

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2013

NEWS AND VIEWS

Rangitikei Weekend was a success

On 18-19 May 2013 we had Rangitikei weekend. All museums in the Rangitikei were open sometime over the weekend. We had sixty six visitors over the weekend some of which were visiting each museum in turn. All seemed to enjoy themselves and made many complimentary remarks.

Visitors to the village

Rod hosted the Marton scouts in the evening of Wednesday the 12th of June. They had a good look around the village and seemed to enjoy themselves, we had some good feedback and Rod had to answer many interesting questions.

We also hosted the Marton genealogy group on Saturday the 15th of June. They had a good look around the archives room and Maureen assisted them to research their family records. We also showed a couple of ladies around Cook's Cottage.

Members Meeting

On the 11th of June we had a members meeting, which was attended by about a dozen members of the Marton Historic Society. The guest speaker for the afternoon was Joan Gower who spoke about the early history of the Gower family when they first moved to the Rangitikei district. Big thanks to Joan for being our guest speaker.

Recent research inquiries

- Richard Whale family on Pukepapa Rd from a lady in Auckland.
- Farrell F Riley and Joseph M Richards from a lady in Australia.
- Robert and Mary Bett who were the owners of Gladstone house which was a boarding house in Signal St (later known as Braeside) from a lady in Auckland.

CALENDAR OF 2013



Bi-Monthly Gathering

Tuesday 13 August 2013

Guest speaker is Wally Bertram

Where: MHS Archives Room,
Wellington Rd, Marton

When 2pm

We are very lucky to have guest speakers and would appreciate members attending to hear our interesting guest speakers.

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

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsor our newsletter! Only \$20 per issue.

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, Margaret, Heather, Franklin, Peter, Elaine, Kylie, Lynne and Pat.

Collection management

We are still on the lookout for more furniture for the Cottage.

Thank you for the donation of the eiderdown and blankets. They will be displayed in the Cottage shortly.

As always, if you know of anyone who is **downsizing, moving house, or having a clear out** please ask them to keep the Historic Society in mind. We can arrange to collect items if necessary.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Society membership

We would love to get some new members on board – so please mention Marton Historical Society to your friends and family. If they are interested, we can provide them with an information pack. If you have any ideas about recruiting new members, please let us know!

New Members

We had recruited a new member to our society and committee. We welcome Kathryn Wick to our committee and look forward to getting to know her.

Donations of Items

Thank you for the donations of the following:

- Polaroid Land Swinger camera by Rod Smith
- Record player by Pat Mcverry
- New Zealand Flag by Rona Rippon
- Glass mustard dish by Rona Rippon

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!

ROD'S REFLECTIONS

Marton Flood

There have been many pictures printed over the years of the infamous Marton Flood of 13th February 1950. These mainly show Broadway awash with fast flowing water and tractors extracting children from Marton District High School. As well as schools and shops, the gas works was put out of action. At this time the population of Marton was quoted as 2800.

My Grandmother lived at 461 Wellington Rd, the next house south of the Arahina driveway (which was referred to as "Crooke's" in those days, as they owned the property). Her main memory of the flood for ever after, was the sight of Arahina's driveway bridge "sailing down the Tute".

My family travelled in from the farm that morning to see if we could get to the above address to help in any way, but that was not to be. I don't remember exactly how we got to Pukepapa Road – we may have been able to get to and go up Bond Street, although that now seems a bit doubtful after seeing the flow of water in the 2004 flood. Whatever – we definitely managed to travel down Henderson's line from Pukepapa Road. However about 20 or 30 yards from Wellington Road, the water became too deep to drive in and we had to turn back, much to the disappointment of the small children in the car, just when the adventure was getting exciting.

People were naturally wondering where all the water had come from. The true answer was probably "from the same place a lot of water came from in 2004 – heavy persistent rain north of the town", but there were no flood control dams in 1951; so the effects were a lot worse. A popular rumour on the day was that the Tutaenui water supply dam had burst. Some people still believe that, judging by some recent stories.

Not true though — the dam is still there today in perfectly good health. It may even have helped hold back what would have been even more water if it hadn't been there.

There was another significant flood event in 1976, but this was not as serious as the two mentioned above.

Yours Historically
Rod and the Committee