

As it is too windy for windmills, electricity is oil generated and supplies can be erratic when the aging supply ship breaks down. The internet is via satellite so susceptible to weather. (Rocket Lab has helped by throwing up a satellite or two directly overhead.) If the weather is good and the internet connection speedy you can be sure the boat will be late so no oil and no power. To do training using computers over there you have to be adaptable, think on your feet and be 'chilled'!

Their collections include items and archives from-in order of arrival – Miheke Moriori, early European sealers and whalers, Taonga Maori, German missionaries, and European farmers. The photography collection holds over 2,100 images and archives documents, maps, newsletters and newspapers with all capturing a fascinating history of the Chatham Islands.



To learn more - <https://Chathamislandsmuseum.nz/>

**1971** The Chatham Islands Museum was established in one room of the Waitangi Store.

**1979** As the collections had grown, they moved to two rooms in the Council building.

**2010** The Chatham Islands Museum and Cultural Heritage Trust was formed enabling the museum to apply for funds to help conserve the collection and engage with other N.Z. museums. This is how Denise's flights are funded and allows her to assist with the database.

**2022** A new purpose built Chatham Islands Museum opened.

*Thanks to Denise Kenley for this insight into her knowledge sharing with the Chatham Islands Museum.*



## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

### THE LONG DAY OUT

**12th September, Hunter Room, CHM**

Smoko 10 am as usual

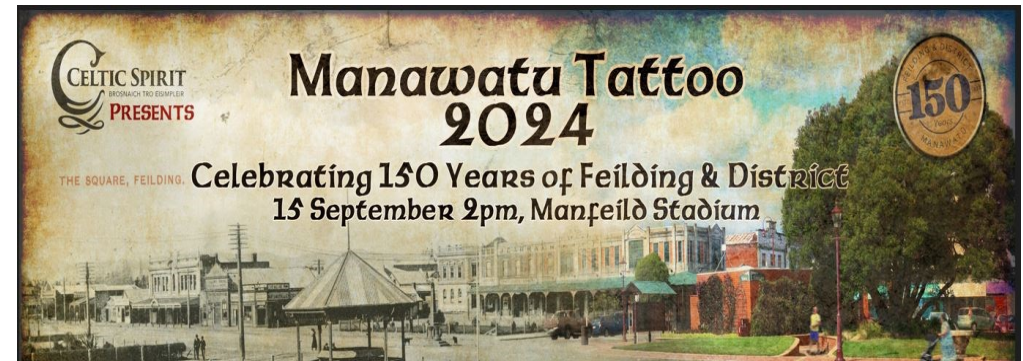
Lunch BYO or Dine out

Movies start at 1.30 pm

\$5 pp (CHM funds) Bring friends

**The Stroud Story**

**The Schnell Story**



**Additional night now Saturday 14 September, 7 pm**

**Sunday 15 September 2 pm almost fully booked.**

**Saturday night bookings include a contribution to CHM. All seats \$50.**

**The parade will include Kathy Cumming's Clydesdales pulling the Apiti –Feilding coach. Several interesting vehicles in parade. Guest artists include , Suzanne Prentice and Carl Doy.**

Excerpts from Charlotte Couchman's Voyage on 'The Arethusa' 1879 Many thanks to Diane Vincent. Charlotte was her great grandmother.

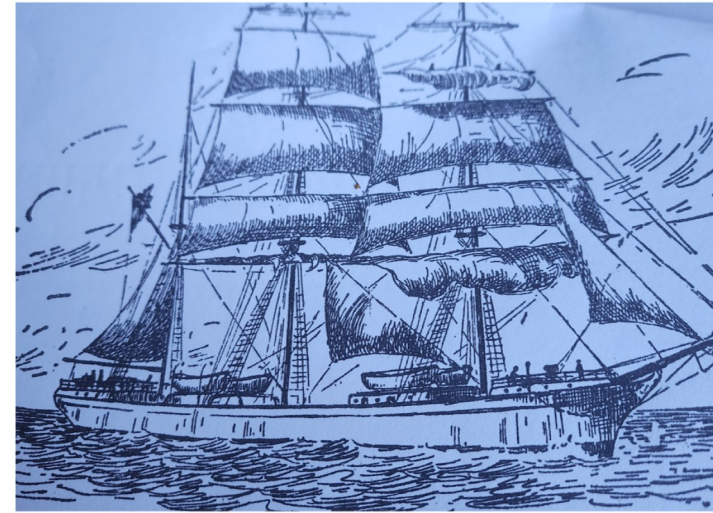
*'I am going to try and give you a little description of our voyage to New Zealand.'*

For three days the Couchman family were held 'prisoners' at the Depot in Plymouth with hundreds waiting to embark. They were not allowed out of the gates until Sunday when they went to church. Monday 2pm they were taken by steamer to the 'Arethusa'. 150 single girls, 100 single men and 100 married men with their wives and children. Each group settled into their specific areas aboard ship and could only meet together on deck— so all single women and single men were not expected to mingle.

***'...We are 20 miles from Plymouth. The tug is going to leave us. All sails are unfurled and we have begun our perilous journey all alone on the sea. We have passed the Ed-dystone light house—you remember reading of Grace Darling spending her life there. It is a lonely place, stands out in the sea by itself. We have everything for our comfort and convenience and as yet you would hardly tell you were away from land there is such a confusion with the crying of the children and the noise on deck with the sailors clearing the decks. 'Passengers followed 'Rules and Regulations laid out what work is to be done and the days to do it, so we find quite enough to do to pass the time away.'***

Rats provided entertainment as Charlotte's father discovered on his two hour watch duty from midnight each week. At least they provided some relief to those on watch not the distress Charlotte felt when she ***'laid in bed and felt something running over me and when I looked out from the clothes there was a great rat jumping one bunk to the other'...*** ***'what with the washing every week and the keeping our berths clean, and we fill up the time with needlework on deck. I bought myself a shut-up chair for 6d at Plymouth Depot, and I sit on the deck and quite enjoy myself while the men have their enjoyment in a pipe of tobacco at 2/- a pound.'***

Charlotte's diary in full would provide all the material needed to fill the Chronicle for at least a year or more so it is necessary to condense her very interesting account into short excerpts. Twelve members of the Couchman family travelled on this voyage.



Embarked from Plymouth, England on 1st September 1879. Arrived Wellington New Zealand December 9, 1879, Barque approximately 950 tons, Glasgow, Scotland. Sunk by a German submarine 1917. Sketched by A.H. Messenger, Wellington

## **FDCA ASSIST THE CHATHAM ISLANDS MUSEUM**

In 2016 a trustee of the Chatham Islands Museum came to Feilding seeking advice on a database for them and on going training in its use. Denise Kenley, our F.D.C.A. database administrator put her hand up to help with the Past Perfect programme and has already made her fifth training visit to the Islands—not because of the night life and Denise does not eat seafood.

The stability of staff over there is a real challenge. Many Chatham Islanders work a number of part time jobs (one lady working at the museum was also an ambulance driver and airport baggage handler.) Travelling a distance to a job over gravel roads can also be a deterrent for volunteers. Regular staff changes has meant yet another flight for Denise to train a new volunteer. Costs are high with airfares of \$1000 return funded by the Chatham Island Trust. Quoting Denise *'If your wallet grumbles in the local Woolworths store, it would screech in pain when shopping over there!'* She learnt an expensive lesson on her first visit and now most of her suitcase is filled with food using clothing as wrapping to prevent breakages.



**PTO**

**NOTICE JUST RECEIVED — BOYS AND THEIR TOYS EVENT IS BEING HELD SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2024.**