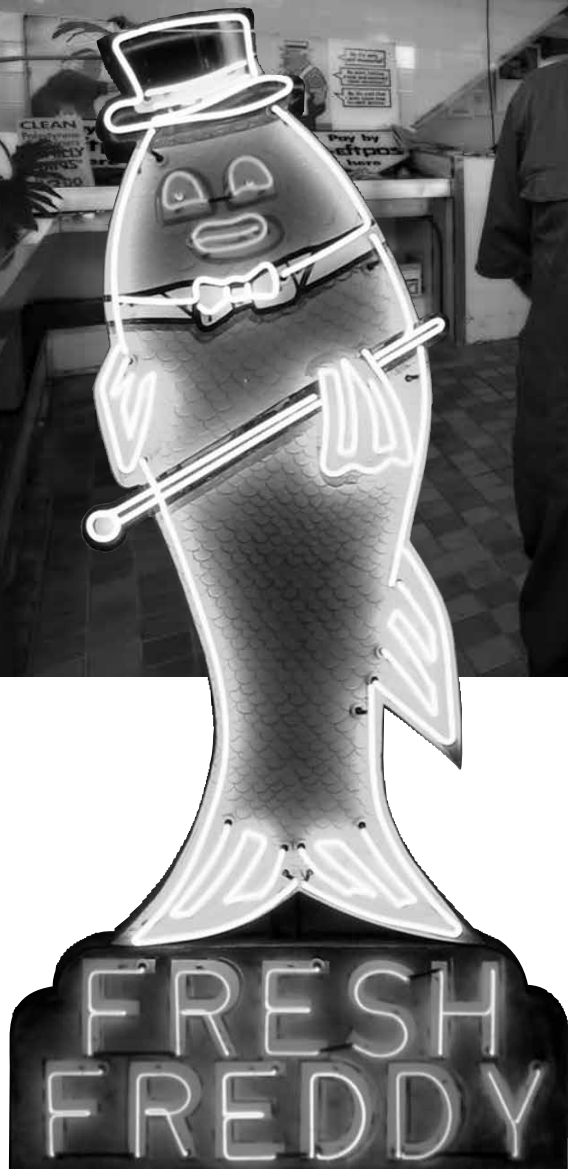




A CITY OF SHOPKEEPERS



Small shops and their shopkeepers are often taken for granted until they shut up shop. Against the backdrop of the increasing globalisation of the retail business, many small shops have been driven out by cheap imports and 'big-box' retailers. Shops have been called the mortar that holds society together, and Chris Gable has sought to document a wide range of small Dunedin shops and their shopkeepers. His new exhibition *Shopkeeping* is a social documentary that combines photographs with recorded interviews, which can be listened to in the gallery. About 75 shops were photographed in the course of a year, and of these about a sixth have shut in the past two years. Chris's images and recordings have been archived at the Hocken Library, where it is hoped their documentary value will appreciate over the years. The project was supported by Creative New Zealand, in particular by a Creative Communities grant provided through the Dunedin City Council.

Bill O'Brien, Fresh Freddy's, 2006, photographed by Chris Gable.
The Fresh Freddy neon sign also on display in the *Shopkeeping* exhibition – Otago Settlers Museum collection.



The interviews ask how the subjects became shopkeepers, and the answers are varied. For some, it was a matter of happenstance, a straightforward business opportunity and a clinical business decision. For others, they were drawn to the objects they sell; while several had followed in the family business, such as Neville Eskrick of Fred Eskrick Butchers in the North East Valley.

The images selected for the exhibition include outfitters, watchmakers, dairies, takeaways, booksellers, hairdressers, shoe shops, a tattoo parlour, a carpet seller's, a music shop and a gun shop. Five of the 42 shops shown have now shut, including a doll shop (Jan McLean's) and a fishmonger's (Fresh Freddy's). The freshly restored neon sign showing Freddy himself with his cane, dressed in top hat, white tie and (fish) tail, is in the exhibition. All the neon tubes apart from the second 'D' in 'Freddy' have had to be reproduced. Another neon sign from the 1960s is in the exhibition, the well-dressed pig in a morning suit and topper from Barton's Butchery, formerly on the corner of Manse and Stafford Streets.

Chris Gable grew up in Dunedin and worked overseas for more than ten years as a travel photographer, partly in Africa. On returning to Dunedin he worked on natural history documentary films for Natural History NZ. For the past four years, he has taught photography at the Aoraki Polytechnic's Dunedin campus. His experience with documentary productions has influenced his choice of subjects and interest in recording people's stories in addition to the images.

Chris looks for subjects that are unlikely otherwise to be recorded. His recent projects also deal with social change, and include documenting the Dunedin Prison and the Burnside Freezing Works. In October this year, he recorded the last service to be held at the Wakouaiti Presbyterian Church, built in 1913, before its planned demolition.

Opening the exhibition, the Mayor of Dunedin Peter Chin said 'it's brilliant ... it is a whole new way of recording what Dunedin is about.' He recalled how many shops and streets had changed over the years – the Chinese laundries and fruiterers in the George Street of the 1940s and 1950s were still clear in his mind's eye. Yet they had gone unrecorded, and he hoped there would be more such projects as this one in the future to record the retail landscape and personalities of Dunedin for posterity.

Shopkeeping: A View on Dunedin Retailers by Chris Gable runs until 15 February 2009



CONRAD AND CAMERON

Two Captains of the *Otago*



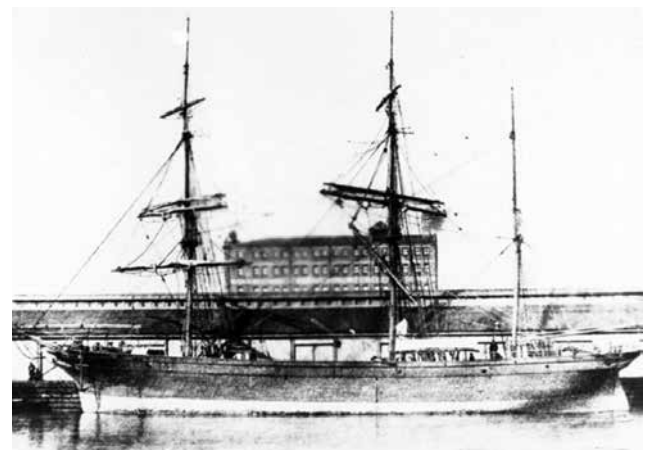
Joseph Conrad is regarded as one of the greatest novelists in the English language. Yet he was Polish, born Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski in Berdyczów in the Russian Empire, now in the Ukraine, in 1857. Conrad left at sixteen to become a sailor, first on French and then on British merchant ships. One of his inspirations was the famous English navigator, Captain James Cook, revered for his great voyages of discovery in the 1760s and 1770s. Cook had been accompanied by the naturalists Johann Reinhold and Georg Adam Forster on his second expedition to the Pacific in 1772-75. They came from Polish Prussia, near Danzig (now Gdansk). A century later, in 1888, Joseph Conrad delighted in following in Cook's wake as he sailed the *Otago* from Australia to Mauritius through Torres Strait. Years later he wrote of his delight at the memory of emulating his boyhood idol. He also based his 1917 novel *The Shadow-Line* on his experience as captain of the *Otago*. This voyage was the highpoint of Conrad's maritime career, his first and only command.

The *Otago* was a magnificent sailing ship, a barque originally designed by Captain Angus Cameron of Port Chalmers and built for him in Glasgow in 1869. Cameron then sailed the vessel around the world on a year-long voyage that showed the ship's excellent sailing qualities. It was so impressive that Cameron soon received an offer to buy the ship from a consortium of South Australian merchants. He was a reluctant seller and so named a price that he thought would be too high. When they accepted his offer he felt that he had no choice but to sell. Thus the *Otago* passed out of Cameron's ownership within a couple of years of its construction and after only two voyages to New Zealand (both to Port Chalmers). Seventeen years later her command would be offered to Conrad, and through him the ship would be immortalised in English literature. Yet if Conrad became more famous as a writer, Cameron was equally outstanding as a mariner. He is often credited as being one of the best captains in the South Pacific in the late nineteenth century.

Though Conrad never visited New Zealand, his association with the *Otago* offers an intriguing connection with our province. Accordingly, from 8 to 30 November, the Museum hosted a Polish government-sponsored exhibition *Twixt Land & Sea*, which commemorated the 150th anniversary of Conrad's birth

in 1857. It was supplemented with locally sourced items, connected either with the ship or with Conrad the writer. They included surviving relics of the *Otago* from the Port Chalmers Museum; Cameron's plan, specifications and photographs of the ship from the Hocken Library; and copies of Conrad's books, including first editions from the Dunedin Public Library and the University of Otago Library. The exhibition came to Dunedin with the support of the Polish government and through the initiative of the Polish Heritage Trust of Otago and Southland (POHOS). Its brief showing at the Museum also marked the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Trust, one of the southern region's most active heritage groups.

Congratulations / Gratulacje POHOS!



Top left: Joseph Conrad in 1920 from the *Twixt Land & Sea* exhibition; Top right: Captain Angus Cameron – Otago Settlers Museum collection
The barque *Otago* from the *Twixt Land & Sea* exhibition

OSM Annual Report

To the Otago Settlers Association 2008



Exhibitions

Four new temporary exhibitions opened in the Hudson Gallery during the year. These were *Be Prepared: 100 Years of the Scout Movement*; *History Unfurled* from the Pataka Museum, Porirua; *Let the Good Times Roll: Dunedin in the 1950s*; and *Fabulous Frocks II: More Glorious Gowns from the Otago Settlers Museum Collection 1900–1950*.

Erin Go Bragh: the Irish in Otago and Southland was the latest exhibition in the *Ka Hau e Wha* People of the Four Winds gallery.

Two smaller temporary exhibitions – *Open Wide: The Dunedin Dental Connection* and *To Fame Undying: The Otago Early Settlers Association 1898-1908* – were presented in the Art Deco Foyer of the Bus Station and the Smith Gallery respectively. Each marked the centenary of a notable Dunedin institution – the former the Dunedin Dental School in 1907 and the latter the opening of this Museum in its current building in 1908.

At World's End: Polish Emigration to New Zealand continued its tour of Poland. This was based on two Otago Settlers Museum exhibitions, *Southern Poles: Otago's Polish Heritage 1872-2006* and *From Poland to Pahiataua: Remembering the Refugee Children of 1944*. After having opened at the *Lazienki Królewskie* Museum in Warsaw in April 2007 it travelled on to various museums and universities in Starogard Gdanski, Gdansk, Kraków and Lublin up until March 2008. Mr Philip Griffiths, the New Zealand Ambassador to Poland was the honorary patron and opened the exhibition at each of these venues.

The opening of *Fabulous Frocks II* on 13 March was a gala occasion for the museum and a very appropriate way to mark the museum's centenary ten days later. The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Helen Clark, in opening the exhibition paid tribute to the museum's long and distinguished history and also announced a six million dollar government contribution towards the OSM Development. A new museum publication, *Women of Substance: the Otago women who wore 'fabulous frocks'*, was launched at the same time. This met a demand from the time of the first *Fabulous Frocks* exhibition in 2003 for a permanent record of that exhibition's information on the pioneer women who wore the dresses it featured.

Visitor Programmes

The event highlight for visitors in 2008 was the Museum's Centennial Celebration. The celebration began on 17 March with a week of events which mirrored the types of celebratory activities held in 1908 when the Museum was established, and culminated on 23 March with a church service, procession and a special ceremony during which the Otago Settlers Association

presented the Museum Redevelopment Fund with a donation of \$20,000. A family fun day followed, expertly supervised by a crew of OSA volunteers and the Master of Ceremonies Barry Clarke.

Santa's Grotto and Pixie Town attracted 7,542 visitors in the weeks before Christmas, and 1,426 visitors in the weeks after Christmas, altogether a similar number to last year. This season's extended hours proved popular with many people enjoying the opportunity to revisit Pixie Town without the pressure of pre-Christmas crowds, although the evening sessions were not well supported. *Walk Dunedin* walking tours continue to be well patronised with a 40% increase in visitors taking part over the past year, 89% of whom were international visitors.

Collection Management

Cataloguing

The cataloguing project is progressing well with an emphasis on three-dimensional items in preparation for the Redevelopment Relocation Programme. The flood in the NZR building and subsequent clean-up operation provided an excellent opportunity to rationalise the space and facilitate access to the collections. Cataloguing in this area will start as soon as temperatures allow.

Conservation

In preparation for the *Fabulous Frocks II* exhibition conservation work was carried out on 41 dresses from the collection under the direction of conservator Jenny Sherman. The De Soto car donated in 1996 is now located at the Settlers Museum and a conservation plan is being developed. The tram Roslyn no.1 has been relocated to Ferrymead in Christchurch where it is undergoing complete restoration thanks to the financial support of the Dunedin East Rotary Club.

Acquisitions

A number of artefacts have been donated to the collection during the past year. The "Rejects Project" (the backlog of items yet to be returned to their owners) is now completed and it is expected that the accessioning backlog will be cleared by the end of August 2008.

A long-term agreement has been signed between the Otago Settlers Museum and the Fire Brigade Restoration Society regarding the use of 'Fire 16', which the society has restored to its former glory.

Visitation

Visitation in the 2007/8 financial year totalled 64,327, compared with 68,770 the previous year; this is 8,695 ahead of target for the year. In-house surveys showed that 96.1% of visitors were



either satisfied or very satisfied with their experience at the museum, compared with 97.41% the previous year.

Staff

Bob Matthews has been recruited for two days a week to assist archivist Jill Haley with her day-to-day operations. New fixed-term contracts have been provided for cataloguers Barbara Huband and Emma Buchanan to enable the cataloguing project to continue, and seven Visitor Hosts have been appointed to part-time positions during the past year.

Otago Settlers Association Student Scholarship

Theresa (Tessie) von Dadelszen was awarded the Association's scholarship for 2007. The scholarship enables a second-year history student at the University of Otago to undertake an internship at the Museum, working on a project that will be of benefit to both the student and the institution. Tessie spent several weeks at the Museum during the summer, researching Dunedin casualties from all the wars of the twentieth century. Her work culminated in the Roll of Honour display *We Will Remember Them*, which opened after the dawn service on Anzac Day and remained on display for the following month. This was well received and demonstrated the value of the scholarship scheme for both the Museum and the recipient.

Museum Development

It has been a successful year of fund-raising. The Museum's application to the Ministry for Culture and Heritage was approved and a sum of \$6 million will be paid over a four-year period. In addition the NZ Lottery Grants Board approved a grant of \$300,000 to go towards the cost of the Stage One Storage Building's heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system. These grants, along with the DCC contribution of \$21 million, the Community Trust of Otago's \$1 million, the Otago Settlers Association's \$250,000, as well as grants from other trusts and sponsors and numerous individuals comprise a total of \$29,246,296 received or promised.

The building project is capped at \$34.27 million.

Planning for the Stage One Storage Building continues steadily and it is anticipated that the building contract will be awarded in early August, and building will commence late August. The Stage One building is a pre-cast slab construction, and is basically a 'smart warehouse.' Due to the nature of pre-cast construction, the building will be erected quickly and staff anticipate completion ready for the fit-out of shelving systems late 2009.

Once the Stage One Storage Building is completed, the focus

will be on relocating collection items and clearing the NZR building in preparation for the start of work in the beginning of 2010. The building programme rolls out quickly at that point with the next stage being the Burnside building, and finally the new foyer area.

Exhibition planning has continued slowly, but will very soon gain momentum and become more of the main focus of all staff. At present there is still discussion about how many of the Museum's exhibition spaces will remain open during the redevelopment stages, but the current proposal is to keep the Hudson Gallery open as long as possible to maintain the Museum's presence in the community and to provide some visitor experience for tourists until the revitalized Museum opens in December 2012.

Conclusion

This has been another very busy year for the Museum. The development project has seen the first physical evidence of progress and we all look forward with great interest to the coming months when the Collection Store building will start to take shape.

The Otago Settlers Association continues its support of the Museum. Significant financial contributions to the redevelopment and on-going support for the additional programmes, that we would otherwise struggle to provide, are especially appreciated.

The Museum celebrated its centenary on 23 March, and the Committee and many members of the association and staff helped celebrate that milestone with a procession from the Octagon to the Otago Settlers Museum on a very warm and family-oriented day.

We have been without a dedicated Director since September 2007 and, at the time of writing, no announcement has yet been made on what is proposed for the future. I would like to acknowledge my appreciation for the work that has been done by your President, Dr Dot Page, and her committee, on behalf of the Museum during the leadership consultation phase and for support for my role in general.

Grant McDonald
Acting Director

Presented at the 109th Annual General Meeting, 25 September 2008.

Looking Out for Number One



The Roslyn cable car no.1 restoration project has evolved since its inception. Originally the cable car was supposed to be fully restored to its former glory without consideration to old surfaces and finishes. Since my recruitment as Collection Manager at the Museum the project has been reassessed and scrutinised following strict conservation rules. It is my strong belief that Roslyn no.1 should be conserved, as opposed to restored, and that everything that could be preserved should be, with the minimum loss of information. This new approach has been discussed with Ferrymead and has been agreed upon. It will involve intense research into the original materials, colours and techniques used. Only what needs to be replaced will be, with similar products. The original paint still existing under many more recent layers will be carefully 'unearthed', preserved and displayed as it is. It is not our intention to hide marks of use, cracking paint and other inscriptions. It is important to preserve those as they are an integral part of the history of the item. However, the previous restoration attempts were not made with the same approach, and original surfaces and finishes have unfortunately been damaged or removed in several areas. These areas will be retouched to match the surroundings where possible. To summarise, we could say that the cable car will be conserved as a 'static display' to reflect its long, hard working life.

François Leurquin
Collection Manager

Annual General Meeting of the Otago Settlers Association

The 109th Annual General Meeting of the Otago Settlers Association was held in the Museum concourse on the evening of 25 September 2008. There were 37 members present. Dr Dorothy Page presented her first annual report as President, and made special mention of the Museum's centennial celebrations last Easter. The joint organisation of the events by the Museum and the Association was, she said, a 'high-point of friendly and fruitful co-operation between the two.'

Dr Page was re-elected unopposed as President, as were the vice-presidents, Phil Dowsett and Hilary Allison. Six of the committee members were re-elected: Bill Bachop, Ann Barsby, Barry Clarke, Eleanor Leckie, John Martin and Norman Ledgerwood. Two new members were elected unopposed, Bob Hopkins (formerly of Southland) and Peter Smith, who had previously been the co-opted investment advisor. The Association's long-standing connection with Downie Stewart is maintained by the new Honorary Solicitor, Paul Buckner. He takes over from Bill Armitage, who has served the Association for many years, as did his father before him. The Association similarly greatly appreciated the long and meticulous work of Ian Tunnage, who was standing down as Acting Treasurer. This year's was the twelfth set of annual accounts he had prepared. In Ian's absence, Vice-President Phil Dowsett presented his summary of the Association's financial situation.

Outstanding Service Awards were presented to two recipients who had been unable to attend the presentation ceremony earlier in the year, Iain Gallaway and Donald Gordon. The former had slipped away from a dinner for Past Presidents of the Law Society for a few minutes to attend, so was elegantly dressed in black tie. Iain contrasted his years on the committee from 1970 to 1974 (when he retired 'out of frustration' thinking the committee was 'just marking time') with the present state of the Association, with its committee 'moving forward with large strides.' He plays a key role in the fund-raising for the new Museum development, and predicted that, once finished, the Museum buildings would form, with the railway station, Chinese garden and redeveloped prison, the 'best heritage area in Dunedin.'

Donald Gordon is well known to readers of this newsletter for his historical articles, and Dr Page said she was 'entranced' by his skill at finding out-of-the-way topics to write on. Donald in reply joked he was pleased to know that at least some members read the newsletter.

Dr Page then presented a cheque for \$20,000 to Councillor John Bezett, who accepted it on behalf of the City Council for the Museum Development Fund. Thanking the Association, Councillor Bezett said that it has great credibility within the city, and that its support for the campaign has encouraged support from the government and local businesses: 'this Association is just solid gold.'

The Roslyn cable car no.1 prior to heading to Ferrymead for conservation.

Dr Page announced a plan to encourage collective donations to the development campaign by, for example, families, or the descendants of migrants who arrived on any particular ship. Tax concessions are available for such donations, which can be made over a period of time. Donors will be acknowledged on plaques in the foyer of the new building: bronze for \$2000 and silver for \$5000.

Following the committee business of the Annual General Meeting, John Ingram gave an informative, entertaining and profusely illustrated talk on the history of fire-fighting in Dunedin. John is Visitor Programme Co-ordinator at the Museum and a member of the Dunedin Fire Brigade Restoration Society. A full report will appear in our next issue.

For Your Diary

The Association's Christmas party will be held on Friday 12 December from 7.30 pm at the Museum. In honour of the wonderful Chinese Garden next door and the current Museum exhibition, the evening will have a Chinese theme with decorations, fortune cookies, musical entertainment and Mrs Eva Ng, who has kindly agreed to read some of her beautifully written childhood reminiscences.

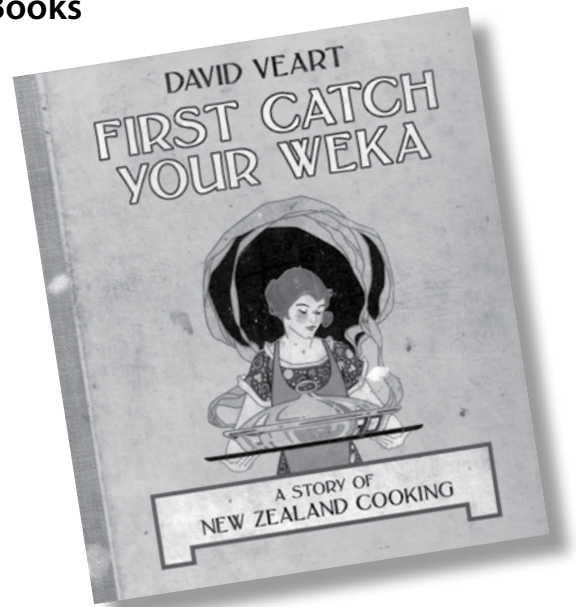
The Dunedin Chinese Dance Class will perform – because some of the children are very small, it would be greatly appreciated if members could be there by 7.30 pm sharp, as their performance will begin straight away.

Pixie Town and the other galleries will be open, and we will finish with a festive supper.



The Otago Settlers Museum Shop

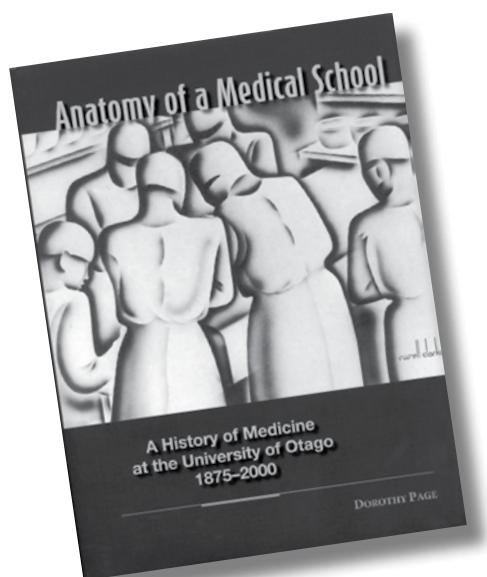
Books



First Catch Your Weka: A Story of New Zealand Cooking
David Veart
Published by Auckland University Press

'First catch your Weka,' the explorer Charles Heaphy advised in 1842, then stuff it with sage and onion and roast it on a stick. In that simple way began a great tradition of New Zealand recipes that takes us from Heaphy, to the *Edmonds Cookery Book*, to Alison Holst and Hudson and Halls, and on to the meal on your plate today. In *First Catch Your Weka*, Dave Veart tells the story of what New Zealanders cooked through the recipes we used. Analysing the crusty deposits and grubby thumb prints on a century and a half of cook books, he chronicles the extraordinary foods that we have loved: boiled calf's head, Bill Rowling cake, Irish famine soup, tinned kidneys with mushrooms ... *First Catch Your Weka* illuminates the elements that make New Zealand cooking distinctive (our love affair with sweet baked goods, our enthusiasm for home-made jams and chutneys, the perpetual lump of protein on the plate) and how our cuisine and culture have changed (the development of a nationalist cuisine of kumara, whitebait, and mussels in the 1920s, the arrival of Asian influences in the 1950s, the television cooks of the 1970s). Throughout this history, Veart finds a people who, as Heaphy suggested, frequently first liked to Catch Their Weka – building a meal out of oysters taken from the rocks, vegetables from the garden, and a lamb from the neighbouring farm. By telling the history of what we ate, *First Catch Your Weka* tells us a great deal about who we have been.

336 pages, colour illustrations. Paperback.
Price to members \$45 (Postage and packing \$7.50)



Anatomy of a Medical School:
A History of Medicine at the University of Otago, 1875-2000
Dorothy Page
Published by Otago University Press

The 10,000th graduate of the Otago Medical School was capped in December 2006. Since the 1970s it has in fact been three schools, based in Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington. Its graduates include many distinguished researchers and practitioners all over the world.

Modelled on the Edinburgh School, and operating within a relatively new university, the Otago School had a long struggle for resources in a country that was still establishing its home economy. Often only the vision and determination of individual staff carried it forward. And the world in which it operated kept changing, with several revolutions in medicine, technology, and society. As the author says in her introduction, 'It has been an exhilarating journey.'

400 pages. Hardback.
Price to members \$53.95 (Postage and packing \$7.50)

Gifts



Marion Sandilands cross-stitch sampler

The embroidery sampler replicated in the Marion Sandilands sampler pack is the first sampler known to have been acquired by the Otago Settlers Museum. The sampler was designed and stitched by Marion Sandilands, who arrived in Dunedin from London on board the Gloucester on 26 December 1858.

Marion Sandilands died of consumption at the age of sixteen, and it is likely that this sampler, with its beautifully executed and unusually painterly landscape scene, was made by her during the course of her illness.

The sampler pack contains everything required to create an exact copy of the Marion Sandilands sampler:

- Charted design
- Needle
- 100% cotton floss
- 28-count quality evenweave linen
- Complete directions and stitch instructions

The Marion Sandilands sampler pack was produced by Otago Settlers Museum with generous support from the Otago Settlers Association and the Otago Embroiderers Guild.

Price to members \$79.20 (Postage and packing \$4.50)

General Information

The shop holds a wide selection of Dunedin- and New Zealand-made books, cards and gifts. You are always welcome to browse.



Editor: Austin Gee; Designer: Tim Cornelius; Publisher: Otago Settlers Association.

This newsletter was produced by the Otago Settlers Association, founder and supporter of the Otago Settlers Museum. Membership of the Association is open to everyone interested in the heritage of this region. Details of membership are available from the Museum Reception desk or Otago Settlers Association Secretary, Box 74, Dunedin. Phone/fax 03 477 8677, email otago.settlers.assn@xtra.co.nz

Otago Daily Times *The Otago Daily Times supports Otago Settlers Museum*

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