

President’s Report

A reminder that our AGM is just weeks away on Tuesday 26 November at 7.30pm at the Cambridge Bridge Club rooms in Fort Street, next to the St Johns Ambulance depot.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Apologies
- Remembering past members
- Minutes of AGM 26 November 2018
- Matters arising
- President’s report
- Treasurer’s report
- Election of Officers and appointment of Honorary Auditor
- Subscriptions for 2020
- General Business

Following the AGM, we will be having two presentations:

1. Bruce Hancock, who is project managing the build of the new extension to the Museum. He will present the proposed plans for you to view.
2. Researchers at the University of Waikato, in collaboration with the Cambridge Museum, have developed a mobile application, providing information about historical places in Cambridge and their links to exhibits and stories in the Museum, as well as self-guided walks.

Annika Hinze, Associate Professor (Computer Sciences) at the University of Waikato, will be presenting the app



Afterwards, we will be serving refreshments. I look forward to catching up with you all there.

Grant Middlemiss
President

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Museum Manager’s Report

A private collection is temporarily on display in our Military Room to commemorate Air Commodore Keith Caldwell's achievements in World War I. Keith Caldwell's family lived in Cambridge for a short period, at Green Hedges on



Keith Caldwell is immortalised at the Aviation Centre in Blenheim.

Hamilton Road. “Grid” Caldwell, as he was known, became an accomplished fighter pilot and was awarded the Military Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar, and the Crois de Guerre (Belgium), examples of which are on show.

Staff have continued with the inventory and two more shelving units have been

completed. Another bay of mobile shelving will be transferred into the container this week. This gets us much needed room in the Collection Store to develop a work area for processing and conserving museum objects.

Volunteers have been assisting us greatly with tasks such as the cleaning of objects, filing of newspaper clippings, making historic photographs available and in preparing items for storage. Indexing the Waikato Independent newspaper continues each week and this work is an important focus for the research collection.

We now have in our Research Library a copy of *A Strong sense of duty: the First World War Letters of Chaplain the Reverend Clive Mortimer Jones 1917-1920*. This book is described as providing a unique insight into the effects of armed combat on the men of the New Zealand Division during its final 14 months on the Western Front in World War I. We also have copies of this book for sale on behalf of the Society at \$40 each.

We are very grateful to Alastair Haslam for gifting three books published by the Waikato Health Memorabilia Trust: *Changing times, changing places: from Tokanui hospital to mental health services in the Waikato, 1910-2012*, *Under one roof: a history of Waikato Hospital and Waikato Hospital: our hospital, your history*.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual General Meeting.

Kathryn Parsons
Museum Manager



Richard and Madge Reynolds

Richard Reynolds, together with his brother Henry, is best known for establishing the Anchor Butter brand in New Zealand. But he was a hard-working man of many strengths and talents – and has been described as a kindly man and a good neighbour.



He was born in Cornwall in 1853 and came to New Zealand at the age of 14. He first lived with his parents on the property on Hamilton Road where St Peters School is now. Their homestead, named 'Trecarne' (not the same 'Trecarne' at Pukekura) was a substantial two-storeyed building, with a wide verandah surrounding the lower floor and spacious

upstairs area. The property was eventually sold and renamed "Gwynnelands".

At age 24, Richard kept a diary which showed that his usual day-to-day activities were buying and selling stock; planting trees; sowing grasses; travelling between farms; and attending various social events of the time. Religion was important to Richard. Most Sundays consisted of Chapel in the morning and Church or Chapel in the evening. It is thought "Chapel" was in Pukerimu and "Church" was in Cambridge.

He married Susan Brown in 1879 and they had four children. They lived at Wai Valley in Pukerimu, and then settled at 'Trecarne' at Pukekura - a beautiful home with graceful tree-lined drives.

Susan Reynolds drowned in the Waikato river in 1891 aged 35. At that time, the children were aged between 6 and 12 years old. The Waikato Times reported that *"it has cast a gloom over the whole district; for the family are not only liked but are also honoured and respected."*

In 1893, Richard married the children's nanny Margaret (Madge) Kells, and they had five children.

By 1894, with his brother Henry, Richard had established Reynolds & Company (pictured) and the Anchor brand. Two years later, a major slump in markets world-wide forced the brothers to sell the company and the brand to the NZ Dairy Association.

In 1897, he was well-respected enough in farming circles to be offered the opportunity to manage farmland in Mexico for a wealthy farming consortium in England. After travelling there to survey the land, and going on to England, Italy and Monte Carlo, he returned to New Zealand on 12 July 1898, and made the decision to stay in Cambridge.



His second wife Madge (pictured) was a remarkable and hard-working woman. She was president of the Cambridge Women's General Hospital and War Committee, receiving the prestigious Queen Elizabeth of Belgium Medal for her WWI efforts.

She was appointed General Superintendent during the influenza epidemic in 1918, and afterwards unveiled the memorials at the Cambridge Town Hall to nurses Veale and Watt, who had died of influenza.

Richard Reynolds owned 1,400 acres at Monavale. He spent many years developing it from a swamp to dairying land, which he was forcibly required to sell to the Government for £20.10/- per acre, in spite of it being valued at £23 per acre. The land was then sub-divided and settled by soldiers from WWI and was known as the Reynolds' Settlement.

He used the money to purchase land north of Whakatane, which he also developed from a water-logged swamp to highly productive dairying land.

Reynolds was a prominent cattle breeder, and an importer of stud stock in both cattle and sheep. He judged at A&P shows all over New Zealand.

He was a member of the first Pukekura Road Board, the first Waipa County Council, and a long-time member of the Cambridge Farmers Club.

All his life, he was a tree enthusiast. The numerous properties that he controlled at various times left magnificent plantations of trees *"that were a lasting memento of his foresight."*

Richard Reynolds died in 1928, aged 75.

Ref: *"First Families of Cambridge"*, *"Reynolds of Trecarne"*, *Waikato Independent articles*



Wai Valley in Pukerimu

James Burn-Murdoch purchased Richard Reynolds' Wai Valley farm (pictured) and lived there for three years, making improvements and eventually selling up to move to India.

Burn-Murdoch was hard-working, conscientious and, by his own admission, successful with the ladies – possibly because of his wicked sense of humour. Although his memories of Richard Reynolds are sometimes derisive, he does refer to him as a “chum” and “poor Dick Reynolds” suggesting that they may have been on friendly terms.

Here are excerpts from a letter Burn-Murdoch wrote to his friend Charles Scott on 7 June 1940. This was twelve years after Reynolds' death. Burn-Murdoch may have left the district before Reynolds remarried.

“I see you mention “my old home Wai Valley in Pukerimu”. In some ways I object to that description of the pied a terre I had there for some three years or so, as though the fleas were too truly awful in Cambridge and round it of a hot summer's day. I do not think it could ever have come up to the Pukerimu standard “Flea Hill” where it was said in my time that if you filled a pail with dry sand of a summer's morning, it would be half empty by 11am, ie when the sun had made half of its contents jump out in search of shade, and as New Zealanders never tell lies (except when selling farms to new chums), Pukerimu must be a great place, in fact fully up to the scratch.

Don't mention this idea of telling fairy tales when selling farms in Mr Dick Reynolds' hearing, as it might perhaps hurt his very religious feelings! I wonder if he is still alive. How I remember his reading parts of the bible to his family before breakfast while I was there looking around his place Wai Valley, and how he used to stop in the middle of a sentence and explain to his audience (all of them hungry for breakfast comforts, rather than for spiritual uplift), and after I had bought [from him] this really first class farm which was

supposed to be in tip top condition, I would stroll round and find that in places the wires of the fences had been tied up with bits of string! Lord bless you, I was green in those days.

One of Wai Valley's most artistic and interesting features in those days was a big batch of most lovely plumaged peacocks. I think they were one of the things that made me see heaven in the idea of purchasing Wai Valley. This heaven I found later on had certain drawbacks, as when I came back from seeing my best girl (or one of the batch of ditto) in Cambridge, these infernal heavenly plumaged brutes used to waken up and create lively hell and so gave me a very bad name. Added to this fact, I afterwards sowed some thirty acres, I think it was, on the eastern side of the Pinis insignis trees avenue leading from the main road to the house, with rape seed, and I am



damned if those beastly birds did not eat up every sprout of the rape seed in about a week's work. But by Jove! Those peacocks were delicious eating, and we scoffed the lot, ‘Haw Haws’ and all as we would now say in this peaceful year of 1940.

How curious it is to read of rabbits having reached the Waikato at last. In my time I do not think there was a single rabbit in the whole Cambridge district, but I had several coveys of Californian Quail round about the house, and I'll say this for Reynolds, he had a lot of really beautiful trees imported and planted there.”



Whare Marama – Maori Birthing and Fertility Traditions

On Saturday 28 September our members met with local Iwi from Ngati Koroki Kahukura to hear about the centuries-old Maori fertility and birthing traditions, and to visit a Maori birthing site.

Archaeologists believe the site housed a once extensive birthing area or whare marama, used by different iwi centuries ago. Excavations done last year exposed evidence of widespread garden plantings, large and small storage and firepits, walled areas and spaces where people would have been involved in birthing.

Part of the site has been set aside by the private owner as a special reserve; it has been blessed by iwi, fenced and grassed over, pending formal registration as 'historic'. Iwi hope to develop it as a garden for children, and to add a diorama to bring the story to life for future generations.

We heard from current co-chair of Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari Poto Davies, and Ellen Tupaea, a Maori midwife of Tuwharetoa descent who married into Ngati Koroki Kahukura. Ellen has been acting as kaitiaki (guardian) of the site at Whare Marama Drive.

Poto said a whare marama, known in the Maori culture as a 'moon house', was so-named for its relationship with a woman's fertility cycle and the moon phases. She said much of what had been excavated validated stories she had heard from her own mother, and she believes the site may still have been used in the early 1800s.

The whare marama would have been built against a large tree intended to provide physical and spiritual support to the women, Poto explained. The placenta would traditionally have been buried in a pit beneath the tree, and it is likely that stillborn infants would have been similarly buried as they were historically treated as whenua (afterbirth), she said.

Both menstruation and pregnancy were considered sacred, with a deep reverence shown to Maori women, said Ellen Tupaea. They were provided with the best foods prepared in specific firepits; different pits being used for the preparation of fish, meat, potatoes, greens and so on.

"In our Maori culture, there would have been a big tree with a pit behind it ... gardens would have been all around the site. There would have been hundreds of gardens," she said. Smaller firepits inside the whare suggested the presence of areas where water would have been steamed, perhaps with the additions of rongoa (medicine) to assist labouring women, who gave birth standing or squatting rather than lying down.

Tupaea said "No other whare marama has been found intact like this in New Zealand. It is very special."

Based on an article by Viv Posselt, Cambridge News.



Dinosaur Footprint Hunt winner

Congratulations to Eli Ah-Ping who won a voucher for a family pass to Cambridge Mini Golf in Leamington. Pictured here with his sister Alexis, Eli had to match dinosaur prints throughout the museum with the right dinosaur on our quiz sheet – not an easy task!

Alistair was very lucky to be drawn from 52 entries.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome **Alastair and Sheila Haslam** to the Society.

