

VC WINNER ATTENDED OHAUPO SCHOOL

John Gilroy Grant, Victoria Cross winner during the First World War, earlier attended Ohaupo School.

Born in Hawera in 1889, he shifted to Ohaupo with his parents when aged 10, attending Ohaupo School for about four years. He was remembered as a single-minded, determined, and even rebellious child. When he left school he became a builder and contractor.

Grant enlisted early in the war, joining the Wellington Infantry Regiment as Private (10/2959). He embarked for Britain in October 1915, being posted to France in 1916. He was soon promoted to Sergeant.

On 1 September 1918, during his company's attacks on enemy positions occupying high ground east of Bancourt, France, the platoon he was leading encountered a line of five enemy machine-gun posts that formed a formidable obstacle to the advance. Grant initiated and led successful attacks on these positions.

His citation states, "When about 20 yards from the posts Sergeant Grant, closely followed by a comrade, rushed forward ahead of his platoon, and with great dash and bravery entered the centre post, demoralising the garrison and enabling the men of his platoon to mop up the position.

"In the same manner he rushed the post on the left, and the remaining posts were quickly occupied and cleared by his company. Throughout the whole operation on this and two previous days Sergeant Grant displayed coolness, determination, and valour of the highest order, and set a splendid example to all." Grant was later promoted to lieutenant.

After the war, Grant maintained his association with his old school, returning on at least two occasions to address pupils,

and attended two school reunions, where he once humbly stated in an address, "Because I won the Victoria Cross, I am in no way different from any of you. I want to say that those men who stayed at home and kept the farms and industries going so that the troops could be supplied with food and other essentials, were every bit as important as those, like me, who went overseas." Grant died in 1970.

Other heroes to hail from Ohaupo were George Bartels (11/972 Lance Corporal) and James Baxter (2/2057 Gunner), both awarded Military Medals for bravery during the First World War.



Above: John Grant, Victoria Cross winner.

others of more recent vintage. All of them hold considerable attraction.

Rose Gardens

Nationally recognised as some of the finest in the country, these magnificent gardens were created in less than a year, when local service groups and members of the public worked together throughout 1969 to convert an unkempt piece of Crown land. The project was organised by the town's Jaycees, and the gardens are now administered by the Waipa District Council. Located on the corner of Arawata and Gorst Streets, opposite the town's i-Site centre, the gardens display more than 2000 blooms of 50 varieties, and are visited by thousands of New Zealand and international visitors every year. Te Awamutu takes its widely-known alternative name of "RoseTown" from the gardens, which are at the start and finish of a Pioneer Walk through parts of the town.

Regent Theatre

One of the country's earliest movie theatres, the Regent was opened in 1932 almost in the centre of the town's main street (Alexandra Street). It was one of the first purpose-built theatres for sound in New Zealand. Following renovations some years ago it now has five theatrettes, providing a wide range of new and recent-release movies. The building still retains its early classical 1930s frontage, and has been carefully modernised inside.

TE AWAMUTU WALKABOUT

While Te Awamutu, with its population of 12,000, is just 3,000 residents fewer than Cambridge, the town is as renowned as its bigger sister for its many attractions. As well, it services a rural population of up to 30,000, and within the town and its surrounding area there are many interesting places to visit, some of them hidden away, others obvious, some with considerable historical significance,

Alphra Lavenders

Open to the public and offering free tours from 10am to 4.30pm Wednesday to Sunday all year, these gardens and the adjoining shop provide visitors with a host of interesting things to see, smell and purchase. The gardens are located at 169 Brotherhood Road, 8km south of Te Awamutu (turn right off the Arapuni Road, 2km outside Kihikihi). They began trading as a commercial operation in 1997, and produce a range of lavender-based products. During the flowering season, the gardens are open every day.

Twilight Farmers' Market

Offering a good range of fresh fruit, vegetables, fish and other home produce, the market is held on Selwyn Park behind the Gorst Street i-Site information centre. It runs from 3.30pm to 6.30pm every Thursday during daylight saving months, providing a pleasant and often sunny alternative for shoppers.

Old St John's Church

Opened on Easter Sunday, 1854 by Anglican Archdeacon Abraham of Auckland, this magnificent old building was the result of a four-year project by Rev. John Morgan. It is built of pit-sawn matai and heart rimu, and includes what is believed to be one of the oldest and most beautiful stained glass windows in the country. It is built in Gothic Revival style, and is the oldest surviving building in the Waikato region. Old St John's, sited in Arawata Street, became a garrison church in 1864, during the land wars, and Maori chieftainess Te Paea Potatau placed her mana on the building, saving it from almost certain destruction. The churchyard and surrounds hold the graves of a number of both Maori and British casualties from the land wars, as well as those of early European settlers. The New St John's Church, opened for worship in the mid-1960s, stands adjacent.

Te Awamutu Museum/Library

Originally established in 1935 by the Te Awamutu Historical Society, the Te Awamutu Museum has grown substantially over the years, and now includes the largest collection of documented Maori and European archival material in the Waikato. Of special interest is that the museum is home to Uenuku, an internationally renowned carved taonga (treasure). As well, the museum houses a substantial collection of material from the Finn Brothers, Tim and Neil, as well as material from the New Zealand land wars and the Waikato Campaign of the 1860s. Thousands of New Zealand and overseas visitors tour

the museum each year, including more than 4000 school children. The museum, located at 135 Roche Street (opposite the Waipa District Council offices), is open every day. Entry is free.

The Te Awamutu Library has a long and varied history stretching back to 1874, when a library of sorts opened in the town with just 17 subscribers. In 1882 all books were moved to the Public Hall, and by 1900 there were 93 subscribers and 1800 books available. There is a cryptic note in the present library's records saying: "June 7, 1921, library closed due to declining use and abuse." There was a fire in the reopened library in 1923 and most of the books were saved, and by 1933 a building in Bank Street had been purchased, and more than 3000 books were housed there. A librarian was appointed at 17/6d a week with free housing and lighting. In 1940 the Country Library Service started, supplying 1200 books a year, and the library was free to ratepayers and residents. By 1974 the library was celebrating its 100 years of service, and it was noted that 50 per cent of the Te Awamutu population were members of the library. The present library building, adjacent to the Museum in Roche Street, was opened by Prime Minister Bill Rowling in 1975, and in 1984 a time capsule was placed in the library as part of the borough centennial celebrations. It is to be opened in 2084. Now, as part of the Waipa District Libraries (the other being the Cambridge Library), approximately 150,000 books, as well as DVDs, magazines, talking books and newspapers, are available to the public.

The Menz Shed

Established only in the last few years, this centre at 132 Raeburn Street aims to provide men, both young and old, with an informal social centre where they can gather, involve themselves in a variety of practical hobbies, share interests and enjoy male company. Many of the projects involve woodwork, and they have supplied equipment to local schools, pre-school centres and the Te Awamutu Museum. As well, several members have developed a substantial vegetable garden around the grounds of the building.

Pioneer Walk

Developed by the Te Awamutu Rotary Club in the early 1960s, in memory of the town's early European pioneers, it is a gentle 15-minute stroll from the Sculpture Park in Albert Park Drive to the town's famed Rose Gardens, and then on to the War Memorial Park, where the names of fallen military personnel from the region are inscribed on the walls surrounding a sunken cross close to the park's entrance. The park also contains a number of beautiful, well-grown specimen native trees.

Te Awamutu Heritage Trail

This walk is a pleasant wander through a variety of gardens, parks, stream-banks and town streets, taking up to two hours. Information signs are provided along the way. It starts and ends at the Gorst Street i-Site information Centre. Leading through Memorial Park and along the banks of the Manga-o-hoi Stream, the track runs to Awamutu, a small reserve where there was formerly a small Maori village, indicating the end of the navigable stream. The site was later a military redoubt. On through the War Memorial Park, opened in 1955 to commemorate World War Two, Malayan and Korean War servicemen and women, the track continues to the confluence of the Mangapiko and Manga-o-hoi streams, a Land Wars battlesite where Colour-Sgt. E. McKenna won a Victoria Cross. Beyond, in Tawhio Street, is the North brick house, built in 1908, the first brick building in the town. Further on is St Patrick's Catholic Church, built in 1970, on the site of the original Catholic Church in the area, built in 1909. The Waipa Networks building is also on the trail, marking the oldest power board in the country, established in 1919. On into the town's central area, a number of buildings of interest include St Andrew's Presbyterian Church (erected 1960), the *Te Awamutu Courier* offices (original site of *Waipa Post*, 1911), Empire Theatre (purpose-built in 1915 for silent movies; also designed for live shows with stage and changing rooms), Regent Theatre (1932), Spinley's Building (1932),

Teasdale Building (1911), Commercial Hotel (1938), the Courthouse, originally built 1903, since expanded), and the Little Theatre, formerly an early school building and used as a recovery ward during the 1918 flu epidemic. Nearby is the Te Awamutu Fire Station, the town's volunteer brigade being formed in 1913, and still possessing its first fire bell, weighing half a tonne, mounted besides the present fire station; and also a 1934 Fordson V8 fire truck, commissioned by the brigade in the vehicle's year of manufacture and still used regularly in town parades. In Wallace Tce there is the site of the old Otawhao Pa, a pre-European Maori settlement, while in Christie Ave there is Kaipaka Pa, the site of the last pre-European battle between Maori, about 1800. In Pekerau Cres the first co-operative dairy company was built in 1882. The building is now a bacon and cheese factory.



Above: St John's Church, built of pit-sawn matai and heart rimu, is the oldest surviving building in the Waikato region.

13-foot studs, small paned windows and finials – which are still intact today. As the family grew, extensions were made to the house. In 1991 it was converted to include a restaurant and recently, with new owners, it became part of the Cambridge business scene.

The original one-acre section belonged to Theophilus Galway, a 3rd Waikato Militia soldier. Protected trees near Souter House are a coral tree, black walnut, copper beech and Japanese Momi Fir.

Souter House and *Valmai* (mentioned later in this story) are amongst about 20 homes in and around Cambridge that are listed with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and included in the Waipa District Council's district plan.

Cambridge Courthouse

The old courthouse with neoclassical facade was built in 1909 on the site of the former army barracks and redoubt. Inside are kauri ceilings, varnished rimu dados and tiled fireplaces. The Courthouse closed in 1979, and today houses the Cambridge Museum and collection.

Town lockup

The two-cell lockup, now situated behind the Cambridge Museum, was built in 1905. When built, the *Waikato Independent* reported: "The cells are well lighted and ventilated and there is nothing to complain of on that score, at any rate. A useful cupboard and handy writing desk have been placed in the passage for the use of the police and solicitors."

Post Office: A king that wasn't

In 1936 an extensive addition was made to the Cambridge Post Office, and to mark the occasion an archway grille over the left entrance was erected for King Edward VIII. However, Edward, after a short five-month reign, abdicated for the love of Mrs Wallis Simpson and was never crowned King.

The original building was opened on 15 February 1908 by Prime Minister Joseph Ward. It was built for £2,964, and the

grille over the right archway has the insignia of King Edward VII.

The square base of the clock tower can still be seen on the right of the building. The tower developed cracks and was dismantled after the Napier earthquake. The clock was later re-sited at Jubilee Gardens.

The Post Office building was split into three businesses in 1987, and today houses a restaurant and studios.

Hitching rail

A hitching rail on the corner of Duke and Anzac Streets is one of the last originals in town. Anzac Street, which began as Chapel Street, was renamed in 1916 to commemorate the Anzacs' landing on Gallipoli the previous year.

Town Hall

The foundation stone of the present Town Hall was laid 21 April 1909 and the opening ceremony held on 14 December 1909. The construction happened during Mayor William Buckland's tenure. The building originally included the town hall, municipal chambers and public library.

Cambridge's first Public Hall was built in 1877 for £450 on government land on the corner of Victoria and Duke Streets. The locals raised over £300 and the government gave £100 on the understanding the hall could be used by the local cavalry volunteers.

Jubilee Gardens

The Jubilee Gardens (the triangle of land between the Town Hall and clock tower) commemorated Queen Victoria's 60th Jubilee. Today, the gardens enclose a town plaza, war memorial and 14-metre high town clock, which was erected in 1934 at a cost of £655.

St Andrew's Anglican Church

St Andrew's was built in 1881 by William Connolly, from the plans of Thomas Mahoney, for £1,570. It is said that Reverend William Willis, the first

CAMBRIDGE WALKABOUT

Souter House

At the bottom of Victoria Street is the attractive dwelling built by Captain William Souter, a retired sea captain. He, along with his wife Sarah and six children, arrived in Cambridge in 1875, where he established the very successful family business of W. Souter & Co. *Souter House* was built of rimu and kauri in 1877, with

resident vicar, checked each piece of timber, rejecting anything that was not heart kauri. The 33-metre copper-clad spire contains a peal of six bells weighing over 1,500kg which were installed in 1884 at the cost of £360. The first wedding in this new church was between Thomas Napoleon Peek and Sarah Ann Robertson on the 11 March 1882.

An earlier church constructed on the site is now part of St Andrew's Community Centre building, adjacent to St Andrew's Church. Built in 1873 at a cost of £290, it is one of oldest surviving buildings in Cambridge. The church, originally with a steeple, was used for fortnightly services alternating between Anglican and Presbyterian. The first wedding held in the church was between Benjamin Garland and Sarah Kingdon on 11 August 1873.

The old red postbox

An original Victorian-era red-iron postbox stands on the corner of Victoria and Hamilton Roads, outside St Andrew's Church. Built in Christchurch and installed about 1898, it has stood on the corner ever since. Costing around £10 to construct, it still bears the original Victorian VR cipher.

The "old pink church"

Opposite St Andrew's church is the former Presbyterian church, which was built of kauri and rimu in typical New Zealand Gothic style in 1898 at a cost of £813. With seating for 250 parishioners, it was the first public building in the district to be illuminated by acetylene gas. Today the Cambridge Presbyterian and Methodist churches have combined in the Trinity-St Paul's Union Parish Church in Queen Street. The old church, since sold and remodelled as the Cambridge Country Store, is now known as the "old pink church" because of its bold new colour scheme.

Memorial gates

The memorial gates to the Cambridge domain, facing along Hamilton Road, were erected in 1911 for £298 in memory of Thomas Wells, first chairman of the Cambridge Domain Board.

Band rotundas

In 1905, the Cambridge Domain Board conceived the idea of an octagonal band rotunda in Thornton Road, with the metal components manufactured by Glasgow Ironworks. Intricately ornamented with birds, sunflowers, and musical emblems, the seven-metre diameter rotunda cost £280. It was first used on 29 January 1908.

Not to be outdone, the Leamington Domain Board constructed their own two-storey octagonal rotunda on the corner of Pope Terrace and Bracken Street on the Town Belt, at a cost of £255. It was opened on 25 May 1910 with over 400 people present. But not being well patronised, the rotunda was towed by traction engine to its present site in the Leamington Domain in Wordsworth Street in 1921. The move cost £109, and a new coat of paint £17.

In 1983 the council moved to demolish the bottom storey and re-site the band rotunda. But public opposition forced the council to back down and carry out a \$6,000 renovation. In 1992 the rotunda was moved once again, to a more visible position in the Domain to help prevent vandalism.

Brick watertower

Close to Cambridge Resthaven in Hamilton Road is the town's original water tower. It was completed in 1903 for £1,077. A horse named Darkie raised all the bricks by pulley. Water was pumped from the Moon Creek springs (beside the old gasworks) to a 20,000 gallon tank on the top of the 24-metre tower, which was only in operation for 23 years.

Valmai & conservatory

The grand old kauri home of *Valmai* was built in 1901 for James Hally and family. It has a beautifully ornate Queen Anne style, with many gables, bay windows with coloured glass, fretwork and tall chimneys. Inside are pressed-zinc ceilings and tiled fireplaces. Over the decades *Valmai* has been used as a private home, boarding house, surgery, motel, rest home and school dormitory. Protected trees around *Valmai* include a bunya bunya, rimu, oak, beech, lime and spruce.

The conservatory seen in the grounds of *Valmai* was originally built in 1881 at Major Wilson's *Waterside* residence in Wilson Street, and moved in 1966 to *Valmai* where it was renovated. Ornate corbels, capitals and coloured-glass windows make this a unique structure.



Above: St Andrew's Anglican Church, built in 1881 for £1,570.



Above: The Cambridge Presbyterian Church, now remodelled as the Cambridge Country Store.



Above: Te Koutu Lake, Cambridge Domain, as seen in 1913.



Above: The Cambridge water tower in Hamilton Road, during construction in September 1902.

KRIPPNERS AND THE BOHEMIANS OF OHAUPO

Three Bohemian families – Krippner, Karl and Turnwald – from the Austro-Hungarian Empire (today the Czech Republic) settled in Ohaupo. In their homeland, they were said to have been financially secure, but living conditions were harsh and land rent was high. A group of 83 made the 106-day journey to New Zealand aboard *War Spirit*, arriving at Auckland in June 1863, and settling at Puhoi, just north of Auckland.

Martin Krippner, a soldier in the old country, joined the 3rd Waikato Militia as Captain, then encouraged other Bohemians of Puhoi to join

the unit's No. 3 Company, which he commanded. Many single men agreed to join, as did five of the married men: Anton Turnwald, Joseph Karl, Hans and Michael Krippner, and John Rauch. They all walked to Orewa to enlist in February 1864.

Also, German-speaking men from other Waikato Companies were transferred to Martin Krippner's No. 3 Company, now known as the "German Company" as many of its members spoke German.

The first duty given to No. 3 Company was the unenviable task of guarding Maori prisoners taken at the Battle of Rangiriri, on the prison hulk *Marion* anchored in the Auckland Harbour. The company was then sent to Pukerimu aboard the gunboat *Rangiriri* in late July 1864 to set up camp in Cambridge.

After a short stay in Cambridge, they were sent to the outpost at Ohaupo on the foot track between Pukerimu and Te Awamutu. By this time Julius Bukowsky (Bukowski) of East Prussia (now Poland) had joined the company. The men set up camp on the hill where the Ohaupo School now stands. It wasn't until 1865

that the district was surveyed. Ohaupo was purely a farming location with no town allotments, as the company had already drawn one-acre sections in Cambridge West (Leamington). As most of the company were privates, they were allocated 50-acre farm lots at Ohaupo.

The men worked hard clearing and grassing their land by day, spending the evenings in camp where there was already a mess, orderly rooms and commissariat store left by Imperial troops. Many of the men were tradesmen back in the old countries. Carpenters helped construct new buildings while Anton Turnwald worked as a butcher and Hans Krippner as a blacksmith.

No. 3 Company was still expected to attend a monthly muster in Cambridge, for which they walked to Pukerimu and punted across the Waikato River. For this they each collected 2s 6d attendance money.

Up to then, the wives and children were housed in the Onehunga Barracks in Auckland. Once timber quotas arrived at Ohaupo, the married men could construct small cottages in readiness for their families.

Some didn't wait for the timber, opting to construct raupo-clad huts. Wives and families arrived at Pukerimu after an arduous journey by land and river. Beer and Gascoigne stated in *Plough of the Pakeha*, "Anna, wife of Joseph Karl landed in time to join her husband for Christmas, 1864. With her family of six sons, they carried all their belongings, as well as driving a milking goat and some geese, overland to their new home, a raupo whare."

Each settler family in Ohaupo grew its own wheat, potatoes and maize, and cured its own bacon. Michael Krippner purchased the district's first cow. Soon after, Evelyn Arthur Rich purchased six cows and a bull in Auckland and drove them overland to Ohaupo. When the number of cows in the district increased, butter was made by hand and salted down in barrels, which was then sold or exchanged for goods in the local towns.

Beset with financial woes and possibly ill health, Martin Krippner left Ohaupo in 1866, returning to Puhoi with his wife.

Descendants of Germany and neighbouring countries, and those who spoke German, may have experienced problems while living alongside British descendants in the years following their arrival in New Zealand. In 1882 Julius Bukowsky signed a petition complaining that he had been taken off the electoral roll because he was deemed an "Alien", even after he had fought in the Waikato War with the 3rd Waikato Militia, received a land grant for this service, and resided continuously on his land at Ohaupo.

The *Waikato Times* reports that Julius stated, "That being thus sworn [in the militia], and in receipt of the said Crown grants, your petitioners always considered themselves as Her Majesty's subjects, and entitled to all rights and privileges as such, and were on the electoral roll for Waipa, and voted at elections of your Honorable House for years until the last general election, when your petitioners were struck off the roll as aliens."

No one carries the Krippner name in Ohaupo today but the Edwards family are Krippner descendants of Martin Krippner's brother, Michael; and the Devereaux family, which until recently resided in Ohaupo, descended from Hans Krippner, another brother. Other Krippners, descendants of Michael, still live at neighbouring Te Rore and Te Pahu. Also, Krippners have operated a garage on Kakaramea Road for three generations, becoming an institution in the district.

Other early settler names associated with Ohaupo are: Bell, Buckland, Cowley, Edwards, Forkert, Gubbins, Kusabs, Lake, McNicol, Norrish, Rich, Sittauer and Sturges.

"CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF THE PARTY" ON A "TANBERG"

TAPE RECORDER
For Only £11/10/- DEPOSIT
With Time To Pay

J.W. Model

For working and domestic use.
Requires 120 Volts AC current. When the tape has been inserted, either from the front or back, it can be run in the tape deck. There is no need to open the case.

Complete Price £25/5

"SCARER THAN HENS' TEETH"

GARDEN MARK & RECORD CHAMBERS
Supplied complete with record arms £15/4/0

PHILIPS TAPE RECORDER
£9 Deposit With Time To Pay

ELECTROSTATIC MODE
83 OHM

PHILIPS RECORDOMATIC
104 OHM

Home Appliances Centre

LAWNMOWER GRASS CATCHERS

Made in
Medium and
Heavy
quality Canvas



Price 15/6 & 18/6

ALLEN'S Hardware Service
PHONE 321



WORLD FAMOUS BUTTER!
(GOLD MEDALS)

IT LOOKS LIKE GOLD — IT IS AS GOOD AS GOLD.

THE "ANCHOR BRAND" trademark the GOLDEN AGE
John W. Walker

London's Leader Steers say:—
IT IS THE PICK OF ALL THE BUTTER COMING FROM AUSTRALIA.—London correspondent Sydney Morning Herald, Jan. 22nd, 1928.

Tell Your Milkman to Send Nothing but ANCHOR BUTTER.

WHOLESALE DEPOT—
WELLESLEY STREET, AUCKLAND.

BUTTER FACTORIES—
NGARUAWAHIA AND PUKEKOHE.

CREAMRIES—
ALL OVER THE WAIKATO.



TE AWAMUTU AND ALEXANDRA
ANNUAL RACES.
On BOXING DAY December 26.

1. *Hurdle Race*—For £1 entrance, £1 added; distance 1½ miles; 6 hurdles, 3ft 9in; winner weight for age, top weight 12 stone; second horse to save his stakes.

2. *Maidens Plate*—For £1 entrance £1 added; distance 1¼ miles, for horses that have never won public money to the amount of £5; weight for age; second horse to save stakes.

3. *Galloway Race*—For horses 14-2 and under; for £1 entrance 10s, added; weight for inches, top weight 10st 3d; distance 1 mile; second horse to save his stakes.

4. *To Axonius Plate Handicap*—Distance, 2 miles; for £1; entrance £1 10s; 10s on nomination, 20s on acceptance; acceptance added; second horse to receive one-fourth of stakes.

5. *Consolation Race*—For £1; distance 1 mile; entrance 5s, added, for all beaten horses.

6. *Hack Race*—For £1; entrance 10s, added, distance, 1 mile; 10 stone up, winner to be sold for £20; surplus, if any, to go to the funds; second horse save his stakes; post entries.

Subscribers of less than £1 to pay double entrance.

Subscription Lists to close on the 10th; entrances to close on night of 25th December; Nominations for Handicap on 12th December.

Handicappers—Messrs Weatherill and Foster.

The races are open to all horses the *bona fide* property of settlers residing in the Waikato.

All races will be run under the rules of the Auckland Jockey Club.

J. R. ROCHE,
Secretary.

Modern Women
are not
Stokers



**HAYMAN'S ELECTRIC
WASHER-BOILERS**

BOILS AND WASHES CLOTHES ELECTRICALLY.
At Trifling Cost, without labour. Less than 3d. for large weekly wash. Made in everlasting stainless copper, with polished nickel plated finishings. Element Guaranteed 2 years but will last a life time.

No Special Wiring Required.

Sole Agents—

ALLEN'S HARDWARE SERVICE
Phone 321. Phone 322.

COWS.



COWS.

It is just as economical to buy the
Best Make of Separator

as it is to keep a
High-Class Milking Herd.

The only Machine manufactured
in England.



The Titan Alexandra Cream Separator

IN THE BEST PRODUCER IN EVERY RESPECT.

Size	Depth	Breadth	Time to Work and Clean.	Shipping Area in Miles.
ADVICE NOTE: SOME OF THE PRICES:				
1 ft.	1 ft.	1 ft.	1 ft.	1 ft.
2 ft.	2 ft.	2 ft.	2 ft.	2 ft.
3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.
4 ft.	4 ft.	4 ft.	4 ft.	4 ft.
5 ft.	5 ft.	5 ft.	5 ft.	5 ft.
6 ft.	6 ft.	6 ft.	6 ft.	6 ft.
7 ft.	7 ft.	7 ft.	7 ft.	7 ft.
8 ft.	8 ft.	8 ft.	8 ft.	8 ft.
9 ft.	9 ft.	9 ft.	9 ft.	9 ft.
10 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.
11 ft.	11 ft.	11 ft.	11 ft.	11 ft.
12 ft.	12 ft.	12 ft.	12 ft.	12 ft.
13 ft.	13 ft.	13 ft.	13 ft.	13 ft.
14 ft.	14 ft.	14 ft.	14 ft.	14 ft.
15 ft.	15 ft.	15 ft.	15 ft.	15 ft.
16 ft.	16 ft.	16 ft.	16 ft.	16 ft.
17 ft.	17 ft.	17 ft.	17 ft.	17 ft.
18 ft.	18 ft.	18 ft.	18 ft.	18 ft.
19 ft.	19 ft.	19 ft.	19 ft.	19 ft.
20 ft.	20 ft.	20 ft.	20 ft.	20 ft.
21 ft.	21 ft.	21 ft.	21 ft.	21 ft.
22 ft.	22 ft.	22 ft.	22 ft.	22 ft.
23 ft.	23 ft.	23 ft.	23 ft.	23 ft.
24 ft.	24 ft.	24 ft.	24 ft.	24 ft.
25 ft.	25 ft.	25 ft.	25 ft.	25 ft.
26 ft.	26 ft.	26 ft.	26 ft.	26 ft.
27 ft.	27 ft.	27 ft.	27 ft.	27 ft.
28 ft.	28 ft.	28 ft.	28 ft.	28 ft.
29 ft.	29 ft.	29 ft.	29 ft.	29 ft.
30 ft.	30 ft.	30 ft.	30 ft.	30 ft.
31 ft.	31 ft.	31 ft.	31 ft.	31 ft.
32 ft.	32 ft.	32 ft.	32 ft.	32 ft.
33 ft.	33 ft.	33 ft.	33 ft.	33 ft.
34 ft.	34 ft.	34 ft.	34 ft.	34 ft.
35 ft.	35 ft.	35 ft.	35 ft.	35 ft.
36 ft.	36 ft.	36 ft.	36 ft.	36 ft.
37 ft.	37 ft.	37 ft.	37 ft.	37 ft.
38 ft.	38 ft.	38 ft.	38 ft.	38 ft.
39 ft.	39 ft.	39 ft.	39 ft.	39 ft.
40 ft.	40 ft.	40 ft.	40 ft.	40 ft.
41 ft.	41 ft.	41 ft.	41 ft.	41 ft.
42 ft.	42 ft.	42 ft.	42 ft.	42 ft.
43 ft.	43 ft.	43 ft.	43 ft.	43 ft.
44 ft.	44 ft.	44 ft.	44 ft.	44 ft.
45 ft.	45 ft.	45 ft.	45 ft.	45 ft.
46 ft.	46 ft.	46 ft.	46 ft.	46 ft.
47 ft.	47 ft.	47 ft.	47 ft.	47 ft.
48 ft.	48 ft.	48 ft.	48 ft.	48 ft.
49 ft.	49 ft.	49 ft.	49 ft.	49 ft.
50 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.
51 ft.	51 ft.	51 ft.	51 ft.	51 ft.
52 ft.	52 ft.	52 ft.	52 ft.	52 ft.
53 ft.	53 ft.	53 ft.	53 ft.	53 ft.
54 ft.	54 ft.	54 ft.	54 ft.	54 ft.
55 ft.	55 ft.	55 ft.	55 ft.	55 ft.
56 ft.	56 ft.	56 ft.	56 ft.	56 ft.
57 ft.	57 ft.	57 ft.	57 ft.	57 ft.
58 ft.	58 ft.	58 ft.	58 ft.	58 ft.
59 ft.	59 ft.	59 ft.	59 ft.	59 ft.
60 ft.	60 ft.	60 ft.	60 ft.	60 ft.
61 ft.	61 ft.	61 ft.	61 ft.	61 ft.
62 ft.	62 ft.	62 ft.	62 ft.	62 ft.
63 ft.	63 ft.	63 ft.	63 ft.	63 ft.
64 ft.	64 ft.	64 ft.	64 ft.	64 ft.
65 ft.	65 ft.	65 ft.	65 ft.	65 ft.
66 ft.	66 ft.	66 ft.	66 ft.	66 ft.
67 ft.	67 ft.	67 ft.	67 ft.	67 ft.
68 ft.	68 ft.	68 ft.	68 ft.	68 ft.
69 ft.	69 ft.	69 ft.	69 ft.	69 ft.
70 ft.	70 ft.	70 ft.	70 ft.	70 ft.
71 ft.	71 ft.	71 ft.	71 ft.	71 ft.
72 ft.	72 ft.	72 ft.	72 ft.	72 ft.
73 ft.	73 ft.	73 ft.	73 ft.	73 ft.
74 ft.	74 ft.	74 ft.	74 ft.	74 ft.
75 ft.	75 ft.	75 ft.	75 ft.	75 ft.
76 ft.	76 ft.	76 ft.	76 ft.	76 ft.
77 ft.	77 ft.	77 ft.	77 ft.	77 ft.
78 ft.	78 ft.	78 ft.	78 ft.	78 ft.
79 ft.	79 ft.	79 ft.	79 ft.	79 ft.
80 ft.	80 ft.	80 ft.	80 ft.	80 ft.
81 ft.	81 ft.	81 ft.	81 ft.	81 ft.
82 ft.	82 ft.	82 ft.	82 ft.	82 ft.
83 ft.	83 ft.	83 ft.	83 ft.	83 ft.
84 ft.	84 ft.	84 ft.	84 ft.	84 ft.
85 ft.	85 ft.	85 ft.	85 ft.	85 ft.
86 ft.	86 ft.	86 ft.	86 ft.	86 ft.
87 ft.	87 ft.	87 ft.	87 ft.	87 ft.
88 ft.	88 ft.	88 ft.	88 ft.	88 ft.
89 ft.	89 ft.	89 ft.	89 ft.	89 ft.
90 ft.	90 ft.	90 ft.	90 ft.	90 ft.
91 ft.	91 ft.	91 ft.	91 ft.	91 ft.
92 ft.	92 ft.	92 ft.	92 ft.	92 ft.
93 ft.	93 ft.	93 ft.	93 ft.	93 ft.
94 ft.	94 ft.	94 ft.	94 ft.	94 ft.
95 ft.	95 ft.	95 ft.	95 ft.	95 ft.
96 ft.	96 ft.	96 ft.	96 ft.	96 ft.
97 ft.	97 ft.	97 ft.	97 ft.	97 ft.
98 ft.	98 ft.	98 ft.	98 ft.	98 ft.
99 ft.	99 ft.	99 ft.	99 ft.	99 ft.
100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.

HENDERSON & LACY

Will Treat your Home
or Business Premises
at Reasonable Cost.

Agent: J. P. ROBINSON

Phones:

Office, 300;
Residence, 304

[Te Awamutu Courier, 1947]



Above: Martin Krippner, a soldier in the old country, joined the 3rd Waikato Militia as Captain.

THREE GENERATIONS OF GARLAND AT TRECARNE

"Trecarne", a kauri-built villa and stables on Maungatautari Road, seen today just outside Leamington's town belt, was built by William and Elizabeth Reynolds in 1877. At the time the homestead could be seen from across the Waikato River, as there were few trees to obstruct the view.

The house has solid concrete foundations and the walls were originally filled with pumice for insulation, but partly emptied when electricity was connected. When William died in 1891, the property was taken over by his son Richard, who planted trees about the homestead.

Trecarne was purchased by Jonathan William (Willie) Garland in 1943, with the homestead remaining in the Garland family to this day. Willie was the son of Benjamin Garland, who settled in Cambridge in 1869 after immigrating from Somerset, England. Benjamin resided in a cottage at 109

Shakespeare Street, operating a butchery business from the site. He married Sarah Kingdon on 10 August 1873 in the original St Andrew's Anglican church in Cambridge. Theirs was the first wedding in the church.

Benjamin and Sarah had 11 children – five girls and six boys. Willie, the third child, was born in Cambridge in 1877 and, as a young man, joined the Waikato Mounted Rifles. In 1900 he sailed with the 2nd Contingent (533 Sergeant) from Wellington to serve in the South Africa War (Anglo-Boer War). After suffering enteric fever, he returned home in August 1900, only to return to South Africa with the 10th Contingent. The family still possesses the "Welcome Home" banner, which was flown in his honour when he first returned.

In 1913 Willie volunteered as a mounted special constable, and alongside hundreds of fellow farmers from the Waipa protected strike-breakers in the Watersiders Strike at Auckland.



Above: Sergeant Willie Garland served in the South Africa War with New Zealand's 2nd Contingent.

Willie was an enthusiastic war veteran, attending reunions throughout New Zealand and in London. He also had a passion for snooker. Once, when the world champion Clark McConnechie visited Cambridge, Willie competed strongly, being presented with the champion's cue.

Willie's son, Rex, suffered from rheumatoid arthritis as a boy. To overcome the symptoms of the disease,

Rex kept fit by walking as much as possible and playing polo. During the Second World War, after managing to pass an enlistment medical examination, Rex served with the Divisional Cavalry (14375 Trooper), and was captured in southern Greece in 1941 along with 2,200 other New Zealanders, becoming a prisoner of war.

Initially, Rex and the others were force-marched through Greece. Rex started out towards the front of the line but, due to the effects of his condition, quickly fell back amongst the tail-enders. Eventually he was held in a working camp in Eichberg, Austria, where he managed to secure the less physical job of camp cook.

In his first letter home, Rex wrote, "It seems hard to believe at times but it is nearly three months since first I was captured. You will understand that there is very little news of my whereabouts. As you must have guessed I was captured in the south of Greece along with a good many of the other chaps who joined up and came over with me. Luckily a few of us have been able to keep together. Today our first Red Cross parcel arrived. It certainly was credit to them."

The symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis worsened, resulting in Rex being admitted to hospital in Austria in 1943.

Luckily, he was eventually repatriated to Egypt and arrived back in New Zealand early 1944. Once home, Rex recovered and took over Trecarne a couple of years later. His father Willie died in 1961.

Rex married Rosamond Graham, having three children – Bill, Mary and Paul. After Rex died in 1999, Rosamond continued to reside in Trecarne before it was passed on to Paul and his wife Lynne in 2008. Today, Trecarne has been lovingly restored, retaining all of its original character, making it one of the more elegant historical homes of Cambridge.



Above: Cambridge men who served in the South Africa War received a civic welcome on their return outside the National Hotel in 1902.

OUR NATURAL HERITAGE



A native karearea (falcon) released by Kakepuku Mountain Conservation Project members, takes up residence on the mountain.

Photograph by Charl Terblanche.



Three mountains dominate the Waipa District, each of them forming a special part of the region's eastern, southern and western boundaries.

These mountains – Maungatautari in the east, Kakepuku to the south, and Pirongia in the west – are all ancient volcanoes, and in each case at least part of the mountain is covered in standing native bush and has been declared a forest park or reserve. All of them are being actively managed so that the bush and native fauna can be properly re-established. As well, they are all open

to the public as major recreation and education facilities for the people of the district, the wider Waikato region and other national and international visitors. In the case of Maungatautari, a facilities fee is charged.

Their mountains also have long-established Maori tradition cloaking them, and there are numerous old pa, garden and fortification sites in and around all three.

Pirongia Mountain, together with the detached Mt Karioi to the north-west, is part of the Pirongia State Forest Park covering more than 14,200ha and administered by the Department of Conservation. In Maori lore the mountain is said to be associated with the patupaiarehe, the fairy folk. It gains its name from a contraction of Pirongia-to-aroaro-o-Kahurere (the scented presence of Kahurere), so called because Kahurere, the wife of Tainui tohunga Rakataura, had her body covered in aromatic raukawa tree leaves to help relieve weariness. The eastern slopes of the mountain were also used as a refuge and retreat by King Te Wherowhero Tawhiao during the 1860s local land wars.

Since those times, some of the northern and eastern slopes of the mountain have been cleared for farming, but much of the upper slopes, along with the southern and western sides remain in dense bush, often heavily smothered with supplejack beneath the forest canopy. The areas have long been hunting and tramping grounds for people of the Waikato and beyond. The mountain runs up to 959 metres in height, and is occasionally subject to light snowfalls during cold winters. It is the highest peak north of the central North Island mountains of the Tongariro National Park.

In 1984 the Pirongia Forest Park Lodge Society was set up to establish a substantial educational facility, to be used principally by school children from throughout the central North Island region. The site, covering 4ha on the banks of the Mangakara Stream on the north-eastern slopes of the mountain, now contains a 42-berth self-contained lodge, complete with two dormitories, kitchen, dining and ablution facilities,



together with two three-berth separate units.

More than 2000 children and adults use the facilities each year, school parties spending several days at a time on outdoor learning and adventure camps, with occasional adult groups using the lodge for conferences, and family groups using it for weddings or other special gatherings. School parties are drawn from throughout the North Island.

As well, there are substantial walking and mountain-bike trails through parts of the mountain's bush country. The bush itself is substantially podocarp forest, and provides a home to a variety of bird species including tui, bellbird, morepork, kereru, and the native falcon. Following successful predator control operations on the mountain in recent years, recovering tui especially are now radiating out from Pirongia and making their presence heard and seen in the rural towns of the Waipa District, much to the delight of locals and visitors alike.

Kakepuku Mountain, at 449m, stands prominently to the south of the district, showing itself as a classic volcanic cone, with its upper reaches smothered in rapidly regenerating native forest.

The name, like that of Pirongia, is tied to Kahurere, wife of a famed Tainui tohunga, and is given in full as Kakepuku-to-aroaro-o-Kahu (the swollen stomach of Kahu, in reference to her advanced pregnancy). For some centuries the mountain has been settled by Tainui, and ancient pa and garden sites are still evident on the top and northern slopes.

In 1995 the Kakepuku Mountain Conservation Project was established to reduce pest species – goats, possums and rats especially – from the remnants of bush, and to encourage native wildlife and the bush itself to regenerate. Since then native robins have been reintroduced,

and two of the leading lights of the conservation project, adjacent residents Jan and Laurie Hoverd, have also been instrumental in raising and releasing annual clutches of karearea (native falcon). The birds have since begun to establish themselves in other parts of the Waikato.

A walking trail, soon to be upgraded, and a mountain-bike track have been established, taking outdoor enthusiasts to the mountain's summit, from where wide views of the southern Waikato basin and parts of the northern King Country can be seen.

Further to the east is the towering, bush-smothered Maungatautari, 796 metres high, and lying along the eastern edge of the Waipa District. The name means "mountain of the upright stick".

Like other raised ground throughout the region, Maungatautari has long held substantial Maori settlement, the volcanic slopes providing rich grounds for gardens, and the high points giving good vantage points to watch for warrior or other approaching parties.

Farmland encroached on to the mountain slopes in the early 20th century, but in 1912 the mountain was gazetted as a reserve, containing forest of high significance. Almost a century later the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust was formed, and the arduous task of building 47km of two-metre high, totally pest-proof fence was undertaken, at a cost of \$14.5 million. When the work was completed, the fence was recognised as the longest of its type in the world. It is capable of keeping out mammal pests from mice to cattle. Since its construction, 14 species of mammal pest have been eliminated from inside the 34,000ha forest enclosure, including hedgehogs, rabbits, possums, rats, mustelids, pigs and goats. Only very limited numbers of mice remain, and a total of 270km of tracking lines criss-crossing the mountain allows a rigorous check on possible pest reinvasion to be maintained.

Since then, reintroductions of native birds, insects and invertebrates have been undertaken, with the mountain now home to breeding numbers of kiwi,

kaka, tui, hihi, kakariki, takahe, North Island robins, tieke, giant weta, gecko and tuatara. All appear to be flourishing in the rapidly-regenerating natural forest surroundings. As well, a decade ago a small colony of rare native frog, Hochstetter's frog, was discovered, along with a remnant stand of silver beech thought to be extinct on the mountain. Other rare and endangered plant, insect, fungus and bird species also inhabit the huge enclosure.

Now the mountain, becoming widely known as Sanctuary Mountain and which is the biggest mainland island sanctuary in the country, is an ever-more popular drawcard to the people of Waipa District and New Zealanders in general, and increasing numbers of international tourists. A seven-day-a-week visitor centre has been established on the south-western side of the sanctuary, and day and night guided tours are offered. As well, members of the public can walk at their leisure on a network of paths through several special enclosures and wetland areas holding a variety of native flora and fauna.

For the Waipa District, these three mountain sentinels are a constant backdrop and reassurance of "home" for those who live in the area. They hold the region in vast cupped hands, facing north, into the sun.



dark and dirty because of the tannins leached out from the peat surrounding and beneath the lakes.

As well, the lakes are all quite shallow, with the deepest being 6.5 to 9m, while most range from two to three metres. Lake Ngaroto, says Mr Roxburgh, has an average depth of less than two metres, with its deepest part only three metres. They are all surrounded by farmland or other agricultural development, and because of constant drainage over the past half-century and longer, lakes levels have gradually been lowered.

Some are surrounded by only narrow marginal strips of wetland, giving them little protection against leached nutrients from farmland which have detrimental effects on the peat and the specialised native plants and other biodiversity living in those areas. Several lakes have wider bands of wetlands, and these are being encouraged and protected by the Waipa District Council in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and the National Wetlands Trust.

Mr Roxburgh, who is also chairman of the National Wetlands Trust, says Lake Ngaroto has the largest protective margin in the district, that margin effectively doubling the lake's total wetland area to about 140ha.



Pest-proof fence at Lake Rotopiko (Lake Serpentine), home of the National Wetlands Centre. Photo courtesy of Xcluder Fences.



"We have an ongoing programme to acquire land around lakes such as Ngaroto so that we can remove land-use from sensitive environments," he says. "The ideal is to have lakes that are oligotrophic – very low in nutrients, but regrettably, most of the peat lakes in the district are eutrophic or hypertrophic – becoming over-run with nutrients from surrounding farmland. All of our lakes have changed to some degree in the last century."

The lake with the most natural water and plant qualities is Lake Maratoto, a privately-owned lake west of State Highway 3 and just south of the Hamilton Airport turnoff. It is not visible from the road. The lake is the only one in the district covered by a QE II Trust covenant.

Mr Roxburgh says almost half of the lakes – all of them small – are privately owned. These include Pataka North and South, Mangahia, Hendersons Lake, Turnwald Pond, Milicich Lake, Maroto and Rotongata. Three others – Lakes Ngaroto, Mangakaware and Cameron – are Crown-owned and designated as recreational reserves. They are managed by the Waipa District Council. A further six lakes – Serpentine (also known as Rotopiko), Rotomanuka, Ruatuna, Ngaroto-iti, Koromatua and Rotopataka – are also Crown-owned and designated as wildlife management reserves, administered by DoC.

Mr Roxburgh says that because all the lakes have high acidity which sours the water and surrounds, they harbour little in the way of plant diversity and few native wildlife species.

"But what they do have is relatively unique," he says. "However, they also provide good refuges for wildlife – species such as waterbirds, waders, rails, crakes, gulls terns, fern-birds, dabbler ducks, bitterns and dab-chicks. They all use these sorts of areas from time to time."

The district's peat lakes were formed over the past 25,000 years, following volcanic eruptions in the Taupo region which altered the course of the Waikato River at Karapiro so that it flowed into the Waikato basin instead of down the Hinuera Valley and out into the Hauraki Gulf. As the river's water spread out into the Waikato basin, it brought with it vast amounts of alluvial material from the eruptions, gradually filling up and blocking valleys in the region, and creating huge swamps which eventually became peat bogs.

The Rukuhia peat swamp, west of State Highway 3 between Ohaupo and Hamilton, is up to 15 metres deep, but this is gradually shrinking as drainage of the area continues. Originally, the peat bogs of Moanatuatua (east of Ohaupo) and the Rukuhia peat bogs collectively covered an estimated 14,500ha of land. Now, says Mr Roxburgh, the area of natural, native wetland in the district is less than 1 per cent, compared with what was there prior to 1840. As well, there is only about 12 per cent of the natural vegetation left.

"But retaining what we've got is pretty neat," says Mr Roxburgh.

And there are definite plans in hand to create some special areas which will be of national importance.

At Lake Serpentine, just off SH 3 between Ohaupo and Te Awamutu, a substantial programme is being put into place by the National Wetlands Trust working closely with Waipa District Council and DoC. The long-term project is to develop a national wetlands centre which will publicly advocate the conservation of wetlands around New Zealand, by offering specialised education to schools, the public and tourists, providing resources for education centres, and also offering practical on-the-ground experiences for visitors to the centre.

"We will be developing a widely-diversified wetlands garden area which will include wetlands not found in the Waikato, a braided river environment, an alpine tarn, and a geothermal wetland, all of it on-site at Lake Serpentine," says Mr Roxburgh. "There will also be a substantial centre building with a range of displays and educational material, and people will be able to walk through the natural wetlands around the lake, so that they can see what a peat lake looks like, they can walk through a kahikatea forest, they can understand what happens with mineralised margins around peat lakes, and they can look at a peat bog."

There are two other small lakes adjoining Lake Serpentine, and the smallest of these is to be surrounded by a two-metre-high predator-proof fence, running for 1.5km around the lake. In the future, the Wetlands Trust plans to reintroduce bird species which would originally have inhabited the area. These include banded rail, kiwi, brown teal, marsh crake and takahe.

Mr Roxburgh acknowledges that it's a long-term project and it may take a decade and more to bring to fruition, but he says the concept will help ensure the unusual peat lakes of the Waipa district, and their unusual biodiversity, are preserved for future generations of the region.



"GRAND AND NOBLE FOREST"

Yarndley's Bush is a time capsule of ancient kahikatea. Nestled in the bottom of a short valley, just a few kilometres north of Te Awamutu, lies the remnants of an ancient kahikatea forest of primordial proportions. At more than 14 hectares,

Yarndley's Bush is reputed to be the largest stand of kahikatea in the central North Island, and one of the Waipa district's most precious environmental assets.

Step inside Yarndley's Bush and you enter a different world. When you walk under the towering canopy of foliage, the sights and sounds of the forest are reminiscent of times when much of the region was covered in thick native bush. As you stroll along the raised wooden boardwalk the air feels cooler than in the open paddocks outside, and the huge root buttresses of the kahikatea swell, twist and sprawl their magical shapes like a scene out of a *Lord of the Rings* film.

Bird life is abundant. There are fantails, tui, kererū or native wood pigeons, along with grey warblers, finches and rosellas. The small stream which meanders through the bush supports small native fish, eel and koura.

As New Zealand's tallest forest tree, the kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*) once dominated the forests that covered much of New Zealand's swampy lowland areas, which included the Waikato basin.

In its natural swampy habitat, the kahikatea groups closely with other kahikatea, intertwining its buttressed roots with its neighbours for support. The kahikatea has evolved with a tall, straight trunk with no lower branches, enabling it to "huddle" with others for stability.

In autumn, numerous forest birds chatter noisily in the kahikatea canopy above, feeding on its abundant red berries. These berries, known as koroi, were also a valued food source for Maori, who skilfully climbed the smooth branchless trunks to harvest the berries.

The block of bush was thoughtfully fenced off in 1980 by Mr Sandy Yarndley, then owner of the bush and surrounding farmland. Being passionate about the environment, he wanted to protect the huge trees and their great buttressed roots from the ravages of heavy stock, and probably because the land was too wet and boggy to manage. In the early 1990s, the Waipa District Council had sufficient foresight to realise that the remnant stand of kahikatea was unique to the Waikato basin. All the other stands were by then gone. The stand was acquired by the

council in 1992, and eventually became a scenic reserve.

The boardwalk, high enough to discourage walkers from stepping off and tromping about amongst the undergrowth, leads to a viewing platform well inside the bush. From 10 or more metres up viewers are given a much different perspective, looking down on the crowns of ponga and out through the giant kahikatea trunks. Both the boardwalk and the viewing platform were the result of voluntary labour by members of the Te Awamutu Kiwanis Club. Their efforts were opened to the public on 5 May 1995 when Waipa MP Katherine O'Regan officially opened the reserve. Since then, the unique stand of bush has been a drawcard to hundreds of visitors each year.

With the added council initiatives the trees have since flourished, and with them a piece of ancient New Zealand has been well preserved for generations to come.



Yarndley's Bush is reputed to be the largest stand of kahikatea in the central North Island. Access is by a short walk from Ngaroto Road.

Just to make butter boxes

In pre-European days the Maori periodically burned portions of the Waikato basin in a bid to fertilise the soil for crop-growing, but large tracts of kahikatea still managed to survive well into the 19th century.

Captain Cook first spotted the 60-metre giant kahikatea along the banks of the Waihou River, and named it "white pine", reflecting his confidence in its suitability as timber. However, it was not long before it was discovered that while undoubtedly tall and straight, the softness of the

kahikatea's wood made it unsuitable for naval or building applications.

The kahikatea forests' unfortunate locations on fertile and accessible lowlands made their demise almost inevitable in the rush to colonise New Zealand and convert the swampy forested "wastelands" into productive farmland. Once the swamps were drained and the trees removed, and the resulting rich soil grassed, the land proved extremely suitable for dairy.

Another development to accelerate the kahikatea forests' demise happened in 1882 when refrigerated shipping was developed. There was a sudden demand for millions of wooden boxes for the butter and cheese being produced by the country's newly created dairy industry. The kahikatea's soft, pale, odourless wood was perfect for these boxes, as it did not taint the products on the long journey to Britain. All around the country, there was a frenzy to fell and mill the kahikatea giants, including most of those in the Waikato basin. The kahikatea forests were thus set on a course of destruction – in the eight years between 1909 and 1917 alone, the remains of kahikatea were reduced by 63 per cent.

A descendant of the Bagnall family that once operated a kahikatea milling business wrote a piece in the *New Zealand Herald* in 1937 called "Where the village slew the forest", about a "grand and noble forest" and "the beginning of the end for the feathered world that inhabited its depths". And in 1984, in her book about Turua, Shirley Bagnall wrote of her deep sorrow at the death of "trees that had taken such ages to grow".



Weighing butter destined for Britain, 1930s. The butter is packed in boxes manufactured from kahikatea (white pine) wood.

WAIPA DISTRICT LIBRARIES

Visit your local library



- Books, fiction and non-fiction
- DVDs and talking books
- E-books
- Newspapers and magazines
- Library tours and school visits
- Pre-school programmes and children's holiday programmes

Cambridge Library

23 Wilson Street
Phone 07 823 3838

Te Awamutu Library
157 Roche Street
Phone 07 872 0055



WAIPA DISTRICT
COMMEMORATIONS
1864 - 2014

OFFICIAL PUBLIC LAUNCH

WAITANGI DAY 2014
THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY
MIGHTY RIVER DOMAIN, LAKE KARAPIRO

**MONSTA
COMMUNITY
EXPO**

Free exhibition space for community groups
Food Stalls | Games | Rides
Entertainment and Activities
Twilight Concert

ENQUIRIES TO

events@waipadc.govt.nz

www.waipa150th.org.nz



WANT TO KNOW MORE...

Cambridge
MUSEUM

— est. 1956 —

BONDING PEOPLE WITH PLACE

The Old Courthouse, 24 Victoria Street, Cambridge | Ph (07) 8273319
cambridge.museum@waipadc.govt.nz | www.cambridgemuseum.org.nz
Opening times: Mon–Fri 10am to 4pm | Sun 10am to 2pm

Te Awamutu
MUSEUM

— est. 1935 —

Te Awamutu Museum is a central gathering place where local residents and visitors come to experience Waipa's history, art, ideas and culture.

— OPEN MON - SAT —

135 Roche St, Te Awamutu | Phone: (07) 872 0085
museum@waipadc.govt.nz | www.tamuseum.org.nz

FIND INFORMATION ABOUT

Activities and Attractions



Sightseeing and Tours



Parks and Reserves



Restaurants and Cafés



Accommodation



FIND US FOR

Maps



Phone Booth



Gifts



Public Toilets



FIND US AT: 1 Gorst Ave, Te Awamutu 3800

Email: ta.info@xtra.co.nz | Phone: 07 871 3259

NOW ENJOY YOURSELVES!

i-SITE Te Awamutu can make your trip even more memorable



SITE

TE AWAMUTU



Visitor Information

WEBSITE:

www.teawamutuinfo.com

WE'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU AROUND... CAMBRIDGE

Local & National Accommodation

Ferry Bookings

Bus Bookings

Book Attractions

Itinerary Planning & Booking

Souvenirs



If you're planning a day out or want to know about Cambridge, then visit the friendly staff at the Cambridge i-SITE Visitor Information Centre for local knowledge about the hidden gems of the town and surrounding district.

OPEN: Mon - Fri 9am to 5pm
Weekends & Public Holidays

10am to 4pm
Cambridge i-SITE Visitor Centre
Corner Victoria & Queen Streets
[email. info@cambridge.co.nz](mailto:info@cambridge.co.nz)

phone. **07 823 3456**
www.cambridge.co.nz

