



Newsletter of The Coach House Museum

April 2025

In association with Feilding & Districts Community Archive

Beauty - A WW1 Horse Returned

Of the 10,000 horses that were sent overseas during WW1 only 4 returned. The plight of the horses was that they be disposed of at war end or left for local use. Of the 4 that returned Bess is best known with a memorial at Flock House near Bulls. Lesser known Beauty was returned to Westella Homestead at Aorangi. Captain Riddiford was a farmer from Masterton and wanted his horse returned to NZ so he paid for the cost of shipping from France to UK and the year long quarantine. **Continued on page 2**

ANZAC Day Service

Friday 25 April 2025

9.30am

Coach House Museum



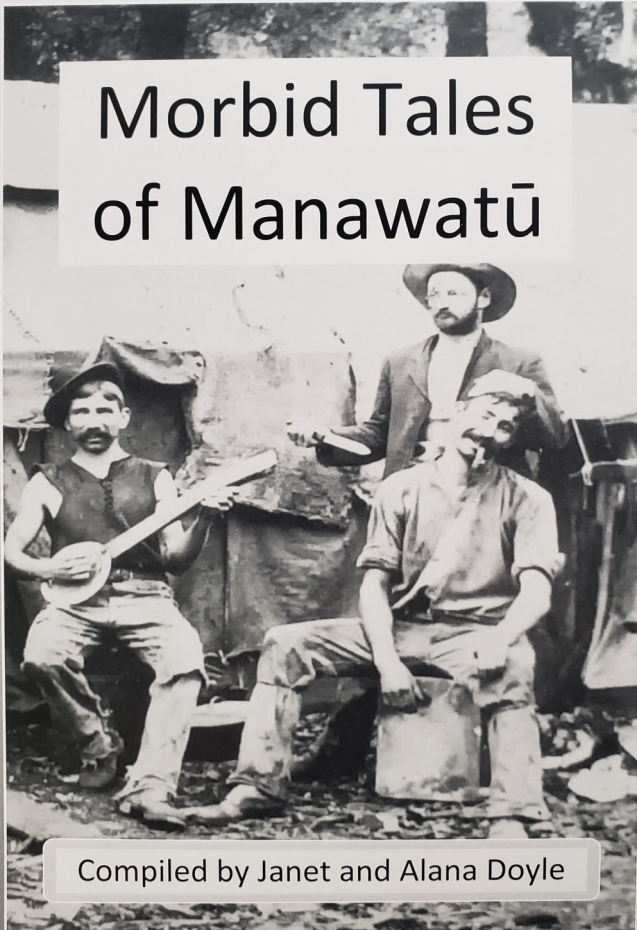
ANZAC DAY
Let's We Forget



Continued from page 1 Captain Riddiford served in France and Belgium for most of the war and was awarded the Military Cross and OBE. He survived the war but later died in Feb 1919 of Spanish Flu whilst Aide-de-Camp to Major General Sir Andrew Russell and is buried in Surrey UK. The four horses arrived back in NZ in July 1920. Beauty was returned to Captain Riddiford's sister, Nora Levin, at Westella Homestead, Aorangi where she was ridden for 4 years until old age took its toll. She was buried at Westella Homestead although exact location is unknown.

Recently a memorial was built at Westella Homestead and an ANZAC service was held there this year. This information is a synopsis taken from the book "Beauty A WW1 Horse Returned" recently donated to The Coach House Museum by Rodger McLeod and the management team at Westella.

Morbid Tales of Manawatū



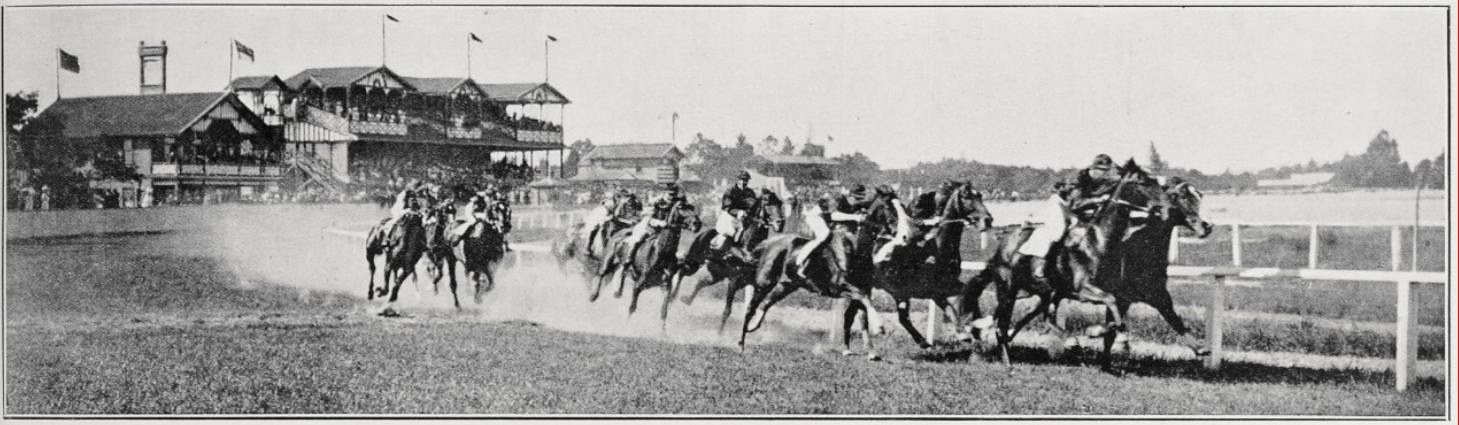
Compiled by Janet and Alana Doyle

New Book Release

Book One of the *Manawatu Little Histories* series compiled by Janet and Alana Doyle



Gumboot Parking?



FEILDING JOCKEY CLUB'S SPRING MEETING: A FINE FIELD IN THE RACE FOR THE WELTER HACK FLAT HANDICAP, DECEMBER 1, 1908.

J. R. Wail. Photo.

Barely five years after the settlers arrived in 1874, Frank Lethbridge had carved a racecourse out of the fertile land which became known as Lethbridge's Run. Frank Lethbridge was the Feilding Jockey Club's first President and also served as the judge. In the early days there were three clubs racing on Lethbridge's Run. However in 1880 the Feilding Jockey Club took over the Hunt Racing Club and Steeplechase Club. Frank Lethbridge continued as President on the Feilding Jockey Club until 1911.

Frank Yates Lethbridge (22 May 1852 – 26 January 1915) was an independent conservative Member of Parliament in New Zealand. He represented the Rangitikei electorate from 1896 to 1902, and then the Oroua electorate from 1902 to 1908, when he retired.

In 1890 the Feilding Jockey Club shifted from Lethbridge's Run to set-up a new racecourse, where the club raced for just over 100 years until 1999 when the decision was made to sell the racecourse to the Manawatu District Council and transfer the Club's racing operations to Awapuni. The Feilding Jockey Club land is now part of Manfield Park. Feilding Jockey Club's vision to realise their assets and invest the proceeds from the sale of the racecourse to underwrite the Club's racing activities at Awapuni has been hailed by industry leaders as one of the best decisions made by a New Zealand Racing Club in recent years.

In 1999 the Feilding Jockey Club had struggled to conduct three low-key midweek race meetings at their course. The Feilding Cup that year was run for just \$8,000. Today the \$50,000 Ricoh Feilding Gold Cup is a Listed Open Handicap race with the Club offering \$170,000 prizemoney on this day, which is more than they paid out for their three meetings in the 1998/1999 season. Source: Love Racing NZ

Coach House Museum
open day

\$10 Adult, \$5 Child
\$25 Family (2a+3c)



OLD SKILLS IN ACTION

Demonstrations
Entertainment
Activities & Games
Devonshire Teas

*Step back in time
with action packed
fun for the whole
family*

**Sunday
13 April 2025
10am - 4pm**

127 South Street FEILDING
06 323 6401
www.coachhousemuseum.nz



Cake Bake Competition

At the Coach House Museum's
Old Skills in Action Day - Sun 13 April 2025



**3 Categories - 1st Prize & Runner Up for
each category**

- **Cake Bake (All Ages)**
- **Sponge Bake (All Ages)**
- **Junior Cup Cake Decorating (up to 10 years)**

Entry Forms available from the Coach House. All entries to be
delivered by 12pm 13 April, Judging at 2pm



Sponsored & Judging by
Rosebowl Bakery



COACH HOUSE MUSEUM'S CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP



**BUILD YOUR
OWN BIRD
HOUSE**

Wednesday 23 April 25 \$6.00 PER CHILD

10.30 am - 12 noon
121 - 127 South Street
Feilding

Limited slots available
For ages 7 - 12 years



**PICK UP A REGISTRATION FORM
FROM THE COACH HOUSE**