

Pavitt Cottage Press

Summer 2016/17

The trustees have pleasure in bringing you another edition of the Pavitt Cottage Press...

WELCOME TO THE LATEST PAVITT PRESS

When the late John Fernyhough purchased and set up the Pavitt Cottage so magnificently for the greater family in 2002, he did this in the hope that it would become a 'touchstone' in the future—for Pavitt descendants and their families. This it has done to a degree I don't think he would ever have anticipated! Today we have 246 descendants on our mailing list of whom 130 are or have been Friends of the Cottage. And this is just the tip of the iceberg—we look forward to more making themselves known. Please spread the word!

Many for reasons of age, health or geographic location have been unable to stay or even just visit the cottage. But they still keep in touch and support us. This would never have been the case without the cottage.

Being the only family members living locally Nancy and I have had the privilege of helping to keep the cottage operational and in good condition. This with much help from the trustees and family who are close enough to attend working bees etc. Without John's brother Dick keeping us on the straight and narrow financially and Andrew Bax running the website, and the cottage bookings, we'd have given up years ago! On this note I'd like to stress how vital the Friends subscriptions and donations are each year.

Plus of course the income from people staying. This is one area in which we can improve! Most people who have stayed return—some multiple times. But occupancy rates could be a lot higher! Please come and stay and encourage your family (plus good friends) to do so as well. It is a gem & deserves more use. This year we have installed an outside dunny (see photos pg2) which should ease the pressure (so to speak) on the cottage facilities. It may look like a

traditional long drop but have no fear it is has modern plumbing and electric lighting! We've also moved one single bed from upstairs into the rear downstairs bedroom—this with the existing double bed gives more options to people staying.

Earlier this year the Saxton family had a reunion in Akaroa. Their ancestors owned and operated the Robinsons Bay mill after the Pavitts and in light of this we have invited them to join us as Family Members of the Cottage. A number have since become Friends and stayed. A warm welcome to them all.

Bryan Tichborne

FRIENDS OF THE PAVITT COTTAGE

Bookings for the cottage could have been better this past year. The trustees ask you to please renew your *Friends of the Pavitt Cottage* memberships soon and if you are able too—please include a donation. We'll endeavour to remind you annually! You can check on your current membership/donation status:

www.pavitt.co.nz/Friends15.html

Direct Credit payments to:

BNZ Akaroa

A/c No. 02 0832 0002076 83

Reference: PCT16/17

If paying this way would you kindly let Bryan know:

tichborne@watercolours.co.nz

when you've transferred the funds and how much. It being a trust account, we don't have online access and have to wait for sporadic hard copy statements.

If mailing—send these to:

Bryan Tichborne

16 Rue Balguerrie

AKAROA 7520

Cheques payable: Pavitt Cottage Trust

Only \$20 a year!

WORKING BEE 2016

Thanks to a cheerful bunch of enthusiastic supporters, we had another successful working bee in 2016.



Bryan Green, Diana Saxton & Dick F.



Bryan Tichborne trims tree deadwood



James and Jack Ballard stand by a historic hay furler aka "dump rake".

THE FUTURE OF THE PAVITT COTTAGE TRUST...

The late John Fernyhough first became aware of the Pavitt cottage at the time of the Pavitt family reunion in 1990 and, having an interest in family history and realising the historical significance of the cottage, decided it needed to be restored and held in perpetuity, primarily for the benefit of Pavitt descendants but also to be preserved as an example of early colonial housing. The acquisition of the property took some time, as did its restoration, and the transfer of ownership from John to the Pavitt Cottage Trust (the Trust) was only completed in October 2002, shortly before John died in February 2003.

The trust deed, in its introduction, says "The Settlor wishes to declare a charitable trust to be known as the Pavitt Cottage Trust which will have as its objectives the purposes described in this deed as Charitable Purposes". Charitable Purposes is defined as "being the preservation of the historical homestead of John Pavitt in Akaroa, Canterbury, New Zealand".

The Trust has been administered since 23 October 2002 by a board of trustees and each year the Trust's financial statements have been posted on its website <http://www.pavitt.co.nz/noticeboard>. It has remained solvent through donations and contributions from Pavitt descendants and users of the cottage, distributions from the John Fernyhough Family Trust and the goodwill of the Nancy and Bryan Tichborne as "resident caretakers".

Earlier this year, the trustees received legal advice that the Trust is ineligible to be registered as a charitable trust under the Charities Act 2005 and, as a consequence, the Trust is deemed to be a "resulting trust". The beneficial owner of a "resulting trust" is the settlor or, if deceased, the residual beneficiaries of the settlor's estate. John's residual beneficiary (there is only one) is the John Fernyhough Family Trust, the beneficiaries of which are John's first wife, Judy, and their four children.

After consultation with Judy and her legal adviser, it is proposed that the assets of the Trust be settled on Judy, a discretionary beneficiary of the John Fernyhough Family Trust, who in turn will settle those same assets on a new trust. A draft trust deed for the new trust has been drafted and, subject to ironing out a few legal issues and obtaining Judy's approval, will be adopted in the near future. The new trust will not be a registered charitable trust but, unlike the existing Trust, will have a distribution date and named beneficiaries.

A critical issue for the new trust will be the appointment of trustees. Bryan and Nancy Tichborne, Andrew Bax, Steve Parker, Neil Pavitt (in place of his twin brother Ian) and I have indicated a willingness to be re-appointed, but new and younger trustees are needed if John's dream is to be fulfilled i.e. to maintain the cottage as a historic family building and allow future Pavitt descendants to use and enjoy it. The existing trustee are all getting older and won't be around for ever. We need input from the next generation that will bring energy, innovation and flair, and suggestions

as to how the cottage can be better utilised. Without family support and the involvement of the next generation, the question will inevitably be asked, what purpose is there for the cottage to remain a Pavitt family asset? We would like to think the wider family appreciates the value of "owning" a historic cottage and its ongoing availability for future generations. It is for this reason we are seeking new trustees.

Being a trustee is not that onerous in terms of time and effort. There are legal responsibilities but with good governance and access to sound legal and financial advice, the risks involved are minimal. Meetings are held by telephone conference calls and day-to-day issues are dealt with by phone or email. Typically, we have an annual one day working bee at the cottage, involving those trustees that can make it and the wider family. This is a fun day and is as much about socialising as working.

If you or a member of your immediate family thinks they can contribute, please let us know by emailing Nancy Tichborne at tichborne@watercolours.co.nz or calling her on 03 304 7878.

Dick Fernyhough

26 September 2016



The finished dunny complete with designer rust...

View of the throne...

STOP PRESS

The recent 7.8M earthquake thankfully didn't affect the cottage. The initial quake was felt in the area but there was no damage to the building or contents. Still very much open for business!

THE WONDERFUL DIVERSITY OF THE CURRENT PAVITT FAMILY

I've always been intrigued with the ways families become so diverse over time. In the Pavitt case (and my own) from rather staid Anglo-Saxon roots, with maybe a dash of Celtic—to the rich mixture of descendants we have today. Thank goodness we didn't stay in England! There is a veritable united nations within the modern Pavitt fold: European New Zealanders, Maori, Samoans, Australians, English (the ones who remained UK and the ones who have returned there in more recent years), Hungarians, Africans, Germans, Chinese, Japanese, Americans and Spaniards! Even a Borneo connection! Here are just a few of our wonderfully cosmopolitan whanau... *Bryan*



Birthday picnic in January this year on a hot day. Roger Thomas, of German origin was unable to attend but his wife Janey celebrated her 50th in style with family (Pavitt descendants) from around New Zealand.



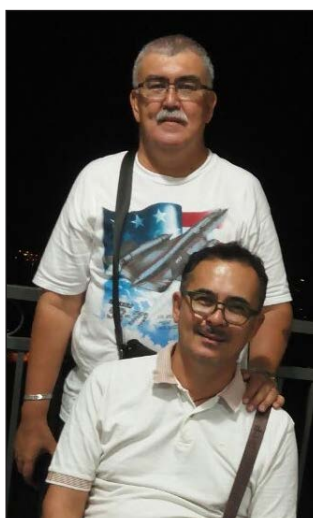
Johnny Stephens' family: Vanessa, Savanna, Bridget (Mum) and Sara Yong-Stephens. There are two other daughters—Nevada & Chyna.



Hugo, Jemima, Rachel & Monty Voon Tichborne. True Kiwis but proud of their Hakka Chinese/Borneo ancestry too.



Gerald Davison's Spanish family: Mariano, daughter Mary, Marina and Maia.



Jules and Johnny Stephens. Great-grandsons of Ernest Alfred Pavitt who went from NZ to British North Borneo as a surveyor in 1880.



Bruce, Rabiya & Rumi (Japan) Roberts.

Cooking at the PAVITT COTTAGE in 1858

By Helen Leach

In October 1856, the house at Robinson's Bay that had been occupied by the four older sons of John Pavitt, was burnt to the ground. Since the mill was built about 1854, two of the sons—Henry and Francis—had married the Cuff sisters, Elizabeth and Annette. Both couples had their first children the year of the fire. As a result the Pavitt brothers replaced one house with three. The Pavitt Cottage is the sole survivor of these dwellings. It was built about 1857–8 for Henry and Elizabeth, and was close to the mill where Henry operated as a timber merchant. They did not live there very long. Henry had a serious accident in late 1858 or early 1859, which led to his death in June 1860. Elizabeth and their two children moved close to her family at Kaiapoi in 1859.

Whenever I visit the cottage I try to picture Elizabeth at work in the kitchen. Initially I imagined her standing beside a coal range built into the brick chimney, with a coalscuttle on the hearth and washing on the rack. But my recent research on the history of New Zealand kitchens suggests otherwise. The 1850 Canterbury settlers, including the Pavitts, would have been familiar with coal ranges in England. Two sorts were in use when they emigrated. The open range had a central firebox with an open and adjustable grate. On one side there might be a boiler for heating water, and on the other a baking oven. The closed range, which was often referred to as a Leamington kitchener, had a solid hotplate over the grate, internal flues that conducted the hot air around the oven(s), and a register that sealed off the chimney opening and stopped soot falling into the pots on the hotplate. Both sorts of range required a well-constructed brick chimney, preferably built with firebricks. To carry on cooking with either type in New Zealand, the settlers' houses needed brick chimneys, and a bricklayer to fit the range, and seal it if it was a closed model. They also needed a supply of good quality affordable coal, since that is what English ranges were designed to burn, and enough money to buy the range and ship it to New Zealand.

When the Pavitts were rebuilding after the fire in 1856 only small quantities of bricks were available. Newspapers show that bricks were shipped to Lyttelton in batches of a thousand, from Australia or from as far afield as England. Fire bricks were particularly expensive, selling in Melbourne for £6 to £7 per thousand. Local brick making was underway in Canterbury in 1852 at the Papanui Brick Manufactory—their bricks sold at 40s per thousand, but were not advertised for very long (*Lyttelton Times* 4 December 1852). Most pioneer brick makers did not have the machinery or kilns to make high quality bricks. In late 1859 T. Aldwin & Co. first advertised bricks at £5 per thousand from the Ferry Road Brick-field (*Lyttelton Times* 19 November 1859). It was not until the early 1860s that newspapers reported the construction of whole houses and public buildings from bricks.

Even if you could source quality bricks there was little point in buying an imported English range if suitable coal was scarce and expensive. Canterbury's first coalfield was at the Malvern Hills and it was worked from 1852. For the first ten years mostly surface coal was extracted by a few miners, and the supply was intermittent (*Lyttelton Times* 4 May 1861). Small quantities of better quality coal were brought from Australia and England but the price was high. This evidence suggests that the Pavitts would not have fitted a coal-burning English kitchener range in the newly erected cottage. So what alternatives did they have?

Some immigrants went back to 18th century cooking arrangements in open hearths with fire dogs, cranes for manoeuvring heavy pots, and various sizes of three-legged camp ovens. These were suited to backblocks huts, but hardly to a well-built weatherboard cottage. Others installed what was known as a 'colonial oven'. This was usually a simple sheet metal box-oven fitted into a low brick surround in the base of an open chimney (Fig. 1). For everyday cooking a fire was built on the top, with a gridiron above it to support pots and kettles. If the oven was required, some burning material was transferred to the cavity beneath the oven. The best colonial ovens were made in Australia throughout the 1850s and exported in large numbers to New Zealand. Different sizes were available, but they required the services of a bricklayer to install, and they developed a reputation for being unsafe, especially when left unattended at night.

Lady Barker who lived on a Canterbury sheep station near Whitecliffs in the mid-1860s was the proud owner of an English-made Leamington range that she described as "a luxury quite unknown in these parts, where all the cooking is done on an American stove" (Lady Barker, *Station Life in New Zealand* [1870]. Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd 1956, p.63).



Fig. 1. A well-finished colonial oven, drawn by L.R. Drummond for *At Home in New Zealand*, by Alison & L.R. Drummond. (Blackwood & Janet Paul Ltd, Auckland, 1967, p.87).



Fig. 2. This American stove, the Eastern Premium, was one of seven models imported to Dunedin in 1859. It was made in Albany, New York, shipped to a Melbourne importer, thence to Otago. (Rathbone & Kennedy Circular for 1854, Harvard University, Baker Library).

Today few New Zealanders know that a mid-19th century American stove was a free-standing, closed iron stove on legs. Its appeal to New Zealand settlers before coal was available and affordable was that it was a wood-burner and (in theory) portable. One "superior American stove" was advertised for auction in 1858 "complete, with fittings and piping" (*Lyttelton Times* 22 December 1858). It was soon followed by others, listed in household clearing sales. American stoves did not need a brick chimney nor the services of a bricklayer. A slender metal flue pipe, with elbows if needed, vented the heat and smoke outside. American stoves reached Dunedin in 1859 via a Melbourne importer who procured them from New York (Fig. 2). There were numerous models, some highly decorated, but very few have survived to take their place in our settlers' museums. Looking at the c.1870 painting of the Pavitt Cottage, I now wonder whether the insubstantial 'chimney' is actually a metal flue pipe (Fig. 3).



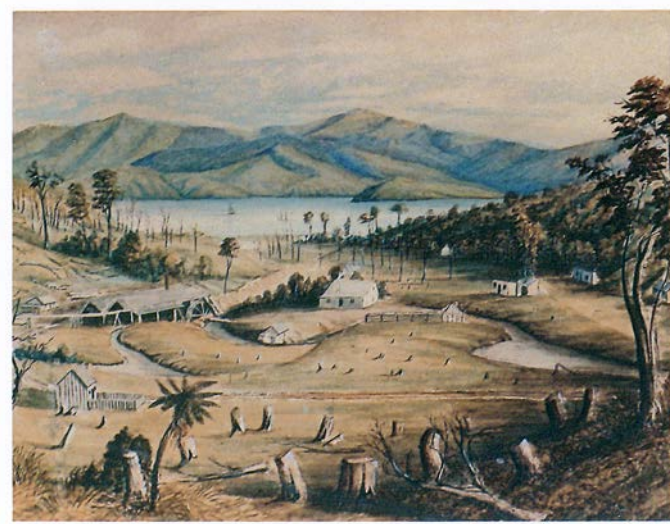
Fig. 3. A detail from the Wynn Williams painting of the mill at Robinson's Bay c.1870, showing the rear of the Pavitt Cottage with chimney stack or flue pipe. (Reproduced from Jessie Mould's *The Old Water Wheel. The Story of the First Sawmill in Canterbury*, Te Waihora Press, Lincoln, 1991, p.7)

By the mid-1860s American stoves faced increasing competition in New Zealand from English kitcheners like the 1862 Radclyffe range (Fig. 4), and from free-standing American-style stoves made in Scotland by Smith and Wellstood. These resembled a kitchener but did not require a brick chimney. In the 1870s when New Zealand manufacturers like Shacklock and Scott Brothers began to make ranges, they offered their customers both fitted and free-standing ranges, with fireboxes that could accommodate both wood and coal—in other words the best features of both British ranges and American stoves.



Fig. 4. This recently discovered 1862 model Radclyffe kitchener was installed in the attic of the Bank of New Zealand building in Princes Street, Dunedin about 1882 (access courtesy of Michael Van Aart, photo by Raelene Inglis).

One thing is certain—in its 158 years, the Pavitt Cottage has had many different cooking devices. Whether called stoves or ranges, hobs or ovens, they would have been made in many different countries around the world—a truly international line-up.



The Robinson's Bay sawmill and Pavitt's house c. 1870. Owned by Wynn Williams.

Friends of the Pavitt Cottage membership form

Please renew/sign us up as a member of the Friends of Pavitt Cottage. I/we enclose a cheque for \$20.00 payable to "Pavitt Cottage Trust" to cover membership for the current calendar year. Any donations along with the membership fee would be gratefully received. Current membership can be viewed on the Pavitt website: www.pavitt.co.nz

Date: _____ Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Please supply your email address if you have one: _____

Post to: Bryan Tichborne, Secretary Pavitt Cottage Trust, 16 Rue Balguerrie, Akaroa 7520, New Zealand

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