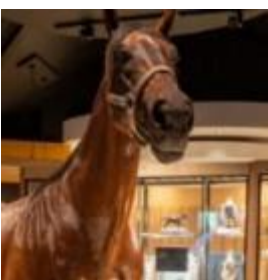


A Glimpse of Spring

We have been having some nice clear sunny days lately and every so often you get a glimpse of spring in the lovely gardens around Cambridge.

Successful trip with Friends

The Cambridge Stud heritage centre is set in a park-like setting within the Stud grounds and a visit to the Centre by members of the Historical Society in July was an outstanding success. We were given a private viewing of the impressive exhibits and displays showcasing the development of the Stud by Sir Patrick and Lady Hogan from the early years to the present day. A magnificent model of Sir Tristram, the stallion who was instrumental in their success, occupies a prominent position within the display area. We all enjoyed what was a memorable experience and a great tribute to a Cambridge success story.



Council Grant confirmed for 2024/25

The Cambridge Historical Society manages the Cambridge Museum and, like many museums of a similar size, is dependent on donations and grants from the local community to survive. We were therefore pleased to hear that Waipā District Council has renewed our annual grant for the 2024/25 year. We appreciate their continuing support for our museum.

New Committee members

We are delighted to welcome two new members, **Michael Gore** and **Lisa Meehan** on our Committee and we are looking forward to working with them over the coming years.

New Friends of the Museum

We look forward to seeing **Anne Macky**, **Judy Tod** and **Ian Neilson** at future events. Welcome to the Cambridge Historical Society.

Jeff Nobes, Acting President



What's on

August is Family History Month, and it's one of our favourite times at the Museum. You'll find a treasure trove of resources in our archive to help you explore your family history and whakapapa. We've got artefacts, taonga, documents, photographs and even some quirky bits and pieces.

Guide to Family History Resources

Whether you're just starting out or you're a seasoned genealogist, don't forget to check out our "Guide to Family History Resources". It's packed with handy tips to help you in your search and is available both at the Museum and on our website.

Our Research room is open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm. Just give us a call ahead of time so we can get everything ready for you.

NEW SCANNER: Digitise your documents for free

Thanks to a generous grant from the Cambridge Community Board, we now have an overhead scanner that you can use to digitise your documents, family diaries and photos. If you'd like to book a time to digitise your memories, email us at admin@cambridgemuseum.org.nz.

Celebrating Freedom and Friendship.

A new display in the Research room shares the unique story of the liberation of the northern French city of Le Quesnoy, investigates the Cambridge connection with its sister city and celebrates the magnificent sculpture by Fred Graham in the Cambridge Domain. A key player in the story is Rev Mortimer Jones. We are grateful to the Mortimer family who have recently donated to us Rev Mortimer Jones' pen and inkwell holder which will be on display soon.

Revisiting Reg Buckingham

The weekend of 9-10 November will be a second chance to see the *Capturing Cambridge* exhibition featuring photographs taken of Cambridge between the 1960s and 80s by Reg Buckingham. This pop-up display is part of the Passion for Art open studio tour featuring thirteen local artists, which is running alongside the 2024 Rotary Cambridge Garden Festival. More details are available at www.cgf.nz/passion-for-art.

Correction: In our last issue, we showed a photograph of Mary Wright in front of a photograph of her and her BNZ colleagues, including Adrienne Beer, in 1975. In the caption, we misnamed Mary as Adrienne. We apologise for this error. Thanks for letting us know.



Elizabeth, Karen and Kate





When Ken Wilkinson of Cambridge broke the record for the fastest road trip between Auckland and Wellington in 1931, his time included stops for food, petrol, trains and mobs of sheep and cattle. No mention of roadworks.

In our archive is this tiny booklet (2613/17), an advertisement for Ford in 1931. It is the story of Wilkinson taking 10 hours 49 minutes to travel in top gear from Auckland to Wellington.

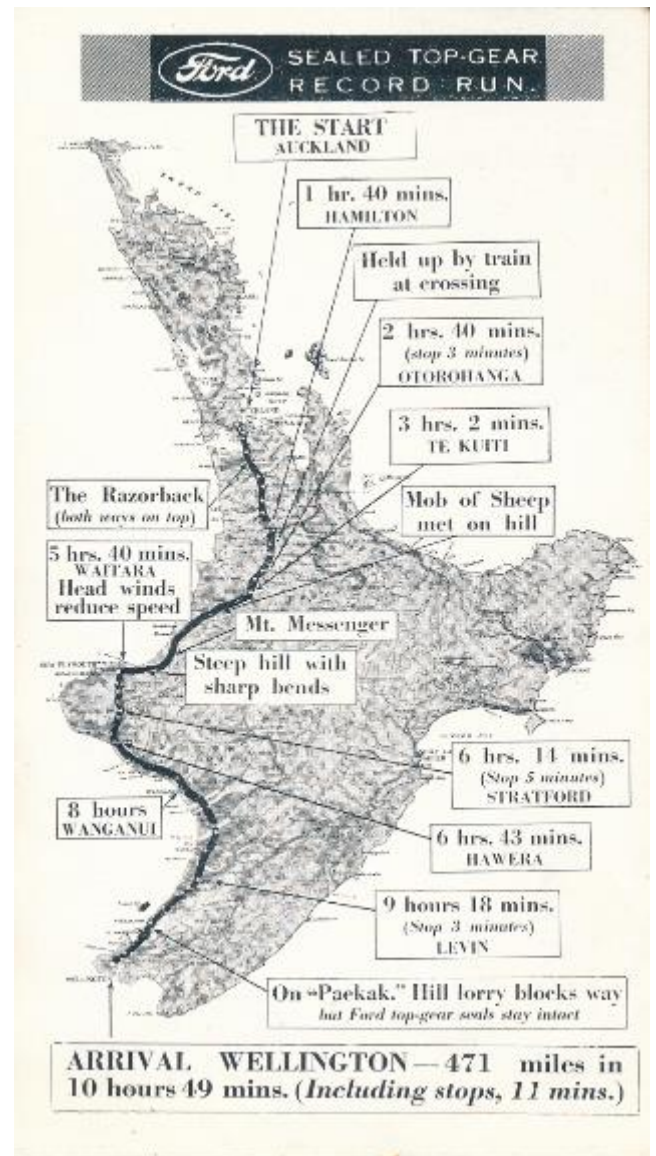
The previous record of 12 hours and 21 minutes had been set in 1924 by "Wizard" Smith, an Australian racing driver who, "begrimed and be-goggled" had set inter-city records all across Australasia. Ford believed that these feats could now be performed by amateurs as well as professionals, and selected local car agent Ken Wilkinson to prove it.

"Mr. Ken Wilkinson of Cambridge ... was both the man with the vision and the driver with the temperament and experience to carry through this worthy car performance. He had handled Fords of all kinds in his garage and knew them from radiator to exhaust. When his application to try for a really worth-while Auckland-Wellington performance came before the executive of the New Zealand Ford Distributors, the aspirant was recalled as a steady living, smartly dressed man in his thirties, with spectacles ornamenting a serious, strong featured face."



Car, driver Ken Wilkinson and observer (unnamed)

Ford locked the car in top gear before Wilkinson and his observer set off. Their reasoning was "The time was one thing, but 'top-gear all the way' was more important to the thousands of men and women who like a car which handles well and is tractable in traffic, responding in tight places to the call for power without the added tension of gear-changing and similar nursing."



The weight in the car was 25cwt, including driver, observer, petrol, baggage and a pile of Auckland morning papers. In Otorohanga, they stopped for coffee and petrol. Near Te Kuiti the road became rougher, the corners abrupt and hills steeper. Through Awakino, over the Mokau, up Mount Messenger, they came out of the hills towards Waitara and ran into a gale which slackened their speed by over ten miles an hour right through Taranaki.



Still in top gear



After 6 hours and 14 minutes, they stopped in Stratford for food and fuel. Eight mobs of sheep and four of cattle later, they reached Levin.

When they finally pulled up in front of the General Post Office, Wellington, the public surged round. Ken's observer handed a friend an Auckland morning paper before the evening paper in Wellington was out.



A fair idea of the Razorback grades

"Ken Wilkinson said: 'I have driven 471 miles from the Auckland CPO in 10 hours and 49 minutes, including stops of only 11 minutes, and I feel as fresh as pie.' The concourse murmured and looked at the car in wonder."

According to GoogleMaps, the same route today would take almost nine hours.

In 1948, Ford Motor Company NZ Ltd wrote this tribute to Wilkinson & Co Ltd in Cambridge:

In the "Who's Who" of the NZ motoring world, [Wilkinsons] rate a particular mention. Founded in 1888 by the late Arnold Wilkinson and his father, the late James Wilkinson, the Company has remained a family one.

Over this long period, [Wilkinsons] has established many notable firsts. In the early nineties, Arnold introduced the first motor vehicle to the Waikato. They opened the first motor repair shop in the district, were Cambridge's first bulk petrol resellers and the first Waikato firm to deal with an oil company. A Ford Motel T sold by [Wilkinsons] was the first closed car in Cambridge. And Mr Ken Wilkinson, (now Mayor of Cambridge) ... established the still-standing Auckland-Wellington speed record.

Photo: Wilkinsons' Garage in Duke Street, Cambridge CM3741. Ken Wilkinson far left.



Upcoming Events

RSVP details at foot of the page

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2024, 2.30 to 4pm

House tour: Visit to Dingley Dell, incl. afternoon tea
Please RSVP by 13 September.

Surrounded by rich farmland and rolling hills, Dingley Dell, the Vosper homestead, was constructed of roughcast concrete by Speight Pearce Nicoll & Davys in the 1920s, along the typical lines of architect James T Douce. The home offers endless opportunities for discovery and imagination and we are grateful to Katharine and David for welcoming us to their home for this visit.

FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 2024

Talk: The Waikato Horticultural Complex: Adaptation of Polynesian agronomy to a temperate environment by Dr Warren Gumbley, part of the U3A Partnership.

10.30 am, Te Awa, 1866 Hamilton Road
Please RSVP by 16 October

There is a wealth of archaeology relating to the intensity of Māori occupation in the Cambridge area. Much of the most recent work has been completed by Dr Warren Gumbley and his team.

Warren Gumbley has worked as an archaeologist for over 40 years and has a PhD from the Australian National University. His principal areas of research interest are: The adaptation of Polynesian horticulture to Aotearoa/New Zealand, the development of pā, the archaeology of mission stations, and the archaeology of the Waikato Land War of 1863-1864.

In this talk Dr Gumbley will consider how a system of gardening developed in the tropics was successfully transferred to the temperate climate of New Zealand.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

9-10 NOVEMBER

Passion for Art, Arnold Cottage, Te Awa

The weekend of 9-10 November will be a second chance to see the *Capturing Cambridge* exhibition featuring photographs taken of Cambridge between the 1960s and 80s by Reg Buckingham. This pop-up display is part of the Passion for Art open studio tour featuring thirteen local artists, which is running alongside the 2024 Rotary Cambridge Garden Festival. More details are available at www.cgf.nz/passion-for-art.



Two Cambridge icons: a suit of armour and Tui Carter

By Jane West. Photographs by Reg Buckingham.



The suit of armour at the front entrance of the antique shop in the Veale Building represented the height of the antique trade in Cambridge in the 1970s. Behind the towering suit of armour was the diminutive, in stature but certainly not in personality, Tui Carter.

Cambridge was renowned for its numerous high quality antique shops spread throughout the town, and Tui was a key figure in the development of the antique trade, both in Cambridge and the Waikato. Her shop was packed with interesting, rare items which people came from far and wide to view and purchase, including international clients. Tui was also a founder of the well-patronised Waikato Antique Fair.

She and her husband Barry (Baz) had inherited the business from Tui's parents. Ken and Blanche Highman operated their business in the 1950s and 1960s from the two front rooms of their house on the Cambridge-Hamilton Road, with old carts and wagons on the front lawn. They were one of the first to import crates of antiques from England.

Although retired, Blanche would occasionally help out in Tui's shop. One afternoon, the very petite Blanche was left in sole charge when about fifty Hell's Angels bikes surrounded the shop, parked up on the road and footpath and the gang members entered the shop. They had heard Tui had come into possession of a chest full of Nazi regalia, and demanded to buy it. Blanche duly produced the goods – swastikas, daggers, plaques, iron crosses, medals and armbands, and sold them to the Hell's Angels gang members.

In 1987, when the Cambridge Queen Street bypass went through, Tui shifted her shop up to the Collins Building at the top of the town and continued trading there. In the 1990s, she ran Antique Tours to Sydney. In the 2000s, Tui and Baz retired to Marychurch Road (old Station Road section) by the old Bruntwood Dairy Factory – now Black Dog Furniture. From there she and Baz still sold a few items from the barn.

Baz died in 2011 and Tui in 2017. The property with the original oak trees from the old Bruntwood Station site is now owned by their daughter Kerrie. Son Dave lives in Cambridge and retains a keen interest in and knowledge of antiques. We thank him for providing information for this article.



New additions to the Cambridge Museum collection:

- Photograph of crowds in front of the Cambridge Town Hall during the Queen Elizabeth's visit in 1954
- *Better Babies* booklet published on behalf of Calverts, Cambridge
- Part of a crate for Anchor Evaporated Milk
- Edwin Bailey collection from South African War, including uniform, crops, whip, cap and jodhpurs
- Rev Clive Mortimer Jones' pen and inkwell holder
- Registered Nurse badge for Margaret Urquhart who nursed at the Sanatorium at Maungakawa
- Cambridge Motor Club archives of 1950s-60s
- Photo of unidentified couple found in Cambridge after a 1948 tornado in Frankton

