

THE CHRONICLE

Coach House Museum

Newsletter of The Coach House Museum

September 2026

In association with Feilding & Districts Community Archive



We have recently received this Croquet Mallet and Tennis Racquet. The mallet is an early 20th century Jaques-London with 'The Malacca' stamped on one side.

The Tennis racquet was manufactured in early 1920s by Dayton Steel Racquet Company. These racquets used interlaced steel wire strings stretched tightly across a metal frame.

Ok....which is right.....Racquet or Racket? Or since Croquet is pronounced Cro-kay, does that mean it's Rac-kay?

Fitzroy Tennis Club Opening Day. The club disbanded in 1924. Photo: Hobday 1912



Manawatu District Libraries, <https://www.feildingheritage.nz/item/04f435d4-c679-4d08-bf92-137b6868ea1a>

Hobday
Photo

'First Fifty Years of Feilding Business' 1874—1924 Marilyn Wightman

Feilding and Districts

Community Archive (FDCA) now has the second book in the proposed series of six texts ready to go. Book Two is titled 'First Fifty Years of Feilding Business' 1874-1924.

Take any period of 50 years, there can be many changes to society. Technology, as it advances and becomes more sophisticated, provides



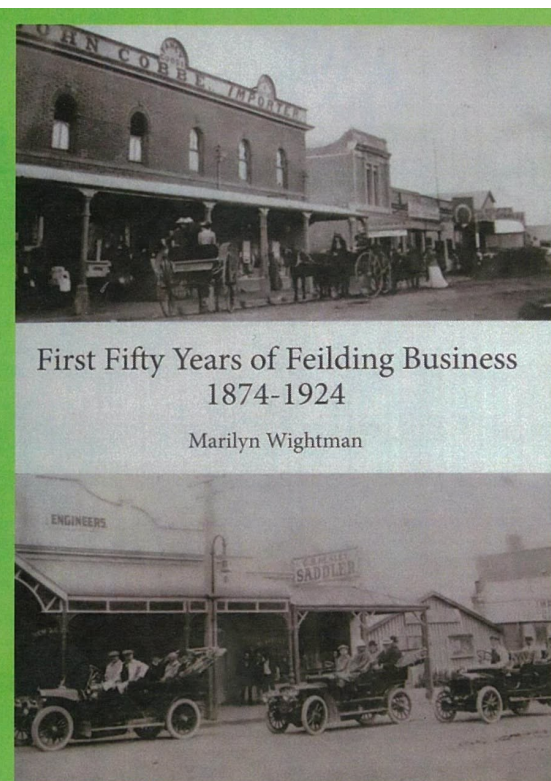
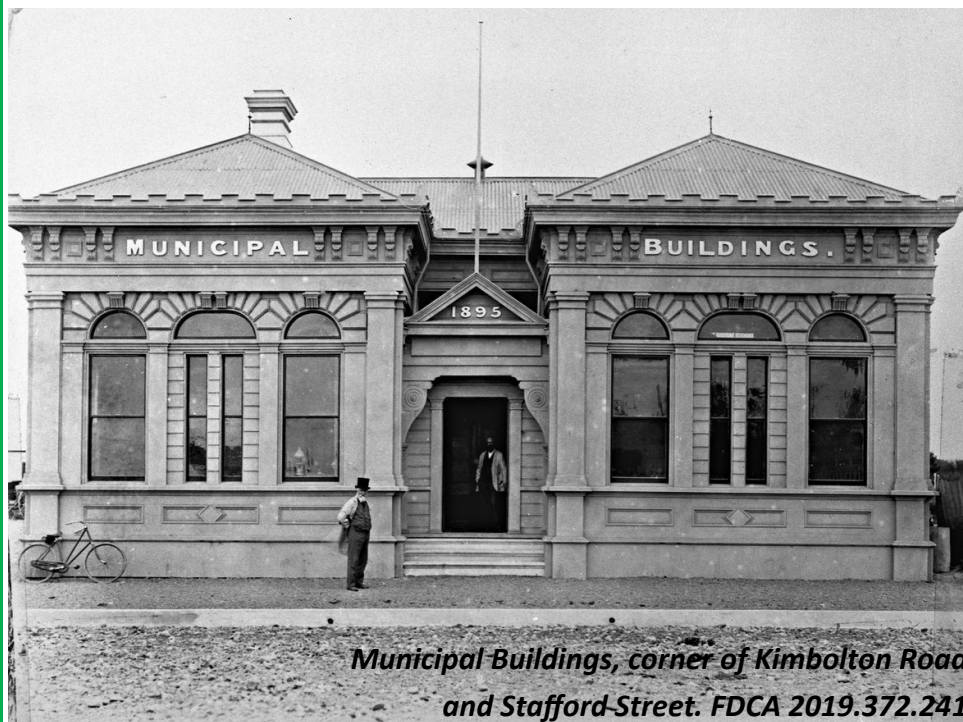
Clyde House in Manchester Street, nearly opposite Manchester Street School. Mrs Shirley was the proprietress. FDCA 2019.372.193



Cambell's Bookshop. FDCA 2019.372.389

sometimes radical changes. Consider the cell phone, would anyone believe back in the 1980s that such things would exist? This new book studies similar changes that happened from the late 19th century into the 20th century. The arrival of electricity as an example or water and gas supply. Transport saw major development from the horse to the car. To get to town, no longer were you first required to catch the horse, saddle it or put into the shafts of your gig. Once in town, where did the horse and gig get parked? Much easier when the bicycle and then the motor car arrived. And where and what awaited the customer in Feilding shops?

The businesses of 125 plus years ago are explained in the book. How they were set up, where they were, who owned them, the history and explanation of the trades that no longer exist such as stables management, tinsmith, blacksmith, carriage builder, brickmaker,



**First Fifty Years of Feilding Business
1874-1924**

Marilyn Wightman

Book Launch
Coach House Museum
121-127 South Street
Feilding

Sunday 13th September
1.30pm

*Feilding & Districts Community
Archive*

With 300 pages, each of the 80 chapters explain a trade. Included are street photos of the premises, advertisements and lists naming Feilding folk who worked in these places.

Dorothy Pilkington's Writer Fund and NZ Founders Society have provided funding to publish the book. Cost is \$45. All sales money will return to FDCA and CHM through mail order and retailing in the museum shop.

Please come to the book launch on Sunday 13th September at 1.30pm.

First Fifty Years of Feilding Business 1874—1924 Feilding's success as a small town relied on the agricultural industry of the surrounding country. With close proximity to the growing city of Palmerston North, railway connections to the nearest ports of Wanganui and Wellington the scope to export wool, meat, dairy and grain increased.

In writing this history from the worker's point of view, there were changes to employment opportunities as the nation developed as a whole. The intention has been to describe the many and varied forms of work that provided an income to the people who chose to live in Feilding. Listing people who went about their daily business covers most but not all. Some people stand out by their actions and reporting of the times in which they lived. Other people, quietly and perhaps modestly, went about their work and did their utmost to achieve income and security for the family and employees.

Attempts were first made to mine sulfur on **Whakaari (White Island)** in the late 19th century. Sulfur was used in the manufacture of sulfuric acid and superphosphate fertiliser. On 10 September 1914, 10 miners were killed when part of the crater wall collapsed, causing a landslide. The only survivor was the mining company's cat, Peter the Great. White Island, in the Bay of Plenty 50 km from Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki, is New Zealand's most active volcano. Known to Māori as Whakaari ('to uplift or expose to view'), it is important to the local iwi, Ngāti Awa and Te Whakatōhea. Sulfur mining on Whakaari White Island recommenced in the late 1920s but proved uneconomical and ceased in the early 1930s. A total of 11,000 tonnes had been obtained. Today the island is a privately owned scenic reserve. Until an eruption in December 2019 killed 22 people on the island, some 10,000 tourists visited Whakaari each year.



White Island, 1934 (Alexander Turnbull Library, WA-03273-G)

Christianville's Vanishing

Christianville was a small, religious settlement near Auckland in the early 1900s. One day, people discovered the village completely empty. Residents—including women and children—had left suddenly, leaving food on tables and personal belongings behind. Police found no signs of struggle or mass departure. Rumors of a cult, government pressure, and even paranormal causes took hold. No firm evidence explained their vanishing, and the truth never came out. The story of Christianville remains one of New Zealand's most puzzling cases.

Mystoric.com

A promotional graphic for the Coach House Museum's 'Boys and Their Toys' event. The background is a collage of vintage items including a classic car, a camera, a clock, a record, and a portrait. The text is overlaid on this collage. At the top, it says 'COACH HOUSE MUSEUM'S' in a curved banner. Below that, 'BOYS AND THEIR TOYS' is written in large, bold, serif letters. Underneath, 'SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 2026' is written in a similar font. Then, '121-127 SOUTH STREET, FEILDING' and 'GOLD COIN ENTRY' are listed. At the bottom, it says 'From Vintage Treasures TO Modern Marvels' in a script font, followed by '10AM - 2PM' in large, bold letters. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for 'The Coach House' with the tagline 'Pioneering to Prosperity'.