



2025

CDHS – SPRING NEWSLETTER



CARTERTON DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

142 HIGH STREET NORTH

CARTERTON 5713

EMAIL: carterton.hist.soc@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

<https://www.cartertondistricthistoricalsociety.org/>



Carterton District Historical Society 2025 ©



SPRING



Chairman Steve Cretney

Chairman Steve's Sentiments

Ngā mihi o te kōanga. Seasons greetings of Spring to all our CDHS members, friends and visitors, in Carterton, Wairarapa, New Zealand and all around the World.

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well after the recent stormy weather, and your property has not suffered any damage due to the extremely high winds.

I really want to take this opportunity to thank the committee members and those CDHS members whom support the committee, for their ongoing commitment to the society. Without you all, CDHS would struggle to continue progressing its work with cataloguing the collection, updating the website, uploading information to Digital NZ, or dealing with general enquiries from people interested in learning historical facts from Carterton's history and that can come through walk in's, social media, phone calls or via email.

Special thanks to committee member Marlene, who assisted in seeing the window wrap project through to completion. The chosen background is perfect and certainly increases the visibility of the society's location.

I would also like to thank Maria and Vivienne for all their hard work in preparing the history boards for Carterton Amateur Football Clubs 100th Centenary Celebration held on Saturday 27th September. I attended the celebration and thoroughly enjoyed looking over the information provided on the boards.

A warm welcome to our new members. Thank you for choosing to support this amazing community organisation, as your membership fee helps cover a small portion of the ongoing operational costs.

I hope you enjoy our quarterly newsletter. Please consider becoming more involved in the society's business if you have time, as committee members are always looking to the future and want to ensure succession planning is part of our ongoing work plan.

Our premises are located at 142 High St North, Carterton and we meet on a Tuesday and Thursday between 2pm & 4pm, so please call in and say hello, as you're most welcome.

Ngā mihi, Steve

CDHS - FUNDING UPDATE

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, funding is becoming increasingly difficult to attain, as many Trusts are being inundated with applications, with ever-diminishing funding pools.

Unfortunately, our funding application to the T G Macarthy Trust requesting funds to support our ongoing operational costs was unsuccessful.

Committee members will need to discuss how we might look to raise funds, which could be organising a community event, or even running a raffle.



CDHS - WEBSITE UPDATE

Thank you to Cimone for all her work uploading new information onto the website. Please take up the opportunity to browse the site, as there is something for everyone, including many amazing historical stories.

You can find the website by clicking on the following link:
<https://www.cartertondistricthistoricalsociety.org/stories-articles>

The website will continue to have stories added as time allows, with the Vicars of St Marks story nearly ready to be uploaded.



Carterton District Historical Society

To Discover, Understand, Respect, Value And Share In Our Community's Yesterdays.



Carterton Crier Articles

During the months of July to October, we have written articles on Rev Evan Beethoven Algar, Gordon Hughan Ltd, Carterton Local & Town Boards and Hikurangi Māori Boys College.

JULY EDITION - Rev Algar was the vicar at St Mark's Church from 1960 to 1964. He grew up in Miramar, Wellington was ordained in 1948 and served in Masterton and Pahiatua before moving to Carterton. He tutored at St John's College in Auckland in the late 1960s before gaining a PhD at London University and lectured at Salisbury Theological College.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

AUGUST EDITION - Doing research on the New World building we found interesting information about the buildings that were on the site prior and decided to write about Gordon Hughan and his early working life. He started as a blacksmith in Pembroke Street before moving onto selling bicycles and in 1907 selling his first Ford motor vehicle. By 1915 he had started the Ford dealership employing 10 staff and the business flourished until 1991 when the buildings were demolished to make way for the new supermarket.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

SEPTEMBER EDITION - The Local Board was known as Carterton Town Board in 1881 until it became a Borough with the first Carterton Borough Council meeting being held on 15 July 1887. The magnificent wooden Borough Chambers on High Street South was destroyed by fire in 1919.

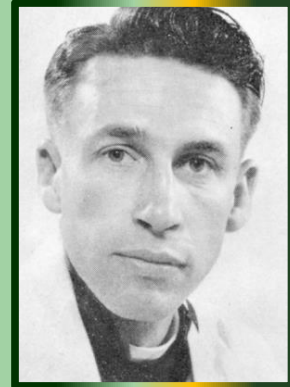
[READ ARTICLE](#)

OCTOBER EDITION: The Tancred Estate was located in Clareville and was owned by Sir Thomas and Lady Jane Tancred (Prideaux). Sir Thomas passed away 1880 and Lady Tancred passed away in 1901. The Estate was purchased by the Anglican Church and leased to Papawai and Kaikōkirikiri Trust and became known as Hikurangi Anglican Māori Boys College. The school syllabus was very advanced for its time. In addition to normal subjects (sports), also included was music, French, technical drawing and school army cadets.

[READ MORE TO LEARN MORE](#)

If you have a suggestion then please feel free to contact our Secretary Vivienne on our email for Carterton District Historical Society carterton.hist.soc@gmail.com or phone Vivienne on 0274 655 663.

Rev Evan Beethoven Algar



Gordon Hughan Ford Dealership

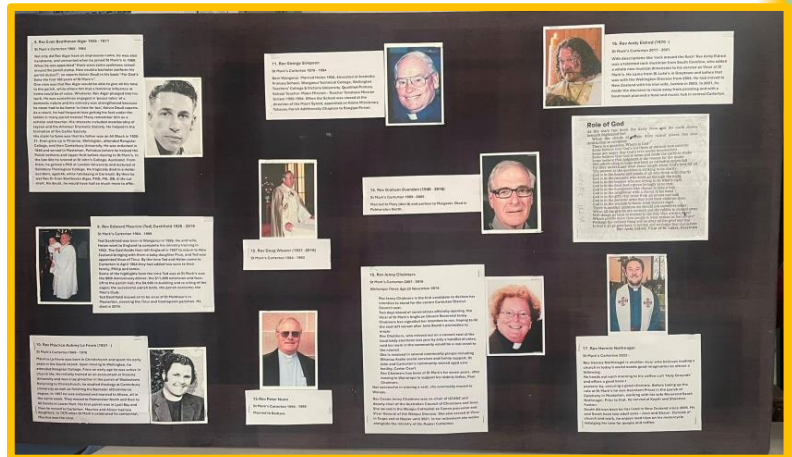
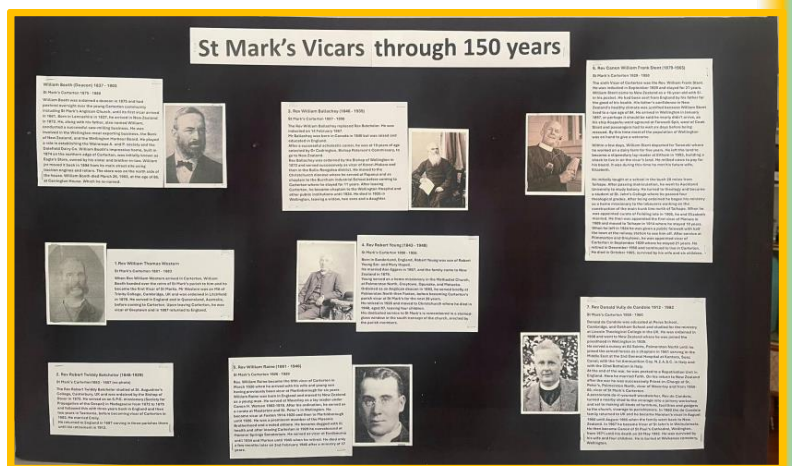
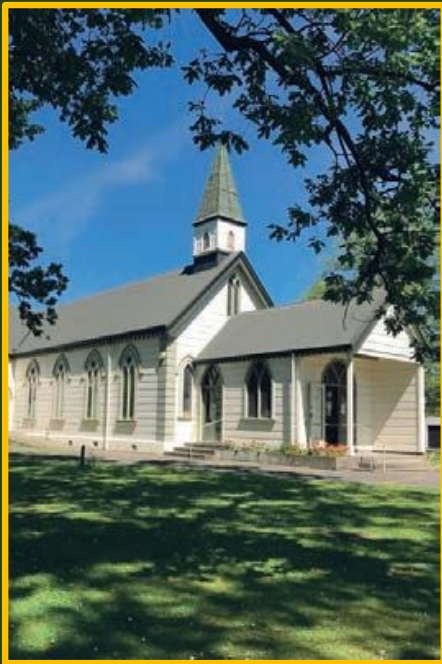


CARTERTON TOWN HALL



HIKURANGI ANGLICAN MAORI BOYS COLLEGE

Our new committee member Marlene Ditchfield kindly provided the society with information and photographs of the past ministers of St Mark's Church. This display was timely as St Mark's celebrated their 150th anniversary earlier this year.

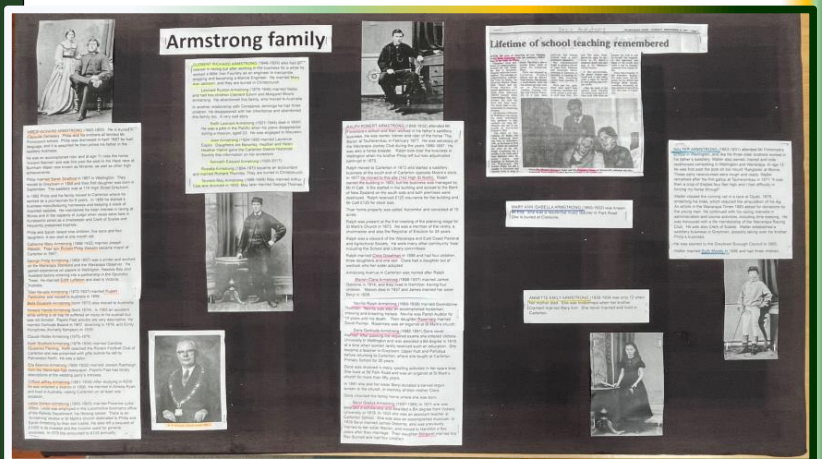
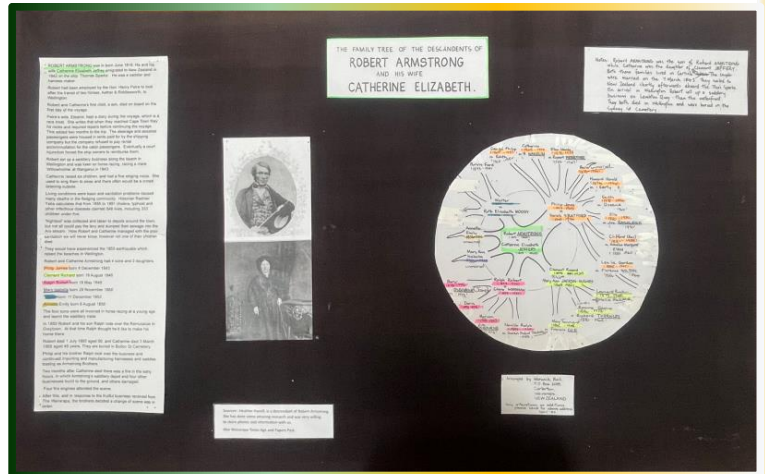


CDHS WINDOW DISPLAYS

August was Family History Month in New Zealand, and local resident Heather Hamill who is also a society member, kindly gave us her family tree information, along with family photographs and stories to use for a window display.

She is a descendant of Ralph Robert Armstrong, who just happened to have a saddlery on the site of our present rooms between 1877 and 1903.

Sadly, the building was lost to a fire in 1903, which also destroyed the original Bank of New Zealand, which was on the corner.



CDHS – WINDOW DISPLAYS



A Sunday tiki tour took us past the site of the Hikurangi Anglican Boys College on Francis Line, Carterton. We stopped to read the grubby display board and later thought it would make a fantastic window display for our rooms. Many locals would not know of the past existence of this magnificent building. Pity it burnt down.

The Estate was purchased by the Anglican Church and leased to Papawai and Kaikōkirikiri Trust and became known as Hikurangi Anglican Māori Boys College. The school roll also included a large number of Pākeha students.

The original two-storey home accommodated the house master, his family, staff and students as well as class rooms, before undergoing a major transformation as the school role grew.



March 1932 around lunch time, fire broke out in the school kitchen. School records, personal property, archival records, library books all school material and resources were lost. March 1932 signalled the end of Hikurangi College. The chapel, constructed out of brick and mortar was the only building to escape the fire and stood alone at Hikurangi for another 10 years before being lost early evening in June 1942 after the Wairarapa was hit with a strong earthquake.



Hikurangi Anglican Māori Boys College after completion of major construction work, which was undertaken in 1907.

1905 - Westbourne (small stream from the west) was purchased by my Great Grandparents. It was 84 ha (210ac) milking 40 odd cows through a small walk-through dairy, supplying milk to the newly established Parkvale Cheese factory by horse and cart.

1930 - My Grandparents were now in partnership with their parents, and further development of the farm meant they were now milking some 60 odd cows. Things were going well and my grandparents now had the next generation of the Renall clan underway.

1940 - New Year's Eve - Tragedy struck when my grandfather was electrocuted along with another, when overhead power lines were accidentally brought down on them while they were stooking hay on the farm. My grandmother was now a widow at 36, with no support and 4 young boys to raise. Thanks to nannas pure pig-headedness and tenacity she survived and therefore so did Westbourne.



Westbourne Homestead with early settlers on the veranda. This building is still standing in a modernised form, having had 6 generations of Renall raised under its roof.

ALLAN RENALL - WESTBOURNE FARM

1954 - My parents began sharemilking for the Westbourne Estate. Further development including AI, drainage, re-grassing etc, now milking 120 cows and so needing a larger dairy, they built the 3rd herringbone in the Wairarapa, an 8 aside. Milk was now picked up by tanker and taken to Featherston.

1971 - Newly married to Ann and full of enthusiasm, we started our now 54 plus years journey at Westbourne Farm.

1981 - We purchased it, with 180 cows from my parents. And set out on some expansion by buying a neighbouring farm and now milking 350 cows.

1987 - Our son Clint showed interest. The only way to survive was.. you guessed it.. Expand! So, with the aid of a very friendly bank manager, we set out to buy more land, which culminated in needing to build another new shed, This time it's a state of the art 50 bail rotary milking 800 cows. Milk is now going to Pahiatua.

2019 - Our turn to hand the reins to the kids! Clint & Janelle and Tanya & Scott now run the enterprise, milking around 1300 cows on two dairy platforms. Milk supplied to Fonterra with most of it going to Taranaki.

2025 - Ann and I still live on Westbourne, surrounded by the amazing and diverse 6 lifestyle neighbours we have created, by subdividing off some of the surplus dwellings. We are very proud of what has been created over the generations, but I must give all credit to nanna for saving Westbourne back in the 1940s.

The future is looking good with our grandson William (6th generation) now working on Westbourne.

ALLAN WILLIAM RENALL



Bertie Renall with his father William and grandsons Ian, Merv (Allan's father), Brian & Graeme.



Memorial to remember Bertie



Allan Renall

The Carterton Amateur Football Club celebrated their 100th Centenary in September, with CDHS being asked to do a display for them. While we do not usually do displays for others, Bobby Eagle gave us two folders of history and memories of the club, and we thought it an appropriate time to put his work out there.

The display boards can be seen in the photo directly below, which were mounted on the wall by Maria & Vivienne and looked absolutely superb.



CARTERTON AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB 100TH CENTENNARY CELEBRATION



Some of members who turned up to celebrate the Clubs 100th Centenary
L/R – Back Row: Chris Bland, Bryn Rees, Steve Czerny, Stacey Trask, Mark
Smith, Grant Webber, Duncan McIntyre
Front Row: Steve Nolan, Paul Dew, John Abbott



Steve Nolan cutting the
centenary cake



WINDOW WRAP PROJECT

HIGH ST CARTERTON - 1931

You may have noticed the beautiful new window wrap, which covers half the premises leased by the Carterton District Historical Society on High Street, Carterton – opposite Wild Oats Café.

The image was carefully chosen from the Society's collection as it was photographed close to the same spot where the Society is based. In other words, stand on the footpath, look south, and you can imagine back 94 years to visualise what Carterton's main street would have looked like. There was no roundabout back then, of course, but the large trees of Memorial Square are there.

There's a wonderful range of cars, a bus, small truck, and a boy on a bicycle. Carterton's magnificent post office tower (1903) is in the background.

The Wairarapa Electric Power Board building (1925) is on the corner (left), brand new power poles stand strong and proud as monuments to Carterton gaining electricity in 1923.

The Marquis of Normanby Hotel (1924) wraps around the opposite corner, sitting aside the ornate building housing A. F. Stubbs Chemist (1922).

The Society would like to thank its landlord, Mark Thomson, who generously paid for the window wrap, to help advertise its premises, and the expertise of Printcraft '81 Ltd. It has certainly attracted attention and great comments since being displayed.

The Society is run entirely by volunteers keen to preserve Carterton's history. It has a board of management, and the rooms are open Tuesdays and Thursdays 2pm-4pm for visitors and enquiries.

Other times are by appointment only.



Window wrap installation completed



Window Wrap Project - Carterton District Historical Society
View from Wild Oats



WAIRARAPA WALKING FESTIVAL

Step into Carterton's Past at the Wairarapa Walking Festival

This spring, lace up your walking shoes and join the Wairarapa Walking Festival 2025 – a regional celebration of people, places, and stories on foot. Among the many walks offered across the district, the Carterton Heritage Walk invites locals and visitors alike to rediscover the heart of our town through its vibrant cultural history and community landmarks.

The annual festival showcases the diversity of the Wairarapa landscape – from riverside trails to forest paths and village strolls – encouraging participants to explore at their own pace. Each walk highlights a different thread of our region's identity: nature, culture, and history woven together in shared experience.

Step back in time and celebrate Carterton's cultural heartbeat on the Music, Memory & Main Street Heritage Walk. This guided two-hour journey showcases the venues and events that shaped the town's entertainment story – from the 1881 Library and

modern Events Centre, which has hosted Stan Walker's 2023 concert, the Oversew Fashion Awards, and Kokomai Creative Festival performances, to the Regent Theatre, the Lounge Bar, Club Carterton RSA, and the Historic Carrington Park Band Rotunda. Along the way, discover the stories behind the Daffodil Festival, Balloon Festival ascensions and Burner Parade, and Carterton's thriving arts scene past and present. With heritage photos, festival tales, and QR-linked galleries, this walk brings Carterton's creative spirit to life.



This easy-paced walk is suitable for most fitness levels, with plenty of time to stop, listen, and take in the atmosphere. Comfortable footwear, sun protection, and a sense of curiosity are all that's required. Enjoy a morning of discovery while stepping out, looking closer, and connecting with the stories that shaped Carterton.

To register for the Carterton Heritage Walk or to explore other festival events, visit www.eventfinda.co.nz/tours-festivals/2025/wairarapa-walking-festival



CARTERTONS NEW NOTICEBOARD

Have you noticed the new Carterton Community Notice Board that the Carterton Menzshed have built and erected on Millennium Square in front of Wild Oats? The Carterton District Historical Society has a notice on the board explaining what was "On this site" from 1883 until 1995 when the building was destroyed by fire on 6 July. The Society is preparing similar notices to go on all the buildings in High Street. It's a big project and is taking time to complete.



DIGITAL NZ – UPDATE

David has now added the info to digital NZ for the Taratahi hotel. The hotel's history is much longer and more detailed, but this provides a snapshot of events etc as its purpose.

DigitalNZ now need to moderate the article, before it is accessible.

Carterton District Historical Society stories can be viewed on DigitalNZ at this link:

<https://digitalnz.org/records?text=carterton+district+historical+society>



CDHS FACEBOOK PAGE



Our Facebook page includes photographs that coincide with our Newsletter, Crier articles and window displays we do each month. Some weeks we may add a photograph needing clarification or simply post an interesting photograph from the past or present day. During the last quarter, we have put up photos, seeking feedback from the community.

- St Mark's Vicars (as seen in window displays article)
- Carterton Hockey Club "B" team - See photo & link this page
- The new Community Notice Board in Millennium Square (see previous page)
- Carterton School photo 1910 -20



Two early photos of Carterton School pupils dated somewhere between 1910-1920. There are no dates or names to identify the children. Does anyone recognise a family ancestor in these photos?

- Winter Newsletter
- RR Armstrong family history (as seen in window displays article)
- Paddy Market scene 1916 - See photo & link this page
- Carterton AFC sporting photo

Can anyone identify the young men in this Carterton AFC team? Who is the coach?

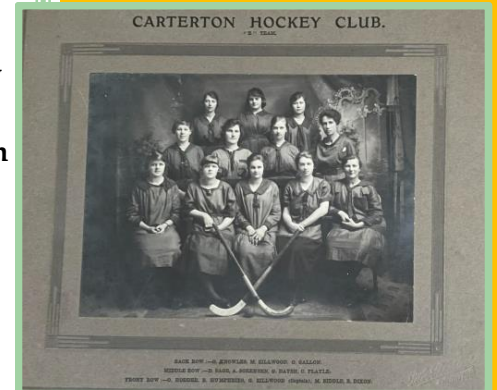


- Hikurangi Maori Boys College (read in window displays article)
- Gladstone Bridge



Can anyone add any information to this photograph taken of the Gladstone Bridge? Is this the bridge by the Gladstone pub crossing the Ruamāhanga River? Any idea the date this was taken and who the men are?

- The new window wrap at 140 High Street North (see article)
- Carterton AFC centenary September 2025 (see article)



Carterton Hockey Club "B" Team - Do you know the date of this image?



Who remembers Paddy Market in Carterton? We have several photographs taken on 30/11/1916 by J.J. Cameron. The two young boys in this photo don't look too happy standing with their dressed-up carts. Where do you think this was taken? What is the two storied building in the background right? This photo is almost 109 years old.

QUERIES, WALK-IN'S & REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

PLOTBOX

CDC - PLOTBOX



ANCESTRY

Papers
Past

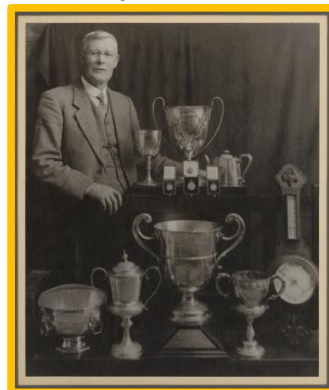
PAPERS PAST



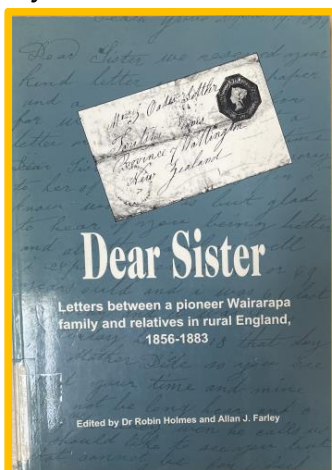
BDM

Following on from an article on our Facebook page about Gordon Hugnan we received a query from out of town wanting to know whether we had any photos of this gentleman's Great Great Uncle who had worked for Hugnan's in 1910-17. On searching through our records, we found two named photos of his great great Uncle and sent them on to him. It is so good to be able to help with family research.

Another query received wanting to find out what had happened to the cups in a photograph of his Great Great Grandfather Manson Theodore West, who was the manager at Dalefield factory 1905-1916. We were not able to help even after putting the photo onto the Old Carterton Memories FB page and asking around.



We have received photographs and collections from a number of people during the last quarter which is great to see. We are always happy to receive anything that relates to Carterton to add to our collection and would rather be asked than to find they've been thrown out in the rubbish.



Two ladies from up north called in wanting to know about their relative Samuel Oates and wanted to find the book "Dear Sister" which contains the letters of the two Oates sisters. The book is no longer in print but after much hunting and phoning around we managed to find two copies at an iconic local book shop. The ladies were more than appreciative to receive them.

Finally, we've been asked again about a time capsule. It would appear that there are or have been four capsules buried in Carterton. There are two waiting for their time to fall due. These are in Holloway Street at the base of the resorted High Street Gaslight c 1907 buried in 2013 and the other at Millennium Square on Belvedere Road placed on 30-12-1999 to 30-12-2050 by the Rotary Club of Carterton.

There was another capsule buried by Rotary by the Clock Tower in 2000 which was dug up on 8 January 2025 by Carterton Rotarians Alistair Orsborn and Bill Knowles.

BUT we have had a query from a woman who has asked what has happened to the capsule that was buried at the time of the opening of the new Post Office and Clock Tower. She was present at the time of the burial and thinks it was about 1958 -1961. She writes:

A Time Capsule was buried very close to the PO steps. - a newspaper of the day (or previous day) was included along with other items of the day. On the front page of the newspaper was a photo of the Marquis Senior Marching Team. Have you heard about this 'Time Capsule'. I recall it was to be opened 50 years later...2008 to 2012.



AGM & COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILES



Chairman: Steve Cretney – I was one of the last babies to be born in the Carterton Maternity Ward before its closure in 1970. I spent 3 years away in the Army before returning to Carterton in 1991 and began building with my father (Trevor). Dad semi-retired and I opened my own company using the Fineline name in 2001. I stood for Council in 2019 and was duly elected, leading to the closure of my company in 2022, so I could concentrate on Council matters. I do have a passion for history and have traced the Cretney lineage back to 1506 in the Isle of Man. I love to attend music concerts.

Deputy Chair: Cimone Grayson (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa, Tūhoe, Rongowhakaata, Ruapani me Ngāti Porou), a proud māmā, wāhine Māori and 'relative' newbie to Carterton with a passion for storytelling, heritage, and occasionally biting off more than she can chew. Cimone is currently developing a whakapapa project alongside her whānau because apparently sleep is optional. As part of the CDHS for almost four years, Cimone is equal parts heart, humour, and hustle, bringing manaakitanga and mischief to everything she touches.



Secretary: Vivienne Hawken - I moved to Carterton in 2015 from Auckland although I grew up in Plimmerton. I'm interested in family history which has led me to the Carterton District Historical Society. My working life has been mathematically based although I enjoy individual sports and have cycled/raced around Lake Taupo and Lake Rotorua. I also enjoy walking and painting as relaxation. Somehow my retirement days are busier than those when I was working.

Treasurer: Maria Thompson - Born of Dutch farming stock and raised in Featherston I worked in the BNZ for a number of years. My longest employment was as a librarian and upon retirement I read an article in the Crier for someone to enter data for the CDHS and thought 'I can do that'. Essentially a homemaker, in my down time I enjoy sewing and reading, gardening when required and preserving its produce.



Committee Member: David Cramp - David and his family came from the UK to New Zealand, via Spain in 2005, and arrived in Clareville in 2019. They carefully restored an 1870s cottage in Andersons Line, and are currently restoring another derelict cottage nearby. As well as having a keen interest in local history, David spends several months each year teaching beekeeping and governance in Tonga and the Cook Islands.

Committee Member: Allan Renall - A fifth generation Cartertonian I have spent my working life as a local dairy farmer at Parkvale. I have always been interested in community affairs including 43 years as a Lion with Carterton Lions Club. In recent years moving into retirement mode, I have taken up bowls and more recently have joined the Carterton District Historical Society after having had a long term interest in Carterton's history.



Committee Member: Marlene Ditchfield - Joining the Carterton District Historical Society has been a long-term ambition. After decades working as a journalist and now freelance writer/editor I can marry those skills with my passion for history and people stories. Born and raised in the Hutt Valley, my maternal ancestors were the Andersens at Parkvale and so there was a feeling of 'coming home' when I moved to Carterton to raise a family.

CDHS MEMBERSHIP

The support that the Society receives from members and the community is essential to ensure the continuation of the Society's work in collecting and preserving the history of Carterton.

Your involvement by joining, will ensure this work carries on.

See the attached Membership Form as shown here, complete and return to our email address carterton.hist.soc@gmail.com

or mail to

The Treasurer
11 Philip Street
Carterton 5713



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone:

Email:

Signature:

	Single Subscription	\$30.00
	Joint Family Subscription	\$40.00
	Donation tax deductible CC10932	\$
	Total	\$

Bank A/c no for direct credit: 030609 0100925 00

Please include your name and the reference as Annual Subs 25-26

Please scan and email this form to: Carterton.hist.soc@gmail.com

OR Post to:

Carterton District Historical Society, C/- M. Thompson, Treasurer, 11 Phillip Street, Carterton 5713

We aim to collect and store the history and heritage of Carterton district for the use of future researchers. We welcome the opportunity to receive or copy your local photographs and records.

Your continued support to the Carterton District Historical Society is appreciated and helps towards keeping the Society operating.



Carterton District Historical Society 2025 ©

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Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Taratahi
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Wong Liu Sheung

