

President's Report

Last year we sought and received additional funding from Council to relocate our museum collection to temporary accommodation as our current storage buildings sit in the path of our proposed extensions. The **Collection Project** was initiated where we opted to shift our collection to reefer shipping containers – a satisfactory short-term solution.



The first container is on site behind the museum, and existing shelving is being used to fit it out. Prior to transfer, each item is assessed as to its suitability to remain in the collection, then professionally prepared for storage. Great progress is being made: one third of our objects has been assessed and processed.

I want to acknowledge the expert assistance being provided by Kate Elliott, Regional Collections Adviser, Waikato Museum to our project, and our own staff Kathryn, Karen and Chelsea for their great efforts to date.

We are currently in the process of our annual funding application to Council. In addition to our usual operating budget, we are seeking another grant of \$40,000 to continue the next phase of the Collection Project. Fingers crossed.

On the Museum Build front, the Cambridge Heritage Charitable Trust is busy obtaining what seems like a mountain of reports required when applying for a resource consent. The process is complicated by the heritage status of our museum site. Steady progress is being made.

**Grant Middlemiss
President**

ADDRESS LABEL FOR DELIVERY OF HARD COPIES (ON REQUEST)

Museum Manager's Report

We are making pleasing progress on the Collection Project. This is a huge task, but rewarding as we work our way along the shelves. An initial assessment of the textile collection has been completed. We have transferred our newspaper collections, trophies and clocks into our new storage container. Care, storage and cataloguing are much improved.



Karen and Kate carrying out an inventory and preparing storage of Lodge regalia.

A scavenger hunt was devised for the school holidays and is proving popular with our younger visitors. There are ten bird-related items to find at the museum and questions to answer. All correct entries go into a draw to win a family explorer pass to Sanctuary Mountain, Maungatautari.

I visited the Year 9 navigation class at Cambridge High School in early March. The Museum is going to be one of their 'clients' for their footsteps of Cambridge people assignment. It is hoped that some of their projects will be able to go on display or be added to the Museum website. We await seeing their work with interest.

We have purchased a copy of the book *Wiremu Tamihana Rangatira* by Evelyn Stokes to add to our Research Library.

An index to the book *Waipa Home of Champions* has been compiled by Lesley Wilson and will be made available on the museum website.

The latest newsletter of the National Oral History Association of New Zealand (NOHANZ) has been published and is available at the museum if you are interested in finding out about oral history projects and research.

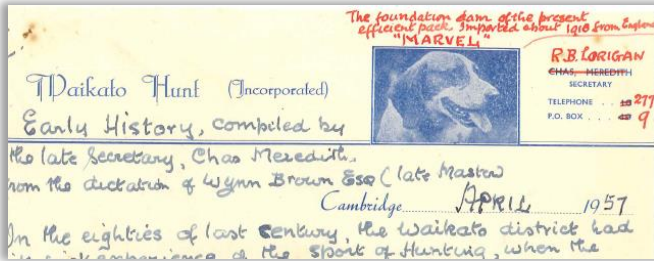
**Kathryn Parsons
Museum Manager**



The Waikato Hunt

From the archives of the Cambridge Museum

Early History, compiled by the late Secretary Chas Meredith, from the dictation of Wynn Brown Esq (late Master) - Cambridge April 1957.



In the eighties of last century, the Waikato district had its first experience of the sport of Hunting, when the Pakuranga (Auckland) Hounds in the charge of Mr Tom Brown (father of Wynn Brown) arrived in Cambridge for a week's hunting. Meets were held in Cambridge over the property Bardowie (owned by the late James Taylor), in Te Awamutu over Woodstock (the Storey homestead), and at Ohaupo over Lochiel (the William Taylor property).

The visit of the Hounds was an event of some importance, necessitating the closing of shops and schools. Where hares were scarce, drags were laid over country adjacent to the Meets. Falls were numerous and a tragic accident occurred at the Bardowie Meet. Mr Taylor, a brother of Mr James Taylor, was killed outright and Mr Payton of Tamahere died some days later as the result of a fall at the same Meet. These accidents terminated the visits from the Pakuranga Pack.

It was about 1890 when Mr Bullock Webster, having purchased six couples of Hounds from Pakuranga, brought them to the Waikato and kept them at his home at Hillcrest. He hunted this pack for one season and then handed them over to the recently formed Waikato Hunt Club. **The acquisition of these 12 Hounds from Mr Webster marks the inauguration of the Waikato Hunt (Inc).**

Mr Webster having moved to Auckland, new kennels were found at Pukeroro, under the care of the first Huntsman appointed by the new Club, namely, Mr A R Hine. In those days, Hounds were put out to walk during the summer months. Subsequently, Mr Muir Douglas was appointed Master and he erected up-to-date kennels on his farm at Bruntwood. Mr Hine continued as Huntsman until 1895 when he resigned, and Mr Wynn Brown was appointed as his successor.

The Hounds were still a "trencher-fed" pack. Any extra hounds that could not be put out to walk during the summer months, were sent down to Pakuranga where the Huntsman, Mr Selby, kept them for a small sum.

Good hunting was enjoyed for several seasons, when Mr Wynn Brown resigned as Huntsman. Mr Cam Selby (son of the Pakuranga Huntsman) was appointed. Mr Muir Douglas having sold his farm at Bruntwood, resigned from the Mastership and Mr Norman Banks was elected Master, and the Hounds left Bruntwood to go to Mr Banks' homestead at Old Gwynnelands, where they remained for two seasons. Hounds showed good sport under Mr Cam Selby.

Early in the new century, the Waikato Hunt passed through a very critical period. Owing to financial stress, the Master, Mr Norman Banks informed the Deputy Master, Mr Wynn Brown that he could no longer shoulder the responsibility of keeping the Hounds and that, unless Mr Brown could take over the Pack and act as Master and Huntsman, the Hunt would be compelled to go into recess. After much thought, Mr Brown consented to take the Pack to his homestead at Ngahere. They have been kennelled there for 50 odd years.

In 1910, Mr Wynn Brown was elected Master, and has held the unique position of Master and Huntsman up to 1955, when he resigned in favour of his son, Mr Ned Brown.

The following is a list of secretaries who have held office since the Hunt's formation: Messrs Arthur Bach, Mervyn Wells, Boston Cooper, J Douglas, Wallace Hunter, William Care and Charles Meredith. Mr Meredith has held office for 36 years and resigned in 1957. The present secretary is Mr R B Lorigan."



Morning tea at the National Hotel, Cambridge



James Cowan

A fluent Maori speaker, Historian James Cowan was able to interview many veterans of the Land Wars and his book "The New Zealand wars: a history of the Maori

campaigns and the pioneering period" (1922–23) was considered the definitive account until recent times. Mr Cowan was born on 14 April 1870 and died in September 1943 aged 73.



This letter from the Cambridge Museum archives, is dated 2 September 1938 to Mrs George Cooper of Roto-o-rangi:

"Your letter was sent on to me by the Auckland Star. Wellington is my home, though I keep closely in touch with Auckland and the Waikato, my old homes.

Re Mangapiko: The name means "Crooked Creek", or "Winding River". (Manga = small river or branch river; piko = bend, crook, etc). I know the river very well from my boyhood days when I travelled all over the country on horseback, and always think of it still as a black or mud-coloured river - so much swamp peat.

Roto-o-rangi is "lake of heaven" or "sky-reflecting lake". It was the first lake I ever saw, I think; it was much larger in those days and there was a good deal of bush fringing it on one side.

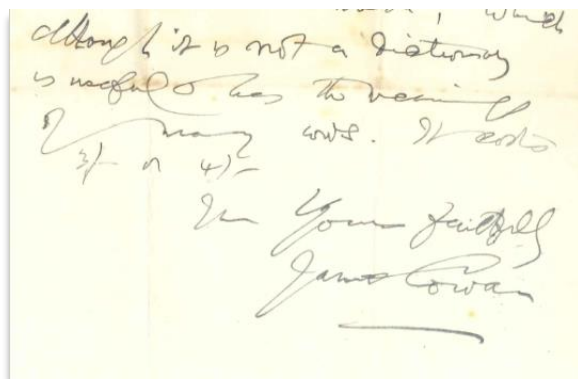
The Mangapiko is a river of some history, lower down near the Waipa. If you should happen to read or see my history "The NZ Wars and the Pioneering Period" there is a picture (also a map) of the Mangapiko at the battlefields of Waiari, where the British troops and the Forest Rangers killed about forty Maoris, 1864.

There are two massive old pas on the banks there. One is on Mr Harry Rhodes' farm, Paterangi. The river is rather more clean there, and pretty deep, and still very crooked.

I don't know the pas on the hills at the back of Roto-o-rangi until you get away to the side above Cambridge, where there are large old fortifications at the end of the Pukekura Range overlooking the Waikato River.

My brother Henry Cowan, who until recently had a farm on Puahue, had explored the country here and there and knew of some old pas but did not discover any names. The Mangapiko flowed near the foot of his land (Puahue = flower (pua) of the gourd or vegetable marrow (calabash) (hue)).

The best book on the meaning of Māori words is of course the Standard Dictionary, Williams' latest edition. It costs £1 in the bookshops, I think. But there is a much cheaper and smaller book by Williams, "First Lessons in Māori" which although it is not a dictionary is useful and has the meanings of many words. It costs 3/- or 4/-.



I am Yours faithfully
James Cowan"

Facebook

We hope you are all followers of our weekly Facebook posts. We try to mix it around with fabulous old photographs of Cambridge, quirky artefacts, short biographies and various events held around the district. Search for us under "Cambridge Museum and Historical Society", and click on "Follow".

Many of you will already have seen our most popular post to date, reaching 14,148 people and generating 214 Likes. We gained an extra 100 followers from this one post:

"When the Karapiro Dam was completed in 1947, it needed to fill. While this was happening, the river levels beyond the dam dropped dramatically. This photo was taken below Cambridge's Victoria Bridge just before April 1947 when the water first flowed over the Karapiro spillway. The photo was donated by Mrs Betty Stewart."



Work at the Museum

Chelsea preparing the storage for the sporting medals of Cambridge Roller Hockey and In-Line Skating star Kym Kearns.



Committee member Bruce, and St John and Chris from Hydestor setting up shelving in the new Container store behind the Museum.

We should all be interested in people, in how they live, think and feel; it is a sad individual who is not. If only we could place ourselves back in time, to the decks, for instance, of the sailing ship which brought our forebears here! How eagerly we would examine the stuff of their lives! The bunks they slept in – were they so hard after all? The pots simmering in the cook’s galley – just what did they eat to hold body and soul together? How did they occupy their time in the evenings with the lamps swinging and the blocks and sails creaking and the black seas slipping by?”

Extract from “From the Top of a Hill” by Alwyn Gascoigne, held at the Cambridge Museum.

Walks and Talks



Photo by Michael Jeans

On Saturday 30 March, over 20 Society members visited early Maori and European sites on **Bill and Sue Garland’s** farm at the head of the Kairangi Valley. Situated on the north face of Mt Maungatautari, the property is home to the headwaters of the Mangapiko stream and some early Maori settlements. Bill outlined the history of the area telling stories of the early pioneers. We viewed the sanctuary enclosure fence running through the property and walked on the site of the old Ngati Koroki Kahukura village of Te Koukou. A pleasant morning field trip enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Sue and Lynne Garland for the morning tea at the historic Kairangi Hall.

Karapiro Power Station

Committee member Dave Payne hosted a visit for sixteen of our members to the Karapiro Power Station on Thursday 11 April. They enjoyed a tour both inside (including the control room, loading bay, turbine floor and turbine pit liner) and the transformers, spillway and diversion tunnel outside the Powerhouse. Happily, the rain held off.

Dave intends to organise these tours on a regular basis, so if you missed out this time, keep a look out in this newsletter for future invitations.

