

# NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2018

## NEWS AND VIEW

Welcome to 2018 it is sure to be a happy new year. We hope you all had a great holiday season. Many thanks to all the volunteers from 2017 and hope to see you all again soon.

### COACH HOUSE OUTING

On 21<sup>st</sup> November 18 members came on an outing to The Coach House Museum in Feilding. We were greeted by their very friendly team and left to wander around the museum at our own pace. There were so many interesting displays that it took quite a while to walk around them all, so we were all very pleased to be greeted with afternoon tea when we arrived back into the foyer. It was a very enjoyable afternoon, so many thanks to all at the Coach House.



Phaeton donated by Jeanette Galpin. Pat Simpson on another Phaeton.

### RECENT RESEARCH

In December last year we researched the Wasson Family. This year we have done the Hempseed Family.

## CALENDAR OF 2018



### NEXT MEMBERS MEETING

The next meeting is on 20<sup>th</sup> of February at 2.00pm. The guest speaker will be Diana Howard. The meeting will be followed by afternoon tea.



To see old newsletters visit our website at:

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

### QR CODE FOR WEBSITE



## LORNA McLEAN

It is with sadness that we have seen the passing of Lorna McLean who was one of our earliest members. We send our thoughts and condolences to her family and friends.

## MUSEUM OPENING TIMES

The Marton Museum and Archive Room will be open every Tuesday afternoon from 1 until 3pm.

## ANTON GAZENBEEK

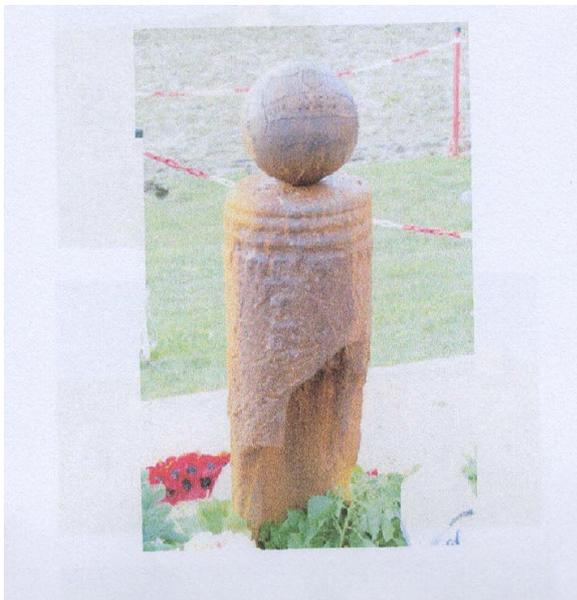
Anton Gazenbeek, a strong supporter of the Marton Historical Society, lives in Belgium. Anton's early years were in Marton, attending Marton Primary and Rangitikei College, when in 1976 the family moved away to Belgium. He has always kept in touch, corresponding with locals, supporting the Society and receiving our newsletters for many years.

He has a keen interest in heritage and war history, also an organiser of New Zealanders in Belgium Group.

Last year Anton attended a Centennial Anniversary of The Battle of Passchendaele Commemorations, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October, and has forwarded many pages of writings of his experience, with photos of NZ'rs attending, eg all NZ Culture Group, Students, RSA Representatives, Members of Parliament and Citizens.

He was thrilled to meet a lady from Marton, Annette Ritchie, daughter of Lou & Peggy Ritchie. As an interesting fact, Annette (nee Ritchie ) and Peter Murray are the parents of Eric Murray, Olympic Gold Medallist, 2012 and 2016.

In 2014 Anton also attended the Centennial of WW1 Christmas Truce, and he also forwarded his writings with photos on this event. The below photo being a memorial to the Game of Football played between New Zealanders and German soldiers.



This is the Monument at Ploegsteert, Ball on Rusty Shell Case, depicting that football game.

The Marton Historical Society will be pleased to share these articles of WW1 commemorations to persons interested in reading them. Contact us please by phone on 327 6104.

### NEXT MEMBERS MEETING

The next members meeting will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. The speaker will be Diana Howard followed by afternoon tea.

### MEMBERS OUTING

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March there will be an outing to Foxton to visit MAVTEC (Museum of Audio Visual Technology ) and also the Old Print Shop ( Manawatu Herald's old Offices ), where there is a wonderful collection of instruments and old working print gear. Also a full size Dutch Street Organ. We will be shown around by the owners of this, Jim and Sarah Harper.

We can then make our way to the new Millside Café, Daar Bij Die Molen, which is in the new museum and library complex. You will be welcome to either sit and chat over a long leisurely afternoon tea, or have a look around Oranjehof – Dutch Connection Centre.

Maureen, Rod and Pat did a reconnaissance and found all of the places absolutely great to look around. The Harpers and the Dutch Connection Volunteers are all so welcoming and knowledgeable, and the café offers a good selection of slices and savouries.



The Dutch Street Organ in Jim and Sarah Harper's Museum.

**The cost of this outing will be \$15 per person, to cover entrance to all 3 museums. Everyone can then buy their own choice of afternoon tea.**

**We will need to leave Marton Historical Society at 12.45 pm.  
We can collect you from home if requested.**

**Names and payment please to Pat by 13<sup>th</sup> March. Please phone Pat on 327 6063.**

On the next page is a photo of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom in Foxton next door to the Foxton windmill.



**Rangitikei Faith Trail**  
**Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> 2018, 10 am to 4 pm**

**Join us as we take a tour of our Anglican churches throughout the Rangitikei parish. See stunning architecture, learn more of our local history and hear the stories unique to our region.**

**Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea is provided.**

**Cost: \$50 pp or \$80 for two people (or a family with children under 14 years old).**

**For bookings or enquiries please contact the parish office: [rangianguelican@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rangianguelican@xtra.co.nz)  
(06) 327 8398**

**or Sue on 021 201 4483.**

## VISITING HISTORIC CHURCHES

If anyone is interested in the attached poster please call Pat on 327 6063,

## ROD'S REMINISCENCES

### Myrtle Follett

The children in my family were lucky to benefit from the loving attentions of our “Aunty Myrtle” – Myrtle Follett, who worked as a general housekeeper and companion to Elizabeth Duckworth, a small-time dairy farmer. They lived at “Ribby” a conspicuous house on the first hill up Galpins road on the way to Mount Curl. From the big window on the south side of the house there was (& presumably still is) a good view over the Rangitikei plains down to Kapiti island in the distance – on a clear day.

I found out years later that Myrtle’s association with our family was from my Grandfather Parkinson’s mother whose maiden name was Follett. Myrtle never married; so spent a lot of her time knitting superb jumpers etc for us kids and generally providing a generous supply of birthday and Christmas presents and things like that. She could knit just about anything using a wide range of fancy stitches and colours — just show her a picture of what was wanted. But as far as I know, she could not read knitting patterns; so it was no use providing one of those to her — unless it had a nice picture as well.

The route of our rural mail run (RD2) ran in the direction from Mount Curl to Fern Flats and beyond; so Myrtle could easily send us parcels – often contained in a zip-up carry bag – by simply popping them in her mailbox with an address label and a tip for the mail carrier, and they would be with us within an hour or so. We couldn’t send stuff in the reversed direction of course, but we didn’t need to anyway.

Sometime Aunty Myrtle would take me to afternoon tea in the “Lounge” tea rooms up the stairs between McGruers & what is now Downs Appliances. In those days this was the only place in town that I know of that had a cabinet with sandwiches and cakes to choose from (like lots of places do now). One day I remember, she was in the line of customers along the cakes cabinet and I was along-side the line, presumably looking hungry. She suddenly handed me a cake off her tray, told me to eat it and put a replacement cake on her tray. I presume that, when she got to cash register, she did not offer to pay for the one she gave me, but I’ll never really know.

Aunty Myrtle arranged a standing order arrangement with Morgan’s bookshop that stood about where Cooks TAB now is. She paid for a series of comics on a regular basis and I just had to go into the shop each week and pick up the order. It was from these that I was introduced to the wonderful world of Disney — Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Goofy, Pluto and the original Disneyland. Comics were quite popular with children in those days — well before TV in New Zealand. Morgan’s bookshop also sold “Art Union” tickets – a forerunner of the Golden Kiwi (which in turn, became Lotto). I believe these always sold a fixed number of tickets; so there was no predetermined closing date. The sign board outside the shop always seemed to say “Hurry – last tickets” or something like that.

Another of my regular comics was Film Fun. This introduced me to British entertainers’ names such as Abbot & Costello, Frankie Howerd, Red Skelton, Terry Thomas, Sid James and Tony Hancock. I already knew about Laurel & Hardy as their films came around regularly.

As I got older, at least one of the comics on order (Tiny Tots) was no longer appropriate for my age-group, but Myrtle didn’t twig to that, and I never stopped to think about it; so I

continued to dutifully collect it every week along with the others. One day, one of the local bullies at school stole the bundle of comics off the back of my bike and had a great time announcing to the world what a sissy I must be to read “Tiny Tots”. It wasn’t going to be much good trying to explain that I hadn’t given that comic more than a passing glance for some time.

I think it was a valuable lesson though, that, in life, one should not just let things drift along without adjustment when overall situations are changing.

One or two of the publications I read around this time featured advertisements giving away postage stamps from various countries and offering to send “Approvals”. I had no idea what “approvals” were (where is a little kid on a farm supposed to pick up that kind of information?). They said the stamps were free; so I assumed that “approvals” were too — whatever they were.

I did know that my Grandmother often asked clothing shops for items “on appro”, and I knew what that meant in practice, but never twigged that the stamp people were talking about the same concept. I wonder if even she knew that “appro” was an abbreviation of “approval”. Either way, it certainly didn’t help my understanding of the world.

I eventually twigged to what it all meant after begging letters about the stamps arrived from England many, many months later. By then I’d probably lost the stamps; so the vendors never got their “approvals” back nor any payment for them. They gave up after a couple of reminders — probably muttering about the risks of dealing with South Seas Natives.

I had an argument with Readers Digest one time, when I ordered something that, according to their advertising, “*only cost 3 instalments of 10/- each*”, and that is exactly what I paid. They claimed they expected Post & Packing on top of the first instalment. I questioned what part of the word “only” they didn’t understand. I don’t recall ever paying them the extra. I presume that’s the reason sharky outfits like them are somewhat more wary of dealing with underage kids these days – they know that such contracts are unenforceable.

*That’s all folks.*

*Rod*