

Tēnā koutou and greetings from Elizabeth, Karen and Kate

June already? The year is whizzing by. We've so many good stories to share with you.

But first, we're delighted to announce our new partnership with U3A (University of the Third Age). As many of you will already know, U3A is a worldwide movement introducing educational opportunities to people of retirement age. Cambridge U3A marked its first anniversary with the launch of a series of three lectures focusing on the history of Cambridge and its surrounding areas, signifying an exciting new partnership with the Cambridge Historical Society.

The inaugural lecture was presented on 24 May by esteemed academic and Associate Professor at Waikato Law School Linda Te Aho. It was entitled 'Ko Kemureti Tooku Oko Horoi – Our Stories of Cambridge'. Linda talked about the complex history of this area, capturing the essence of the region as it was before the arrival of early Māori "as gardeners and warriors" to the impact and legacy of the arrival of Europeans. A detailed write up will be available in the Backchat column in the Cambridge News, kindly sponsored by U3A. Details of the next talks in the series are available on at the end of this newsletter. Registrations for these talks will be open from August.

Another successful Friends of the Museum event was "The Dead Tell Tales". Waikato historian Lyn Williams guided a tour group of 35+ people around Hautapu Cemetery with some revealing results. Karen refers to this again later in this newsletter. Don't forget to book your place on our upcoming events, especially with the temporary closure of the museum building.



Historian Lyn Williams (standing 7th right) presented "The Dead Tell Tales" at Hautapu Cemetery. Photo by Michael Jeans.



The old courthouse will be temporarily closed from 6 June while it undergoes seismic strengthening work. The work includes new gutters, a new roof covering, timber reinforcement to the internal trusses, reinforcement to the brick chimneys, and the parapet and gable end on the façade will be braced to the timber roof structure. All while ensuring the historical exterior of the building is maintained. We look forward to opening again later in the year.

Changes and challenges were part of our conversations with Waipā District Mayor Susan O Regan, Deputy Mayor Liz Stolwyk, and Cambridge Community Board Chair Jo Davies-Colley. We had pleasure in showing them around the gallery, sharing our plans for the new displays and demonstrating the progress that has been made in the Collection Project.

This was also an opportunity to express our support for the idea of a community-centred building combining the resources and services of the local museum and library. Whenever you get the opportunity, please support this concept to your Council or Community Board. What a great asset this would be for our growing town.

In the meantime, during the temporary building closure, we will continue to care for the collection, create new displays and plan activities and events. We look forward to seeing you at one or more of our upcoming events.

A warm welcome to our new members

Mavic Base, Peter Nicholl, Lynn Dalton & Rob Archibald, Barbara Fisher, Murray & Christine Brown, Kathryn Parsons & Brett Rossiter, Beryl Jarvis, Stuart Potter, Dr Malcolm Baigent, Venena Payne and Colleen & Bryan Bassett.

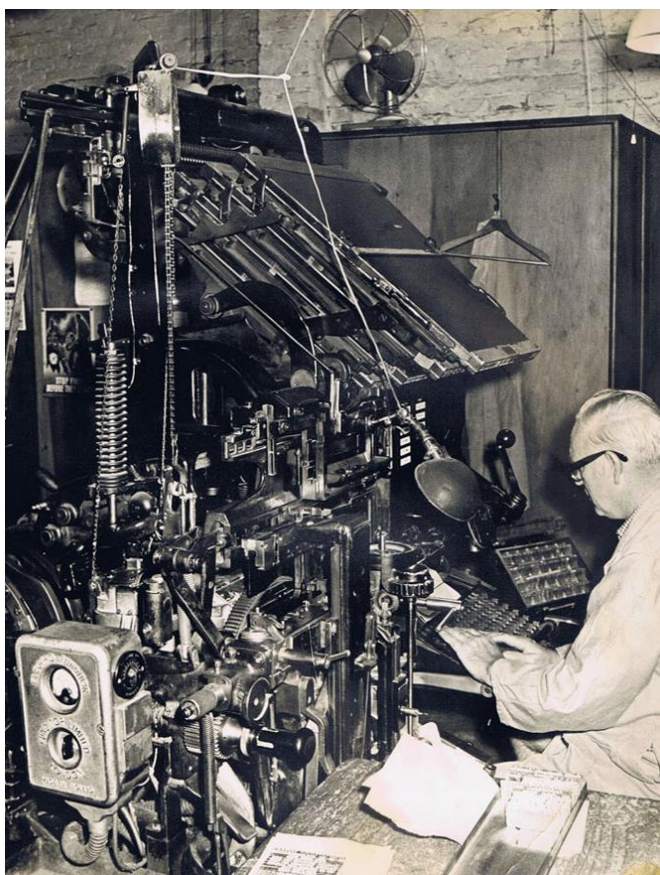


The Inde

A Tribute to the *Cambridge Independent*.

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

Editors came and went but Gordon Chesterman made a huge input. Eventually he went to Hamilton and became a City Councillor. He arrived in Cambridge after completing time in Fiji at the *Fiji Sun*. I knew him before this when he was a skinny little 15- or 16-year-old boy who came from Hamilton Boys' High School to Hamilton Girls' High School where I was, and we had dancing lessons. Hilarious? Yes! Excellent editor and journalist, he eventually employed me as I was writing articles on the different organisations I was working with.



Bernie Adams and the Intertype. Photo by Reg Buckingham

Gordon Chesterman dared to be different. Challenging controversy, he became bold and even more challenging. He changed the headlines to be bigger and bolder, and the Inde won the Community Newspaper awards. In 1978, Letters to the Editor were at a premium, and he eventually admitted he wrote them. He spent 2½ years at the Inde a polarising, funny, intelligent man and I think that he really enjoyed it.

In 1976 the Inde started to be printed by offset print in a tabloid form. Proofreader Len Chivers retired, and Lola Silcock the Company's secretary retired after almost 18 years. She had built up the stationary department with Jean Wallis.

Next was Lesley Wyatt. A very astute, very good journalist. Same High School, same class as me, she went on to beat me in English in the sixth form! Lesley eventually returned to Cambridge and set up "The New Edition" in opposition to the Inde. Following Lesley was Brian Impson in April 1979, and then George Boulton took over the job at the end of 1983.

This was at a time when I had a personal disaster and went into hospital at the age of 42 to have a triple bypass. Loyalty to the paper by all the staff can be shown by the fact that while I was in there for a few weeks waiting to go to Greenlane, I was working and sending articles back to George.

Then there was the advertising department all crammed into the same room as the journalists, with George, Gib and the editor in their own little rooms.

Marlene Romeyn was the advertising manager and she had Iza McVeigh assisting her. There were fashion features using our children and local models. Local shops loved it, we all loved it, Marlene loved it, and we loved her. She died a few years ago before her due.

The town was small, and it loved its community newspaper and modern technology didn't take over for many years.

There was a time, before I started working for them, when Cambridge Repertory was going through a very bad patch. Membership was low and they were close to disbanding. I wrote an article saying book your seats and go – or Repertory goes! I can still see it, George put it at the bottom of Page 1. They were booked out and this continued probably to this day. Productions roared ahead with Mona Ross and Gordon Sutherland taking leading roles in musicals. This was the power of the local community newspaper. Shows were reviewed, success plus one.

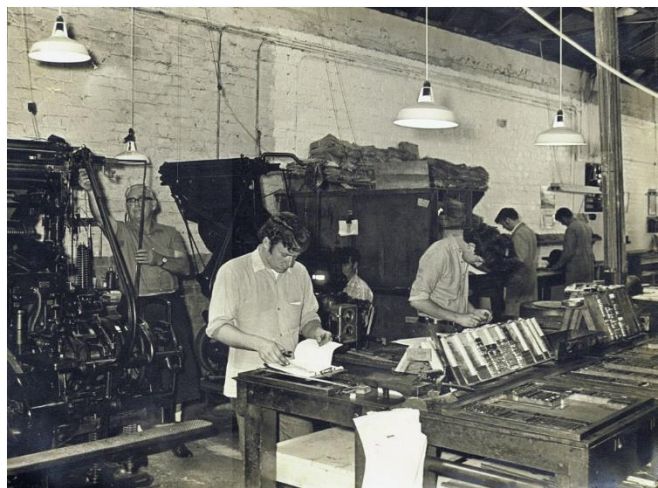


Inde Staff, from left Marlene Romeyn, Gib James, Joy Cooper, Alison Short, Marie Thompson, and Lynette (a little sweetie).



The Cambridge Museum building was at this time the local courthouse. We had a magistrate, and our lawyers represented clients. Many cases were reported. I remember a local schoolteacher who was rushing home from school at lunchtime to get her husband's lunch, when she crashed into a car at an intersection. She was taken to hospital, wrote off her vehicle, had to go to court, was represented by local lawyer David Jecks, fined \$40 and had to go to Hamilton for driving remedial lessons. Who was the teacher? Me!

Everything was listed: births, deaths, marriages, engagements, anniversaries, weddings with photos and a report of the wedding. Women's clubs, the A&P shows, children with their pets, features for Plunket, Repertory, columns. Before I worked for them I wrote "Let's Go Shopping" a full length two-column feature suggested by Gordon Chesterman, eventually taken over by Marlene Romeyn. George had a regular column headed "George Is On About". The blokes loved it.



Anyone who has lived in a small town will tell you how important the community newspaper is. It informs, entertains and helps groups to flourish. Groups back in those days like the Cambridge Society of Arts, the establishment of the Cambridge Community Arts Council, Cambridge Plunket, La Leche, Cambridge Parents Centre, Rotary, Lions, Jaycees, Cambridge Business and Professional Women's Club and many more.

Salute the Inde! – as former Cambridge Museum CEO Eris Parker did when she wrote an extensive booklet on the Cambridge Independent. Thank you, Eris.

Carole Hughes
CHS Committee Member

Our Mysterious Good Samaritan



Mary Murphy researcher
Karen Payne with Merv
Cronin

You will have seen the press report on "The Dead Tell Tales" when historian Lyn Williams took us through the Hautapu Cemetery telling us of the lives of some of Cambridge's hard-working, notable and/or colourful characters.

Of course, one of Cambridge's more colourful characters was Mary Murphy who constantly challenged the norms of how a Victorian woman in Cambridge should behave. (Our articles on Mrs Murphy can be read here: [Murphy article](#) and here: [Murphy court article](#).)

When we arrived at Mary's headstone, we were delighted to see that it had been cleaned and scrubbed. As Mary's daughter was never traced after Mary and her husband Patrick's deaths, we were at a loss to know who had carried out this kind act.



Mary Murphy's headstone before and after.

The mystery was solved a few days after the press report, when Merv Cronin called in to the Museum to say that he had cleaned the headstone after reading about Mrs Murphy in our newsletter. She was Mary Cronin before she married, and so Merv thought there could have been a family connection way back.

We worked out that the stone had probably not been cleaned for 110 years. For those of you who wonder how he got the stone looking so white, he told us he used Wet'n'Forget.

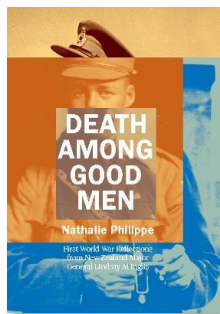


Upcoming Events

We hope you have plenty of space in your diary.

Thursday 13 July 2023

An evening with author **Dr Nathalie Philippe** sharing stories from her new book *Death Among Good Men* and telling of her involvement in the new, soon to be opened, Le Quesnoy Museum in France.



This event is on Thursday 13 July at 7pm to 9pm at the Thornton Club, Thornton Road, Cambridge.

A cash bar will be operating. Signed book purchases will also be available.

RSVP by Thursday 7 July to:
admin@cambridgemuseum.org.nz

Death Among Good Men is about Lindsay Merritt Inglis, a young man who found a talent for soldiering with the First New Zealand Expeditionary Force. A keen observer and prolific writer, Inglis' papers include letters he wrote throughout the war alongside his later memoirs, carefully interwoven for this book by Dr Philippe, historian and lecturer in French at the University of Waikato.

Major General Inglis' commentary and observations provide fascinating insights into the nature of leadership and command, in addition to revealing the human side of the conflict.

Thursday 20 July 2023

Come and enjoy a nostalgic journey and share in the excitement of some of NZ's rich aviation history at **Classic Flyers Aviation Museum**. With over 5000 items on display, the museum showcases some of NZ's best Classic and Vintage aircraft along with static and hands-on displays. Memorabilia can be viewed throughout three hangars as well as an outdoor interactive area.



We will be departing Cambridge on Thursday 20 July at 8.30am for a tour of the museum from 9.45am to 12 noon, followed by lunch in the Museum Café.

The special price for CHS members is \$25.00 for the tour and lunch combined.

RSVP by Thursday 13 July to:
admin@cambridgemuseum.org.nz

Details of carpooling and departure to be finalised when we know numbers.

Upcoming events in partnership with U3A

Friday 25 August 2023

Sir David John Moxon KNZM, CStJ, MMCM will be speaking on the first Pakeha woman to live in Piako: Charlotte Brown.

Sir David's talk will be on Friday 25 August at the Te Awa Lifecare Woolshed, 1866 Cambridge Road, Cambridge, from 10am for 10.30 until 12 noon.

David Moxon was educated at Freyberg High School, where he was head boy. After a year on Volunteer Service Abroad in Fiji, and a year at Massey University, he attended the University of Canterbury/College House, before studying again at Massey University. He studied theology at the University of Oxford Honours School and graduated with a bachelor's degree with honours in 1978 and a master's degree in 1982. He gained a Certificate in Māori Studies from Waikato University and a Licentiate in Theology (LTh) from the Bishopric of Aotearoa. He has honorary doctorates from Massey and Waikato Universities, is a fellow of St Margaret's College in the University of Otago, and an honorary fellow of St Peter's College in the University of Oxford.



Friday 27 October 2023



Dr Andrew La Croix will speak on the Geologic History of the Waikato Region.

This event is on Friday 27 October 2023 at the Te Awa Lifecare Woolshed, 1866 Cambridge Road, Cambridge, from 10am for 10.30 until 12 noon.

Andrew received his Ph.D in Earth Sciences from Simon Fraser University (Canada) in 2016. From 2017 to 2019 he was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow, as part of the Energy initiative at the University of Queensland in Australia.

Since 2109 Andrew has been a Lecturer and then Senior Lecturer at the University of Waikato in New Zealand where he leads the Sedimentary Environments and Analogues Research Group.

