

# THE CHRONICLE

Coach House Museum

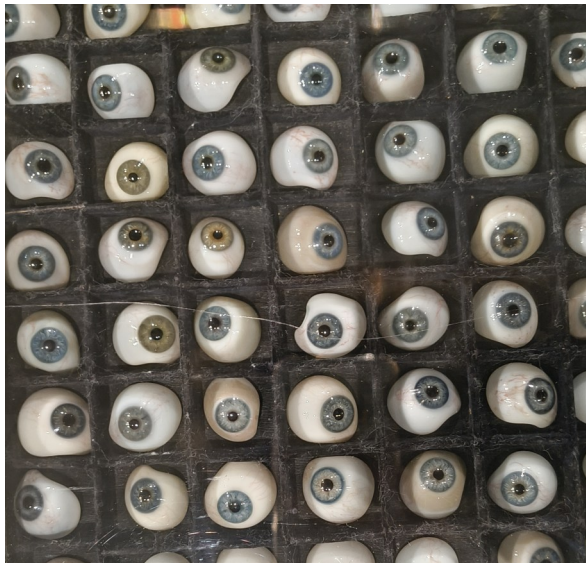
Newsletter of The Coach House Museum

June 2026

In association with Feilding & Districts Community Archive

## David Warnock Medical Museum Display

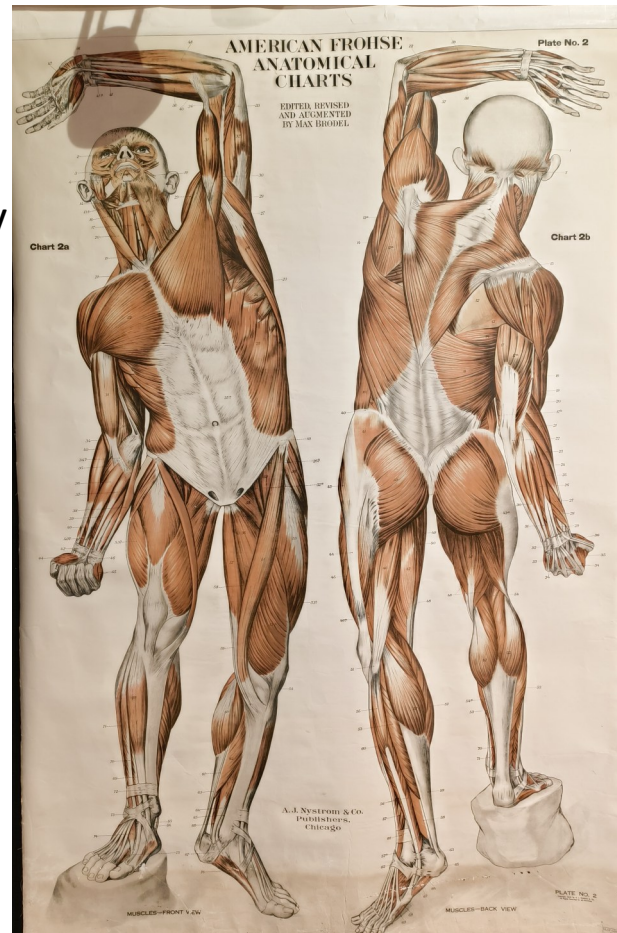
Currently on display until End of July is a fascinating collection put together by Volunteers from the David Warnock Museum. The museum's displays are currently in storage until they find a suitable location to re-open.



*Right: Anatomical Chart 1918-1969*

*Top Left: Glass Eyes (Left) circa 1920s Blown glass hand painted.*

*Bottom Left: Trephine  
This instrument was used in neurosurgery to create bur holes in the skull to access the brain.*



The museum was started by Dr David Warnock, the museum's first curator, and it opened its doors in 1980. Over the decades the museum has collected approximately 10,000 objects of medical history related to Palmerston North Hospital, the Manawatū region, and New Zealand. The purpose of the museum is to acquire, conserve, research and display the history of health and medicine for "the purposes of study, education and enjoyment...".

## Lady Dorothe Feilding, the first woman to win a military medal in the First World War 6 October 1889 – 24 October 1935

*Grand Neice of General William Henry Adelbert Feilding (1836–1895)*

Lady Dorothe Mary Evelyn Feilding-Moore, better known as Lady Feilding, was born in October 1889, the daughter of Rudolph Feilding, the ninth Earl of Denbigh and his wife, the Countess of Denbigh, Cecilia Mary Feilding.

She was brought up in Warwickshire where she was educated at the Convent of the Assumption in Paris, where she became fluent in French.

The young Lady Feilding made her royal debut at 18 in May 1908 when she was presented to the King and Queen by her mother.

When the First World War broke out in July 1914 she felt the need to play her part and decided to abandon her aristocratic background for a life as a volunteer.

Her siblings, Lady Clare, Lady Elizabeth and Lady Victoria all ended up serving as well, alongside her three brothers Major Rudolph Viscount Feilding, Captain Henry Feilding and Lieutenant-Commander Hugh Feilding.

Rudolph was the only Feilding brother to survive the war – the other two were killed in action.

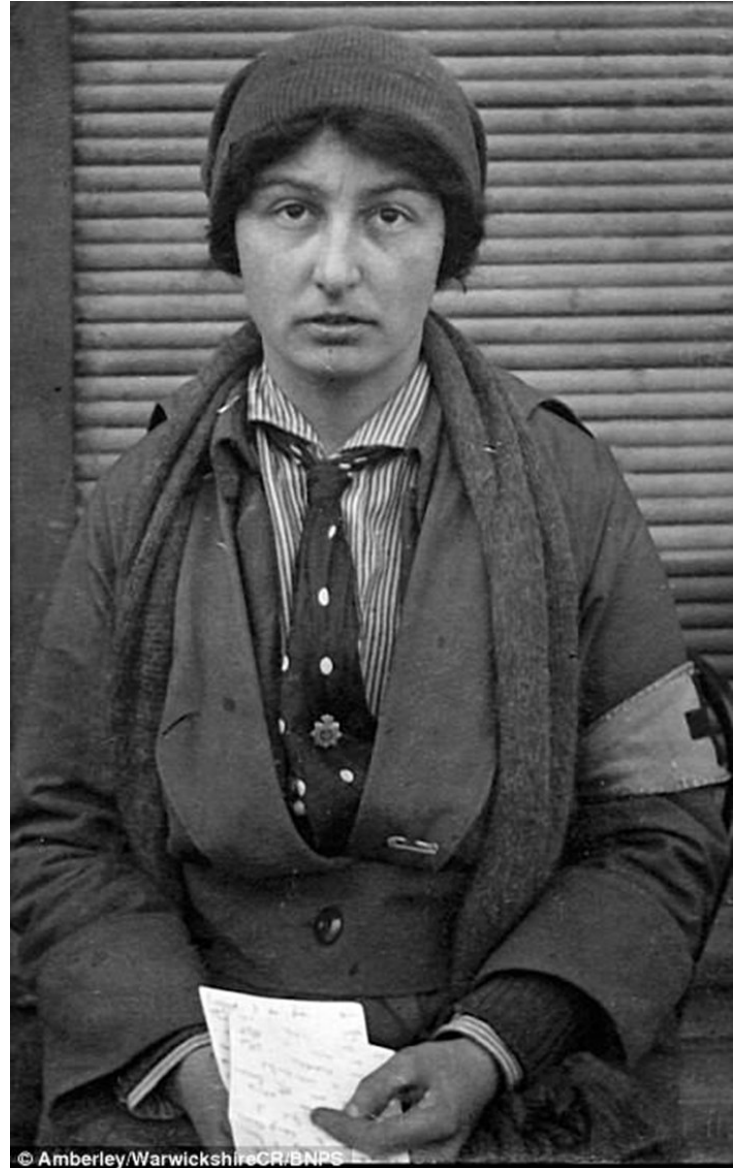
Desperate to do her bit, she trained for a short time at Rugby Hospital before travelling to Belgium's Western Front in October 1914.

There she joined the Munro Ambulance Corps where she drove wounded men from front line positions at Nieuport and Dixmude in Flanders to hospitals in Furnes.

Despite coming from the upper echelons of British society, Lady Feilding was known for her easy manner and being down to earth with servicemen and women.

Her tireless efforts saw her receive the military medal for bravery on 1 September 1916 – the first woman to be given such an accolade during the war. She was given the honour by King George V himself at Windsor.

Other accolades followed, including the Order of Leopold II, the Knights Cross and finally the French Croix de Guerre.



© Amberley/WarwickshireCR/BNPS

Credit: © Amberley/WarwickshireCR/BNPS

She served in Flanders until June 1917 when she came home for her wedding. In July 1917 she married Captain Charles Joseph Henry O'Hara Moore. After a very brief honeymoon period she was back behind the wheel of an ambulance, driving the wounded who had returned from fighting around London.

When the war ended in November 1918 the couple settled at Charles' family home in Mooresort House, Munster, Ireland.

They had four children together. Still keen to give something back, the heiress became an active member of the British Legion and the President of the Tipperary Jubilee Nursing Association. Before her death from heart failure in October 1935 aged just 46 she reflected on the horrors she had seen at war. She spoke of the difficulty women faced serving on the front line, having to contend with the gossip of others, while battling health risks and unwanted marriage proposals.

Lady Feilding-Moor was far from the only female ambulance driver in WWI, but her experience is one of the best documented because she was a prolific letter writer. You can read her letters in *Lady Under Fire on the Western Front: The Great War Letters of Lady Dorothe Feilding, MM*, by Andrew and Nicola Hallam.



Recently decorated with the Order of Leopold: Lady Dorothe Feilding, from 'The Illustrated War News', 1915 ([Wikipedia](#))

FEILDING IN LIGHTS

## Night at the Museum: Search of the Stars

Friday 3 July 5pm - 8pm

Grab your little torch and join us for a family fun night!

★ Search the gallery and find the stars.

★ Mini disco

★ Hot Chocolate

\$2 Child \$5 Adult

\$12 Family (2A+3C)

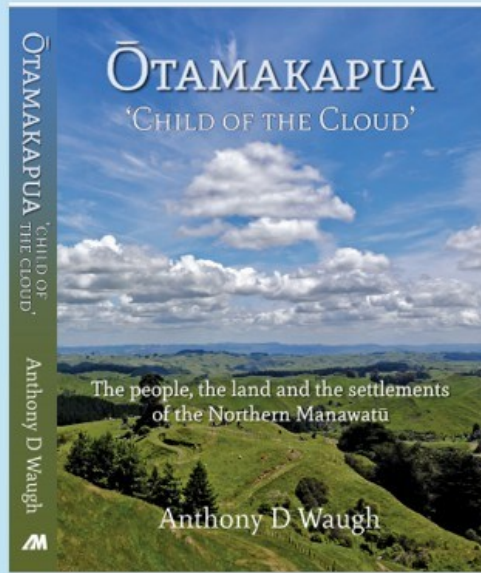
127 South Street, Feilding  
[www.coachhousemuseum.nz](http://www.coachhousemuseum.nz)



# ŌTAMAKAPUA

‘CHILD OF THE CLOUD

The people, the land and the settlements of the Northern Manawatū



## **BOOK LAUNCH**

**Thursday 11 June**

**11.30am**

**“It’s the story written by a Kimbolton local of the land we live on—who held it, how it was settled, and how that history still shapes the Manawatū district today”.**

Thursday 11 June, 11:30am

Coach House Museum Feilding

Enquiries: [tony.waugh@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:tony.waugh@slingshot.co.nz)



**“One photograph from 1900s New Zealand stunned the world — two children whose size defied explanation.”**

In the early 1900s, in the small town of Foxton, New Zealand, a single photograph captured the world’s imagination. It showed two siblings — Ruby and Wilfred Westwood — whose size seemed almost beyond belief. At just seven years old, Ruby weighed close to 100 kilograms. Her little brother, Wilfred, only three, weighed over 50 kilograms. Their parents and siblings were of average build, leaving neighbors and doctors puzzled by the mystery. Their father, Thomas Westwood, both proud and practical, took them on tour across New Zealand and Australia. Posters proclaimed Ruby as “The Largest Girl in the World,” while Wilfred was billed as her “older brother.” Crowds gathered in amazement, newspapers told their story — and childhood turned into spectacle. Yet behind the headlines,

they were simply children — bright, curious, and kind. Doctors found no illness, no cause, only questions. Eventually, the spotlight faded. The family returned home, and Thomas Westwood later served as mayor of Foxton, while Ruby and Wilfred grew into quiet lives far from fame.

Today, only that photograph remains — a haunting window into a moment when wonder met innocence, and the world couldn’t look away.

*Weird Wonders and Facts*