

March report for Wanganui Branch

The National President, Ray Mudford provided a power point of his talk on the Cobb and Co coaches from the national AGM. The first Cobb and Co coach ran from Dunedin to Gabriel's Gully on 11 October 1861 From there it spread to other centres round the South Island and then expanded throughout the country. The last coach service was in 1923. One of our members remembers his father telling of travelling on the coach in 1922.

The early success of Cobb and Co was based in part on the introduction of a new style of horse-drawn vehicle known as the "thorough-brace" – a four wheeled horse drawn carriage designed for rough terrain. Its body hangs on thick leather straps rather than steel springs, providing a swaying, swinging motion that reduced the impact for passengers on uneven roads.



Hotel at the bottom of Porters pass (Painting)



A rescued Cobb and Co coach showing the backwards facing seat and the step to get in by.