

NEWSLETTER JULY 2017 NEWS AND VIEWS

AGM

The AGM was held on Tuesday 16th May and it was attended by 21 members. The committee remained unchanged. As a committee we felt it has been a very successful year. We also welcomed some new members Peter and Barbara Dawson, Barry and Robyn Rankin. We had an interesting talk from Rona and Gwen about their early school days at the country school at Fern Flats.

The present committee is President-Rod Smith, Treasurer-Pat Hayman, Secretary-Kylie Searle, Committee Members- Sharon McKandry, Elaine and Peter Saywell, Kathryn Wick and Maureen Velvin.

The Patron remains as Jim Howard.

NEXT MEMBERS MEETING

Our next Members' Meeting will be on Tuesday 18th July at 2pm in the Archive Room.

We are calling it "**Do you Remember When?**"

A walk down Memory Lane and a catch up over a cuppa.

There will photos and stories of past events in Marton and an open chat about.... "were you there....can you remember it?"

RANGITIKEI WEEKEND

Rangitikei Weekend this year was the 13th and 14th May. This is when all five museums in the Rangitikei were open to the general public for both days. We had about 34 visitors over the weekend, mostly to look through the village, but some called in to ask questions and also do family research. Luckily the weather stayed fine for us.

VISIT TO KENDRICK COTTAGE

Our Members' meeting on 18th April was a visit to Kendrick Cottage to see Francis Wilson's bottle collection and many other artefacts and memorabilia. What a wonderful collection and very interesting talk. Francis is obviously very knowledgeable and told us some good stories about his collection, and also how some of it was collected. We then all returned to the Archive Room at the Village for afternoon tea, where Francis joined us and continued to answer questions.

CALENDAR OF 2017



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The bottle museum in the garden of Kendrick Cottage.



The Meccano Clock.



Listening to Francis with interest



COLIN VELVIN



It is with sadness that we recognise the passing of Colin David Velvin, a long time member of the Marton and District Historical Society. Colin was greatly valued, especially for the support he gave to Maureen, and his knowledge of military matters has been most helpful. He was very involved with the RSA. Our sympathies to Maureen and Family.

R.I.P. Colin.

MUSEUM OPENING

We are planning to open the Museum on a regular basis and would like to know if there are any members who would enjoy being involved in assisting with this. Initially it will be Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 3 pm. This will begin on Tuesday 25th July.

If we have more volunteers this can be expanded to more than one afternoon or morning.

We are also discussing when we could also open, maybe once or twice a month, on a weekend.

Anyone interested please phone either Pat on 327 6063 or Sharon on 327 7903.

A RECIPE FROM 1946

This appears in a recipe, hints and tips book from 1946 . The booklet is the Victory edition of a wartime recipe book.

Calf's Head Sauce

You will need:-

Half a small calf's head, cold water to cover, 1 small onion, 1 small carrot, and turnip, 2 sticks celery, small bunch of parsley and herbs, 6 peppercorns, 2 cloves, some allspice, salt and pepper.

Clean head and remove brains, and lay aside in cold water.

Soak head in cold salted water for 2 hours, and put into saucepan with salted water to cover and boil for 10 minutes, then discard the water.

Add more cold water to cover. Clean and cut vegetables into pieces, salt them, put herbs and spices into muslin, and put it all into saucepan. Simmer gently for 3 or 4 hours.

After, lift head out and cut meat off into large neat pieces and put on nice hot dish.

Make cup full of sauce with milk, cornflour, salt and pepper, chopped parsley and lemon juice. When made pour very hot sauce over meat.

(let us know if anyone is keen enough to try this ?????)

ROD'S REMINISCENCES

Blowing Stuff Up (continued) – “Low” Explosive

We also had blasting powder. This is a “low” explosive, a bit like gunpowder. Despite it being called a “powder”, it actually looks like small pieces of coal, up to maybe 7mm diameter. This was used in a “log-splitting gun”, which is a kind of dead-end pipe with a sharpened rim on the open end that is filled with blasting powder and hammered into the end of a log. The powder is ignited from a fuse stuck in a touch-hole like an old-fashioned cannon. The resulting explosion blasts into the end of the log and hopefully splits it into two or more pieces.

One time, a chunk of log flew quite a long way and landed 50 yards away in



Log Splitting Gun – Displayed in Mangaweka Museum

the middle of the road. Luckily there was no traffic at the time.

We kids found another use for blasting powder though. If you picked out the larger lumps from the tin – especially if you could find lumps with a slightly pointy shape – you could hold these in your fingers and light the pointy end in a candle or similar, then throw the lump while it fizzed and flared like a tracer bullet. They generally went out within a second or two; so didn't ever do any harm when used in flare fights between opposing teams.

I guess we took reasonable precautions to ensure the whole stock of ammunition didn't ignite at once – anyway, it never did; so we couldn't have been totally stupid.

If blasting powder was ground up in a pestle & mortar until it was a fine powder it could be packed solid into a cylinder to form a solid-fuel rocket. An empty brass aircraft cannon shell casing was good for this, of which there were plenty around this district (ex Ohakea's gunnery practice ranges). It never worked as a rocket because the brass casing was too heavy, but still made a most impressive flare.

I learned that the blasting powder must not be left in its original lump form for this or else it just reverts to its original instinct to explode violently rather than just burn furiously. The day I found this out, I got rather a shock, but I had taken the precaution of being on the other side of a one meter thick tree when the explosion happened; so no harm was done.

Next time — Fire Crackers

That's all for now folks. Rod Smith