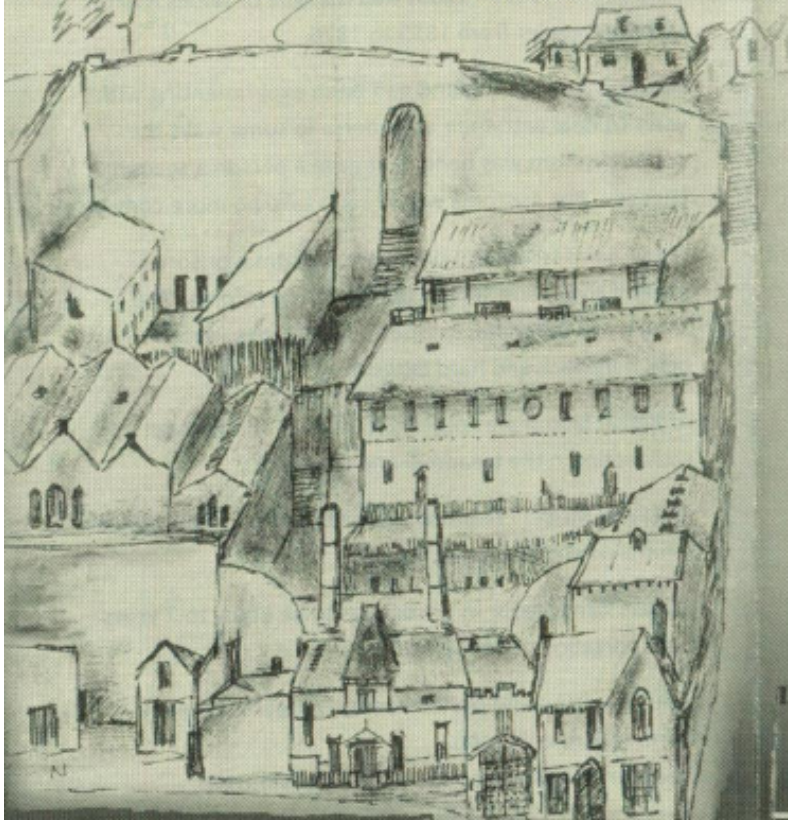


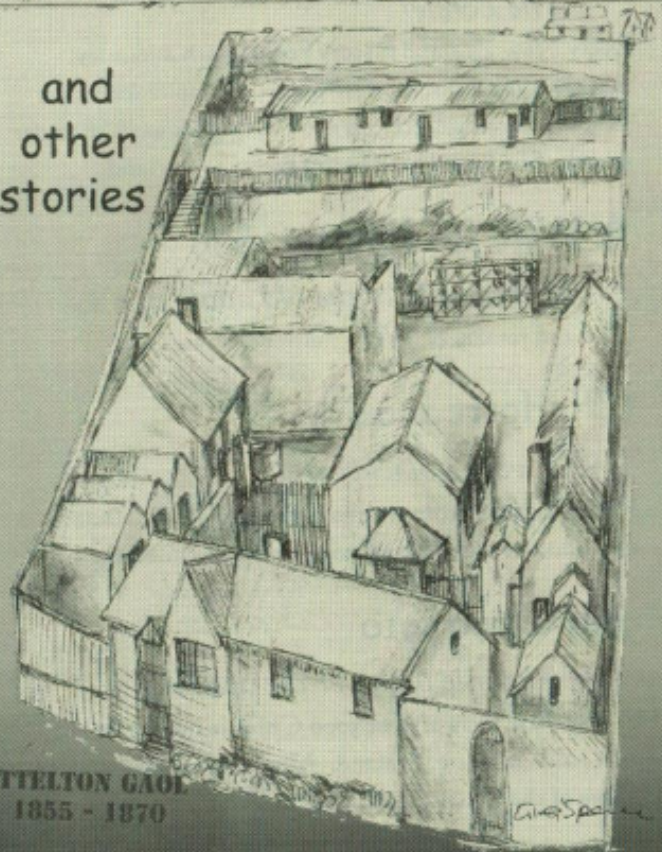
LYTTELTON PRISON
1876 - 1923



Eliza Reston's Lyttelton

and
other
stories

LYTTELTON GAOL
1855 - 1870



Rosalia Gierszewski 1872

The Lorelei

Every New Zealand history begins with a journey. Rosalia came from the new German Empire where her religion, language, culture and land rights were all under attack. She hoped for a better life in a new land.

A Wife for Johnny 1899

In the shade of the old apple tree

Love and romance? Well - marriage anyway.

Charlotte 1904

If I were a blackbird

Spot the career woman. She power dresses in black, is well educated, dedicated, confident and childless.

Ah Choo 1910

My bonnie lies over the ocean

In 1885 there were almost 5000 Chinese miners on the gold fields in New Zealand. Nine of them had wives. None of the wives was Chinese.

Interval

The Gaoler's Wife 1855

Ho-ro, my Nut Brown Maiden

Eliza Reston (1827 - 1899) was the wife of James Reston, Lyttelton gaoler from 1855 to 1876.

For a generation England had been experimenting with ways to deal with their offenders. In some ways the convict system was benign. It gave a person a second chance. But Australia would soon take no more convicts.

Could a prison system be used to reform a prisoner? What if they were forced to reflect and reform? The recipe was darkness, solitude and afflictive labour - hard bed, hard tack and hard labour.

Afflictive labour was repetitive solitary and without satisfaction - the treadmill and the crank.

The New Model Prisons were built by the Royal Engineers to implement these new ideas.

4 years hard labour in prison was to be equal to 7 years transportation. Life was still life.

Stories written and performed by Margaret Copland
Piano - Dianne Watson

Cover drawings and costume by Gina Mintrom