



Tena Koutou Katoa
Greetings to
all from
President
DALE WEBB

As you are probably aware the Marlborough Historical Society in its early years built a number of replica buildings on Brayshaw Heritage Park and rather than see them demolished or literally fall down has accepted, moved to the Park and restored a number of others. In recent years we have been given and moved the 1897 Fever Ward previously in the grounds of Wairau Hospital and last year the 1875 Methodist church from Tua Marina. The last major building project was our Fire Station which is a replica of the 1925 station which stood on the site of the present Blenheim Fire Station.

The Fire Station was like most of Beavertown built largely with recycled materials, volunteer labour, community raised/donated funds and was completed to the stage of being closed in and able to store the collection of fire appliances and equipment before over taken by the next project. The Fever Ward had to be moved from Wairau Hospital as part of the ongoing development there and was given to us almost "here it is ready or not". It was also restored with volunteer labour and community raised/donated funds and is now the location of the Museum's large collection of medical equipment and the schoolroom for our very successful Heritage Education Programme. It is complete except for a small decorative turret on top and the storm water drainage system. The Tua Marina church, the second oldest in Marlborough had been unused for several years and was in poor condition when donated to us by the Tua Marina Methodist community; they paid for the preparation, move and re-establishment on Brayshaw Heritage Park at a cost of approximately \$50,000. We obtained many of the necessary regulatory approvals for the move and re-establishment and are responsible for the restoration. For that your committee has raised over \$18,000 from generous individuals and organisations as well as making good progress on the refurbishment. As well

as the funds received we have also been fortunate in that some materials have been gifted and have received materials and/or trade services at heavily discounted rates. A recent review indicates about \$25,000 will be required to complete the restoration. It is impossible to be too precise as with old buildings as there are always surprises; what appears to be sound structure on examination proves to be anything but, however unexpected generosity also occurs. The church at Tua Marina that replaced this one in 1934 sadly has also recently closed and we were fortunate to receive from the congregation some of the pews, the pulpit, lectern and font so furnishing the church when the restoration is complete will be a much smaller task than originally expected.

The review of the church project also considered the Fever Ward and Fire Station as clearly they must also be completed. Again for the same reasons exact costings are not possible but best estimates are \$15,000 to complete the Fever Ward and \$20,000 for the Fire Station. All three buildings are significant parts of Marlborough's heritage and deserve to be restored to their former status and maintained that way.

As you can imagine we do not have the necessary money and have already used our reserves. As most of you have an empathy with these buildings you may wish to contribute to their restoration. To that end in the next few weeks we plan to phone as many of you as possible and invite you to an afternoon tea to show what has been done and what is still necessary. I hope you will be able to come and to assist.

As well as restoring buildings though we have two trips coming up soon and a film premier, details elsewhere in this newsletter and finally it's time to start planning this year's Sunday Series. If you have any ideas for that please let the Museum office or me know. Later again in the year we will be celebrating our 60th birthday so again if you have any thoughts as to how we can best do that please share them.

Finally as always many thanks for your continuing support as we continue to celebrate Marlborough's marvellous heritage.

Dale Webb

dale@vinastra.co.nz

COLLECTIONS ONLINE

Thanks to the good work of the computer experts we have (Jenny Pierson and John Penny) our online presence continues to grow and attract visitors. Recent additions include Wild Things, Kiwiana, Hidden Gems, Roofless and Mapping Marlborough. The McCusker collection has had major additions and is now split into Portraits, Wedding Photographs, Catholic material, Military photographs, photographs of Places and general material. There is also an exhibit featuring Norm Brayshaw.

To access the site go to www.marlboroughmuseum.org.nz and click the Collections Online link. From there click Recently Added to select from the new material. Here are some samples to enjoy.



Hilger and Watts compensated aneroid barometer from "Mapping Marlborough"



Native Snail Shell from Mt Robertson in "Wild Things"



Wooden Toy Dog from "Kiwiana"



Roofless - the first amphibious vehicle to complete the 65 kilometre journey across Cook Strait from "Roofless", an Edwin Fox Society exhibit.



"Dutch Girl" laundry apron intended to hold pegs, from "Kiwiana".

Heritage Day 2015

Heritage Day, as always on the 6th February is almost upon us; the theme is "Gearing up for Gallipoli" as in February 1915 that is exactly what the nation was unwittingly doing. As well as simply a great day to visit the Museum, Beavertown and Park generally the following activities are planned:-

Riverside Railway will be operating between Brayshaw Park and town.

Vintage Car Club will be providing light refreshments and their popular Bacon and Egg Butties.

Marlborough Historical Society will again run their Passport competition for the kids and the Fire Station will be open.

Vintage & Farm Machinery will be running a sausage sizzle and will be selling ice creams/ice blocks.

Creative Fibre Guild will be doing spinning demonstrations and will have some of their crafts on display.

Marlborough Associated Modellers will have their model trains running and giving rides. Also a sausage sizzle.

Guild of Woodworkers will have their workshop open.

Lots of lovely wooden toys and you can see some of their members working on projects.

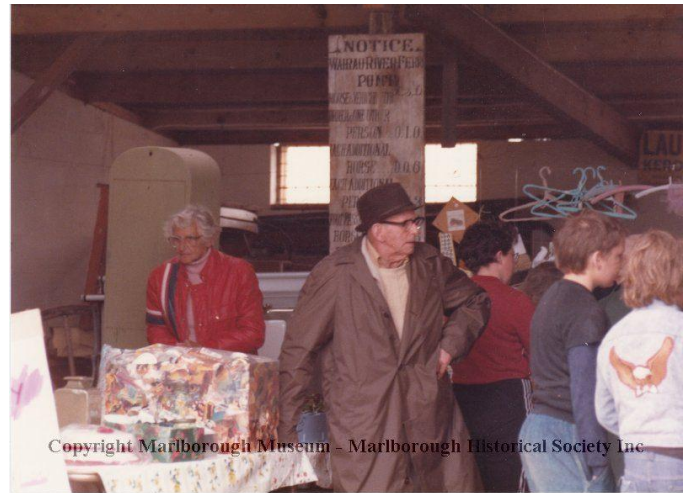
The Garrison will again have a display of World War History and will be dressed accordingly.

Marlborough Rock and Mineral Club will have their workshop open and you can see the interesting types of rocks and minerals found in our area.

Grand Parade 2pm. See the old cars, tractors and farm machinery, and the fire engines of yesteryear.

As mentioned in the last newsletter the ladies of the Marlborough Embroiderers' Guild Inc will be displaying in the old Tua Marina church the work resulting from their Guild Challenge for this year which has been called "Pick a Poppy". They will have quite a large selection of poppies stitched in a number of different techniques. There will also be other embroidery on display including a number of Hussifs, sometimes called a house wife when issued to military personnel. All the WW1 soldiers had a Hussif as when on active service there was nobody else to mend the inevitable damage to uniform or reattach buttons. As with everything people do some took this everyday utility item to very artistic lengths. As well as the embroidery Steve plans to have a photo display from WW1, it is intended to have a permanent display in the church vestry of the Marlborough men and women that lost their lives in this terrible conflict. It's also a great opportunity to have a look inside the church and see this latest addition to our heritage building collection.

In the Museum itself will be our permanent exhibitions but if you have not seen them yet the dolls and map displays are well worth a visit.



It's not a great photo but the above was taken at an open day at Brayshaw Park some years ago. Do you know who it is and when? Answer on the last page.

From the

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Steve is away on leave this week so we let him off a contribution this time. He can tell us all about his upcoming new exhibitions, Remarkable Marlborough project next time.

Who was it? "Open Day Brayshaw Park, November 1985: Patron and Life Member, Darcy Gibson (died May 1986)". He is in the Beavertown Livery and Bait Stables. The notice in the background is for the Wairau River Ferry punt. Part of the Brayshaw Park, Beavertown photographic inventory, taken by Roger Thwaites in 1985.

PEOPLE

In this newsletter we welcome as new members of the MHS Robin and Bernice Sutherland, great to have you with us.

Sadly we will soon lose Karla Hermon our hard working cleaner and part-time weekend host . Many thanks Karla for all your good work and hopefully we will still see your smiling face in the Museum from time to time.

Upcoming

FIELD TRIPS

Kaikoura: there is a trip planned to Kaikoura on Saturday the 21st February. Meet in the Brayshaw Park car park at 09.00am and drive down to visit the Kaikoura Museum and then onto Fyffe House. Bring a picnic lunch and we will have that in the grounds at Fyffe. After that participants can continue as they wish; either back to the Museum, continue at Fyffe House or anything else there they wish. If though you have not stopped at the Ohau Stream and watched the baby seals that is a **must do** on the way home. **Please advise Marilyn at the Museum (ph 578 1712) if you plan to come so that we can advise Kaikoura how many to expect.**

Nelson: this trip is planned for the 7th March and will be a bus trip so no need to drive.

Details of the trip.

0830 Leave Brayshaw Park

1000 Approx, Meet Steve Bagley at St Arnaud (DOC archaeologist) our guide for the day.

Continue on to Kawatiri and then follow SH 6 to Nelson calling into the sites associated with the Nelson Railroad.

1700 Approx. Arrive back in Blenheim.

If you wish to come on this trip please book with Marilyn at the Museum (ph 578 1712). A seat will be confirmed when the fare of \$50.00 is paid.

People will need to take their own food and drink and please take clothes suitable for the weather.

From GENEALOGY

Our local genealogy group, Family History Research leases two rooms at Brayshaw Historical Park located adjacent to the Beaverton Hall; they house a Library and a Research Room. The main aim of the group is to assist people to research their family history and compile a family tree.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, starting at

7:30pm. Generally we hold our meetings in the Beavertown Hall, although occasionally go on field trips to places of historical interest. Everyone who is interested is very welcome - it is not just for members. The aim of the meetings is to present information of interest to researchers, and to provide a forum for like-minded people to get together and share ideas. These meetings are fairly informal and end with a cup of coffee and a biscuit.

Our next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Tuesday the 17th of February at Beavertown Hall. It will be a club night and people are given the opportunity to talk about their research and any problems that they are experiencing.

If you are interested and want to find out more please ring our Secretary Don Henry on 5791987 any evening.

From the Archives Team

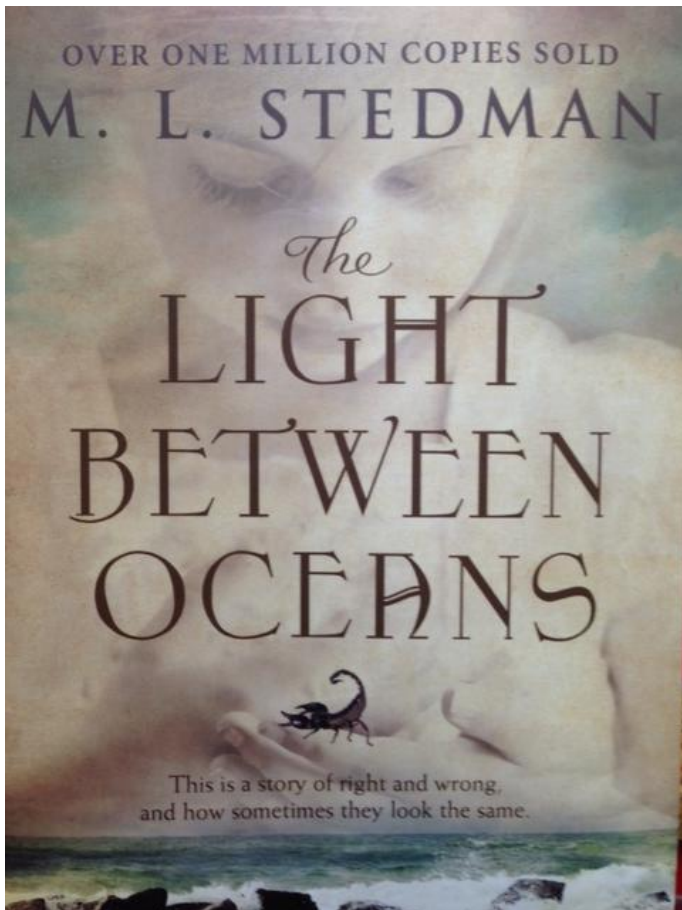
Archives has recently received a donation from Mrs Belinda Vavasour of a collection of diaries, account books and receipts from Ugbrooke. These give a fascinating insight to the day to day life in management of a large station and the lives of the family.

The current portion of the map project is almost complete with the maps in their new location and brief entries onto Pastperfect well underway. Funding will run out shortly. We have identified several large maps that require urgent preservation. In the short term these will only be able to be used for research under certain conditions. We are hoping to get some research copies done shortly.

From THE REGISTRAR

My office and the Museum workroom have been very busy places in recent months. During the last half of 2014 Marlborough Museum lent over 180 objects to LBO Productions of Stone Street Studios in Miramar, Wellington for their crews to use at Cape Campbell while filming Light Between Oceans.

We received significant financial donations as part of the hire arrangement, and when filming finished they donated some props used in the making of the movie. Peter Scott, of Blenheim Bookworld, had donated us a copy of the book the film was based on and some people working on the film signed this.



However, it is going to be awhile before we can go to the movies and hopefully see some of our own objects in a major film, as it isn't being released until 2016. Once it is released, we will make an exhibit of the book and props.

And the first few weeks of 2015 have been just as hectic. Along with the normal arrival of acquisitions, a large donation from Belinda Vavasour has arrived. These are interesting objects from Ugbrooke Station, her late husband's family estate, and include textiles like hats and vestments, objects such as farming paraphernalia, and photographs.

Belinda has also lent us a beautiful sculpture made in 1853 by Karl Hoffman of Rome. It depicts William, Oswald and Henry Vavasour as young children and has pride of place in the Museum foyer. It looks wonderful under the archway of brickwork. Getting it inside was quite a mission, accomplished with the help of Andrew Vavasour and his young son Fred.



Along with the sculpture, Belinda has also lent the Museum a cane bassinet used by Harold and Geraldine Goulter's children before being passed on to the Vavasour family who used it from 1940 to 2005. Belinda, herself, made the lovely linen Goose net cover and the valance.



New Book Published

On the following page is a review of a book recently written by Marlborough Historical Society member Ms Elisabeth Airey. Elisabeth is the Granddaughter of Dr and Mrs Renwick of Dumgree Station and lives in Wellington so we don't see her here very often. She is though an avid and respected historian and a strong supporter of the MHS. The book is about to be available at the Museum for \$29.99, a very reasonable price for a specialist small print run edition.



GALA FILM EVENING



Join us for a Wine Film extravaganza especially for Marlborough Wine Festival Week.

Top Town Cinema Wednesday 11th February 2015 7pm.



"VINTAGE MARLBOROUGH" - A new documentary by Paul Davidson and Barbara Gibb, tells the story of 30 years of Wine and Food Festivals here in beautiful Marlborough. Find out how this innovative and pioneering event got started by a bunch of party-loving wine growers, and how it grew to be still the best and biggest Wine and Food Festival in New Zealand. All told by the people who were there!

Director - Paul Davidson Running Time - 40 mins



RED OBSESSION

Narrated by Russell Crowe, this award-winning documentary takes us on an extraordinary journey from Bordeaux to Beijing, from the passion and art

of the vineyard to the notorious counterfeit wine markets of the Far East and into the homes of billionaire collectors.

RED OBSESSION explores the unlikely love affair between the traditional West and the seductive but unpredictable East.

Directors - David Roach, Warwick Ross Running Time - 75 mins

\$20 - includes a complimentary bubbles and nibbles.

Tickets from Marlborough Museum, Wine Marlborough or Top Town Cinemas. *Numbers strictly limited - be in now!*

Enquiries: 03 578 1712 or email: info@marlboroughmuseum.org.nz

"Vintage Marlborough" and this event kindly supported by:



A family story with a difference

For the sake of my daughter
From Aberdeen, Scotland to
Nelson, New Zealand
by
Elisabeth Airey

A wonderful 'portrait' of a woman, her daughter and the courageous decision they made to emigrate to Nelson in 1867, but a book with a wider purpose.

Primarily, it endeavours to tell us *why* such momentous decisions were made. It outlines the circumstances that drove much of 19th Century migration to New Zealand, spanning events and issues from the Reformation through to the early 20th century. It journeys from Aberdeen to Nelson, and tells a remarkable story that will resonate with many New Zealand families.

A combination of an astute, well-researched and precise account of historical circumstances of the time, and story, of Elizabeth and Annie Smith upping and leaving Scotland to establish better lives on the other side of the world.

With mention of a range of early Nelson and Marlborough families, personalities and places, it is likely to appeal widely.

Contains extensive illustrations, indexing, bibliography and endnotes.



Aberdeen Harbour: Univ. Aberdeen



Elizabeth Smith: Marlboro. Museum



Nelson c1863: Nelson Prov. Museum