

President's Report

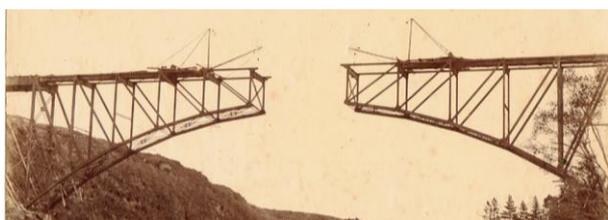
The Committee has just finished their submission to the Waipa District Council's 10 Year Plan seeking an increase in funding to operate the Museum. Our current grant is \$158,500 and we have applied for an increase to \$245,000. This will allow the part of our collection that is in storage to be moved to a more appropriate space, to employ extra part-time staff to fully catalogue the collection, and to rationalise the existing cataloguing.

At the same time, the Cambridge Heritage Charitable Trust (CHCT) has been presenting the proposed addition to the Museum to the Community Board, the Council's Service Delivery Committee, and now has a submission for the addition to the Museum in the 10 Year Plan.

If you have seen the Waipa District Council's "My Story" consultation document, you will have read that the Te Awamutu Museum receives \$850,000 (compared to \$158,500 for the Cambridge Museum) and that the Council has plans to build a Discovery Centre to replace the Te Awamutu Museum at a cost of \$12 million.

In preparing the submissions to the Council, the CHCT has received unequivocal support from many local organisations, reinforcing that Cambridge stories should be told in Cambridge.

Cambridge has a rich history with many stories, and we have a responsibility to ensure they are preserved and told to present and future generations. The space in our Museum is inadequate to tell this important history, from early Maori settlements through to the present day, and we look forward to receiving Council's response to our submissions.



A copy of the submission can be obtained from our Secretary, David Payne, <mailto:secretary.cbhs@gmail.com>. In the submission are the positive statistics for research and visitor numbers at the museum, thanks to Kathryn's management, with assistance from Karen.

Grant Middlemiss
President

New Members

A warm welcome to **Paul and Sheryl Moroney** and **John and Helen Hicks** who joined us in March.

Museum Manager's Report

April is always a busy time for us. School holidays bring in lots of children, who enjoy completing our "Museum Hunt", playing with our early toys or dressing in Victorian costumes and having their photo taken in the old Court dock. Please remember us if you have children to keep busy in the holidays. We enjoy showing them something interesting from past decades that they might not have seen before.

Some of you will have noticed the return of the 200 year old Collard & Collard piano to our Victorian display. We had asked restorer, Mark MacDonald to restore and repair the piano so that invited musicians may play it in future. Due to ill health, he was not able to complete the task. However, he has completed some restoration work, and we thank him sincerely for his efforts. We hope to see this work completed by his colleague in the near future.

At the museum, we have a variety of tasks – notably filing, indexing and basic cataloguing – that can be carried out by volunteers. If you have a couple of hours free during the week and would like to assist us, please pop in and see us. We will be very pleased if you can join us.

Kathryn Parsons
Museum Manager

Early photographs of Cambridge

We often receive requests from Cambridge residents, new and old, for early photos of houses, businesses, and streets in Cambridge from 30, 70 and even 120 years ago.

To give an example, some months ago, we had a researcher request photographs of early laundry businesses in Cambridge. Recently, while scanning a 1920s photo for a different purpose, we could see by magnifying glass a tiny sign in Empire Street that quite clearly said "Laundry". Sometimes, the background of the photo can be more important than the subject.

A recent search for photos of a Cook Street lunch-bar operating in the 1950s has been unsuccessful. Do you have any photos of this area around that time?

If you come across any spare photos of early Cambridge, please consider donating them to the Cambridge Museum's photo archive, where they can be used by researchers now and in the future. (Below is Hamilton Road, taken by Leo Isherwood c. 1902)





“When I was about fourteen [in 1884] my father sent me to live with a lady who was supposed to teach me housekeeping and cooking; but I seemed to be minding babies most of the time. That lasted for something like a year, after which I went home again. Of course, I had left school by this time and I used to feel so lonely and

depressed, for my father and brother used to be draining, fencing and clearing the ground in readiness for ploughing. In those far-away times people did not have much money. They had come to New Zealand as pioneers and had to work very hard in order to make a living for their families. The country was covered in bush and swamps making it necessary for many people to cut their own trees and build their own dwellings out of roughly sawn timber and shingles. In most cases the chimneys were made of big tins and clods of earth. The huge log fires kept burning for two or three days.

There were no butchers or bakers calling at the door as there are now [in 1938], but people baked their own bread in camp-ovens. A few cattle and poultry were generally kept. Anything else that was needed could nearly always be procured from the store that sold a little of everything.

Extract from “Just Me” by Cambridge resident Susan McKearney (published in 1938), held at the Cambridge Museum. Also at the museum is a voice recording of Susan McKearney speaking about her early life, and a Magic Lantern display.

The excess butter and eggs that were produced were taken to the store and exchanged for necessities such as tea and sugar. Money was not commonly used. Pigs were raised for bacon and perhaps a sheep killed at Christmas time. Fruit was very plentiful. There were beautiful peach and cherry groves and the earth was excellent for gardening. And the vegetables we used to grow: onions, cabbages, carrots and parsnips, peas and beans. The wheat was reaped by hand with scythes, then bound and stacked. After this, it went through the process of thrashing on a big canvas sheet called a tarpaulin. Sieved until it was quite clean, the wheat was then sent away to be ground into flour.

On the whole, the people seemed much happier and healthier than they are at the present time. A few Church Concerts were held, Sunday School Picnics now and then, and Magic Lantern Shows were some of the recreations. A very good girl was given a doll at Christmas time – one of those with a china head and the body and legs stuffed with sawdust.

Well, now my childhood days are over. I am about fifteen years old and about to leave home and get right away from it.”

Walks and Talks

The Cambridge Historical Society enjoyed its visit to **C&R Developments** in Hautapu in March. Our hosts, the Ross brothers, entertained us with their impressive collection of muscle cars, early vehicles, earth moving equipment and models. We heard about the company’s progress with the Huntly Bypass, and inspected some of their latest machinery. The place was beautifully designed and full of surprises - such as an American Diner with a big screen showing classic 1970s movies. It was a fantastic place to visit.



WAIKATO REGIONAL DAY

The Cambridge Historical Society is hosting the **Waikato Regional Day** of the New Zealand History Federation Inc. on Saturday 19 May 2018, from 10am to 3.30pm – held at the Cambridge Bridge Club, 14 Fort Street, Cambridge.

Speakers are **Ann McEwan**, on handy hints for advocating for Built Heritage; and **Kathryn Parsons**, on her top 20 websites and databases for NZ historical research – followed by a tour of the Cambridge Museum, reports from member societies and an update from the NZ History Federation.

Cost: \$20 per person, including teas and lunch.

Registration: Kathryn Parsons, Cambridge Museum, kathrynparsons@cambridgemuseum.org.nz. Payments may be made to CHS, Westpac 03 1568 0041635 01. Please include name under “Reference”.

Registrations close 14 May 2018.

