

News from the President



I hope you have started the New Year on a positive note, and certainly hope that this year is better than the last.

What a great way to start the year with the opening of the Museum’s new exhibition “Fire, Fire”. I am sure that those members who attended were impressed by the standard of the new display prepared by our staff, especially **Karen Payne** who has put in a great effort indeed.

If you have not already seen the exhibition, I would encourage you to pop in, say hello to our staff and have a good look at it.

I would like to commend two members of the society, **Roger Gordon** and **Jennie Gainsford**. They have provided a substantial input into the Heritage Month events presented through the Cambridge Library over February and early March. They are hosting talks and walks about Cambridge’s history and heritage buildings. I hope many of you have been able to take part.

I would like to welcome the new committee elected at the AGM in November and wish them well for the rest of the year, they are:

- President: **Bruce Hancock** Vice President: **Nigel Salter**,
 Secretary: **Jo Barnes** Treasurer: **Jeff Nobes**
 Committee members:
Amiel Bates **Bev Dean** **Bruce Dean**
Paul Garland **Roger Gordon** **Grant Middlemiss**.

With respect to our planning and funding going forward your committee and staff members prepared for a mediated workshop to be held with WDC management and museum staff this week. Unfortunately, it was postponed due to the sudden change of Covid alert levels, but we are expecting a new date to be set soon.

Bruce Hancock
President

ADDRESS LABEL FOR DELIVERY OF HARD COPIES (ON REQUEST)

A note from Kathryn

Visitor numbers have been strong over the summer, with 691 visitors in January. Although not as many as this time last year, the total exceeded figures in 2018 and 2019. This is great news considering our overseas visitors make up barely 1% of that figure.

We are very grateful to Jumble Around for granting us \$2000 for shelving for our collection of framed items. As you can see from this photograph, the shelves are almost full. Thanks to **Bruce Hancock** for installing the shelving in our shipping container storage space, and thanks to volunteers **Ruby Strawbridge** and **Val Stansfield** for helping me cut dividers and lift our framed photographs, artworks and prints into place. It is very satisfying to see this part of the collection stored upright in these improved conditions.



Across at the Cambridge Library, we have a Waipa Heritage Month display presenting objects from two old Cambridge businesses: Calverts and Riley’s Tailors. Please have a look next time you’re there.

I hope you are all enjoying **Elizabeth Harvey**’s Facebook posts bringing Cambridge history and people into the spotlight.

Volunteers continue to make great progress on their projects. The *Waikato Independent* indexing team are working on September 1939 issues. Other volunteers have been sorting into order research files on Te Waikato Sanatorium and various sports clubs. Ruby is working with Elizabeth on the digitisation of some of our key objects.

If anyone would like to complete the indexing of Cambridge’s police charge book from around the 1880s, we would be happy to hear from you. The first 200 of 440 pages has been completed. This computing task could be done at home.

Hannah Capper, a third year University student, has a work integrated placement at the Museum for eight hours a week from March to June. We are excited to have her on board and look forward to sharing the results of her research and investigations.

Kathryn Parsons
Museum Manager



Te Ihingarangi

Part 3 of a history of the Karapiro-Maungatautari area by Te Kaapo Clark and Lyn Tairi for the Electricity Corporation of New Zealand in 1992.

1500

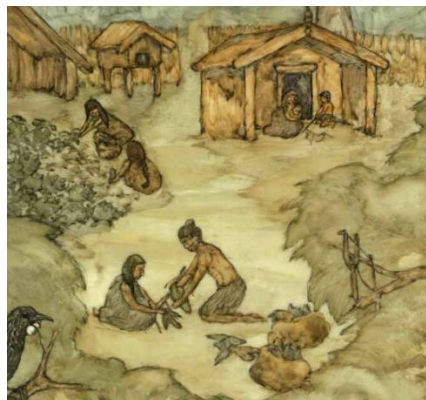
KO NGATI KAHUPUNGAPUNGA

“During this period Ngāti Kahupungapunga had many settlements along the Waikato River, including Karapiro. Towards the end of this century a Ngāti Kahupungapunga chief, Parahore, married a great-granddaughter of Turongo, Korokore. She apparently considered that she had married beneath her station. In any event she became so domineering that finally, when she ordered her husband to make a gift of preserved birds to her relatives, he turned upon her and silenced her forever with a blow of his war club.”¹

Korokore’s slave escaped and conveyed the news to Whaita, Korokore’s brother. Whaita, with the help of his uncle Takihiku and cousins Tamatehura, Wairangi, Upokoiti and Pipito, exacted utu on the Ngāti Kahupungapunga. Battles were fought at Te Arowhenua, Te Pohue, Takaahiahi and Hapenui, which cleared the western side of the Waikato.¹

On the eastern side Ngāti Kahupungapunga were relentlessly pursued and pa were captured at Piraunui, Hokio, Pawaiti and Puketotara along what is now Lake Arapuni. The last battle was fought at Pohaturua, known today as Atiamuri Rock, on Lake Whakamaru, which Tainui besieged until the defenders were starved out and immediately killed. Tainui hapu took over the lands of the Ngāti Kahupungapunga.

“During this time descendants of Uenukuwhangai, youngest son of Whatihua and Ruaputahanga, went to Maungatautari, and settled on the western slopes near Puahue. It is not clear whether they were there before the war with Ngāti Kahupungapunga or whether they went there as a result of that war. They spread round Maungatautari on the northern side through Roto-o-rangi to the Cambridge district.”²



F L Phillips, *Nga Tohua Tainui: Landmarks of Tainui (Otorohanga 1989)* p50.

² J B W Robertson, *Maori Settlement of the Waikato District (Te Awamutu 1965)* p21.

Illustration of Ngati Kahupungapunga from The Blade of the Club of Raukawa: raukawa.org.nz

A day in the life at the Cambridge Museum

We needed a good photo of our cash railway, so we needed to do this ...



... to get this.



Almost everything looks better against a black background.



Soldiers at Te Waikato Sanatorium

If you wander around Hautapu Cemetery in Cambridge, you'll see headstones showing the names of soldiers buried far from home. This article explains why these soldiers, who survived the war, moved to Cambridge to battle against a disease that was ultimately to end their lives.

Introduction

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, tuberculosis ran rife through New Zealand. It was the leading cause of death in settler communities.

As sanatorium treatment gained international recognition, the New Zealand Government constructed State-owned sanatoria to control the spread of tuberculosis by isolation.

Open air treatment and exercise, in beautiful surroundings, were considered to have both physical and spiritual benefits to tuberculosis sufferers.

Cambridge's mild, dry climate and the beauty of its natural surroundings were the perfect conditions to aid recovery. In 1903, the first public sanatorium in New Zealand – Te Waikato – officially opened its doors eight kilometres from the town of Cambridge.

Much was done by local residents to support the sanatorium and its patients. Fund-raising events were well attended in the town, and concerts for patients at the sanatorium were regularly arranged. A billiard table was provided by the Patriotic Society, the YMCA provided a gramophone and new organ for use by patients, and many other gestures of goodwill were generously provided by various local organisations.

Costs for Te Waikato, however, were unacceptably high. Dr Bernstein, a specialist in treating tuberculosis in London, was appointed medical superintendent in 1913. Under his management, the costs of keeping each patient reduced by over fifty percent, and he wrote that Te Waikato "is now on a thoroughly good economic basis".

Convalescence for soldiers

During World War I (1914-1918), Te Waikato treated convalescent soldiers, as well as other patients. Consequently, prior to the end of the war, Te Waikato came completely under military control. The number of beds was extended to 100 and it became a strictly male institution by

1918.¹ While it was mainly used by soldiers, a small number of male civilians also underwent treatment there.

In 1916, trouble arose when a letter to the Minister for Public Health was signed by 26 patients. In the letter, patients wrote that "food, sanitary arrangements and general conditions are very serious obstacles to the recovery of an invalid." Several soldiers left as the result of what they considered unreasonable treatment by medical superintendent Dr Bernstein. According to the *Waikato Independent* of 22 June 1916, life had become almost unbearable as games and cards were largely prohibited, and in one instance a soldier was placed in solitary confinement for taking a stroll with a civilian patient. Dr Bernstein left not long afterwards.



In 1919, Colonel George Melmoth Scott took over the position after Te Waikato came under full military control.

Closure

In 1918, after the Pukeora sanatorium was built in Waipukurau, the Defence Department no longer had use for Te Waikato. Prior to its closure in 1922, Te Waikato returned to treating both male and female patients.

The Waikato Hospital subsequently became the main centre of treatment for tuberculosis in the region. The hospital received the Russell Ward, four large shelters and the band rotunda from Te Waikato. The rest of the buildings and assets were auctioned to the general public. The site remains a reserve.

Soldiers in Hautapu Cemetery

Dave Homewood of Cambridge compiled a list of soldiers who died while being nursed at the sanatorium and who are buried at Hautapu. They were Leonard Rawnsley, Ira Holdsworth, Patrick Heath, Percy Kettlewell, Herbert Strother, Albert Chitty, Edwin Ferguson, Samuel Stewart and Tipene Potatau. In an article for the *Waikato Times* dated 27 April 2018, Lyn Williams shared her research on each soldier.

This article was written by Cambridge Museum staff for the January 2021 issue of Prime magazine. To learn more, please contact us at the museum.

¹ Women were sent to Otaki in Wellington. From the Cambridge Climate to Chemotherapy, Horsley



Te Miro – The Mill at Maungakawa

March 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of Te Miro School and District. The Centennial celebrations planned in 2020 were delayed due to Covid-19. Next month will see a rescheduled centenary event go ahead at last. This article is on the early history of the Maungakawa Flour Mill.

The area was officially named Te Miro in 1916 when it was surveyed and developed for European settlement. Before that, it was shown as Maungakawa.

History

When the first settlers arrived in the North Island, Māori were able to supply them with pigs, potatoes, maize and wheat, all plants and animals left on the shores by European visitors from 1769 onwards. From around 1840, Māori were encouraged by Rev John Morgan of the Church Missionary Society to erect mills to expand their agriculture.

Sir George Grey was the first governor to encourage the development of Māori agriculture along European lines. He wrote to the Colonial Office in 1847 that when Māori were actively engaged in farming and owned quantities of produce, implements and mills, their property would *“be too valuable to permit them to engage in war.”*

Money was advanced by the Colonial Government to iwi to assist with the erection of mills. An Inspector of Native Mills was appointed in the early 1850s to assist in drawing up mill plans, supervise construction and give general assistance.

Lady Martin wrote of travelling in Te Awamutu countryside with her husband, the Chief Justice in 1852: *“Our path lay across a wide plain, and our eyes were gladdened on all sides by the sights of peaceful industry. For miles we saw one great wheatfield. The blade was just showing a vivid green, and all along the way, on either side, were wild peach trees in full bloom. Carts were being driven to and from the mill by the Māori owners. The women sat under trees sewing their flour bags while fat, healthy children played around.”*

Maungakawa mill construction

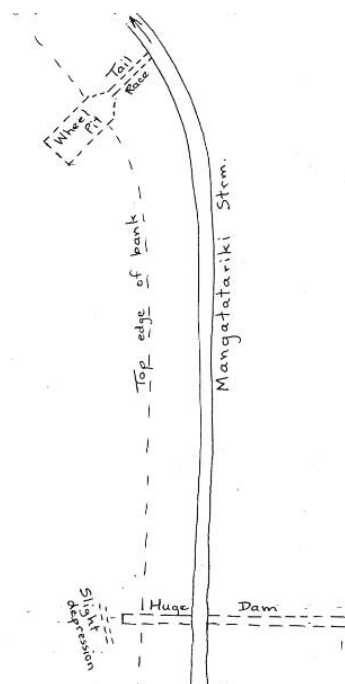
In 1852 the Maungakawa flour mill was built and soon in operation not far from the Māori settlement and what would later be the parliament building site.

Much labour by Māori was needed to make the wheel pit and dam. Around 136 cubic metres (4,800 cubic feet) of spoil had to be moved in flax baskets. Historian Arthur Moore estimated that it could have taken as many as 7,200 hours to complete.

The earthworks held back the neighbouring stream until enough water was collected to drive the undershot water wheel and power the two scoria millstones, which were almost a metre wide. Millstones for a Maungatautari flourmill were from France and believed to have been ship ballasts. Maungakawa’s millstones may have had the same origin.

Trade

Native trade quickly sprang up with Auckland, flour-sack laden canoes travelling down the Waipa and Waikato rivers.



NZ Archaeological Association
Site Record Form

In 1852, the gold rushes in California and Australia forced up cereal prices. The value of wheat rose from five to fourteen shillings a bushel, stimulating Māori to plant increased acreage. However, when selling time came, the price dropped to just under five shillings per bushel. Māori, unused to the whims of supply and demand, refused to sell. Less was planted and much wheat seed deteriorated.

End of an era

The quality of the flour from the Maungakawa Mill was nearer to wheatmeal than to flour. While Auckland consumed relatively large quantities of the flour, only rarely was it exported overseas, because of its low quality

Rev Ashwell wrote in 1856 that iwi were falling into debt, often before the mills and other agricultural implements and coasting vessels were fully paid for. The same seed was used year after year, instead of obtaining new stock.

With the decline of interest in agriculture in the Waikato in the late 1850s, mills fell into disrepair and the mill dams broke down. The era of Māori flour mills was past.

When the soldier settlers came to abandoned Maungakawa in 1919, the mill machinery was by the dam. They pushed it aside and covered it with soil.

Information for this article taken from Te Miro Centenary book; NZ Archaeological Association Site Record Form (pictured); The Māori Agriculture of the Auckland Province in the Mid-Nineteenth Century, Hargreaves; Auckland-Waikato Historical Journal No. 9, Moore; Plough of the Pakeha, Beer & Gascoigne. All in Cambridge Museum research collection.

