

## **Duntroon Digest May 2025**

As Autumn colours cloak the trees and the hours of daylight reduce, some residents are breathing a sigh of relief, as activity in the town begins to slow down.

The dedicated volunteers at Nicol's Blacksmith Shop had a very busy April. Jan Keeling reports "We had a very busy couple of days over the Easter weekend and are very grateful to our volunteers Liz and Andrew who came up for the weekend from Dunedin to cover both Easter and Anzac weekends. Over 20 children participated in "have a go" sessions over those two weekends, with the Saturday of Easter being our busiest day of all". The "have-a-go" sessions were supported by the Waitaki District Council's Creative Communities Scheme. During the winter the Blacksmith building will receive some maintenance, and this has been made possible with support from The Oamaru Licensing Trust in conjunction with The Lion Foundation.

The Duntroon Hotel has announced it will be closed this winter. It closed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May and will reopen in October. It was in May last year that Russell and Coral Arthur took over managing the hotel. They breathed new life into the establishment, and they will be missed behind the bar. However, although their contract is up, they have chosen to stay in Duntroon and retire on their own patch in paradise.

Local coffee addicts will tell you the Flying Pig has the best coffee, and mercifully, the cafe will remain open over winter. The cafe will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays only. The Flying Pig has had a very busy season and some time to recuperate will be appreciated by the staff.

But as some locals wind down a bit, others are winding up.

The Duntroon Volunteer Fire Brigade have put together a team to tackle the Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge!! The team consists of Richard Wills (Captain), Mark Frear, Jamie Deans, Mark Strachan and Sarah Todd.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May they will travel to Auckland to take the challenge on May the 24<sup>th</sup>. The time slot given is midafternoon to climb. They will be in group 32 of 35 to climb the tower. There are approximately 1100 firefighters climbing it this year and they are raising funds for Leukemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand. So far, the Duntroon brigade has raised over \$2000. If you would like to support them supporting such a worthy cause, please follow the link.

<https://firefighterschallenge.org.nz/t/2025-duntroon-volunteer-fire-brigade?fbclid=IwY2xjawKGGupleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETFGQX>

We will look forward to following the team's effort as they rise to the challenge. Whatever happens we will be proud of them for taking it on.