

Vaccines & Vesicles: a History of Smallpox Vaccination in New Zealand

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Since the 1850s, smallpox was introduced many times into New Zealand. This book is a history of how the government stopped any major outbreaks largely through the use of imported and locally made vaccines.

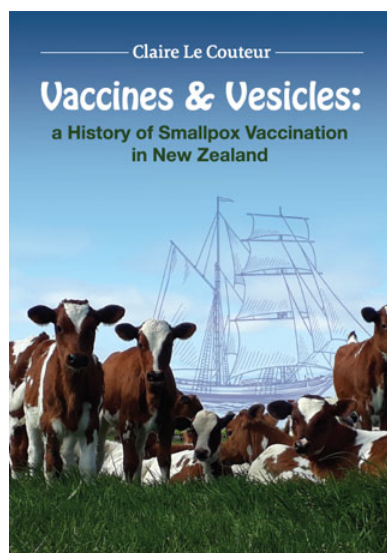
In the 1880s, the Superintendent of Sunnyside Asylum in Christchurch set up a vaccine station to manufacture smallpox vaccine using calves he infected with cowpox. Several entrepreneurs in other parts of the country manufactured similar vaccines in the late 1800s.

The government later established a vaccine station in Wellington that made the vaccine up until the 1960s. It is amazing that what now seems like an extremely crude product protected so many people and, along with isolation measures, stopped the infection seriously taking hold in New Zealand.

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