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Newsletter No: 139

Dear Museum Friends and Members,

2022. I just had to write that to remind myself because the years seem to be just rolling into each other, with not much to distinguish one from the last. When will it end? is a question I keep hearing. Well we are not in the business of predicting the future but it got me thinking about what we can learn from the past. So into the archives I went to learn more about past outbreaks and epidemics experienced in Kaikoura. A fascinating exercise that distracted me for way too long! I have gathered some interesting articles relating to smallpox, typhoid, and influenza, all of which had significant impacts on Kaikoura. It's all there: An amazing response from Kaikoura hospital, vaccine certificates for travel, isolation wards, people selling some dubious remedies, and much rumour and speculation. Nevertheless, and most importantly, we got through them all.

Read on to the end for our ever-popular historical segment.

### Museum News

It has been another quiet year as far as events and visitor activity, but we have kept ourselves very busy doing the work we are here for; collecting and caring for Kaikoura's history. With that in mind Te Ahwina, our Curator, has a request...

"Just one moment caller..."

I wouldn't normally suggest this but 'Google telephone collections images' see what pops up. You will most likely notice an image of Kaikoura Museum's 1866-1985 telephone collection. A collection created mostly by Kaikoura Post Office Lines Technician Gavin Mason. What makes this collection significant is that we know who the donor is, that this collection originates or its providence is Kaikoura and they are all in relatively good shape. Because telephone technology is constantly changing we are now looking to strengthen our collection particularly Mobile phones from 1980 – 2000 that includes telephone mobile bricks and examples of Motorola, Nokia, Alcatel, LG, Blackberry, Siemens, Sony Ericsson, Apple iPhone and Kyocera. We are also trying to locate any novelty phones from that period too. If you have a mobile or an unusual phone that would fit into our collection please contact Te Awhina at

kkmuseum.curator@gmail.com or phone 03 319 7440.



A1986-161

*Above - Gavin Mason caught in action crossing the Kowhai river on a make shift flying fox with materials for repairs during the 1953 Kaikoura Floods.*

### Fundraising

Can't have a newsletter without a mention of our constant quest for funds to help keep our wonderful museum going! Our usual Easter and Xmas raffles were not able to go ahead again last year but we did have another successful plant sale in spring. Thanks to our green-fingered supporters who stunned us once more with their generosity and growing skills. We'll be back again in October and it is never too early to start propagating, transplanting and poring over seed catalogues.

There are of course other ways you can support us such as becoming a member (just complete the enclosed form and drop it off to us), encouraging out of town family and friends to visit us or by purchasing something from our shop. You can do this either in person or online at [www.kaikoura-museum.co.nz/shop](http://www.kaikoura-museum.co.nz/shop)

Our latest addition is a features the classic Kaikoura Creamery Butter graphic printed onto high quality 100% cotton tea towels. These are generously sized, wash up beautifully and do a brilliant lint free job of drying dishes. You could also just hang one on the wall for a cool addition to your home décor or buy them as gifts.



### New to the Collection:

We had a number of significant additions to the collection this year; here are a couple of them:



Above: Peter Fey installing the Peerless Magnarc film projector from the Mayfair Theatre. C1948



Above: ANZAC Poppy bowl with Pounamu also known as Mauri Stone (Spirit). Made and donated by Jimmy Gordon who has made them for each RSA in New Zealand as a gift to fallen soldiers.

This one is No 138 of 210 in the Collection

### Poetry Competition

Doing things differently has become a habit now, and so it was with our latest Poetry competition. We teamed up with Te Ha o Maturanga and KDC Library to promote this over the holidays and the result was some fantastic entries on the theme of 'Change'.

You can view video clips of the finalists on our Facebook page: @kaikouramuseum. All of the entries will be included in a book to be published by the library team later in the year.

Here is the winning poem:



**Historical Outbreaks**

In the early days of Kaikoura Hospital, built in 1912, it had to deal with a number of outbreaks including typhoid in 1914 and diphtheria in 1919. These compelled the building of a four bed isolation ward in 1919 to manage future outbreaks. These included a serious typhoid outbreak in 1947 which saw 88 reported cases and led to three fatalities. A lab was set up by the Health Department at the Hospital to test local cases and try to get to the bottom of the source of the outbreak. While never confirmed by the authorities speculations included spoilt shellfish and infected milk. It was considered that the most likely cause was a contaminated town water supply.



A1998-25-04 The isolation ward at Kaikoura Hospital



A1998-25-11 The Kaikoura Hospital typhoid nurses 1947

*Kaikoura Star, October 30, 1947*

**Hospital Visiting Prohibited**

It is advised by the Kaikoura Hospital that relatives and friends will not be permitted to visit typhoid patients unless deemed advisable by the authorities.

*Kaikoura Star, December 1, 1947*

**Typhoid Fever – Strict precautions still required**

Although patients who have suffered from typhoid are being discharged from hospital and residents may be inclined to relax, there is still the greatest need for strict precautionary measures issued by the authorities when the epidemic broke out, stated Dr. R.L. Withers last evening. As there is always a possibility of cross-infection, Dr. Withers advises if anyone has a fever or who feels sick to immediately report for examination.

*Kaikoura Star, August 1916*

**There is Only One**

SANDER'S EXTRACT, and that is why the people insist on getting it, and why they reject the many inferior substitutes and the cheap and frequently harmful "just as good." The GENUINE SANDER'S EXTRACT is free from the objectionable qualities of the common Eucalyptus Oils and so-called "extracts." SANDER'S EXTRACT is a most powerful antiseptic and healing remedy that can be used with safety; it prevents and cures all infectious diseases, infectious diseases, influenza, colds, fevers, smallpox, diphtheria, flatulence, dyspepsia, diarrhoea, dysentery, and kidney troubles. SANDER'S EXTRACT applied to ulcers, burns, sprains, cuts, inflamed skin etc; gives immediate relief and cures permanently. Three drops in a teaspoon of Cod Liver Oil is a specific for all chronic lung affections; rheumatism and neuralgia are quickly dispelled. Reliability, effectiveness, and safety are the great attributes of SANDER'S EXTRACT.

*Kaikoura Star  
November 25, 1948*

ISSUED BY THE DEPT. OF HEALTH

WARNING!

**POLIO**

**Colds – Influenza –  
Chronic Catarrh –  
Removal of Tonsils –  
Teeth Extractions –**

All these damage the mucous membranes of the throat and lower bodily resistance.

While Poliomyelitis is about, put off teeth extractions and tonsil operations unless unavoidable. Keep away from people who have colds or influenza.

Should you catch a cold or 'flu—

*Stay in Bed  
until you're well!*

*Kaikoura Star  
February 13, 1928*

**THE PEOPLE'S PICTURES.**  
**THE PEOPLE'S PICTURES.**

**TO-NIGHT.**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

FIRST NATIONAL PICTURES  
Present

SEVEN DAYS  
SEVEN DAYS  
SEVEN DAYS

Featuring  
LILIAN RICH.

**THE COP CATCHES THE BURGLAR.**  
Smallpox catches the Cop; the whole Party catches Smallpox; the Aunt catches the Whole Spirit of the Laughable Situation, and "Seven Days" catches the Party; the Audience catches the Country by Storm.

Supports—  
COMEDY.  
GAZETTE.

*Kaikoura Star (Smallpox)  
July 3, 1894*

**Public Vaccination.**

DR FRASER will vaccinate on Tuesdays, from 2 to 3 p.m at his surgery, corner of Beach and Hawthorne's roads.  
J R FRASER,  
Public Vaccinator.

*Kaikoura Star, November 9, 1936*

**N.Z. AIRMAN AT DARWIN  
MR CLARK TO FLY TASMAN  
WHEN WEATHER PERMITS**

**DARWIN, November 5**

The New Zealand “flying farmer”, Mr Ernie Clark, unexpectedly arrived at Darwin aerodrome at 11 a.m. (local time), after a 10 days’ flight from London.

Mr Clark declined to be vaccinated by the local quarantine officer, and his application for a dispensation has been telegraphed to Canberra for consideration. He is anxious to leave Darwin for the south as early as possible.

Mr Clark also announced his intention of flying the Tasman from Sydney to New Zealand as soon as the weather permitted.

A Canberra message says that Dr. Earle Page, Minister for Commerce, stated in the House of Representatives this afternoon that the Commonwealth Government had no option but to insist on Mr Clark’s vaccination against smallpox, since he had touched several Eastern cities and villages. The Government was taking the utmost precautions since the development of overseas aviation. Mr Clark’s alternative was to remain in quarantine for the statutory period at Darwin.

*Kaikoura Star, May 8, 1950*

**HOME HEALTH GUIDE  
HEALTH AND OVERSEAS TRAVEL**

(By the Department of Health)

Up in the air things move quickly. Every time an aeroplane travels from one country to another there is a chance of insects and even bacteria of various sorts travelling too. As far as the bacteria is concerned, if carried in the body of a passenger they are likely to be landed in the country of destination before the person concerned knows that he has a disease.

On the international scale the problem has been largely solved by the Sanitary Convention for Civil Aviation, to which New Zealand and a number of other countries are parties. Under this, certain diseases – smallpox, plague, cholera, typhus, and yellow fever – are considered safely in the background if certificates of vaccination and inoculation accordingly have been issued. These are obtainable in the signatory countries before outgoing passengers can depart and possession of the certificates cancel the possibility of quarantine.

In matters like this, there is always a chance of fraudulent certificates being sought, so most countries require the certificate to be signed or counter signed and officially stamped by a properly authorised public health officer. In New Zealand certain medical practitioners throughout the country have been appointed as public vaccinators. They are authorised to sign the certificates giving air travellers a clearance wherever they go.

*Kaikoura Star December 11, 1947*

**TYPHOID FEVER EPIDEMIC**

(To the Editor)

Sir, - Would you please print the following letter in your paper. I write it as an appeal to the people of Kaikoura to demand some action on the part of those in authority to combat the menace of further outbreaks of the typhoid fever epidemic with which we are still faced.

Now, sir, three months have passed since typhoid fever broke out in Kaikoura, and up to the time of my writing we have waited in vain for some information as to what steps, if any, the authorities are taking or going to take to minimise the risk of further outbreaks.

We can see about us the same set of circumstances existing – and, worse still, being permitted to exist – which may have allowed this dreadful disease to gain such a hold on our population: (1) The dumping of garbage in the Lyell creek; (2) milk still being delivered in an open cart on dusty roads; (3) rubbish being collected and dumped from containers into an open dray, which means stirring up the very bottom of rotting garbage and this is done on our main streets during the heat of the day.

Then, sir, we have coming back amongst us all the unfortunate people who fell victims to this dreadful disease. They will be potential carriers, and some will be users of a sewerage system that flows into a creek which at high tide is practically non-flowing.

I have presented a somewhat grim picture, but then typhoid fever is a grim business, for at the time of writing this three of our loved citizens have been claimed by this dreadful disease. – Yours, etc; NORMAN GRAY

[When this letter was referred to the County chairman (Mr H. J. Hewson) he had no comment to make.

The letter was also referred to Dr. J. H. Blakelock, medical officer of health for Canterbury, who, in reply to the latter portion of the letter stated: “Your correspondent and the public of Kaikoura can rest assured that a full bacteriological investigation is made to make quite certain that patients discharged are not infected. Only when a succession of tests have all proved negative are patients discharged”.]