

THE CHRONICLE

Coach House Museum

Newsletter of The Coach House Museum

October 2025

In association with Feilding & Districts Community Archive

We have a new addition to the courtyard, - the Lavatory aka; dunny, loo, outhouse, bog, toilet, privy and many more names I expect. The signs look great and encourages our visitors to have a look.



Separate schools

Before primary schooling was free for everyone, the Native Schools system provided schools for Māori children, usually in remote communities. Parents asked for a school, and helped subsidise the teacher's salary. By 1874 there were 64 such schools. After 1877, Māori children could also attend state schools. But the separate system for Māori continued until the 1960s.

Excerpts from **DIARY OF CHARLOTTE COUCHMAN ABORD THE 'ARATHUSA'**

OCTOBER 21ST TO 27TH 1879

Tuesday 21st. The storm still rages fearfully. Oh God, protect us from the dangers of the sea! We have another woman confined today with twin girls. I don't think they will live, they are so small – like dolls. The sea still rages. Sometimes I think we shall never live to send this diary to you, but we shall all go together if we go down. The wind is ripping our sails asunder and carrying them away. The chains are beating against the side of the ship and all is confusion. We cannot stand without holding on to something firm. There is no music or dancing on the deck. None but our good ship dancing on the water 12 miles an hour. I am thankful to say father is better. The rest of us are all well. We are getting quite thin and weak for we have only tea and coffee to drink and a very limited supply of that and cold water, the rest of the day.

Saturday Oct 25th. The sea still continues very high. It beats up mountains high. I never saw such a sea before. It is a grand sight – there is a quantity of birds flying over us now. That is all the company we have got - there is some fine large albatross and Cape Pigeons and sea fowls – our Captain has been trying to catch some. Thank God another week has passed. We have had three days and three nights rocking about. We could not keep anything on our shelves or tables and hardly lay in our bunks. One night we could not sleep the noise was something awful. I thought every moment we should go down to the bottom. I have not been on deck for a week till today and now I have paid a visit to Jane and the boys at their end of the ship. I am thankful to say they are all quite well. We had another death today. A boy 16 months old - poor little thing had consumption of the bowels. Another dinner for the sharks! I should like to have a nice dinner of fresh meat and vegetables like we have been used to. This is something dreadful. We cannot eat the salt beef – and not much pork. It is tainted. Well, we have preserved potatoes. They are sickly and our bread we have new every day. The flour is musty. Then we have plenty of rice but no milk, for our tins are all empty. I shall be glad when this journey is over.

Father seems to keep all right. He has no beer but plenty of tobacco. We buy that at 2s6d. a pound so he has plenty of that.

Sunday. I have just had Fred, John and Horace to visit us and made them a cup of tea and a cake between them. Now they are gone to see Jane as they meet for two hours on Sundays – on the poop. Jane is always pleased to see any of us.

Monday Oct 27th. Bitterly cold. We are glad to keep below and are almost perished. Another poor baby died this evening at 5 o'clock while we sat at tea and buried at 9. It does seem so sad to see the poor little things sewn up directly and buried in the sea.

Feilding's First Midwife

Among the treasures held at the Feilding & Districts Community Archive is a small, hard-covered book entitled "Register of births attended by Mrs Foster, midwife, Feilding". Sarah Foster recorded the births she attended in Feilding from when her family first arrived in the town in 1874. Mrs Foster, her husband Thomas W. K. Foster and their eight children, came to New Zealand on the La Hogue.

Boarding ship in London on February 17, they sailed to New Zealand to join the Manchester block settlement. A copy of the passenger contract ticket states Thomas was 38 and his wife 36. Their children

| Name of Mother | Date when born | Sex | Name of Mother | Date when born | Sex |
|----------------|----------------|-----|-----------------|----------------|-----|
| Mrs Boshier | Oct 1874 | M | Mrs Boshier | 16 Oct 1876 | M |
| " Wathulby | Nov 1875 | F | " Brochnell | 1876 | F |
| " Crook (4) | | F | " J. Jones | 5 April 1877 | F |
| " Wallis (3) | | F | " J. Park | 17 " " | F |
| " Noble | 1875 | F | " A. Mitchell | 24 " " | F |
| " Humphreys | 1875 | M | " John Jeffries | 14 July " | M |
| " H. Lucas | " | M | " J. H. Taylor | 26 " " | M |
| " J. Curtis | " | M | " H. Baker | 10 Aug " | M |
| " John Baker | " | F | " B. Wallis | 29 Sept " | M |
| " Rogers | " | M | " J. Wright | 2 Oct " | M |
| " J. Knight | " | F | " J. Mohr | 17 " " | F |
| " R. T. T. T. | 28 Dec 1875 | M | " R. G. G. | 12 " 1877 | F |
| " Wathulby | 14 July 1876 | M | " H. G. G. | 1877 | F |
| " Noble | 10 " " | M | " R. G. G. | 9 Feb 1878 | F |
| " Mow | 10 Aug " | F | " Spencer | 3 Sept " | F |
| " J. Ball | 2 Oct " | F | " W. Baker | 6 Sept 1878 | F |
| " H. Ball | 11 Sept " | M | " John Young | 14 Sept " | F |
| " H. G. G. | 22 July 1876 | F | " H. Wathulby | 16 " " | M |
| " H. G. G. | 22 July 1876 | F | | | |

were aged from one year to 15 years old. They were assisted passengers, with the New Zealand government paying the £108.15d fare for the family of 10.

Her diary lists the children born when she attended the birth. The first is for Mrs Boshier in October 1874 when she had a son. The last recording is in 1906 when Sarah, in her late sixties, assisted Mrs Candish with the arrival of her son. In the late 1890s and early 1900s there are quite a few Foster births.

Feilding & Districts Community Archive

October 22, 1967 – Denis Hulme became the only New Zealander to win the world Formula One motor racing drivers' championship when he finished third in the Mexican Grand Prix in a Brabham-Repco. Hulme won the title with 51 points, three ahead of his team-mate and boss, Jack Brabham of Australia. Jim Clark of Scotland won the race, with Brabham second. Hulme had previously won the Monaco and German grands prix and finished in points-scoring positions in the



Netherlands, France, Britain, Canada and the United States. Chris Amon, driving a Ferrari, retired with a lap to go in Mexico while in second place. He finished fourth in the world championship.

COME AND ENJOY THE SCREAM

HALLOWEEN NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

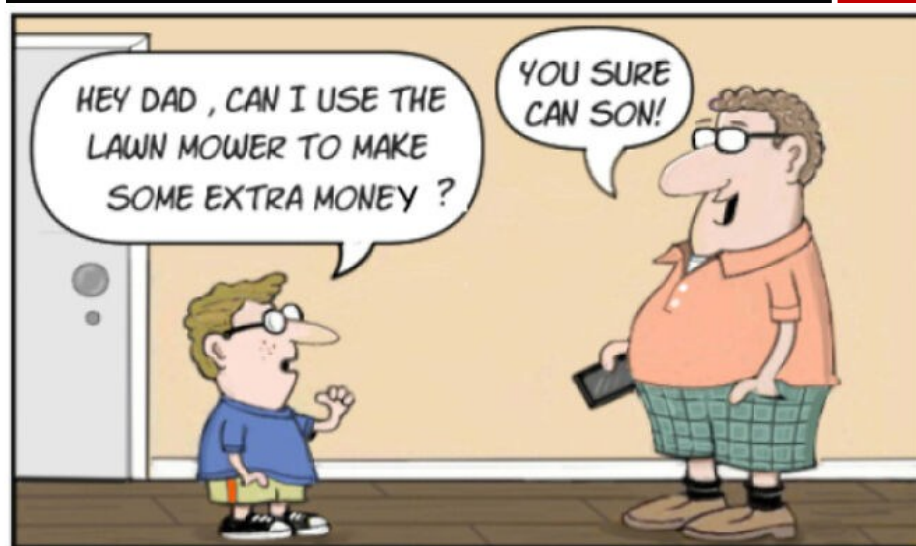
FRIDAY OCTOBER 31ST

COACH HOUSE MUSEUM
127 SOUTH STREET, FEILDING

DOOR OPENS AT 7PM | TILL 9PM

\$10 ADMISSION | R13

We are trying a new fundraising event encouraging people to pay us so they can walk through the museum in the dark. We will then scare the screams out of them. Sounds like a fair deal I think and a lot of fun. We will have spooky volunteers ready and waiting in the dark corners, the mannequins and baby dolls will do what they do best and freak people out. We are also opening the school house for trick or treating a bit earlier in the evening for the younger people. If you would like to help out, please let me know. It should be a good night and hopefully really busy. *We would also gladly accept any donations of wrapped lollies for the trick or treaters.*



‘Nice’

Teachers in English speaking countries often despair at the overuse of the adjective “nice” in their students’ writing. And it turns out they now have even more reason to ban the word from the classroom – the term was originally a negative one, meaning “ignorant” or “foolish”.

Coming up in October

Fri 3rd | Rural Day | CBD

Sat 4th | ATC Market | CBD Square

Fri 10th | Craft Market | Manfeild

Sat 18 | Repair Café | Senior Hub

Fri 31st | Halloween at the Museum