



## President's Report

I do not know if it is just my age, but this year seems to be rushing away even faster than the last!

I hope you have all now visited the Museum to view the current high standard and informative exhibition "Fire, Fire". If you have not already done so, I would encourage you to pop in, say hello to our staff and have a good look at it.

There is some exciting planning underway for the next major exhibition which will follow it in November/December this year. Watch this space.

I would like to commend two members of the society, Bev and Bruce Dean who, ably assisted by Paul Garland, prepared a display for our stall at the Autumn Festival on Sunday 21 March. The display enabled those of us in attendance to engage with members of the public, demonstrate that the Society is still alive and well, and even gain a couple of new members.

It is with sadness that we note the recent passing of long-standing member and committee member Margaret Vosper, and we send our condolences and best wishes to her family.

With respect to our planning and funding going forward your committee and staff members prepared for and attended a mediated workshop with Waipa District Council management and museum staff at the end of March, and we are currently finalising our submission on the provision of our funding to the Long Term Plan Review due next week.

Treasurer Jeff Nobes is sending out invoices for the annual subscriptions which are now due. The last AGM resolved that the subscriptions remain at the family price of just \$20 for this year. Please pay them promptly, as it takes a lot of our Treasurer's valuable time following up the slower payers!

**Bruce Hancock**  
President  
021 634 259

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## Museum Manager's Report

Visitor numbers have been up and down in March and April.

In the first school term of the year, six classes from Cambridge Middle School visited the Museum for their studies on Turangawaewae, which means "*a sense of identity and independence associated with having a particular home base*". We also visited eight classes at Leamington School and four classes at Hautapu School. We enjoyed sharing the collections of the Museum with these students.

Andrea Oosterwijk, our Saturday staff member has been concentrating on accessioning new items for the collection. Jane West, our Sunday staff member, has been filing real estate advertisements for Cambridge houses. Jo Barnes, another Sunday staff member, is transcribing and indexing a collection of letters written during World War II by Joan

Meredith (serving overseas) to her mother in Cambridge.

Karen and I have been continuing with an inventory of the collection, particularly archives and publications.



We are delighted to report that the Cambridge Community Board approved a \$500 discretionary fund grant for the purchase of a portable recorder for oral history interviews. Andrea has undertaken to interview several long-time Cambridge residents.

In March, we were pleased to host our colleagues from Te Awamutu Museum and Pirongia Heritage Centre for a Waipa Collections Forum meeting. Te Awamutu staff gave a short tutorial and a few tips on photographing museum objects.

Volunteers have been working on indexing, filing, research, entries for on-line displays and other useful tasks, for which we are very grateful. Hannah, on her work placement for University, has been transferring photographic negatives into archival sleeves and improving our photograph catalogue.

We are enjoying school holidays as we are part of the "Wonderful Waipa Scavenger Hunt" organised by the Waipā District Libraries.

**Kathryn Parsons**  
Museum Manager





## Daniel Murphy's letter to William Morse

*This letter was written in Liverpool on 18 February 1918. The grammar and spelling are authentic, but I have added paragraphs for easier reading. An article on Daniel Murphy and Bill (William) Morse follows this transcription.*

**WARNING: – This letter contains graphic descriptions of hand-to-hand combat in WWI.**

Dear Bill

No doubt you will wonder who on earth this letter is from. You will wonder more when I tell you that it is old Murph who is writing to you. Old Murph who was once known in the old established Firm of Cambridge "Ballard and Murphy" who used to deal in soft stuff such as beer, whiskey & soda & other soft drinks. Well Bill, is Tom Ballard still with you or has he gone to the war, or got married or gone & done some other foolish thing? Well I trust he has done neither & hope he can keep away from this stunt, it's no fun.

Well at present I'm a soldier doing a bit in this great war, not married yet, drink all the booze I can lay my hands on (which isn't much). I have been wounded once, in the battle of Messines. I got wounded, a junk of hardware hit me in the head. I got patched up & was sent back to the firing line & the first time I was in action after I returned I went mad, seen red or something, & was awarded the D.C.M. for distinguished bravery in the field.

It happened in this way. We had to take a village. We took it alright, it was an advance of half a mile on a half a mile front. Well you know when we capture a position off Jerry, he usually makes a counter attack to regain the lost position. Well on this occasion he did give it a go. Our orders were the position when captured must be held at all costs, that meant we had to fight to last man. Well we lost pretty heavily taking this village. When we got our objective we had been thinned out a few. However I was on the Lewis machine gun then, old Jerry is coming over to try & drive us out, of course as he approaches we simply mow him down but he is in large numbers, some of them must get across, & there's only four of us left on our post, all the rest are either dead or have been wounded.

Well before I know what's happening a Fritz has hold of me by the arm dragging me away from the gun. With my free hand I grips him by the throat then I use my knee & boot, down he goes me on top. I kicked him till he was unable to breathe anyway comfortable, then I grabs a rifle laying handy, sees another coming at me, so I put a pencil hole fair between his eyes, the point of my bayonet found the throat of two more. Then I had a sort of feeling that I was alone, so I looks round for my cobbbers but there was only one with any life in him at all, so I did the best I could for him. Then for six hours I stood behind that gun with only it & my

eyesight between me & old Fritz & my unconscious mate groaning at my feet, the nearest post on either side on our front been a hundred & fifty yards away, but I stood to the gun for six hours on my own, our support line was a quarter of a mile back. At the end of six hours I was relieved by a fresh gun team. I helped to carry my unconscious mate back to an aid post but he died, so for sticking to my post & beating the enemy off against great odds I won my medal.

I am now in Hospital you see. I received my leave to England from France, & during my leave I became very ill, so two days before my leave was up I reported sick to the military authorities who at once ordered me to hospital, the same day I was admitted to hospital at Liverpool where I still remain, & hope to remain for some considerable time.

It is hell in France, & a worse hell than that hell in the other world. Modern warfare is a thing that no one can explain, & no one can have the least idea of what it's like unless they go through it. I've seen men, strong men at that, crying & laughing at the same time. They have become hysterical in that hell. I've seen some of my best mates, mates who would share their scanty piece of daily bread with you, well I've seen them blown to plenty little pieces, oh it would make one weep.



The man who says he likes war well I do not hesitate to call him a liar, he has either been taken ill & invalided home before he has reached the firing line, or else he, on his way up to the firing line has been wounded sufficiently bad enough to be invalided home. They of course are the men who can tell you all about the war on their return to N.Z. It is unnatural for any man to stand up against the stuff that is thrown at you. Of course we do stand up against it & come out victorious also, but that is different to liking it.

I have never yet been in action where any New Zealander has not gone forward. You can rely on them to a man, that is why we are marked in that military book as a first class fighting division. It also explains why we are put into such heavy fighting.

Well dear Bill if Tom is still with you please tell him to write. Also yourself. I would be very pleased to hear from you. Kindly remember me to Mrs Morse & the children. Of course they would not know me. Kindly remember me to your people, also to Mrs Morse's people, & Billy James if he is still in Cambridge & Tom Ballard. My address is 29449 Cpl D. Murphy, West Coast Coy. First W.I.B., N.Z.E.F France.

I would very much like to hear from you & Tom. With kind regards & best wishes I remain  
Your Old Friend Dan

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*Letter: Accession No. 3544/2 in the Cambridge Museum's collection.*





## Daniel Murphy

*Details provided by Waiouru Army Museum for Daniel Murphy, the letter-writer from the previous page.*

29449. Private.  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn, Wellington Regiment.  
London Gazette 22 Oct 1917

### Citation: (LA BASSE VILLE 31 Jul 1917)

“For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when one of a garrison of a forward post. On three occasions he passed through very heavy shell-fire to bring up stretcher-bearers. On the last one; though buried by an explosion, he completed his errand, and, failing to obtain bearers, returned to the shelled area and carried out a badly wounded comrade on his back. During the same period, half the post being destroyed by shell-fire, and all the rations with it, he volunteered to go back and bring up food. This he successfully did. Finally, when the post was relieved after a terrible ordeal, in which half of the garrison was killed, he remained behind to look after the wounded until stretcher-bearers could be sent up. His magnificent devotion and exceptional fearlessness cannot be too highly praised.”

### Biographical note:

29449 L cpl D. Murphy, DCM. Born at Auckland NZ 18 Dec 1889. Coach builder. Attested 26 Jun 1916; embarked 11 Oct 1916; wounded 8 Jun 1917; returned 9 Jan 1919; discharged due to illness 6 Feb 1919. Served with 1 W'gton in Western Europe. Died at Te Puke 4 Dec 1919.

### Medals:

Distinguished Conduct Medal  
War Medal 1914-19  
Victory Medal  
Memorial Plaque

## Thomas Ballard and Billy James

*Tom Ballard and Billy James were mentioned in Mr Murphy's letter.*

We know little about Tom Ballard other than that he was a carpenter. He appears in an article in the *Waikato Times* on 5 July 1917 as a reservist by ballot. He had completed his service and had undertook to rejoin, if required, in an emergency that did not require general mobilisation. His address was c/o Bill Morse.

Billy James formed a building partnership with Bill Morse, known as Morse and James builders. It was amicably dissolved in 1918.

## William Morse



Bill Morse was born in Cambridge in 1882 and attended Cambridge Primary School. In 1896, he served an apprenticeship with his father Robert in the building trade.

In 1903, the Cambridge Water Tower (pictured) was being constructed, and Robert Morse and sons were sub-contractors. Robert Morse had a horse called Darkie who pulled the bricks to the top of the wall. It was said that school children regularly visited the building site, slowing the work by feeding apples to Darkie, which was frustrating for Robert Morse. Darkie was worked by William Tucker, through whom Bill met his future wife Ivy Tucker, William's daughter. They were married at St Andrews Church in 1905. Bill and Ivy had five children.



At the time of Mr Murphy's letter, Bill was working as a builder in a partnership with W H James (referred to as **Billy James** in the letter) under "Morse and James" builders.

After the dissolution of the partnership later in 1918, Bill Morse was for 25 years foreman builder for Speight Pearce Nicoll Davys Ltd, a well-known building firm in Cambridge. He was foreman of such important jobs as the Cambridge Clock Tower, Central Hotel, FAC, Calvert's Chambers, the Catholic Church and numerous dairy factories and district halls. One of his earlier jobs was shifting the Leamington Pavilion and Rotunda from the old domain to the present site.

Bill Morse was a keen athlete and active in community affairs. He was described in his obituary as "the possessor of a happy character and he was respected as a man whose integrity was of the highest."





## Te Ihingarangi

Part 4 of a history of the Karapiro-Maungatautari area by  
Te Kaapo Clark and Lyn Tairi.

# 1600

KO NGATI RAUKAWA

Te Ihingarangi, grandson of Raukawa and Turongo, and son of Rereahu and Rangianewa, built a home above the Waikato River at Karapiro (now known as Te Tiki o Te Ihingarangi). He had moved his people to this area of the Waikato after a dispute with his younger half-brother Maniapoto. Te Ihingarangi had originally lived at Ongarahu in the Waipa Valley, south east of Otorohanga. Just before his death Rereahu passed his mana and leadership to Maniapoto. Adding injury to insult, Maniapoto attacked Te Ihingarangi. After several of his warriors were killed Te Ihingarangi accepted defeat and moved his people to Maungatautari.<sup>1</sup>

There, Te Ihingarangi married Ringa-ariari and they had a son named Te Kuri. Te Ihingarangi, in later life, returned to Waipa. But Te Kuri remained in the Maungatautari area and married Whakamaungarangi, a descendent of Uenukuwhangai and of the Ngāti Kauwhata hapu. Te Ihingarangi's people came to be known as Ngāti Raukawa and lived on the northern slopes of Maungatautari, spreading north through Karapiro and down the Waikato River towards Kirikiriroa.



Te Ihingarangi  
Pou, Karapiro

The Maungatautari/Karapiro area grew in importance. Strategically it was a good defensive position. Hill top pa like Te Tiki o Te Ihingarangi commanded views of the Waikato basin. The area was also rich in food resources. Birds, especially kereru, and berries, especially tawa, taraira and hinau, were plentiful in the forests<sup>2</sup>. The swampy lowlands and the river provided flax, waterfowl and eels.

Also during this period Koroki came to prominence. He was directly descended from both Uenukuwhangai and Te Ihingarangi. Koroki "lived on the south side of the Waikato River near Cambridge."<sup>3</sup> Taowhakaio, a Ngāti Kauwhata cousin of Koroki, lived on the northern bank of the river.

"When Taowhakaio found Koroki visiting his wife in his absence, he vowed to cook Koroki and eat him, an insult that could not be allowed to pass... Koroki called on his Waikato cousins for help and together they attacked and defeated Ngāti Kauwhata."<sup>3</sup>

Koroki married two sisters, Kahurere and Tumataura, who were granddaughters of Tama-inu-po from Whatawhata. Tumataura and Koroki had two sons, Hape and Haua. Ngāti Koroki are descended through Hape, and Ngāti Haua through Haua. From Wairere, Kahurere and Tumataura's father, Ngāti Wairere, are descended.

<sup>1</sup>F L Phillips, *Nga Tohu a Tainui: Landmarks of Tainui* (Otorohanga 1989), p30

<sup>2</sup>Richard Cassells, "Human Ecology in the Prehistoric Waikato", *Journal of the Polynesian Society* Vol 81 (1972) p232

<sup>3</sup>J B W Robertson, *Maori Settlement of the Waikato District* (Te Awamutu 1965) p25

## The case of the exploding bananas



*Does anyone remember this story?*

On the evening of 24 February 1966, a loud explosion rocked the business premises in close proximity of L Y Loy and Son's greengrocer shop in Victoria Street, Cambridge when a banana ripening storeroom blew up. Several of the nearby shops had broken windows and a businesswoman in Empire Street said that bottles fell from a shelf at the rear of her premises.

The accident occurred after Mr Allen Loy turned on the ethylene gas which was used to ripen bananas in an insulated room. The gas was normally left on for three minutes. However, Mr Loy forgot to turn it off resulting in a loud explosion which blew off the roof of the room and completely demolished one brick wall.

Other businesses affected by the blast were Collins Bakery, Mullins Pharmacy, Arcade Bookshop and the Beauty Boutique. Luckily no-one was injured.

