

Hawke's Bay Branch trip to Feilding Coach House Museum trip

December 1, 2024

Sunday 24th November, members boarded the coach for the 3 hour trip from Havelock North to Feilding Coach House Museum, "A hidden gem of history waiting to be explored". Due to being a very long day, there were only 36 members on this trip.

Sadly, this was the last trip to be organized by Hawke's Bay Founders Branch President Paddy, and Secretary/Treasurer Richard. They announced their retirement earlier in the year, taking effect on 31 December 2024. 15 years ago they joined the Hawke's Bay Branch Committee. With the changes happening when the NZ Founders Society Inc new Constitution comes into Law on January 1st 2025, this was a good opportunity for Paddy & Richard to retire.

On the trip to Feilding, members were given brief "snippets" of historical interest by President Paddy. The Manawatu "snippets" were of particular interest to everyone, as this was our first trip in this region.

On arrival at the Feilding Coach House Museum, we were very warmly welcomed by Piki, the Manager of The Manawatu Historic Vehicle Collection Trust, and her volunteers.

What an amazing vast historical collection spanning over 140 years. It contains Horse-drawn vehicles, Vintage farm machinery, New Zealand Settlers Heritage stories, as well as specializing in Manawatu's District's history. The Museum also prides itself in having the finest collection of John Deere tractors and machinery in the Southern Hemisphere.

Members spent an hour prior to lunch viewing the collection. Following a delicious two course lunch, they continued viewing the displays.

On the homeward journey as we got closer to Hawke's Bay, the usual "sing-along" by "Choir Master" Richard commenced. It was very appropriate to include "Now is the Hour" and "Auld Lang Syne" as members farewelled Paddy & Richard.

PHOTOS:

1 Place mat Brochure

2 Mail Coach

3 Undertakers Coach

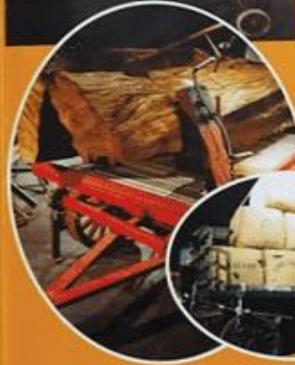
4 Secretary/Treasurer Richard & President Paddy Bayley

Feilding's Coach House Museum is a world-class collection of horse-drawn transport and New Zealand farming heritage. Our museum tells fascinating stories about the Manawatu – how its people transformed the natural landscape, built the thriving township of Feilding and developed agriculture in the district.

This vast historical collection spans over 140 years and includes Maori waka, beautifully restored horse-drawn vehicles, Edwardian household items, sheep and dairy farming displays, vintage trucks and farm machinery. The Coach House is home to the finest collection of Vintage John Deere tractors and machinery in the Southern Hemisphere.



"See the story of our District's history"



Using historic vehicles and artefacts, large-scale photography and written information the rural stories of Manawatu's past are brought to life.



"Largest display of vintage John Deere in Southern Hemisphere"



