



New Zealand FAMILY TREE



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Te Rakau Whakapapa o Aotearoa
P.O. Box 13-301, Armagh, Christchurch 8141

Tracking down my convict great-great-great grandfather William Craig – by Kevin White



The gravestone read:
*To the Memory of William Craig
Who died August 2, 1867, aged 68
Green be the turf of thy tomb
May its verdure like emeralds be
Why should the shadow of doom
In aught that commands us of thee?*

The words on this headstone were
most probably taken from the third
verse of Lord Byron's poem "Bright be
the place of thy soul"
*Light be the turf of thy tomb!
May its verdure like emeralds be:
There should not be the shadow of gloom
In aught that reminds us of thee.*

From a young age I was told by my mother, that we had an Australian convict in our family. I had no reason to disbelieve her, after all, her father, (my

grandfather) Victor Tolchard, was born in Tasmania, Australia and she reminded us that the Perhams (my great-grandmother's family) came from Tasmania as well.

She showed me a photo of a family gathering, taken in 1938, and was able to point out her grandmother Elizabeth Tolchard, nee Perham and her father Victor Tolchard.

Elizabeth Tolchard was born Eliza Sarah 'Elizabeth' Perham in Launceston, Australia, on 17 December 1862. Her parents were Giles Perham and Hannah Craig. So, who were my convict family, the Perhams or the Craigs?

My research led me to the Libraries Tasmania website:

https://linctas.ent.sirsiidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/

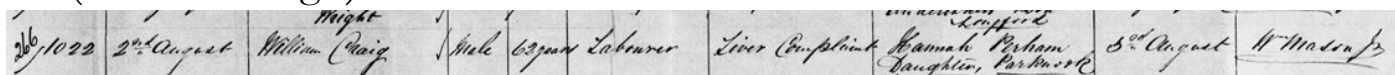
I typed in Hannah Craig (my great-great-grandmother) and quickly found her marriage in 1860 in Longford, Tasmania to a Giles Peram (Peram must be a variation of Perham), but Hannah's father's name was not forthcoming. Using the marriage name Perham / Peram, I searched for a Hannah Perham death certificate in Tasmania. No luck. I tried records for Victoria and found that Hannah Perham died in 1918. Using this information, I checked out Hannah Craig on Ancestry as well as MyHeritage (CCC Library free addition). Low and behold she was on a Tasmanian tree, with the correct husband and correct death surname. This tree stated her father was a William Craig. 1799 – 1867

Hannah Perham (born Craig) 1842 - 1918	
Birth:	1842 📍 Cressy, Tasmania, Australia
Marriage:	Marriage to: <Private> Dec 24 1860 📍 Longford, Tasmania, Australia
Death:	Feb 26 1918
Burial:	Feb 26 1918 📍 Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery, Coburg, Victoria, Australia
Family members	
Parents:	William Craig 1799 - 1867 Sarah Ann Craig (born White) 1822 - 1865
Husband:	Giles Perham 1833 - 1921

Could William Craig be my convict relative?

I hoped that the Libraries Tasmania site would confirm it for me.

There were a number of key documents on this site. The first confirmed that Hannah Perham (nee Craig) was indeed William Craig's daughter, as she signed his (William Craig's) death certificate.



A check on the Tasmanian convict sites soon revealed that William Craig was convicted of sheep stealing on 7 April 1829 in the Inveraray Court of Justiciary and sentenced to 14 years in Van Diemen's Land. He was 19 at the time of his conviction, making his birthdate around 1810. William died in 1867 aged 68. This now gives an alternative birthdate of 1799. Perhaps he gave a false birthdate to lessen his sentence in Inverary?

I had found my convict relative!

Another document states that he was a servant at Ballymoonie. He was transported on the "Prince Regent" on 17 August 1829, arriving in Launceston on 10 January 1830. The "Prince Regent" sailed from the Cove of Cork (Cobh), Ireland. William was one of the luckier ones. Reports of his positive behaviour on board the "Prince Regent" meant that he was not sent to Port Arthur or NSW

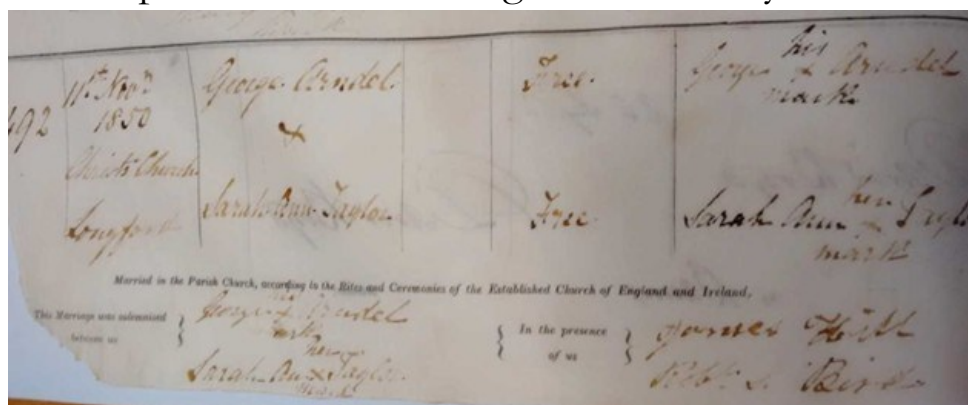
but was allocated to a Mr. Brumby a farmer from Cressy, Longford area Tasmania, to work as an indentured labourer.

William was a model convict for his first 10 years, then had two incidents which were added to his crime sheet: disorderly conduct in 1839 and 'tippling in a public house' in 1840. Sometime in the 1840s he was farming for George Arndell, who himself was an ex-convict.

Early in the 1840s William met up with Sarah Ann White, a mother with one child. Sarah's first husband was a George Taylor, who within a few months of his marriage to Sarah, was caught stealing and returned to prison. Sarah Ann's connection to William could not be formalised as her marriage to George Arndell was still active.

William and Sarah went on to have four children together, including Hannah. William was granted a conditional pardon on 14 July 1840 and finally a free certificate on 12 March 1850.

Finally free he decided to travel to Victoria and try his luck on the goldfields. On his return he was surprised to find that his partner (Sarah Ann) had moved on and had married her employer, George Arndell on 11 November 1850. Note, Sarah has truthfully named herself Sarah Ann Taylor as she was still married to George Taylor, whom she had married thirteen years earlier. Seven years had passed so she was eligible to remarry.



William was able to lease a small plot from Arndale /Arndell in Cressy and farmed there until he died on 2 August 1867.

Death details on the Colonial Index, stated that he was 68 at the time of his death, making his birth date 1799.

So where did William Craig come from? There is no town or country home in the UK / Ireland called Ballymoonie. However, there is a Ballymooney Castle in Ballymooney (spelt with a y), in a town in Ireland. Inverary (where William was convicted) is a town in Argyll, Scotland.

We paid a visit to 'The Launceston Branch of the Tasmanian Family History Society' in Launceston. Their Research Officer John Dent was waiting for us with a trove of information on William Craig and his wife Sarah Ann. Included in the paperwork was information on William's burial place, at the Holy Trinity Anglican Cemetery, Cressy. Cressy was only 24 kms away. At last, I was to find William Craig's burial plot. I was hopeful of finding a headstone.



The churchyard at Cressy was not extensive and it wasn't long before Margaret spotted the tell-tale name, William Craig. I placed a stone with NZ written on it beside the grave and transcribed the headstone.

Does the green and emeralds wording hint at an Irish heritage? More research is needed.

FHSNZ President's Report for the year 2024-25 in review



As we look back on the last 12 months, some of us have been asking questions about the future of family history societies, as they struggle to attract new members, to fill committee positions and to pay the bills.

And we are not immune.

We can always do with new committee members and if you have any ideas for raising funds, we would love to hear them.

Attracting new members has always been a challenge. I have been a member for 30 years and we have always been a small group and that is one of our strengths. We might be small, but we have always had a number of experienced family historians willing to help others with their research.

Others have expressed concerns that groups like ours may not exist in the future. After all, why do you need to join a society, when you can do the research online and for free? I too, have concerns about advancing technology – but for different reasons, and probably the result of watching too many *Terminator* movies!

There are a number of advantages to joining a society over relying on the internet and social media. Just think about how many rabbit holes you can go down without the guidance of experienced researchers. And, as for Artificial Intelligence (AI), let's just say it is rather unreliable – for now at least.

Social media and the internet are useful tools, but they don't give you real and meaningful human interactions. But how do we reach people through all that noise? Relying on social media to connect with the world is almost a full-time job producing content and videos to break through all the noise. Even for young people today, social media isn't the best place to connect – and they rarely switch off from it.

Waimakariri District Council staff once asked the Waimakariri Youth Council for ideas of how to engage with young people expecting to get tips on the best social media sites. Instead, the youth leaders responded – “why don't you just go and talk to them!” For a number of years our society has been involved in Christchurch Heritage Week, and while we might not attract huge numbers of visitors, we do sign up new members. A number of people in the room today, including the president can attest to this. We have also had stalls at

the Hororata Highland Games and the Christchurch Library Family History Expo where we have signed up new members, some of whom are here today.

If we look for these sorts of opportunities, yes, they take work, but we can connect with people in a meaningful way and if we can sign up even a few people, I believe we will survive into the future.

I wish to thank our secretary Kevin, our treasurer Pauline, our vice-president and editor Philip, our patron Jill, and committee members Judith, Barbara, Margaret, Heather and Nigel for their work during the year. Others including Tony, Stuart, Paul, Ray and Mary have completed library duties and other tasks on behalf of the committee.

Without the work of all these people, our little society wouldn't be able to do what it does. And then there is all of you, turning up each month and supporting what we do.

Following last year's annual general meeting, we enjoyed our Mid-Winter lunch at the Kaiapoi Club and had our usual end of year break up in December and our annual barbecue in February as our social events.

During the year we have enjoyed a range of topics from the Selwyn Suffragists, scrapbooking for family history, professional cycling, astronomy in colonial Christchurch, Irish research and Chinese miners to women's hockey, while our field trip to Dunedin was also successful.

Thank you all for another successful year.

David Hill

FHSNZ President

The Sporting Tolchards of Torquay by Kevin White

During a recent family history search on my maternal family line for my mother Beverley Jean Tolchard's ancestors, I found that my 7x great-grandfather John Tolchard was baptised in Holne on 25 April 1665. The records show that two years later, on 7 July 1667, a brother Daniel Tolchard was also baptised in Holne. One researcher has traced this Tolchard line of Daniel's dependents to the present day. This line ended up in Torquay, also in Devon, which is 17 miles from where my family line lived. I recently added this line to my own family tree, as they were all cousins, so to speak. This was a difficult exercise, as Tolchard had been spelt many different ways. For example, my 4x great-grandfather Danyel Tolchard had five children. They were all hard to trace, as each had different surnames on their baptism record. One was a Tolchard, but the others were Tolcher, Tolshard, Tolshere and even a Tolhind! My mother's ancestors all come from the hamlets of Holne, Dean Prior and South Brent in Devon, England, near to the market town of Buckfastleigh. The hamlets are all within 10 miles of each other.

My 8th cousin from Daniel Tolchard's (1667) line, Frederick Thomas Tolchard (b. 1916), lived in Torquay. His line has turned out to be a very sporty family. Frederick Thomas Tolchard was known as Tommy and represented England in lawn bowls (see tree at the end of the article). Tommy's mother Florence Gertude Tolchard (nee Wills) was also a lawn bowler and won the English lawn bowls triples title in 1948. Tommy Tolchard married in 1939 and went on to have four children: Patricia (1940), Jeffrey (1944), Roger (1946) and Raymond (1953).

Jeffrey Tolchard (known as Jeff) born 1944, played professional cricket for Leicestershire. He started his career with Devon. He was a batsman, but he was not a prolific scorer. However, he was successful enough to retain his place for many seasons. The highlight of his career was playing for The Minor Counties in 1981 in a match against the touring Sri Lankan team.

Jeff also played football, as a winger for Torquay, a fifth-tier professional division.



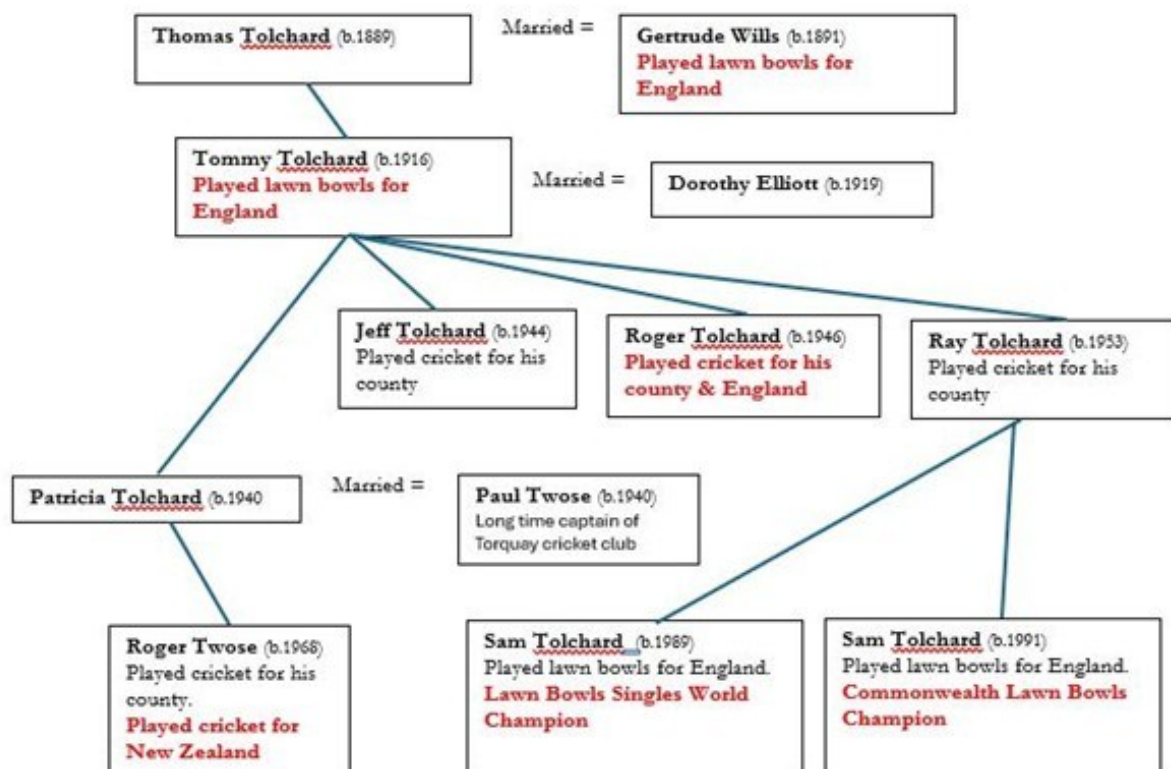
Roger Tolchard born 1946, played initially for Devon around 1962, but for the rest of his professional career from 1963 – 1983, he played for Leicestershire. He was a wicketkeeper / batsman and was selected in the England squad to tour India in 1976 – 77. He played in four tests. He was also selected to tour Australia in 1978 – 1979 but only managed one game, a One-Day International. Unfortunately, he fractured a cheekbone during a net practice and had to return home missing the rest of the tour. Roger was the captain of the Leicestershire team from 1981 – 1983, when this team was placed second in the County Championship of 1982.

Raymond Tolchard (known as Ray) born 1953, was also a county cricketer. At the same time as his early cricket days, he played tennis and took part in a Junior Wimbledon competition. He represented Devon from 1975 – 1984 in cricket and made one century for his county. After retiring from playing, he became a cricket umpire and stood in 40 first class matches. He also took up lawn bowls and represented Devon at the county level.

Two of his children, Sam Tolchard and Sophie Tolchard are international lawn bowlers. Sam has won seven national lawn bowls titles and represented England at the Commonwealth Games in 2014, 2018 and 2022, where he won three bronzes and a silver. However, by far, his greatest achievement came in 2022 where in Naenae in the Hutt Valley, he won the World Singles Champion of Championship title. He has played a number of times in Christchurch.

Sophie Tolchard won 10 English national titles as well as a Bronze, here in Christchurch, at the 2016 World





Championship, a Gold in 2023 in fours and pairs, as well as a Gold at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in triples and a Bronze at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games pairs. Both Sam and Sophie have said that they were inspired by their bowls-mad father Ray, who died of motor neurone disease in 2004.

Jeff, Roger and Ray had an older sister Patricia Tolchard, (born 1940). In 1960 she married Paul Twose, the captain of the Torquay cricket team, in which Jeff and Ray played. Paul was a gifted captain at the local level but never moved into higher County honours. However, also in the marriage year of 1960, Paul made the news when captaining a Torquay team, which included brother-in-law, Jeff Tolchard. A fellow player Bob Coombes took 10 wickets in an innings, a rare feat. Paul and Patricia had three children. They were all successful sportspersons.

Roger Twose, Patricia and Paul's son also became a successful cricketer. He had already played professional cricket for Warwickshire, but sensed higher honours were not to be. He migrated to New Zealand where he became an instant success at the provincial level and was eventually selected to play for New Zealand. Roger played 16 test matches, and 87 international one-day matches for New Zealand, where he starred in the 1999 World Cup.

Leicester, where many of the Tolchards played cricket and won the county championship for them a number of times, honoured their cricketers by naming streets in Leicester after them. One day I hope to get my photo taken next to the “Tolchard Close” street sign in Leicester.

The Tolchards ran a mineral water company in Torquay. Nowadays, there is a large brewing / winery company called Tolchards.

My own line of Tolchards were bowlers and cricketers as well.

My grandfather Vic Tolchard played for the seniors at the Greens Cricket Club based around Spreydon in Christchurch and his brother Walter Tolchard played for both Sunnyside and Greens Cricket Club in the 1920s. My great-grandfather John Tolchard was a cricket administrator and was the Secretary Treasurer of The Christchurch Municipal Cricket Club, which played in the Suburban competition.

My own mother, Beverley White (nee Tolchard) was a bowler of note. She reached the finals of the New Zealand Pairs championship in 1988.

A second cousin Keith Thomson was a particularly good hockey player and cricketer and represented New Zealand in hockey (1961 – 1971) and at cricket in 1968.



My mother Beverley White is on the left

Programme August – November 2025

- 2 to 3 August** **Family History Expo, Tūranga public library**
- 7 September** **Field trip to Rangiora Museum (carpooling available)**
- 5 October** **Cycling in 19th Century Christchurch –Clare Simpson**
- 2 November** **Special General Meeting to consider three motions:**
- 1) That the society introduces a 10-year membership category (Simon Courtney). This would enable members to pay for 10 years in advance.
 - 2) That the society change its name from Family History Society of New Zealand to New Zealand Family History Society (Dame Jill Lord)
 - 3) That the Society adopt the new constitution in accordance with the new draft constitution (Constitution subcommittee)
- 7 December** **End of Year breakup**

Meetings are held at the Elmwood Bowling club, Heaton Street, next to Elmwood Park, starting at 2 p.m., unless advised otherwise.

Christmas breakup will be held in the society rooms, 401A Papanui Road.

Lowering the Colours – part one

“Skirted athletes on tour” by David Hill

At our April 2025 meeting, FHSNZ president David Hill gave a talk on his research into the England women's hockey tour of New Zealand in 1914. How did he end up researching women's hockey?

Back in the year 2000 he was studying post-graduate history at the University of Canterbury with Professor Geoff Rice. The year 2000 was the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Canterbury province – this year is the 175th anniversary.

Students were handed a list of available archives and topics of Canterbury history which hadn't been researched before, and there were only two related to sports history. As an aspiring sports journalist, David wanted to do sports history.

The minute books of the Hinemoa Ladies' Hockey Club in Kaiapoi were available at the documentary research centre at the Canterbury Museum. Back then he didn't even know where Kaiapoi was. He later found there was an England women's hockey tour of New Zealand 1914, but it was too late to research it as part of the course.

He had thoughts of going back to university one day and writing a thesis, but it never happened. Last year he decided to revisit the topic.

In the first part of the series, we follow the England team in Australia, and then in the North Island, before crossing over to the South Island.

The Sun newspaper reported on 1 July 1914, “the ladies 'All England' hockey team is sailing by the *Aeneas* ahead of its tour of Australia and New Zealand.



DEFEATED BY THE ENGLISH LADIES' TEAM OF HOCKEY PLAYERS IN THE FIRST TEST MATCH: THE NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVES, WHO LOST BY 4 GOALS TO 6 AT WELLINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 22.
H. R. Maybary. Photo.

The England team arrived in Australia in early July to play eight matches, before leaving for New Zealand on 25 July.

"We have to thank the enthusiastic hockey players of the fine game in New Zealand for this visit, because the main objective of the skirted athletes is to play a series of tests and other matches in the Dominion in response to a cordial invitation, which it was determined to accept if at all possible."

The England team played in the Australian state competition, playing two matches each against Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia.

Team captain and manager Miss Catherine Gaskell said the team *"is not quite as representative as we could have wished, because it was not easy to get some to come all this distance."*

The report noted watching the practices of the England team. It is *"a very interesting sight, not only on account of their skill in play, but also on account of their decidedly attractive appearance"*.

“In their short crimson skirts, white shirts and heliotrope belts and ties, they are fine fresh, healthy, active and attractive-looking girls.”

Catherine Gaskell was the secretary of the Midlands Women's Hockey Association and vice-president of the All-England Women's Hockey Association. *“An advertisement was inserted in the Hockey Field inviting hockey players desirous of accepting the invitation of the New Zealand Hockey Association (NZHA) to send their names, and replies came from all parts of England”*. From this, the team was selected, as some of the real representative teams were unable to come.

“All the girls are sturdy and thickset, and their faces aglow with health”, says an Australian writer, *“and their age about 20”*.

“The side is physically powerful and fast, and their shooting good. Generally, they contrast vividly with the youthful Australians, who have all the dash and determination desirable, but are wanting cool heads and nice judgement.”

England won all eight matches in Australia, scoring 70 goals and conceding just 7.

The New Zealand itinerary had England playing against Wellington, Manawatu, Hawke's Bay, Poverty Bay, Auckland, Wanganui, Taranaki, Nelson, West Coast, Buller, South Canterbury, Canterbury, Southland, Otago and North Otago, before three tests against the New Zealand team.

One provincial team not included in the itinerary was Wairarapa, which had won the 1913 women's national tournament. Hockey in the region was in disarray until some retired hockey players from the previous year decided to pick up their sticks one last time. The Wairarapa Ladies' Hockey Association then challenged the Canterbury Ladies' Hockey Association to a match in Christchurch.

The New Zealand Ladies' Hockey Association's (NZLHA) secretary Mr A W Manning, of Wellington, was appointed as the liaison to travel with the England team. He was also appointed to act as sole selector and coach of the New Zealand ladies' team for the three tests.

Albert Walter Manning was listed in the 1911 Electoral Roll in the Wellington South electorate as a hairdresser residing at 101 Constable Street. The World War 1 Nominal Roll listed him as a first reserve in the Wellington recruiting district, living at the same address and his occupation as a clerk. He died in 1923 at the age of just 43 and was buried in the Karori Cemetery in Wellington.

As anticipation built for the England team's arrival, the NZHA management committee met to discuss the prospect of a visit it hoped to secure the next year from the England men's hockey team. A cable had been forwarded to England “pressing for definite information”. But it was stressed the finances to pay for the tour would need to be arranged in advance.

They could not have known that in just a matter of days the world would change. Britain would declare war on Germany on 4 August, a war which was to drag on for four years, making the tour unthinkable.

It was reported that the Wellington and Auckland players were training in earnest to face the England team, and it was hoped “*as soon as the Canterbury representatives are decided on, they will do likewise.*”



The England team had arrived in Wellington on 29 July 1914. The ship *Maunganui* berthed at Queen's Wharf, and a large crowd greeted the All-England women's hockey team.

Prime Minister William Massey gave the team “*a cordial welcome*” at Parliament. Miss Gaskell spoke and said when the invitation to send a team was read out at a meeting of the All-England Women's Hockey Association, the intention was to reply with regret that they could not accept. But “*a few venturesome players*” decided to speak up and suggested an advertisement be placed in the Hockey Field magazine calling for volunteers.

England defeated Wellington 8-0 at the Basin Reserve in front of 5000 or 6000 people, *“and the lovers of the game had no reason to be disappointed with the display of the visitors, or, for that matter, the form shown by the local players”*. The home team was kitted out in black skirts and blouses with black and gold hoops.

The visitors were *“much heavier and older (if such terms may be applied to ladies)”* and knew more about the finer points of the game. Their combinations were *“better than anything that has been seen in men's hockey in New Zealand.”*

The England goalkeeper wore pads which were *“the real protective things men wear and whether the ball came fast or slow, she stopped it and got it away without a moment's fuss or delay”*.

The visitors passed *“with extraordinary confidence and accuracy”* and their ball handling with sticks was as accomplished as a *“rugby footballer handles it with his hands”*.

The journalist said it would be difficult to compare the visitors with any ladies' team in New Zealand – except for *“individual players known to Canterbury followers of the game”*.

As England marched through the North Island, the team beat a strong Manawatu team by 3-0 and a “plucky” Hawke's Bay team 3-0, in front of almost 5000 people.

And then the unthinkable happened, as the England team was stunned 5-0 by the Poverty Bay ladies' team in front of 4000 people. The England team later said the players had just come off a boat to play Poverty Bay and were feeling the effects of seasickness.

It was to be a one-off, as England went on to defeat Auckland 9-0, Wanganui 9-1 and Taranaki 9-0.

The England team crossed over to the South Island, beating Nelson 8-0, Buller 7-1 and West Coast 6-0.

Of course, the tour didn't get any easier, as the England team was still to face Canterbury, the southern teams, and the first New Zealand hockey team ever selected – and possibly the first New Zealand women's representative team in any sport.



HOCKEY: MEMORABLE OF THE FIRST LADIES' TEST MATCH BETWEEN ENGLISH AND NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS AT THE BASIN RESERVE, WELLINGTON, ON SEPTEMBER 10.

The English ladies Hockey Team playing in the game against Wellington at the Basin Reserve, Wellington

Submitting Articles

Any members who may possess an interesting story pertaining to family or early historical matters and especially to the greater Canterbury area, or anywhere in New Zealand, are invited to write about it and submit it to the editor for inclusion in our future issues.

Any matter may be written down or typewritten and provided facts of the story, names etc., are clearly indicated, we can do the editing if you consider you are not that good at putting down a story. If you have a computer and e-mail facilities, this is the best way to submit material as it can be edited on receipt and inserted directly into our publishing program.

Regarding photographs: the best way is to submit electronic images in either a JPEG, TIFF or PDF format as reproduction proves better and sharper. However, a good photocopy will generally be adequate.

If e-mail is preferred the address to send articles, photos and stories to is: **philipcreed@xtra.co.nz** or address any correspondence to: The Editor, 28 Ensors Road, Opawa, Christchurch 8023.

Our next issue will be published in DECEMBER 2025.

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Meeting times – 2 p.m. on the 1st Sunday of the month at Elmwood Park Bowling Club, Heaton Street, Strowan.

Library hours – 401A Papanui Road. Every Monday 10 a.m. to 12 noon, every Saturday 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Closed on public holidays and public holiday weekends.

Classes of membership:

Full membership – Open to individuals and entitles them to receive a newsletter.

Fee – \$40 per year, Family \$50 per year.

Associate membership – Open to historical associations, genealogical societies, public libraries, and similar organisations. This entitles them to receive the magazine and advertise free of charge in the magazine on behalf of their organisations. These privileges do not extend to individuals in these organisations. **Fee** – \$50 per year.

