

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2014

NEWS AND VIEWS

Rangitikei Weekend

On the 17th and 18th May the Marton Museum took part in the Annual Heritage Weekend. This year's theme was the history of rail in our district. A pictorial display was erected in the archive room for visitors to view. The old photos on display showed the many changes that happened in and around Marton as the railway line and station evolved. In the Cooks Cottage, there was also a new display of some of the many articles of clothing that have been donated over the years.

We had a good range of age groups visiting the Museum and it was heartening to see a number of young visitors who were very interested in exploring all of the artefacts that were on display.

The archive room was also very popular with many visitors, as they delved into family history, early maps and news clippings. A number of them were very keen to have a return visit so that they could research further.

Special thanks go to our President, Rod who was present for the whole weekend, and to all the volunteers who took time out of their weekend to make this annual event a success.

Research

Sandy Jackson's nephew – Adam Jackson – a WW1 soldier whose name is on the memorial is being researched by Margaret McKay.

James Cook School

It was really good to receive the lovely letters and feedback from the children of James Cook School, after their recent visit. It is so good to have schools visit us and listen to and answer their many interesting and wonderful questions. We hope that they benefit from learning more about Marton's history.

WW1 DVD

The WW1 DVD is near completion. Credit must go to John Vickers for his research. Our historical society was pleased to supply information from its archives and help him with his work.

CALENDAR OF 2014



Bi-Monthly Gathering Tuesday 14th October

Where: MHS Archives Room,
Wellington Rd, Marton

When 2pm

Speaker: Bruce Thomson who
grew up in Tutaenui.
This will be followed by
afternoon tea.

If anyone needs transport
please phone either Maureen
3276104, Rod 3276099 or Pat
3276063.

SPONSORSHIP

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\$20 per issue.**

**This newsletter is
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with many thanks.**

Extra Marton history websites

For more information on Marton's History, try these web-site addresses

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/1966/marton>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marton,_New_Zealand

<http://rangitikei.com/about-marton>

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/the-queen-in-marton>

SOCIETY UPDATES

Thanks to our volunteers

A big thanks to all involved in helping with research, village visits and with keeping the village tidy. Thanks to:

Maureen, Pat, Franklin, Peter and Elaine, Kylie, Lynne and Brian, Kathryn and Diana and Jim.

Marton Brass Band

Marton Municipal Brass Band has had a long history of bringing musical pleasure to the community. Marton town's first civic organisation, a musical brass group, was formed in 1863. Mr James Kendrick, an early settler, loved music and wanted a band. He obtained instruments from England, made musical stands, wrote music and trained the players. By 1867 the band of Rangitikei Royal Rifles played for many occasions and until the late 1800s were travelling to Wanganui and Wellington, always in demand. In the early 1900s the band was known as Marton Municipal Brass Band and then another band was formed, the Marton Junction Citizens' Band. There was much rivalry and competition between these two bands. There are many newspaper articles in the Rangitikei Advocate on their competitiveness. Many concerts were held on Sundays. The band played in the Marton Park Band Rotunda, crowds coming to hear them. The bands fell on hard times by 1918, numbers had fallen off, instruments were old and meetings were held with the results being they went into recess. In August 1919 a new band formed with the support from the Borough Council due to many requests and their wanting to keep faith with the community. For many years the band flourished, new instruments were bought in 1921, they had many learners, increased financial support, they played at concerts, race meetings, shows, all public gatherings,

HELP WANTED

Do you have any of the following items that you could donate to the Society?

- ⇒ Matching bedside tables
- ⇒ Lowboy chest of drawers for adults bedroom
- ⇒ Kitchen shelves
- ⇒ What-not display rack
- ⇒ Display rack (suitable for holding pamphlets)
- ⇒ Plates, Bowls, Cups and cutlery

STORAGE

Do you know of some free, secure space (e.g. garage, spare room, office, shed)?

We need to store some of our collections off-site. Please ask around your friends, family and contacts, and let us know!

heightening the spirit of patriotism. In 1938 the band was obliged to again go into recess through lack of numbers. In May 1940 they did arise again under the guidance of Mr George Denbow and Mr Hurley, and become the pride of the Rangitikei. Concerts continued but in 1956 their Band Rotunda at the park was demolished and the band hall destroyed by fire. A new band hall was built in 1960 in



Hair St, their new home. From this time the band continued from strength to strength, new uniforms, instruments playing modern arrangements and weekly raffles for the next twenty three years, all contributed to bring musical pleasure to the community. At the National Competitions in 1985 the Marton Band won the D Grade Title. In the 1990s numbers were in decline and younger players were encouraged and a Rangitikei

College Brass Band formed under auspices of Mr Selwyn Holmes. Sadly today Marton does not have a brass band after approximately 140 years of history and serving the community. Recently the band hall was sold, the end of an era.

ROD'S REMINISCENCES

Childhood - Part 1 – The House

My home base before I went to school was a dairy farm on Fern Flats road – part of the original Dunsinane Estate. Some modern maps & guides call the area Fern Flat, but that is quite wrong – other places in NZ are called that, but not this area. Our driveway was exactly 1 mile from the Tutaenui Rd / Jeffersons Line intersection. Round numbers always feel good!

The house was like many others built in the early 1900s, but had the front veranda replaced with an extra room — the “Drawing Room” — part of Father’s wedding present to my Mother when she joined the family. Thirty years later the timber cladding on this room had deteriorated much more than that in the older parts, demonstrating a definite decline in standards, or was that decline just due to supply problems caused by the World War? About 1950, a shiny new piano showed up – also a wedding present, but rather late on account of the same war.

The Drawing Room was mostly off limits of course — only used when needed to impress visiting relatives (or for music lessons on the piano). However many years later the room was honoured with the installation of a new television set with a shiny wooden cabinet — a real piece of fancy furniture (& I presume, at a comparable price). That was the end of pretensions for the room. It instantly became a common family rumpus room until we lost our awe of the TV set and moved it to the dining room where the fireplace was. A memorable feature of having a TV was the whole family (except Mother) sitting up until midnight on Saturdays to watch “Elliot Ness & the Untouchables”. A lean-to section had been added to the back of the house at some stage, containing a laundry (with Kauri tubs and wood fired copper boiler) and a bathroom with a hot water cylinder, a bath and enough floor space for about two people standing up — nothing else. The bath had the only hot

water tap in the house. When Father needed hot water to wash up after a day's farm work, he fetched it from the bath tap in an enamel basin. A similar system with a large enamel jug, provided hot water if it was required in the kitchen.

The bath had a custom made wooden platform fitted over and covering half of it. This formed a baby changing table — an essential facility for a newly-wed couple with no other bathroom space. The hot water cylinder was 30 gallons — small by today's standards, but both water and energy had to be conserved; so we all used the same, pretty shallow, batch of bath water. Father got the fresh water first — a question of established "pecking order".

The bottom shelf of the little hot water cupboard above the cylinder was often populated with a dozen or so newly hatched chickens, all going peep, peep, peep, and maybe sometimes the odd sick duckling.

A flush toilet was in a separate building in the back yard — rather character building when the weather was cold and wet. We children were generally allowed to keep a potty under the bath for such situations though — I guess we were the start of a new more pampered generation, newly freed from the ravages of the Great Depression and the World War.

The sceptic tank system was a three stage, purpose built, concrete construction under the lawn, not an "off the shelf" thing like is available today. This kept blocking up for some unknown reason. Then it had to be dug up and dug out. Eventually it was realised that the ink on newsprint used as toilet paper was preventing proper operation of the system. That was a relief — being forced to modernise in that department!

To be continued – next time – "The Farmyard"