

FROM THE "ECONOMIC DRAPERY" TO

CORNISH'S HAWERA (1988) LTD.

- 1896 When original building erected and in business.
- 1900 Spence, William, Draper, Milliner, Clothier and Mercer, "The Economic", High Street, Hawera. This business was established in the year 1896, and was acquired by Mr Spence in 1900.
It is conducted in a large double-fronted shop, specially erected for the business. The building is lighted by skylight, and contains dress, manchester, fancy goods, clothing and blanket departments. There is a large showroom at the rear, and on the upper floor are the dressmaking departments. About 20 persons are employed.
Mr Spence was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, where he was brought up to country life; but in 1867 he went to Glasgow where he apprenticed to the soft goods trade for four years. In 1871 he sailed in the British barque "Guiana", for Georgetown, Demerara, British Guiana, where he was employed, first with Messrs Irvin, McArthur & Company, and afterwards with Messrs Playfair & Company. He, however, tired of tropical life, and returned to Glasgow in 1875. In 1879, on account of his health, Mr Spence sailed from Glasgow in the ship "Auckland" (Captain MacDougall) for Dunedin, New Zealand, and landed on New Years day, 1880.
After helping to swell the ranks of the unemployed in Dunedin for three weeks, he obtained employment with Messrs Thomson, Strange & Company, with whom he remained for four years. Then he was for a short period with Mr Gabities, at Oamaru, whence he removed to Ashburton, and was employed by Mr Andrew Orr for ten years.
Mr Spence subsequently went to the North Island and entered into partnership with a brother in Feilding, under the style of Spence & Spence; and after seven years acquired "The Economic", in Hawera.
In 1885 he married a daughter of the late Mr Walter Allan, of Balclutha, and has, surviving, four sons and three daughters.
- 1916 Elijah Harrop came from Invercargill and with J.D. McGruer as a silent partner, bought the company.
- 1920 "Economic" changed name to "Harrops".
- 1920 E.H. Harrop bought adjoining chemist shop from G.H. Westwood and incorporated it with the main building.

(Mr Westwood, it is believed, then moved to a premises next door). It was connected to the main shop by an archway under the staircase, which opened from High Street, and became a menswear department.
(Refer Hawera Star article: 17/7/1970.)

- 1922 Harrops became a limited liability company.
- Late 1800's Mr Gray started a dentistry surgery upstairs overlooking High Street.
- 1900 Mr Alfred Gough Barley apprenticed to Mr Gray.
- 1905 Mr Gray and Mr Barley went into partnership.
- Late 1920's Partnership split up with Mr Gray going to Swinburn's practice. Mr Gray died while doing an extraction there.
- 1949 Mr Bailey joined the practice with Mr Barley
- 1951 Alf Barley died with Mr Bailey taking over practice.
- 1956 The Dentist's rooms ceased operation.
- 1958 E.H.Harrop died and Arthur Harrop assumed the Managing Directorship.
- 1958 The rear of the premises was expanded by 18 metres with a double storey added. A toilet and parcel office area was removed from between the walls of the Menswear/Main-shop area. The staff-room, which was a separate building at the rear of the shop, and was connected by a board-walk, was also removed. A unique "Lamson" chute system was installed with 4 terminals & a 6 h.p. "English Electric" motor. Total cost of project: 15,000 pounds.
Architect: Graeme Laurenson & Associates.
Contractor: Arthur Brown Construction Co Ltd.
- 1960 23 staff on payroll
- 1967 July: Decimal currency introduced.
- 1970 June: Business and building purchased by Arthur Cornish of Wellington. Known as Arthur Cornish (Hawera) Ltd., it was a subsidiary of "Cornish Investments Ltd."
Manager: Arnold Hand.
- 1970 20 staff on payroll.
- 1971 May: Mall introduced into Hawera.

- 1971 Town shopping hours changed from 9 - 5.30 to 8.30 - 5
- 1971 Lay-by Sales Act introduced.
- 1972 Alterations to shop layout and fixtures, including removal of large foyer windows.
Cost: \$15,000
Architects: Laurenson, Robinson & Jim Boon.
Contractor: I.A.Ross.
- 1974 Cornish Companies Management Bill was passed in Parliament on 2nd July 1972 which appointed a Statutory Manager, R.W.Stannard, to safeguard the interest of investors within the group of 78 separate companies.
- 1975 Manager: Jerry Valenta.
- 1975 Council approves mall concept on casting vote of Mayor
- 1975 Metric measurements become law.
- 1980 Manager: Richard Kennedy-Moffat.
- 1980 17 staff on payroll.
- 1982 Building bought on 1st April by Radich Trust.(140,000)
- 1986 Commerce Act passed.
- 1986 In May started regular opening on Saturday mornings.
- 1986 On 1st October G.S.T. of 10% introduced to reduce personal tax and eliminate sales tax.
- 1987 1st March "Fair Trading Act" comes into force designed to outlaw unfair & dishonest business practices. Protects consumers & businesses from misleading & deceptive trade conduct & practices.
- 1988 In August: Menswear department closed - Manchester extended.
- 1988 On 28th November 1988 the business was bought by Richard & Christine Kennedy-Moffat. Known as Cornish's Hawera (1988) Ltd.
- 1989 Fax machine installed.
- 1989 Commodore computer installed.
- 1989 On 1st July G.S.T. of 12.5% introduced.
- 1990 9 staff on payroll.

- 1990 1st August - Shop Trading Hours Act, Repeal Act.
- 1990 28th August - Smoke Free Environment Act.
- 1990 From August onwards closed at 6.30pm Friday nights.
- 1991 On 15th May Individual Employment Contracts replaced union affiliation.
- 1992 1st Sept "Care & Fibre" labelling becomes law.
- 1992 In August Hawera Mainstreet Chairperson elected.
- 1993 1st April, The Health & Safety in Employment Act.
- 1993 1st July "Country of Origin" labelling becomes law.
- 1993 1st July "The Privacy Act 1993" becomes law . Affects account customers, staff & customer records. Protects individual privacy and provides an individual access to personal information collected about them by public or private agencies.
- 1993 October - 1st Mainstreets Co-Ordinator appointed.
- 1993 - 1995. R.K-M President of Hawera Business Association.
- 1994 1st April "Consumer Guarantees Act". (Replaces "Sales of Goods Act - 1908). (Passed 20th August 1993). Gives consumers legal rights & remedies against manufacturers & suppliers if the goods/services they provide are faulty or defective.
- 1994 June. "The Warehouse" opens in Hawera.
- 1994 1 July "The Companies Act (1993)". Replaces 1955 Act.
- 1995 17 January. Cornish's started EFTPOS.
- 1995 February. Kara Fleming Mainstreets Co-Ordinator.
- 1995 February to August. A \$50,000 revamp of Cornish's store which included re-locating Manchester at back of shop, re-locating Underwear to the centre of the shop, and re-locating Outerwear & Accessories to the front of the shop (where Menswear, up to 1988, followed by Manchester, used to be situated.)
Contractor: Nick Prestidge.
- 1996 20th June. With Mainstreets & Hawera Business Assn. being wound up "PROGRESS HAWERA" formed. Erin Rangl secretary until replaced by Kara Fleming in March 1997.

- 1996 July. 6 camera surveillance system installed (\$14,000)
- 1996 Oct-Nov Package 1, High Street Upgrade. Harris Taylor/
National Bank area.
- 1997 March - May, Package 2, High Street Upgrade. West End
of Hawera completed.
- 1997 April 14th. Martins of Inglewood opened in Hawera.
- 1997 Michelle McDonald secretary of Progress Hawera.
- 1997 July. McGruer-Bone Corner demolished for town square.
- 1997 September. Existing Mall area in central High Street
upgraded with new road.
- 1997 September to November. Cornish's car park / Catholic
Church area upgraded with new roadway.
- 1998 23 May. \$1.3m Indoor swimming pool opened in Hawera.
- 1998 1st July. Harris & Taylor Cinema opens in Hawera.
- 1998 October. All roading upgrade completed in Hawera Urban
upgrade.
- 1999 1st Feb. It is now unlawful for an employer to require
an employee to retire because they have reached a
certain age. Human Rights act 1998 sets out grounds for
discrimination in employment.
- 1999 February. Outside of Cornish's painted.
- 2000 June. Revamp of departments with outerwear taking the
place of a shrinking fabric department.
- 2000 1 July. Labour re-introduce ACC insurance run by the
State and not private.
- 2000 2 Oct. Employment Relations Bill replaces Employment
Contracts.
- 2002 1 May. Personal Properties Securities Act, 1999.
- 2002 1 July. Parental Leave became law.
- 2003 28 January. Butynol applied to guttering on west wall
of Cornish's to stop horrendous leaks onto floor
inside.
- 2003 3 full-time, and 1 part-time staff. Plus R & C K-M.
- 2003 25 Sept. Mitre 10 re-locates from High Street to

Glover Road and officially opens today.

2003 23 Oct. Warehouse opens in new building on the
west end of High Street.

2003 1 Nov. Hallensteins close for good in Hawera.