

## Tēnā koe and greetings



Visit to Moon Creek, March 2023 © Michael Jeans

A big thank you to everyone involved in recent heritage events. It's been exciting to see such passion and commitment from our local library, tour guides, Tree Trust, storytellers and of course friends of the Museum. Grant Middlemiss' guided tour to the mysterious Moon Creek was a great success. Guests were taken through the bush behind the Water Tower and saw and heard the Creek waters, as well as learned more about the building of the Water Tower in 1903 and the Gasworks in operation between 1907 and 1954.

### Upcoming Event: The Dead Tell Tales, 23 April 2023

This month, Lyn Williams, local historian and writer of the popular column "The Dead Tell Tales" visits Hautapu Cemetery on Sunday 23 April to reveal interesting stories about some of people laid to rest there. Email [admin@cambridgemuseum.org.nz](mailto:admin@cambridgemuseum.org.nz) to book your place.

### Collection Care – Farming Items

Within the Collection Store, Karen and Kate are currently working with the farming tools in our care. If you have a knowledge and interest in local farming methods of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, we would be keen to hear from you. Please call or email the Museum – details below.

**Elizabeth Harvey,**  
Museum Manager

ADDRESS LABEL FOR DELIVERY OF HARD COPIES (ON REQUEST)

### Commemorating Anzac Day

With Anzac Day fast approaching, it is timely to (re)read Richard Stower's excellent article on the Waikato Anzacs (available on Stuff.co.nz and in the Museum). It features the stories of Corporal Tom Phillips, Troopers Alf "Cocky" Swayne, Robert "Fergie" Ferguson, Fabian Sperry, and James "Jim" Watson, who were all Territorials in the 4th Waikato Mounted Rifles.

Good luck with the Anzac Day wordsearch (back page).



Cairo, 1915 - Back l-r: Robertson, Tom Phillips, Jim Watson, unknown. Middle: Alf Smith, Cocky Swayne, Fabian Sperry. Front: Charlie La Trobe, Bill Crickett

### New additions to the Collection

Here are some of the new items generously donated to the Museum collection:

**Portraits of the Allwill family** plus World War II items donated by Mrs Heather Olsen

**Map of Te Miro Settlements, 1926:** Auckland Land District 1452 donated by Bob McQueen

**Original song called "Cambridge"** recorded and performed by Holly Christina, donated by Holly Christina Music.

**Book** From Community Spirit, Celebrating 50 Years of Resthaven donated by the Resthaven Trust



## The Inde

A Tribute to the *Cambridge Independent*.

*This is part one of a two-part story written by Cambridge Historical Society committee member Carole Hughes.*

A good newspaper is the hub of the town or city.

Fifty years ago, when Cambridge had a population of approximately 10,000, I became associated with its hub – the *Cambridge Independent*. Or, as it was known forever and even now, the Inde.

The Inde started as the *Waikato Independent* under the auspices of founder/owner David Pirani. It changed its name to the *Cambridge Independent* in 1966 and, after 91 years of existence, closed in 1995.

Back to the start. The first Cambridge newspaper was the *Waikato Mail* launched in September 1880. This closed, and the *Thames Valley Recorder* was started in 1883. Almost immediately afterwards came the *Waikato Gazette*. Eventually an evening paper was started – the *Cambridge News*, which lasted until 1893. In 1895, the *Waikato Advocate* started in Cambridge and moved to Hamilton,

and then the *Waikato Times* arrived. Sam Boulton started a free newspaper usually eight pages published by Premier Printing. This amalgamated with the *Waikato Independent* in 1942.

But this is all about my personal love affair with the Inde which had such a huge impression on my life. It was the friendship and humour from the public and the staff which was endearing.

The Inde at the time I stepped through the door was in Duke Street. It extended to a large area – a shop with stationary, manned by several batches of happy smiling women who introduced Cambridge's very first fax machine. A triumph of technology!

A separate entrance took you into a Clark Kent/Superman/Lois Lane atmosphere – a small, crowded group of offices with ever-changing editors, the owner/manager George Boulton, and a separate office where the enigmatic, humorous, intelligent, ageing Gib James, respected past editor, worked. And then a small, cramped area where two advertising reps, the editor and I



### Inde staff 1980s

Back row: Jean Wallis, Bruce Russ, Bob Perrin, Grant Boulton, Brent Boulton, Lindsay Smith, George Borthwick, Michael King, Tania Cook.  
Centre: Marie Thompson, Judith Beange, Carole Hughes, Iza McVeigh, Mary Hinchco, Sheryl Cochrane, Alison Short, Lorraine Searle.  
Front: Sheila McOneal, Peter Nicholson, Joy Cooper, Gib James, George Boulton, Nola Silk, June Fell, Marlene Romeyn





(as a full-time journalist) worked tapping out articles on old typewriters.

And behind all this was the work area – large, full of staff where all types of newspaper-orientated work were carried out. At that time, the Inde was printed at Te Awamutu. There was a dark room run by Brent Boulton, and Brent and his brother Grant both worked in that large printing area. Brent was the official photographer and developed all the photos.

I remember going to report on one particularly important piece of news taking copious photos – and returned to be told I had omitted to put a film in the camera! Oops!

At that stage the Inde was produced twice per week. The journalists did their job, typed or handwrote their articles, gave them to the proofreader who sent them to the printing complex to be typeset.



Students from St Peter's Catholic school on a visit on 27 May 1969.  
Photo by Reg Buckingham.

They were carved up and put through a waxer and placed on the page indicated by the “dummy” – a small “map” of what the final newspaper would look like. The typesetters or compositors and linotypers created and printed the typeset articles. These were called the “flats” and they were sent very rapidly to Te Awamutu to be printed.

**1931 Government Election Results, 3 December 1931**  
“The Independent’s election results board was a large one covering almost the entire frontage of the building, and was illuminated by powerful lights, in addition to ordinary street lights. By 8.30pm the whole street was filled with a large concourse of district residents. It was a fine night, the crowd was most orderly and good humoured and the band played on the balcony of the Masonic Hotel.”

You could go out to production and watch the paper being produced and see the article that you had written. Now of course it’s all done on computer.

My youngest daughter, says she remembers as a very small child, going into the Inde, out the back to production where the proofreader Len Chivers would show her all the machines. She loved the business of it, the explanation, the clack of the machines. It was a world of its own. Newspapers wriggle into your psyche and your blood. You never get over it.

Not only did the Inde produce the newspaper, it produced leaflets, brochures, anything that could be printed. Black ink all over the place.

Meanwhile in the reception/editorial office, the journalists did what they do now – identified the news from outside, either phoned in or personal stuff from local knowledge. They typed the article, gave it to the editor, watched as it eventually pasted up, while rapidly getting on with the next issue.

George Boulton was the son of the owner, Sam Boulton. He grew up with the Inde as did his sons Grant and Brent. He was the sports editor – a tall, big man, but gentle. Blokes would come into his office and hilarious bloke repartee would ensue. George’s wife Bev was always there, part of it. George was about rugby or whatever sport was being publicised. I believe netball got in there somewhere.

Gib James worked until just before his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. His humour was extraordinary, and his journalistic skills unchallengeable. Gib did a general printing apprenticeship when he was 16 and went forward to operate and eventually complete a linotype machine hand-set type. He completed a printing trade apprenticeship at 21 and became a reporter. He served in the Pacific when the Second World War started. He later, along with Sam Boulton, obtained the majority of the share capital of the Inde, with George’s Dad, becoming managing director. George took over his father’s interests in 1966 when Sam Boulton died. He became a partner and manager of the company. *[To be continued next issue.]*

Cambridge Independent – Ninety Years of News by Eris Parker was used as a reference for this article.

## Cambridge Moves in to the Computer Age, 4 March 1971

“The first computer in Cambridge has been installed at Ross-Todd Motors by Cambridge Computer Services Ltd. The machine, a Litton 1241, was built in Italy by an American company. The computer will be used by Ross-Todds for payment of wages, preparation of monthly accounts and paying creditors. It will also be available for similar work for other companies.”



## Discombe's Daughters



Back in February 2019, I wrote an article on Cambridge man Reece Discombe. He was instrumental in discovering the shipwreck of the famous French ship, *La Boussole* at Vanikoro, Solomon Islands, and was awarded the National Order of Merit by General de Gaulle himself. You can read about it at <https://cambridgemuseum.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Newsletter-0219.pdf>

I had spoken with Reece's daughter Michelle during my research, and invited her family to see an information board we were displaying to mark the centenary of her father's birth.

Covid-19 soon made this impossible. But finally, four years later, Michelle and her three sisters surprised us with a visit. The information board was no longer on display, but we retrieved it for them, capturing the moment (above). Pictured are Paullette, Janet, Michelle and Denise. They were enjoying a road trip together, summing it up by wearing T-shirts printed for each sister, eldest to youngest:

*I'm the oldest sister, I make the rules*  
*I'm a middle sister, I'm the reason we have rules*  
*I'm a middle sister, I'm the reason we have rules*  
*I'm the youngest sister, rules don't apply to me.*

They were rediscovering their father's home town, and had managed to locate several family members and friends buried in local cemeteries through the Waipa District Council's excellent database at: <https://www.waipadc.govt.nz/our-services/cemeteries>

Their visit emphasised the value of keeping the histories of our local people alive, and we were glad to be a part of it.

The information board had been displayed at the Museum for about three years. It was often commented on by locals who remembered the family, and also by our French visitors who were unaware of the Cambridge connection to such an important piece of French history.

## Anzac Day Word Search



Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden  
➡ and ⬇

ANZAC	MEMORIAL	SOLDIER
GALLIPOLI	HORSE	UNIFORM,
BATTLES	WREATH	SADDLE
RIFLE	NURSE	HILL

THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM PRESENTS

# THE DEAD TELL TALES

WITH LYN WILLIAMS

SUNDAY APRIL 23 at 1 PM

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE MANY HISTORICAL FIGURES  
BURIED AT HAUTAPU CEMETERY

BOOK VIA EMAIL AT [ADMIN@CAMBRIDGEMUSEUM.ORG.NZ](mailto:ADMIN@CAMBRIDGEMUSEUM.ORG.NZ)

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