

# Kapiti Coast MUSEUM

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022

The museum's manual telephone exchange, which serviced Waikanae subscribers until the 1960s, is now functional. Visitors can request a call from one phone in the museum and have it received at a second phone in the museum. Notes on how this works, and instructions for doing this, are provided.



> The caller at phone no. 1 asks the operator at the switchboard to connect him/her to phone no. 4. >

The operator achieves this by plugging cables into the appropriate slots.



These switchboards were common in smaller communities throughout NZ into the 1960s, with the last being decommissioned on Great Barrier Island in the 1970s.



## The Manual Telephone Exchange

The manual exchanges were often not active 24/7. They may have been shut down from, say, midnight until 5.00AM. Sometimes a link to police or a doctor at a manned exchange could be cabled through when shut down.



The promotion on Wellington Anniversary weekend, involving eight museums on the Kapiti Coast, was, at best, a limited success. Our museum was open on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, but just the normal hours (1 till 4pm). Overall, there was a total of 571 recorded visitors. This is down on last year's number of 959 visitors. Our museum recorded 34 visitors over the 3 days. Road accidents on Saturday and the general Covid situation did not help.

The museum displays were not new, except that we were able to feature a new donation, the Non-Dead-Centre engine. See separate item, page 3.



### **YOST No. 15 Typewriter**

**Made in Bridgeport Connecticut, USA.**

**The Yost 1 was available in 1887,**

**Our example is from 1908.**

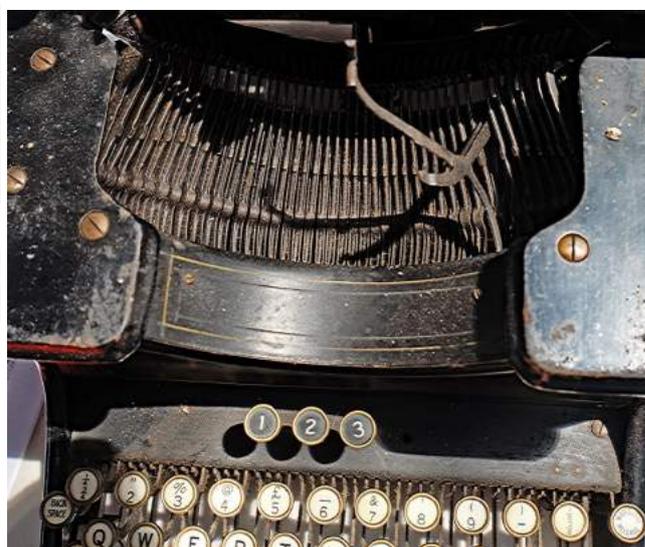
**Invented by George W. N. Yost.**

**No ribbon, direct inking with an ink pad,  
an unusual 'grasshopper' mechanism.**

An item in our museum that I particularly like is this typewriter. It's seen better days, but its design intrigues me.

*Scott Stevenson*

Note the intricate design of the type arms. As in all old typewriters, each arm must be made to hit the paper in the middle of the set at exactly the right angle.



## The Non-Dead-Centre Engine

The 'dead centre' of a piston engine with cranks is when the piston is at the *exact* top or bottom of the stroke and so the piston cannot exert any torque on the crankshaft. If a steam engine stops on dead centre, it will be unable to restart from that position.

**Musgrave's *non-dead-centre* engine** was a stationary steam engine of unusual design, intended to solve the problem of stopping on dead centre. It was originally designed in 1887 to serve as a marine engine. It used a pair of linked cylinders to prevent the engine from stopping in a position where no turning force can be applied. It was adapted by John Musgrave of Bolton, UK, for work in factories and mills.

It is basically a twin-cylinder inverted vertical compound layout but there is only one crank and the two pistons are connected to it via a triangular connecting rod and pivoting links. This has the effect that there is no "dead-centre" position and the geometry is such that when steam is admitted to the cylinders, the engine will always start. Hence it is known as a "Non-dead-centre" engine.

Mill engines, when stalled, required rolling the engine AND the entire lineshaft of the mill and any connected machines left by inattentive mill operatives - not work for the faint of heart by any means! And a lot was riding on getting that engine going when the whistle went off after lunch was over. The non-dead-centre engine overcame this issue.

The beautifully-made model in the museum (kindly donated by Goodman Contractors Ltd of Waikanae), made by Waikanae man Gordon Shand (deceased) can be seen running via an electric motor. Have a good look at the large wheel—it has been made from one piece of wood!



**MUSEUM HOURS:      FRIDAY 1-4PM  
                                 SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1-4PM**

**NB**—while life in NZ is disrupted by Govt restrictions as we combat Covid-19 our opening hours will be restricted. Currently we are closed on Fridays. Check our website for the latest information. Vaccination passes must be presented on arrival and masks must be worn if over the age of 12 years and 3 months (unless an exemption is applicable).

PRIVATE & GROUP VISITS BY ARRANGEMENT

PHONE:            04 905-6313  
ADDRESS:        9 Elizabeth St, Waikanae  
WEBSITE:        [www.kapiticoastmuseum.org.nz](http://www.kapiticoastmuseum.org.nz)  
EMAIL:            [manager@kapiticoastmuseum.org.nz](mailto:manager@kapiticoastmuseum.org.nz)  
FACEBOOK:      [www.facebook.com/kapiticoastmuseum](http://www.facebook.com/kapiticoastmuseum)  
INSTAGRAM:     [www.instagram.com/museumonkapiticoast/](http://www.instagram.com/museumonkapiticoast/)

## Our Resource of Historical Data on the Kapiti Coast



In the large bookcase near the rear of the museum there is a collection of books and magazines related to this area. This is available for perusal by visitors. The collection has been enhanced over the last few months by member Marsha Donaldson. Mainly through her dedication, we now have folders of information gleaned from old newspapers, and documents and photographs found on-line. Browsing through these can be very interesting.

## Volunteer Receptionists

When the museum is open we prefer to have 2 people on duty. The committee is finding that each month an extra volunteer or two would be desirable. If you could offer assistance on a once a month basis, please email [manager@kapiticoastmuseum.org.nz](mailto:manager@kapiticoastmuseum.org.nz), and we will discuss how you could help.