

A Word from Bruce

It is very hard to believe that it is three months since I agreed to take over the role of President, that the end of the financial year has come and gone and the AGM is only four weeks away!

Due to other commitments over the next year I have decided not to stand for the role of President going forward.

Please attend the AGM to hear about what has been happening at the museum and take the opportunity of catching up with other members and friends. Please also consider standing for a role on the committee to support your society going forward. Supper will be served, and I look forward to catching up with many of you there.

It was with sadness and regret that the Committee noted the recent death of Vice President Irene Cooper, who is sadly missed.

Bruce Hancock, President

Notice of Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend our Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on **TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2020** at the Cambridge Bridge Clubrooms in Fort Street.

Office bearers and Committee nominations are sought for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and six Committee members. We welcome your support.

You may pick up nomination forms at the Cambridge Museum. Please email the completed forms to our Secretary Jo Barnes at secretary.cbhs@gmail.com or drop them in to the Cambridge Museum before 17 November.

Ring Jo on 027 240 9000 if you have any queries.

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Irene Mavis Cooper MNZM

It is with deep regret that I advise you of the recent death of our Vice President Irene Cooper.

After a long and courageous battle with cancer Irene died peacefully on 12 October at Te Awa Lifecare Village surrounded by her family.

Irene emigrated to New Zealand from England in 1972. She dedicated her life to teaching and education and held various teaching positions in the Waikato while completing a Bachelor of Education degree in 1986, later completing a Masters in Educational Leadership.

In 1996 Irene became Principal of Hillcrest Normal School, where she remained until retirement, having previously been Deputy Principal at Gordonton and Knighton Normal Schools. She was closely involved with teacher education at the University of Waikato as a guest lecturer and participant in advisory and planning groups.

Irene was actively involved in the NZ Education Institute throughout her career, spending time as the National President. She was awarded life membership in 2015. In the same year Irene was recognised for her meritorious service to education and became a member of the NZ Order of Merit.

On retiring Irene moved to Cambridge and quickly became involved with our Historical Society.

Irene has been our Vice President for the past three years, playing a major governance role in the Society. With her experience and ability, she was able to grasp complex matters and simplify them for others to understand, and at all times maintained her keen sense of humour.

Our thoughts are with her daughters Sarah and Emma and her three granddaughters.

Irene, you will be sadly missed.



Grant Middlemiss
Committee Member



The 1915 Cambridge Fire Brigade Demonstration

At Easter 1915 the Cambridge Fire Brigade was proud to host a demonstration, where several events were contested for the honour of winning the Morrin Shield.

The postcard/flyer (shown below) was designed and sent out to fire brigades all over the North Island. The small silver nameplates on the shield in the postcard are shown blank, waiting for the victors to be immortalised.



The rivals for the inaugural Cambridge competition were fire brigade teams from Greenlane, Newmarket, Railway, Devonport, Waihi, Frankton Junction, Masterton, Hamilton, Te Awamutu, Cambridge and Onehunga.

The competitions included the:

- One, Three and Five-man Dressing
- Hose Reel and Ladder for Five men
- Baby Rescue for Two men, and
- Five-men Carrying.

Cambridge competed well with placings in the Three-men, Baby Rescue and Five-men Carrying competitions. However, the overwhelming winners were from Onehunga, who won five out of those six events.

The events were well attended by the public, the takings at the gate amounting to £37 (\$2,775 today).

The shield was presented by **Laurie Morrin**, Secretary of the Cambridge Fire Brigade. Mr Morrin was well respected in Cambridge, offering assistance to “most local organisations” according to a *Waikato Independent* report on 12 July 1921, on a decision to give a complimentary picture entertainment to him in recognition of his generosity. Mr Morrin was a pioneer of motion pictures and showed silent movies in the old Cambridge Town Hall and other parts of the district.

Our thanks to the Cambridge Volunteer Fire Brigade for preserving the Morrin Shield, postcard/flyer and framed photographs of the event.



Te Ihingarangi

Lyn Tairi and Te Kaapo Clark wrote a wonderful history of the Karapiro-Maungatautari area for the Electricity Corporation of New Zealand in 1992. We have permission to serialise it century by century in this and future newsletters.

1300

KO NGA WAKA TUPUNA

1300 is considered the approximate time of arrival of the third migration from Hawaiki. It is to the waka of this period that Maori today trace their whakapapa and iwi. The Tainui, Te Arawa, Mataatua, Kurahaupo, Tokomaru, Aotea and Takitumu are the seven most famous to arrive at this time.

Tainui and Te Arawa both arrived on the east coast of Aotearoa at Whangaparaoa. After a dispute about who arrived first, Hoturoa took Tainui and his people and sailed up the coast to Waitematā, then hauled the waka across the dividing land to Manukau on the west coast. Some members of the crew settled at Waitematā and their descendants spread south. Hoturoa then sailed down the coast to Whāingaroa (Raglan), Kāwhia and Mōkau.

Meanwhile the members of the Te Arawa crew spread inland quickly from the east coast. Ngatoroirangi, the tohunga of the Te Arawa, discovered, explored and named the mountains of the central plateau. Ihenga discovered and settled the Rotorua lake district, while Tamatakupua the commander of Te Arawa settled the area between Maketu and Rotorua. Their descendants spread inland to the Waikato and King Country.



Map from Rāwiri Taonui, 'Canoe traditions - Te Arawa and Tainui', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/map/2340/landing-places-of-the-tainui-and-te-arawa-canoes> (accessed 11 September 2020)

Simply Elegant Brides



The observant among you may have noticed this sign temporarily appearing next to Stirling Sports in Victoria Street.

Simply Elegant Brides was a business run by **Elisse Mills**. She originally opened the Sewing and Button Bar in Cambridge in the 1980s. She also made uniforms for the local schools and wedding dresses. The shop became Simply Elegant Gowns, then Simply Elegant Brides. Elisse became a source of advice for all aspects of wedding planning, including local venues, beauty (Nutrimetics) and catering services.

Elisse's husband **Bob Mills** ran a drycleaning business and was also a long-standing member of the Cambridge Volunteer Fire Brigade. The Waikato Independent reported in 1972 that Bob had won the Thomas Steen Memorial Trophy for three years in a row. The trophy was for the local fireman with the highest annual attendance record. Bob and Elisse lived for many years in one of the two Fire Brigade brick houses in Wilson Street next to the station. Only one of these houses remains – currently the premises of Nicklin CE Surveyors.

The Museum holds files with clippings on businesses and people in Cambridge. If you would like to see if you or your family feature, please pop in and see us.



Gardner & Sons



Gardner & Sons were general merchants and importers who set up shop in Cambridge in the early 1900s. Their store was on the corner of Queen and Victoria Streets, where the Z petrol station is now. The above illustration appeared in an advertisement for the business in November 1906.

MANSON GARDNER WAS DESCRIBED AS SOMEONE WITH PLENTY OF LEISURE TIME WHO LOVED TO DISCUSS NATIONAL AND LOCAL TOPICS AND WAS A REGULAR FREQUENTER OF THE LIBRARY READING ROOM.

Mr **Manson Edward Gardner** was born in Canada c. 1837 and arrived in New Zealand in the early 1860s. He settled at Charleston on the West Coast of the South Island and became a storekeeper during the gold rush there. He was new to Cambridge when he purchased the corner property from Mr Fred Popple and his wife Amelia. This property had a general store, which Mr Gardner kept, and several cottages, which he demolished to subdivide the land. Manson Gardner was described as someone with plenty of leisure time who loved to discuss national and local topics and was a regular frequenter of the library reading room.

Gardner & Sons supplied groceries, ironmongery, drapery and general merchandise. The business did so well that within a year, it spent over £500 (\$85,475 now) enlarging its premises. A two-storey addition was made to the rear of the main building – as can just be seen in the faded image below.



The concreted ground floor was used for the storage of bulk goods, farm produce, chaff, grain etc.

Under the stairway leading to the upstairs room was a cooling chamber which kept butter, eggs, bacon and cheese. The ironwork used in the construction of this cellar was 10cm thick and imported from Sydney, the material being unobtainable in New Zealand at that time.

The upstairs room was fitted with shelves and used as a showroom for their large stock of crockery and glassware. To safely transport fragile packages in and out of the room, a lift was constructed which opened into the yard.

Each of the ground floor windows were protected by five iron bars. The yards were securely fenced off with galvanised iron, and the gates fitted with Enright's patent self-locking latches. The timber used in the construction was kauri.

As the *Waikato Independent* reported: "These architectural improvements to the town speak well for the progress and enterprise of Messrs Gardner and Sons."

In February 1907, the family built a 10 room residence "Rahui" on Queen Street (pictured). Rahui has several meanings in Maori, the most appropriate being "sanctuary".



Rahui still stands as a well preserved example of the Bay Villa period.

Two Gardner family weddings were held in Cambridge. The first was for second daughter Lilian who married George Heath of Nelson in 1905; and the second was for third daughter May, who married Kenneth Court (cousin of George and John Court – department store owners) in 1910. Both married at St Andrew's Church and the guests were then entertained at a wedding breakfast at the Gardner home: Lilian's wedding at a previous residence, and May's at Rahui.

Manson Gardner died in 1912, aged 75, and was survived by his wife Margaret, five daughters and two sons. Margaret died in 1936 at age 80 and was buried near her husband at Hautapu Cemetery.

