



THE CHRONICLE

Coach House Museum

Newsletter of The Coach House Museum

July 2025

In association with Fgilding & Districts Community Archive

Temporary Exhibition Artist Jonny Kan

Jonny Kan is an artist living and working in Papaioea/ Palmerston North. He has been an award winner at the IHC art awards and has work in private collections around New Zealand. Jonny has had solo exhibitions at Thistle Hall (Wellington), Square Edge community arts in Palmerston North and at Snails Artist Run Space where he is embedded into a creative community and works as the Janitor. He has had work in group exhibitions at Square Edge Community Arts and Te Manawa.

This art exhibition is on now until mid August in the Theaterette.



Where did that saying come from? - Shake a leg

Having women aboard ship, often wives and girlfriends visiting while the ship was in home port, led to this phrase. When the petty officer's came through the compartments rousing the men in the morning, a women could avoid being dumped out of the hammock by "shaking a leg," showing that the occupant was female and not required to turn up for work.

So, who got to eat the fruit cake?

Mr E. H. Fisher owner of Fisher Print situated in MacArthur Street was a busy, busy man. As well as being secretary to the Manchester Rifles he was also involved in the Athletic Club and ran a printing business. And as secretary to the I A & P Association he organized the Feilding Show. This involved a wide range of letter writing topics such as booking special passenger trains from the railways to transit show visitors from Wanganui, Dannevirke, Foxton and Levin as well as Palmerston North.

These letters are included in a set of accounts, records and invoices that were stored up in the ceiling space of Fisher Print. They were found prior to the demolition of the building and donated to the Feilding and Districts Community Archive by John Darragh. Dusting off 100 year old records was a dirty task. The reward for the volunteers has been reading these interesting records that tell us much about Feilding one hundred years ago.

The following letters are a series of correspondence between Mr Fisher and Mrs Waring Taylor. Here is a sad tale that outlines a mystery. Was it ever solved? Who did get to eat that fruit cake?

 "Wyke", Shannon Feb 6th, Mr E H Fisher, Secretary, A & P Association, Feilding

Sir,

Would you be good enough to keep my fruit cake which I entered at your show until it is called for by Mrs Meyrick of Ridglands. I have written to her today asking her to call.

Yrs faithfully,

Mrs R. Waring Taylor


 "Wyke", Shannon, Feb 20th, The Secretary, A & P Association, Feilding

Sir,

Received notice from you on 7th instance that my fruit cake had been returned to me from your show. So far it has not arrived here and the station master says that it cannot have left Feilding as he had no advice about it.

Yrs faithfully,

Mrs R. Waring Taylor

 Feilding Industrial, Agricultural and Pastoral Association, P O Box 98, Telephone 46, Feilding
24/2/13

Mrs R. Waring Taylor, Shannon

Dear Madam,

In reply to your favour of February 20th. I beg to inform you that I have made enquiries from our carrier who states that he delivered the cake at the Railway Station addressed to you, and also from the Railway Station Officials who say that they did not receive the cake. I am making further enquiries and will advise you later.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

 "Wyke", Shannon, March 8th, The Secretary, A & P Association, Feilding

Sir,

I have had no further word from you to the loss of my Exhibit. I should be glad to hear if you have done anything more in the matter.

Yrs faithfully,

Mrs R. Waring Taylor



Memories of the days when glass bottles of milk were delivered to schools!

The first Labour government introduced the free milk in schools initiative in 1937 to improve the health and welfare of young New Zealanders following the Great Depression, and use up surplus milk. By 1940, the milk was available to more than 80% of pupils. The milk was mainly fresh pasteurised, with powdered or malted milk delivered to schools in the more remote areas, sometimes in milk churns. School milk monitors dished out half-pint (284ml) bottles of milk during morning class sessions. Despite the initiative being a world first, not everyone enjoyed it. Crates of milk were usually stored in a raised, small slatted shed, close to the school gates. The first milk bottles had cardboard tops with a small hole for a straw. Children used to use these cardboard tops to make pompoms. Later the tops were made of tinfoil. Often the milk was warm, and the taste and smell did not appeal to all children. Amid increased public doubt about the health benefits of milk, and financial pressure, the milk in schools scheme was dropped in 1967.

Although this was before my time, everyone who remembers the school milk of their youth, have a tale or two to tell. *This is a hint to a new exhibit having it's final touches before heading on display. I would love to hear your stories, please send them through and I may share them in the next Chronicle. ~ Piki ~*

Fonterra revived this initiative by introducing the 'Milk for Schools Programme' which started up in 2013, supplying free milk to every primary school child in NZ.



Auckland Weekly News 9/6/1937

W. J. Rogers and J. B. Cotterill drinking milk from bottles. *Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections*
AWNS-19370609-58-02

Money for old rope

This saying originates from the days of public hangings. It was a perquisite of the hangman to keep the rope used to hang his 'customer'. The rope, however, was popular with the macabre crowds, so the hangman used to cut the rope up and sell it.



Just think darling....one day, all of this will be yours!

Back in time

150 years ago John Jacob, widower, married Angelina Hicks, spinster, on 12 June 1875 in "House of Mr. John Jacob, Feilding".

Angelina and John were settlers selected for the Manchester Block by the Emigrant and Colonist's Aid Corporation.

Angelina arrived on the ship Carnatic into Picton on 10 January 1875, and John on 10 November 1874 on the Star of India into Wellington. The witnesses were Nancy Print and her son John Print, who also arrived on the Star of India.

Angelina Jacob is the woman doing the washing in the photo on the wall of CHM settlers area.



A 'new' wagon that was donated from Winston Pearce has been moved into the gallery.

Stuart Hogan and Rob Mitchell have replaced the deck and sides, and a splash of blue paint has made it all look rather spiffing indeed. There are so many restoration projects happening all of the time. Where would we be without our team of volunteers?!?