

Duntroon Digest August 2026

The Duntroon community has lost two very special contributors to our community recently. John McKenzie and Neil Thorpe have both passed away in the last couple of weeks. Both men will be remembered fondly.

As far back as 2002, John and Neil were members of the Duntroon and District Development Association and both men spent time on the committee, lending their enthusiasm and resources to the community. They set an example for others that followed them.

Although growth has slowed down at the Duntroon wetlands, the pest eradication program is very active. Katrina McLennan Moffat has taken over from Richard White as pest control monitor, and she reports that the traps have caught a selection of stoats, hedgehogs and mice. This is invaluable work as it gives the native critters a chance to become established in the wetlands.

Having a well-earned break from the mowing and mulching in the wetlands is Lloyd Grafton. While the growth has slowed for now, it won't be long before he will be back with the weed eater keeping the wetlands tidy. In the meantime, there is new signage for Lloyd to install and a myriad of other jobs about the village that he seems to attend to.

In fact, there will be a working bee on the 8th of August at which the Share Shed and the newly repaired Gaol will receive a spring clean. The damaged weather boards on the Gaol have been replaced, and Jan Keeling even went to the trouble of sourcing a length of steel downpipe to match and to retain the authenticity of the historic Gaol.

The Buzz, the mobile coffee shop, has been retired for the time being, and the Flyng Pig has reopened. The hours are Tuesday to Friday, 7.30 till 2pm and Saturday 8am till 2pm. The local residents are very grateful for this as the Flying Pig is not just a purveyor of excellent coffee, but a warm and welcoming place to catch up with the locals.

As the days start to lengthen, it is time to plan for the season of visitors to our wee town. The DDDA has just republished the Township of Duntroon Heritage Trail brochure which enables visitors to tour the town and learn the historic significance of various buildings. The brochures are available at the Flying Pig Cafe and the Vanished World Museum, or you can simply download one from the Duntroon website at www.duntroon.co.nz.

The DDDA is most grateful to our local whizz on the computer, Allan Kynaston, for his work on the brochure and the bimonthly Duntroon Digger which will be published this month too. The Digger is also available on the Duntroon website and offers excellent reading on a cold winters' night.

