successfully casting, especially large productions, is a difficult job. Finding people with the

How to Train Your Husband

NEXT SHOW

By Devon Williamson Directed by Aaron McLeod

On stage 12 - 27 April 2024 for 8 shows

FEILDING LITTLE THEATRE PLAYERS PROUDLY PRESENTS

PRINCE'S WAR

written and performed by Peter Mackenzie

SENIOR CENTRE

Feilding Little Theatre Players congratulates and wishes to welcome Members from the new club. Admission to the group is at the ticket price for Prince's War to Senior Centre.

Saturday 24 Sept Matinee 2pm & 7.30pm
Thursday 25 Sept 7.30pm
Saturday 1 Oct Matinee 2pm & 7.30pm

General admission \$20.00pp