

# | McATAMNEY GALLERY AND DESIGN STORE

## **BOB KERR | THE THREE WISE MEN OF KUROW**

Playing painting

Once We Built a Tower, a play by Dean Parker, recently packed out a season at Wellington's Bats Theatre. The play was inspired by a series of paintings by Bob Kerr called The Three Wise Men of Kurow about the headmaster, Presbyterian minister and doctor at Kurow in the early 1930s. Now Bob is expanding the series for a show at Geraldine's McAtamney Gallery - this time inspired by images from Dean's play.

## **BOB KERR | THE THREE WISE MEN OF KUROW**

**OPENING SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER 2PM | ARTIST FLOOR TALK**

This exhibition at the McAtamney Gallery in Geraldine runs from the 12th of October until the 17th of November. It includes works from an earlier show at Enjoy Gallery in Wellington and these new works. The three wise men as they were affectionally called were Andrew Davidson, Dr. Gervan McMillan and Arnold Nordmeyer.



To Create a New Society. 120 x 40 cms

"We were fired with a fervent desire to create a new society," wrote Andrew Davidson in his memoir. Their new society was to replace the poverty and unemployment they witnessed in Kurow during the depression of the 1930s.

## | McATAMNEY GALLERY AND DESIGN STORE



The Doctors House. 107 x 16 cms

The doctors house still exists in Kurow. It was here the three would meet, discuss and write their vision for their New Society.



Leaving for the conference 52 x 20 cms

Dr. Gervan MacMillian took their ideas for a free medical service to the Labour Party conference in 1934. The paper he presented became party policy.

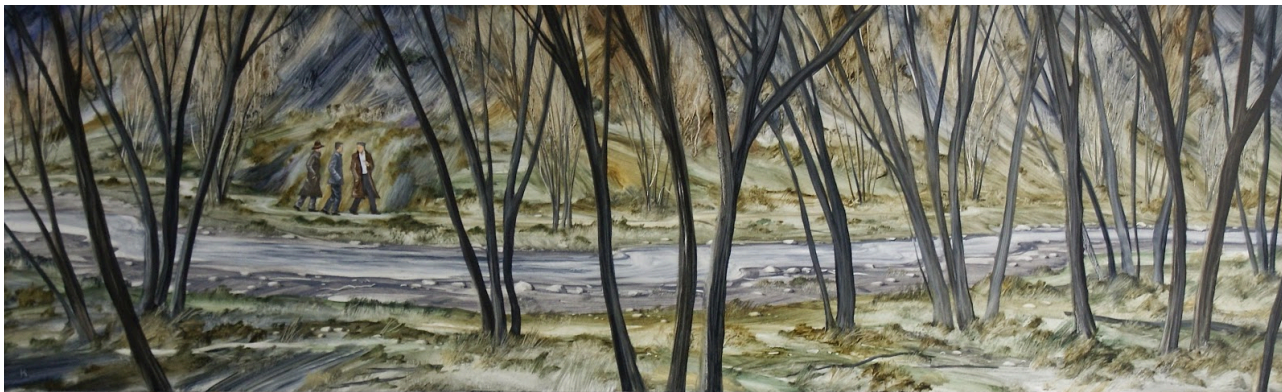


The trains would make way 36x 25 cms

MacMillian expected the trains in the Waitaki hydro shunting yards to give way to him. He was known for his furious driving around his large practice.

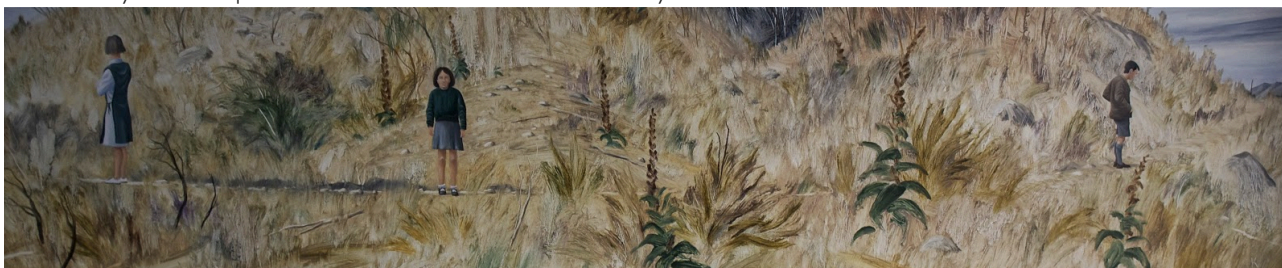


## | McATAMNEY GALLERY AND DESIGN STORE



An Act to provide 122 x 37 cms

The health service that the three wrote about around the doctors kitchen table eventually developed into the 1938 Social Security Act.



The Path to School 193 x 40 cms

With the sudden arrival of construction workers for the dam and unemployed hoping to get work Andrew Davidson's Kurow school spilled out into Nordmeyer's church hall, the social hall at construction site, and the totaliser building at the racecourse. It was a lively time in education, Dr. Beeby the director of Education believed in social and economic equality for every child regardless of academic ability and what he called the child centered school rather than the school centred child. Andrew Davidson's first job was often to provide his ragged new pupils with warm clothing from money the Nordy had raised.





The teacher 13 x 17.5 cms





The Doctor 13 x 17.5 cms





the Minister 13 x 17.5 cms

At the Willows and At the Doctors kitchen Table - three watercolors.



| McATAMNEY GALLERY AND DESIGN STORE





| McATAMNEY GALLERY AND DESIGN STORE





## | McATAMNEY GALLERY AND DESIGN STORE

The McAtamney Gallery is upstairs in the Old Post Office Building 47/49 Talbot St. Geraldine.

Open Thursday to Monday 11am until 3:00pm or by appointment, Tuesday and Wednesday by appointment.

PH: +64 3 69 37 292

[E:carolyn@mcataamneygallery.co.nz](mailto:carolyn@mcataamneygallery.co.nz)