

GUDEX MEMORIAL PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

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APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLAN

This management plan was prepared by Mr D West, Planning Officer Reserves, Waipa District Council, in accordance with the requirements of Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

This reserve has been classified in accordance with Section 16 of the Reserves Act 1977.

The Management Plan shall provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation, as the case may require, and, to the extent that the administering body's resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified.

This Management Plan is designed to provide guidelines for future decisions made about the reserve. It will also give indications of appropriate uses in the reserve and how these should be regulated.

This is a certified copy of the final management plan adopted by resolution of the Waipa District Council at a meeting held on 30 August 1993.


Garry Dyet
DISTRICT PLANNER

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INTRODUCTION

Gudex Memorial Park is an interesting and beautiful place with magnificent views of the Waikato from its lofty position near the summit of Maungakawa. The park is surrounded by the much larger Maungakawa Scenic Reserve a Crown estate managed by the Department of Conservation, however to the casual visitor the expanse of bush, views, tracks and memorial obelisk alike are as one park, to be enjoyed at will.

The reserves have enjoyed a continuous popularity with residents and tourists with reports in the 1960's of 100 cars counted in the carparks. The 3.3 kilometre section of winding metal road at the top of the Maungakawa Range does not seem to be a barrier to its favour and one can only assume that visitor numbers would increase if this section of road was improved.

Easy bushwalking, taking in the views or picnicking are about the extent of the activities on offer at Gudex (and Maungakawa), proof yet again of the nation wide survey which showed that 1/3 of all visitors to the Waikato come for just those reasons.

Sadly most of the buildings which made this reserve an historic one, are gone.

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Location and Access (see Fig. 1)

The reserve is approximately 6.5 kilometres from Cambridge, on Gudex (no exit) Road, a short distance from Maungakawa Road. Gudex is unsealed (metal) for its length and of a low construction standard. The lookout at the stone memorial is 122 metres below the summit of Maungakawa.

1.2 History (see Fig. 2)

The history of Gudex is both interesting and complex. A resume of the events and details that describe the creation of this Government Sanatorium in 1902 and its closure 20 years later, has been admirably produced by Eris Parker of the Cambridge Historical Society and is appended to this plan.

After the Sanatorium was dismantled in the 1920's it took another 40 years (1963) before the 11 acres of Government land became a reserve. The Cambridge Chamber of Commerce were responsible for the creation of Maungakawa Scenic Reserve of 140 acres (52 ha.) and a Board for its administration was set up in 1955. In 1963 the [Gudex] sanatorium site land was added and a beautification programme began.

A prominent naturalist, horticulturist and popular radio presenter Mr Michael Gudex M.B.E, M.A. and M.Sc., became a member of the Board. He planted a grove of Kauri trees in 1960 on the reserve just four years before his death. His contribution to horticulture and preservation of New Zealand's natural history was recognised in naming the reserve after him and erecting a stone obelisk to "Nikau" as he was known to his radio listeners.

1.3 Tenure and Area (see Fig. 3)

The Crown land is described as Lot 1 DPS 6105 Historic Reserve, Gazette 1983 page 3468; of 2.8328 hectares, vested in Waipa District Council for administration pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977. The reserve is classified pursuant to Section 19 of said Act.

1.4 Present use (see Fig. 4)

The reserve has evolved as a picnic and vantage spot with toilet, table and parking facilities. There are remains of the extensive buildings which were the Thornton Estate and later the sanatorium, however there is no interpretive information to explain the site to visitors.

1.5 Flora

The Colonial/European early influence of the area abounds with three sprawling walnut trees which hug the ground, a hedge of Camellias and spring bulbs which erupt everywhere.

Michael Gudex's kauri trees continue to thrive and the reserve is virtually surrounded in second generation regenerating native bush of the Maugakawa Reserve.

2 POLICIES

2.1 Open Space

- 2.1.1 The reserve shall be managed, designed and developed so as to maintain a continuously accessible public amenity.
- 2.1.2 The Historic Reserve shall not be compromised with any leased areas which prohibit, restrict or modify access.
- 2.1.3 Entrances, paths and contour should be maintained to a standard suitable for wheelchair access and the elderly.

2.2 Sport and Recreation Activity

- 2.2.1 The reserve shall be available for passive recreational pursuits only.
- 2.2.2 Lease of exclusively used sports arenas, to a club or organisation (pursuant to sec. 55 of the Reserves Act) shall not be considered appropriate.
- 2.2.3 The reserve hours of operation shall comply with the rules in the operative District Plan for 'non residential activities'.

Explanation

The reserve does not have the need for formalised playing fields or grounds. These facilities are located better in Cambridge.

2.3 Landscape

- 2.3.1 Any landscape plan should exhibit a balance between planted areas for shade shelter and beautification and the requirements of open space.
- 2.3.2 Tree species shall be selected to perpetuate the exotic plantings established at the sanatorium.
- 2.3.3 Planting should be used to reduce the foci of utility buildings and enhance their contribution to the reserve.
- 2.3.4 Planting should be arranged to restrict

access where appropriate, direct traffic movements and generally define areas of specific interest.

- 2.3.5 Trees shall be carefully managed to maintain their vigour and health. The use and establishment of flora such as flowers should be used to enhance the area.

EXPLANATION

The trees on the Historic reserve have a significant link with the past and this link should be maintained where possible.

2.4 Vehicular Access and Parking

- 2.4.1 The location surface and width of any internal road shall be of a scale appropriate for service and convenience only.
- 2.4.2 Hard stand parking areas should only be established where it can be shown that subsequent development would not be compromised or precluded. Other parking areas should be low impact, of temporary materials eg metal.
- 2.4.3 Permanently designated parking areas should be physically separated by bollards or fenced to prevent vehicle access onto grassed areas.
- 2.4.4 Access for emergency vehicles must remain clear at all times.
- 2.4.5 Access points shall be delineated with signs declaring the administering authority of the reserve and relevant user information.

2.5 Noise

- 2.5.1 Users of the reserves shall manage noisy events or equipment so as to comply with the 'recreational noise' rules of the operative District Plan.

2.6 Buildings

- 2.6.1 The establishment of any building on the reserve(s) shall be subject to the

provisions of the operative District Plan.

- 2.6.2 Any building and or facility proposed for the reserve or any alteration or extension to an existing building shall relate to recreation or sport (does not apply to the Local Purpose Reserves).
- 2.6.3 Any building proposal shall demonstrate by design a harmony with the landscape features of the surrounding area and the landscape policies of this plan. Building design including height, cladding and colour shall be subject to Council approval.
- 2.6.4 Any play area constructed for children, should be sited with regard to convenience and visibility for supervision and safety.
- 2.6.5 Any children's play equipment installed, shall comply with the New Zealand Standard 5825 1986 "Specifications for playgrounds and playground equipment"

2.7 Boundary Fencing

- 2.7.1 Fencing of the boundary of the reserve area shall be permitted where this is appropriate. Fences should not form a solid barrier to views into or out of the reserve unless this is absolutely necessary
- 2.7.2 Fencing materials shall not consist of harsh or reflective surfaces such as corrugated iron.

2.8 Reserve Furniture

- 2.8.1 Signs on the reserves shall be limited to the purpose of; information, safety, traffic movement and location of facilities.
- 2.8.2 The erection of permanent advertising signs, hoardings, flags or similar material which is visible from any public road or residential property(s) is/are prohibited on all parts of the reserves.
- 2.8.3 Rubbish receptacles should be located at entry/exit, seating, and other key locations on the reserves.
- 2.8.4 Reserve floodlighting for convenience,

security, enhancement or other purposes shall be permitted.

- 2.8.5 All service cabling shall be underground.
- 2.8.6 Reserve seating should be placed at appropriate intervals to provide for the elderly and restful.

2.9 Commercial Activity

- 2.9.1 The reserve shall not be used to house commerce or industry which is unrelated to or not connected with the primary purpose of the reserves.
- 2.9.2 Council will encourage organisations using the reserve to recover it's costs through their supporters and participants, promoting the 'user pays' principal.
- 2.9.3 Council may appoint a concessionaire to manage any facility established on the reserves or establish a lease tenancy over the affected area.
- 2.9.4 The sale of tobacco products or the promotion of tobacco companies and products through advertising, sponsorship or product 'giveaways' shall be prohibited on all parts of the reserve.

2.10 Camping

- 2.10.1 The use of the Reserve or part of the Reserve as a campground shall be prohibited.
- 2.10.2 Camping overnight(s) on the Reserve shall be prohibited at all times.

3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Proposals appended to this plan are not a policy of the Administering Authority, but are a description of strategy or ideas provided by the Community or groups with an interest or investment in the reserve.

1. Rebuild the picnic area with tables, seating and bar-be-cue facilities.
2. Establish botanical name plaques on the historically significant trees in the reserve.
3. Rebuild the "upper" carpark to enlarge its capacity, and improve the track to the memorial obelisk.
4. Establish interpretive boards describing the Maori and sanatorium history.
5. Improve the storm water drainage of the road.
6. Landscape the picnic area in English country garden style.
7. Provide protection from vandalism for the obelisk.

4 REFERENCES

1. Cambridge Museum, Museum Archive.
2. Ms Eris Parker, Cambridge Historical Society.
3. Waikato Independent Newspaper, 1966.

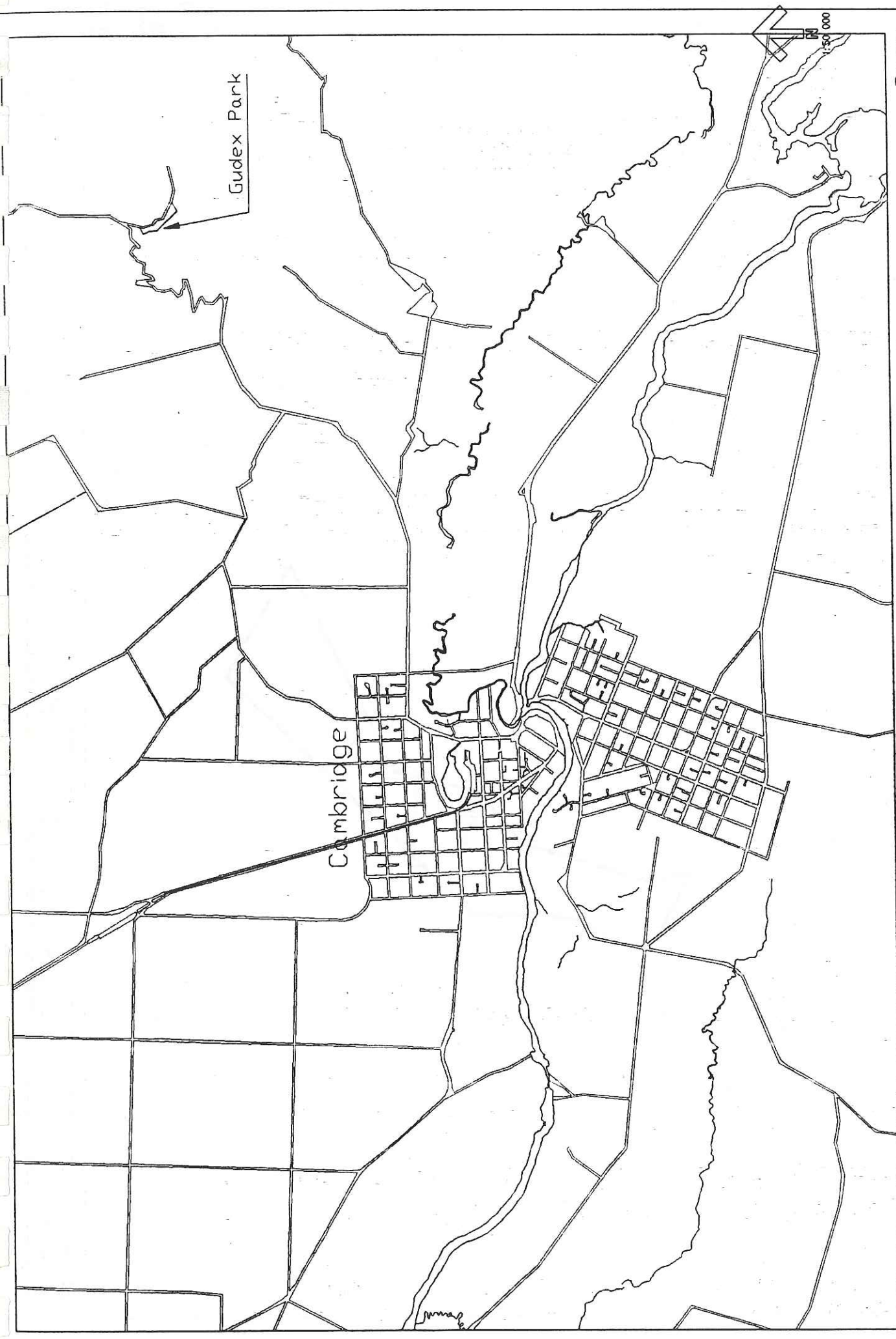


Figure 1
LOCATION

DISTRICT OF WAIPA

GUDEX MEMORIAL PARK

APPENDIX

Maungakawa Scenic Reserve has a chequered history. Ten thousand acres were leased and bought in 1868 by Daniel Bateman Thornton. He was visiting with his brother-in-law Josiah Firth of Matamata and had travelled by river to Cambridge.

They continued on horseback over the Maungakawa Range and Thornton was captivated with the idea of building his house on top of the hill and utilising the land to grow wheat for their up and coming flour mill.

The area at that time was known as Maungakawa and Maunganui surveys and bordered the huge Maungakawa Pa and "Buckland's Run" to the east. Initially the property was used for grazing and fattening cattle and was in the charge of a manager for years.

The Thornton family, originally from Yorkshire, were owners of a large woollen mill in Russia. Daniel Thornton's father had been invited to Russia to assist with the Russian mills and from this the Thornton Mill had eventuated. Daniel was four years old at this time.

He married, in 1846 to Hannah Isherwood and they had a son James. Hannah dies in 1852 and Daniel married his cousin Sophia Firth in 1856, and they had nine children. With Josiah Firth and his family they emigrated to New Zealand in 1856 and all their children were born in Auckland.

The first venture was a corn milling business and subsequently they built up the firm of Thornton, Smith and Firth, a leading flour mill which was later known as Northern Roller Mills. On the death of Daniel's father c1870 they returned to Russia. In 1874 they were about to return to New Zealand when Daniel's elder brother John died. Being guardian of John's children they stayed on in Russia to run the Woollen Mill business.

In 1889 Daniel retired from the Mill, again intending to return to New Zealand. He died suddenly at his home "Monetary", St Mary's Road, Wimbledon Park, Surrey, on 12th August 1881, aged 56. He had had diabetes for many years. (Sophia outlived Daniel by 29 years dying at Eastbourne, UK in 1910). After Daniel's death Sophia and her children returned to New Zealand and built their dreamhouse on the top of Maungakawa in 1890. But this wasn't just an ordinary house. This was a two storied mansion built by Mr Julien of Auckland who had all the material carted up the hill by horse and wagon. An enormous task.

The house featured a large entrance hall, an immense fireplace catering for at least twelve people, a beautiful winding staircase leading up to the bedrooms. (It has been said that Sophia's suite was made of Russian wood). There was a dining room off which was a conservatory. The maid's room and a staircase to them were in another wing of the house. Furniture had been collected from all over the world as had the trees and shrubs for the gardens.

Thomas M. Brown formerly of Fencourt Estate and George Graham's, Ellerslie was the gardener who laid out the grounds and planted the trees and shrubs, some of which are still flowering today. He was always happy to show people around. Half-way up the hill Mrs Thornton placed a seat marking the place "Rest and be Thankful".

In 1892 the property passed to William Thornton, Sophia's youngest son, who in 1896 married Hilda Worsp. (They had one son Daniel who was killed in World War 1).

In the 1890's Maungakawa was the scene of big gatherings of Maoris who came from all parts of the North Island. King Tawhiao established his Parliament in a meeting house on what is now the farm of Muirhead family. A printing press was set up on which was printed a newspaper called "Te Paki O Te Matariki" or "The Girdle of Pleindes" between 1891-1893. It is not known for certain why the Maori abandoned the area, but at one stage an epidemic caused many deaths.

In September 1902 part of the Thornton's property was sold to the government for four thousand pounds and they established the first open air sanatorium for T.B. sufferers in New Zealand. The Thornton home was now officially called "Te Waikato Sanatorium".

"It is difficult to imagine more magnificent scenery", said Dr Malcolm Mason, M.D. Chief Health Officer when reporting the results of his investigation to the Health Department.

Cambridge had already acquired the reputation as a resort for T.B. sufferers and a sanatorium had already been operating at the foot of the Maungakawa hill by Ethel and Alice Jackson. It was stated that the climate in Cambridge was much drier than in most parts of the North Island and meteorological instruments were installed to assess data.

The road, at the cost of three thousand pounds, had to be upgraded. Ruts and holes were levelled and binded with gravel and clay and three of the worst hills were cut down. Although the house was large two more wings were added and converted into the administration block. Oil lamps were used at first but later replaced by electricity generated on the property. The water supply presented some difficulty at first but the government built a reservoir on top of a hill 40 feet higher than the sanatorium.

Opened on December 11th 1903, by Sir Joseph Ward "Te Waikato" supplied a very desperate need in New Zealand and many sufferers saw their salvation in the opening of its doors. The Department of Health was besieged with applications. The treatment and facilities offered at Maungakawa were particularly suited to the treatment of early cases. One regulation made six months the limit of treatment, except under special circumstances. At the time of opening there was space for about thirty patients but it was obvious from the amount of applications that this was inadequate. Further additions gave accommodation for over 60 patients with possibly some 160 later undergoing treatment annually.

So pressing were the demands of the applicants that the first patients were admitted in December 1902 (twelve months before the hospital was officially opened) and were forced to be housed in tents pending the erection of wooden shelters. The one bed shelters (11' x 9') could be opened on three sides, were roofed in stained shingle, and one of them revolved so it could be turned away from prevailing winds.

The Matron, Miss Rochefort's experience and foresight had been invaluable. In addition to the ordinary work of nursing and housekeeping, she organised the internal economy, furnishing, bookkeeping, correspondence and supervising the garden and farming operations. Miss Rochefort introduced handcrafts to her patients - now occupational therapy. Later a house steward was appointed to carry out the day to day running, and Mr Clifton saw to the dairying side of operations.

The first medical officer, Dr Roberts of Cambridge, was distinguished for his "unselfish and conscientious devotion" to the needs of the sanatorium. He attended there in conjunction with his private practice in town and a great toll was made on his time. For this reason Dr Pentreath replaced him in April 1904 as the first resident Medical Superintendent. A house was built for him a 1/4 of a mile from the sanatorium. Patients who were fit to work helped to build a workshop for themselves from which they turned out many useful articles. Beehives and nest-boxes were made from kerosene cases as well as general maintenance to furniture.

During World War 1 (1914-1918) "Te Waikato" filled a desperate need in the Waikato to convalescent servicemen. To simplify administration the Cambridge sanatorium (100 beds) was restricted to male patients, and the Otaki Sanatorium (34 beds) to female patients. Occupational therapy continued to be used with great success under Miss E. Brown, the matron and Colonel G.M. Scott, the medical officer. Many old diggers recall the good deeds of the "marvellous Cambridge ladies". The cardigans and socks they knitted, the baskets of fruit and in particular the "strawberry days". Cambridge people did much in relieving the monotony and isolation of the patients by organising concert parties.

In 1922 "Te Waikato" closed its doors. The reasons for the closure were given as:

1. Difficulty of access and unsuitability of site.
2. The buildings are out of date and would cost too much to upgrade.
3. The Department's officers express themselves "as rather against sanatorium treatment".
4. The cost of running is excessive.

In the Waikato Times 9 June 1922, J.R Fow & Co Ltd, listed the items put up for auction at the Cambridge Sanatorium. Included was:

1 two storey house containing 25 rooms with large verandahs. A large number of hutments 11' x 9' and 33' x 11'. An electric light plant, kerosene engines, implements and vehicles from a 9 seat coach, a konaki, a pig cart to horse clippers, covers and farm tools, 1000 lots of furniture including some very old English bedroom furniture, 50 hospital beds, 100 chairs, wheelbarrows, 6 colonies of bees and commodes.

The Russell Ward and four large shelters were removed and re-erected to form the Sunshine Ward at the Waikato Hospital. Also the band rotunda is still in the Waikato Hospital grounds. I wonder where the other items went to?

In 1955, 140 acres on the lower slopes of the hill were placed under the control of the Maungakawa Scenic Reserve Board and a beautifying scheme begun. Then the 11 1/2 acres of the old sanatorium were added, later to be known as Gudex Memorial Park. The Maungakawa Reserve came into being as a result of the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce when Mr C R Haworth was president. He went on to be the Reserve Board's first chairman and remained in office throughout.

Now one small concrete building remains. The views while winding up to the summit are still as expansive as when Daniel Thornton stood there in wonderment over one hundred and twenty years ago. Occasionally a bellbird is heard.