

EVENTS in MARCH 2025

13 – 15 March Central District Field days at Manfield, Feilding
www.cdfielddays.co.nz

15-16 March The Great Manawatu Steam Fair 2025

76 Maewa Road, Feilding \$10pp \$30 per car(maximum 5 people)
Under 5's free CASH ONLY

16 March Classic Motorcycle Swap Meet at Coach House Museum

Palmerston North City Library Local History Week 1-10 March and Heritage month 1-30 March

Members may be interested in the variety of events being held for Manawatu's Heritage month as there are many activities and guided tours for those interested in the history of the district. Check them out at;

<https://city/library.pncc.govt.nz/whats-on/programme/local-history>

26 March Hunter Room, Coach House Museum 1 pm
PLEASE PAY AT MUSEUM FRONT DESK BY 20TH MARCH
\$5 pp Non members are welcome.



APRIL 2025 Put these events on the calendar –
Old Skills Day at CHM ; SUNDAY 13 APRIL suggestions for displays please advise Piki, manager, the Coach House Museum 06/3236401

25 APRIL ANZAC Day : Service. Movie session being planned

Highland Fling 2025 RALLY Manawatu Vintage Car Club 27 April 80 - 100 pre 1931 cars will be at CHM 7am -9am



Newsletter of The Coach House Museum March 2025
In association with Feilding & Districts Community Archive

Manfield Park February 22 and 23rd February 2025 was filled with reminders of how Caterpillar machinery was useful in developing the New Zealand countryside. It was also the place to renew memories of vintage machinery one seldom sees in the 21st century. The event, under the auspices of the Manawatu Vintage Machinery Club, was held 'Celebrating the 50's and 100 years of Caterpillar'.



Summer day and a first-class display. A comment overheard "Wow! I did not expect anything as big as this. A great use of Manfield and so much to see."

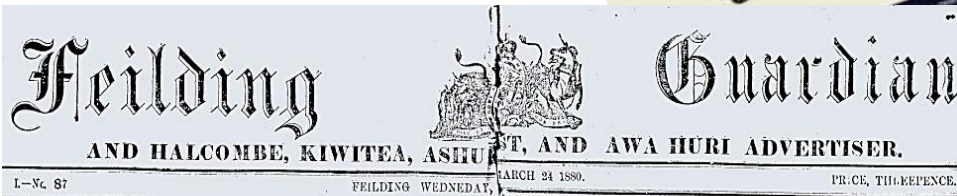
EARLY NEWSPAPERS

Information from Papers Past , Te Ara and Wikipedia

When railway links between Feilding and out lying towns were established , distribution of newspapers became viable. The first newspaper in Feilding was set up by George Capper and David Curle in 1879 and, in 1882 , after the new owners, George Kirton and Augustus Robert Curtis took charge, the name was changed to The Feilding Star. Before newspapers, telephones, computers and other technology that at one time seemed to be totally science fiction fantasy, news was usually spread by word of mouth. The Manawatu Daily Times was the first newspaper in the area and was established by Joseph Poulter Leary and John Law Kirkbride in October 1875. Five months earlier, they had started publishing the Rangitikei Advocate.

The Rangitikei Advocate
MANAWATU ARGUS.

The Manawatu Times.



By 1893 , the Feilding Star became a daily newspaper allowing it to compete with other district newspapers, especially The Manawatu Times. The next owner of the Feilding Star was Frederick Pirani in 1906. Reputed to be a radical liberal whose outspoken and combative manner involved him in many arguments especially when he was a Member of the House of Representatives for Palmerston North. Premier Seddon was the leader of the Liberal party at the time and frequent conflict with Pirani resulted in another candidate being put forward for the Liberal party for the election of 1899. Pirani, standing as an Independent, retained his seat and was in Parliament from 1893 to 1902. Pirani had worked as a journalist and had already been the owner of Manawatu Standard and Hutt and Petone Chronicle.

As Pirani became more involved with Education boards and implementation of education; several sports organisations; Fire brigade; A & P Assn. and lawsuits, he was less successful in his quest to be a Parliamentarian - his last unsuccessful attempt standing for Wellington Central against Peter Fraser. In June 1920 his son, Louis ,became the Feilding Star manager but Frederick remained director. Louis Died in Feilding in 1922, his widow becoming the first woman managing director of a N.Z. newspaper. Frederic died in Wellington 1926 and is buried at Karori. The Feilding Star ceased publication in 1939 A shortage of newspaper because of the war was the apparent reason for closure.

PIRANI & CO. LTD,
FEILDING STAR NEWSPAPER
AND PRINTING BUSINESS.

CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT.

OWING to Mr FRED PIRANI'S acceptance of a position in Wellington necessitating his absence from Feilding except at the week-ends, Mr LOUIS J. PIRANI (who has a controlling interest) has been appointed Manager, with full power to control expenditure, authorise orders for supplies, etc. The position of Managing Director will be retained by the undersigned.

FRED. PIRANI
Managing Director,
Pirani and Co. Ltd.
June 28, 1920.

FROM 'CHARLOTTE'S STORY ABOARD ARETHUSA 1879' CONTINUED

Friday 3rd October. Fresh breeze springing up. Thunder, lightning, rain again, what a night. We know now what it is to have a storm at sea. We can hardly lay in our beds and are obliged to hold on to the woodwork. The ship rolls fearfully. The tins and pannikins and pails are rolling all over the place and the sea comes over the deck and down upon us dreadfully. **Saturday.** Still rough and stormy. Charlie's wife (*referred to as Eliza or Lizzie*) keeps fainting away. She is very weak and low. She cannot eat the food they give us and suckling the baby...she can hardly keep up. I am obliged to nurse the baby entirely and feed him with a bottle and the little girl is continually crying for grandma, but they have not used us well at all since we started but I must try and return good for evil. She has got thick with some of the voyagers and turns her nose up and me and father- but the poor children shall not suffer through them.

Sunday October 5th Another Sabbath on the sea but I begin to feel quite weary of the journey. You may depend if ever I get safe on the land again, I shall not venture on the sea to return to England...I have had two days washing for us all this week - You would laugh to see them pinned on a line and drawn up. We often lose some of our clothes. I brought my irons with me and the black cook makes them hot for me, so I manage to starch and iron fine. We passed two homeward bound ships today and saluted them. I expect that will be in your English paper.' *to be continued.*