



# The DUNTROON DIGGER

August edition 2018

Editor: Mike Gray

## Geopark Report

Preparations are underway for a visit in mid August from the NZ UNESCO Commissioners and some other key visitors who are coming to our district to explore the Vanished World Trail and visit the VW Centre in Duntroon. This is a key part of their familiarisation visit that should confirm their support of our Waitaki Whitestone Geopark as the preferred candidate to be put forward to Paris as a candidate for membership of the UNESCO Global Geopark Network.

John Hore and helpers have been installing a post and rail fence at the Anatini track leading to the exposed whale fossil in the valley. Our visitors will visit this site as well as Elephant Rocks, and hopefully meet with landowners and VW volunteers during their trip.

## Report on Working-Bee at The Pharmacy on the past Saturday July 28<sup>th</sup>.

Work on the building inside resulted in a huge clean out of shelves, wall areas and the old mechanic's garage had four solid sections of board placed over it. Now it is all safe for the next step.

Outside saw a clean-up of surplus scrap and general rubbish. The small lean-to at the back of the building had copious quantities of junk removed from on top of the roof, and the odd beer bottle

In all it was a great start to this project.

The DDDA would like to thank, Judy, Gill, Jilly, Owen, Mike, John, Daniel, Sarah, Mary, for their time and input on the day.

Also to Sara and Patrick for supplying refreshments on the day. (No! Not responsible for the beer bottle!)

Owen King. Chairman DDDA.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** to all Duntroon Digger readers.

There will be no printed editions of the Digger delivered to your mail boxes in September or October. These two editions will be electronic only. So, to receive a copy by email I will need your email address.

Address your email to: [dda@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dda@xtra.co.nz)

Subject: **DIGGER**

Then in the body of the email, simply write your **Name** and your own **email address**.

Below is an example:

To:	<a href="mailto:dda@xtra.co.nz">dda@xtra.co.nz</a>
Subject:	<b>DIGGER</b>
<b>Fredrick Smith</b> <a href="mailto:fredsmith@gmail.com">fredsmith@gmail.com</a>	

Now press **SEND** and wait a month to see if the system works!

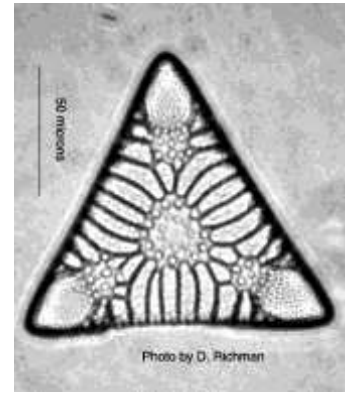


# Diatoms

North Otago Museum's geology collection.

## What are diatoms?

[Diatoms](#) are a type of single celled algae. The diatoms in our samples are millions of years old but there are still diatoms alive today. A cell wall made of silica surrounds each diatom. This is called a frustule. Under a microscope the different shapes of the frustules are striking.



## What is in the geology collection?

In the collection we have three samples of diatomite. Diatomite is a type of sedimentary rock largely comprising of the remains of diatoms. Diatomite is amazing stuff. It is super absorbent and it was used to make dynamite (and kitty litter!) We also have some microscope slides of diatoms.

## What is the Waitaki connection?

[Thomas Forrester \(1838-1907\)](#) was the museum's first curator and a keen amateur scientist. He had a passion for geology. In 1865 Thomas Forrester drew the first geological survey map of New Zealand for James Hector.

North Otago is world famous (if you're a diatomist) for its diatoms. So how were they discovered? This recollection of the discovery is by John, the son of Thomas Forrester.

*“The discovery came about in a rather extraordinary way. I remember a day in 1886, when Dr. Von Haast, a name which will always be remembered in connection with the Canterbury Museum, called at the Museum looking for geological specimens characteristic of the district, ..... Amongst other things he selected a lump of very light earth material labelled Kaolin (China Clay). That bit of earth caused quite a furore in microscopical circles all over the world and soon letters were received here begging for pieces. The first letter came addressed to the person in Oamaru interested in science which the Postmaster (Mr J. A. Hutton) handed to my father knowing of his interest in geology. Later many letters came to my father with the result that pieces of the earth went to places widely spread over the world.”*

The Oamaru Museum's other curator, Dr de Lautour, also became interested in diatoms. Soon many locations containing deposits of diatomite were identified in North Otago .

Source of this article:

<https://culturewaitaki.org.nz/north-otago-museum/blog/diatoms>

**Next DDDA Committee Meeting:** Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August - 6.00 pm. at Vanished World.

## **Duntroon Hotel**

Most people in the Duntroon village are aware that work continues on restoring the hotel. We wish the owners well as they continue with this mammoth task, and look forward to seeing milestones achieved.

### **St Peters Church, Tokarahi**

**Sunday Service 11am on  
2<sup>nd</sup> + 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.**

**ALL WELCOME**

## **BALEAGE FOR SALE**

**50 round bales available!**

**Interested?**

**Phone John Hore Mob: 021 148 8887**

