

# *Furious Riding*

Book release 17 November 2017  
NZ\$44 (+ postage and packing)

To order email: [kevin\\_clark@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kevin_clark@xtra.co.nz)

The Chauvet Libeau and Hedgman Libeau  
Families of Akaroa 1840-1920

It is 1895, and 12-year-old Amelia Hunt is spending a week with her grandparents Clémence Libeau (née Gendrot) and Joseph Lucien Libeau. Amelia is fascinated by the stories of their earlier lives, including when they left Rochefort, France as young children in March 1840, aboard the *Comte de Paris* to Akaroa, New Zealand.

Through their tales, we get a glimpse into the lives of the early settlers in New Zealand, and discover the disturbing truth about Joseph Libeau Senior, and the hardship faced by his first and second wives, Magdelaine Chauvet and Mary Ann Hedgman.

We also learn about other descendants. Some stayed in Banks Peninsula or moved around New Zealand, while others went back to France, or moved to Australia or the USA. The book ends with the experience of 40 descendants in WWI and the death in 1919 of Joseph Lucien Libeau; the last survivor from the *Comte de Paris* voyage.



*Furious Riding* is written by Angela Pyke and Kevin Clark, sixth and seventh generation descendants of Magdelaine Chauvet and Joseph Libeau. It is the result of over 10 years of research and the compilation of stories, documents and photographs generously provided by family members who have collected, written about and recorded family history. The book also draws on research by other writers, discussion with many people, documents discovered in archives and reports in old newspapers.