

President's Report

You will all by now have received a copy of the Cambridge Heritage Charitable Trust's presentation to the Cambridge Community Board. At that presentation, we were thrilled at the Board's positive endorsement of the Trust's plans for the extensions to our museum. We have received a lot of positive comment both from Society members and local community groups.

Looking at the architect's artist impression you will see that it is very much a preliminary design, the street face does lend itself to numerous claddings and colour combinations, including suggestions of tukutuku weaving designs; but, at this stage, no decisions have been made as we are still at concept stage. The final decisions will also have cost implications. We would expect the basic plan and site coverage to change little, apart from finalising positions for the internal partitions in the work and storage areas.

We have met with Heritage New Zealand who support the concept of the extensions. They ask that the extensions be sympathetic to the existing building but – just as importantly – don't attempt to mimic the existing building.

The next stage is for the Trust to present the proposal to the Waipa District Council, seeking their approval of the project. The Council is the owner of our museum building and surrounding land. I will keep you informed of progress.

In other news, thank you to the Waipa District Council's Heritage Fund, for its generous grant of \$5,000. This will go towards the digitisation of Cambridge's local newspaper, the Waikato Independent, onto the Papers Past website, up to and including the year 1949.

And congratulations to our Museum Administrator Karen Payne for achieving her NZ Certificate of Museum Studies through Service IQ.

Grant Middlemiss
President

New Zealand History Federation Inc Conference and AGM 16–18 March 2018

Hosted by Grahamstown Museums and Thames Heritage Network. This is Gold Fever year in Thames as they celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Thames Goldfields.

For further information, contact: Neil Curgenvin 0272441348, historyfederation@gmail.com.

The registration form and details on the happenings over the weekend are available at:

<http://www.oralhistory.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2018-Registration-Form-a.pdf>

Did you know?

The water tower, in front of Resthaven Village on Payne Park, was built in 1903 for £1,077. It closed 23 years later. The contractor was J J Holland, and George Russell Fellows was the brick layer. Robert Morse helped to build the tower and with his horse 'Darkie', raised the bricks by pulley, 80 feet to the top. Water was pumped from the Moon Creek springs (beside the Gasworks) to the 20,000 gallon tank on the top of the tower.

Museum Manager's Report

We are pleased to report that visitor numbers are tracking very well, and people have been giving positive responses to their visit.



Two lovely 1950s evening dresses have gone on display, along with a beautiful Victorian wedding dress that is attracting a lot of interest.

We have recently created a new exhibition of a variety of objects with a common image - very popular in the early 1900s - of the bridges of Cambridge. This same

image has appeared on china, postcards and individual artwork over many years.

The land ballot held for the **Te Miro soldier settlement** took place on 25 February 1918. To mark this 100th anniversary we have prepared a cabinet display of farm implements and domestic-ware from this time period. We also have research files and newspaper clippings available on the settlement.

We have established an information file for Cambridge identities and famous New Zealanders born in Cambridge or with a Cambridge connection.

We continue to receive regular research requests. Some of our research material is in need of careful arranging, so that researchers can easily find the information they are seeking. Our team of enthusiastic volunteers has been arranging material held on Horahora, Tamahere, Te Miro and the Cambridge dairy factories.

Kathryn Parsons
Museum Manager

Marion Whitelaw Fisher, nee Cricket

Marion Cricket was the young bride who wore the Victorian wedding dress we currently have on display in the museum.

She was born in Scotland in 1855, and came out on the clipper ship *Helenslee*, with her parents and seven others with the Cricket surname, arriving in 1864.

She married 31 year old Robert Fisher in 1877. Her entire married life was spent on the farm at Pukerimu, but it was not always happy. Her first son Bertie, who was only 16 months old, died only weeks before her daughter Mamie was born, and the third child William died when less than a year old. Her fourth son Douglas was killed in World War I.

In 1893, Marion was one of the first women to register on the electoral roll. She was known to members of the family as Aunty May.

Marion died in 1927 at the age of 71, and the shock of the news of her death was too much for her 87 year old brother, who died a few hours later.

Sourced from "Fishers of Pukerimu" compiled by A Kay Carter, held at the Cambridge Museum

Douglas Muir Fisher

Marion and Robert's son Douglas was born in Cambridge in 1891. He worked on the family farm. He enlisted in 1916, and left from Wellington with the NZ Rifle Brigade on 27 May aboard the troopship *Tofua*, arriving in England on 27 July 1916.

He went to France on 20 July and joined his Battalion on 28 September. He attended the Lewis Gun School for three weeks in February 1917. On 5 November 1917, he transferred to D Company of the 3rd NZ Rifle Brigade. From 16 May to 3 June 1917, he was in hospital with mumps.

Douglas received gunshot wounds to the abdomen on 1 February 1918 and was transferred to the No. 32 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station France or Belgium, where he died on 3 February 1918.

From the files of the Cambridge Historical Society Inc

New Members

A warm welcome to **Stevan and Maria Cole**, and to **David and Carol Wilson** who joined us in February.

Walks and Talks

Visit to C&R Developments

The Ross Brothers' Company C&R Developments, operate some of the largest machinery in the world. They also have a collection of vintage earth moving bulldozers from the WWII era and a "shed" containing a few muscle cars associated with the family interest in V8 motor racing.

We have been invited to visit their Hautapu headquarters on:

Saturday, 10 March 2018 at 10am

Directions: South End of Hannon Road, left hand side. Limited parking inside the main gate, follow the "Visitor Parking" signs.

FREE Bus tours of Cambridge District Historical sites.

Waipa District Council has announced that they will be operating free bus tours of the historic sites in the Cambridge area and will be repeating last year's tours of Te Awamutu areas. Your committee has been involved in planning the route.



Bookings must be made online at: waipadc.govt.nz/bus-tours

Cambridge tours depart from the Town Hall. Tours are on:

16 March and 11, 14, 18, April 2018.

When booking, remember Cambridge is the East side of the district, and Te Awamutu is the West.