

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2017 NEWS AND VIEW

Arts and Craft Weekend

On the weekend of 23rd and 24th September, Craft Alive was held in the Memorial Hall so we opened the Historic Village from 10 to 3 on Saturday and Sunday. We had several visitors to look at the display of antique clothes and accessories, and a few visitors to the Museum.



CALENDAR OF 2017



NEXT MEMBERS MEETING

The next meeting is on Tuesday 21st November and will be an outing and afternoon tea at The Coach House Museum, Feilding. We will be leaving Marton Historic Village at 1pm. Details in article in newsletter.



To see old newsletters visit our website at:

New website at
["tinyurl.com/martonhist"](http://tinyurl.com/martonhist)

QR CODE FOR WEBSITE
(Newsletters not available on
Mobile version of site)



Museum Opening

We are now opening the museum on a Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 3 pm and have had a steady flow of visitors, mainly interested in doing research.

Future Opening

It is planned to start opening on a Saturday 1 to 3, as from Saturday 4th November. This will be fortnightly.

Members Meeting

Below is a photo of our last Members Meeting which was on Tuesday 19th September. There was a very interesting talk by Jeanette Galpin that afternoon.



End of Year Members Outing and Afternoon Tea

Date.....Tuesday 21st November.

Time.....Meet at Village at 12.45pm. If you need a lift from home we can pick up at 12.45.

We will be leaving at 1pm.

Entrance to the Coach House Museum, Afternoon Tea and Transport \$20 per person payable in advance.

RSVP to Pat Hayman 327 6063 or Maureen Velvin 327 6104.

New email address

As Vodafone are cancelling their ihug email addresses we have a new email as from **30th November**. Our new address will be martonhist@gmail.com

Recent Research

Descendants of Cockburn and Hammond. The Bushby, Parker and Dawbin families.

The history of George Cummins, inventor of the Sandow Wool Press. He was a wheelwright, farrier and blacksmith of Marton.

Fred Rubery

We are sad to hear of the passing of Fred Rubery who was a long term member of the Marton Historical Society. We would like to send our condolences and thoughts to his family.

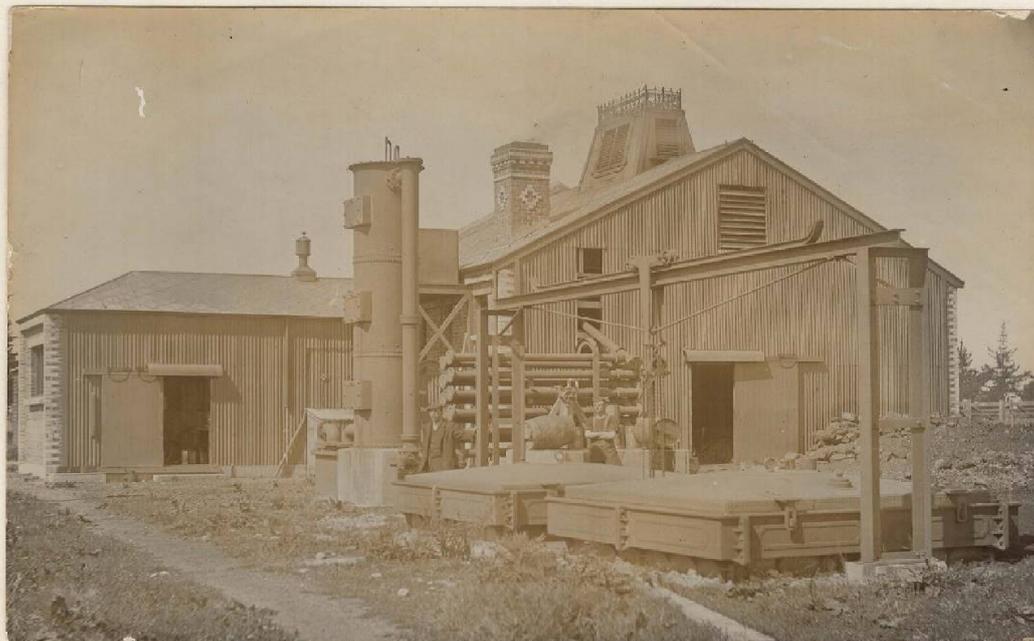
Early Sites

Have you ever wondered about some of Marton's early sites? In 1893 three early settlers (Messrs Gibbons, McDonald and McEldowney) wished to provide an area for recreation, hence they formed a company and paid 250 pounds for Shannon's Paddock and with working bees and tree planting created a public park. In 1895 the then council purchased the park which today is Marton Park.

In 1902 Marton opened the Municipal Gasworks when the first street lights were switched on. The works supplied gas to homes and businesses for 53 years. The gasworks closed in 1955 on the site which is now the Marton Memorial Hall, which was opened in 1961, and the Marton Historical Village which opened in 1978.



~~Harold~~ ^{Harold} MANAGER, MR WHINCOP (left), STOKER ^{William} ~~W.S.~~ MURCOTT (right), WHO WAS MARRIED TO LOUISE WHINCOP



ROD'S REMINISCENCE

Blowing Stuff Up (continued) – Chemicals

If hydrogen and oxygen gases are mixed in roughly the right proportions they form a mixture that goes off with a most impressive bang when ignited. I found the best way to get something like the right mixture was to seal a plastic bag over the vent holes of an old fashioned car battery, then charge the battery at a fast rate. The bag would slowly accumulate the required gasses.

Only a very small inflation was required to produce a very large bang — **Warning:** anything as large as a standard party balloon would be absolutely lethal — so don't try it. The best fuse was a piece of Steelo connected across the end of some twin electrical cable. Briefly connecting the cable to the terminals of the aforementioned battery then produced the desired result.

I set one of these off in the Electrical Assembly department at PEC one day and was somewhat pleasantly surprised when I realised that all the windows and skylights were still intact — for a moment, after the bang, I had thought things might be different.

Plain **Hydrogen & Ammonia gases and stink-bombs** were other specialities.

Around 1960, it seems that floating party balloons, such as we commonly saw depicted in overseas publications and comics, were not available in New Zealand; so I set out to make my own lighter-than-air balloon. The idea was quite a novelty — I don't believe I had ever seen any kind of lighter-than-air device before.

I found that it was possible at that time to buy large party balloons that could be easily inflated to about half a meter or more diameter. I found that a standard Brasso tin had a funny shaped neck that was ideal for fitting a balloon neck onto (holding it on with a rubber band if necessary). All that was necessary, was to fill the Brasso tin with small strips of aluminium cut up with tin snips, put a generous quantity of caustic soda flakes in there as well, add water and attach the balloon.

During the next hour or so, the balloon would slowly inflate with hydrogen gas. When removed from the tin and tied off it could typically carry a small weight (I remember using nail scissors as one payload). It took quite a change of mind-set to realise that if one "dropped" this contraption, it didn't fall on the floor, but shot straight up to the ceiling (or vanished in the wild blue yonder, if one was outdoors).

One day we loaded one of these balloons up with some aluminium foil squares attached to its string and sent it off in the supposed direction of Ohakea's radar system. There was, of course, no practical way to ascertain its fate, or how high it got or anything.

Maybe it travelled the globe.

Next time — Stink Bombs