



The DUNTROON DIGGER

December edition 2017

Editors: Mike Gray

STOP PRESS: St Martin's Christmas Eve Service is 6pm (Not 7pm) as in printed copy. Please TELL OTHERS

After nearly a whole year of not writing for the Digger I have enjoyed seeing it develop and change and get a whole new lease of life. I expected that if anyone else took it over this would happen, and I'm sure you have noted the refreshing changes of style and perspective as well.

The reasons behind the change were simply that Mike took over while I was dealing with some health adventures and now that they are behind me successfully, I have decided to leave the Digger with Mike. I'm sure he'd be delighted if anyone else would like to take it over as he already has enough to do, and does do so much for Duntroon and for the DDDA.

Community work at volunteer level is hugely rewarding and I have loved my years of doing the Digger, at first it really introduced me to the community. I well remember going to a Rural women's meeting and introducing myself and there a number of "oh, you're the mystery person doing the Digger " kind of comments. I found history, photos, stories from locals and people with other amazing skills like Burns who were all happy to write, draw and send me their stuff over the years. I have watched projects like the wetlands and the forge grow from ideas on paper to actuality and enjoyed helping to raise awareness of various important issues from around about. It's been a great job which has also taught me a few more tech skills, and when I couldn't sort things out Mike often had to patiently fix or show me how to fix things that got out of hand, as computer stuff can.

I'd really like to thank Mike especially for all that support, he is a very busy person but always had time to comment or help, and also to Burns who generously took up the cartoon slot and has been a real delight to chat to monthly as we tried to figure out the next idea...would it be funny? thoughtful? topical? local? or national? or just rabbits doing what rabbits dowe had many a good laugh in planning sessions.

I will miss the timeline of monthly settling down to get another Digger done, but I have many other projects and buckets on my list of things to do and conquer so it's definitely time to move on. Thanks to all you readers, who commented, called, and encouraged me during my time as editor. It's been a lovely job to do and that's because of you, the community. **Jo Todd**

Now it is my turn Jo!

Thank you for all those stories and opinions that you shared over the years. It certainly is a challenge to get another Digger published, when there is virtually nothing sent in and only 3 days to the publishing deadline. I am sure the readers agree, that your contribution has been considerable over the years – you have done your bit, and it is time for someone else to “take the risk” and have a go. So “thanks for the ride” Jo, and continue to enjoy receiving the Digger and reading it over a cuppa. **Mike Gray**

A note to readers:

So if you have enjoyed the reading process, then maybe it is time to have a go at the writing process. Perhaps we can share the editor's role? Give me a call. Mike Ph: 434 2565



Vanished World volunteers may be fossicking in the rocks, but they are also reaching for the stars.

Tourism today is looking to find regional “points of difference” that can be used to attract visitors. We are well aware of the McKenzie Country’s focus on the night sky. You may have read recently the Waitaki District Mayor is keen to look at the possibility of a UNESCO Geopark in the district.

In its 17 years of existence, the vision of the Vanished World Society’s founding members has been realised to the extent that Vanished World is well known locally, nationally and internationally. The number of visitors to Elephant Rocks alone is astounding!

So just what is a geopark?

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: A **Geopark** is a unified area that advances the protection and use of geological heritage in a sustainable way, and promotes the economic well-being of the people who live there.

Now the Waitaki District has some very unique geological features, key ones being Moeraki Boulders, Elephant Rocks and Clay Cliffs. We have unique fossils of penguins, dolphins and even a plesiosaur from the dinosaur era.

If the Vanished World Centre was to be the central jewel and the trail links it to other sites within the district boundary, then we would likely have a District Geopark.

To be admitted to the UNESCO Global Geopark Network would be the ultimate step. But to reach such a goal, is beyond the resources of our voluntary Society. To reach that goal we will need more than a helping hand – we will need to form strong partnerships with organisations that share the dream.

Watch this space!

Vanished World AGM

There were a few musical chairs at the recent Vanished World AGM.

John Hore stepped down as chairman having held the position for a number of years. Mike Gray was elected as Chairman.

The new committee comprises: Christine Hall (Secretary), Alison Simpson (Centre Manager), Ewan Fordyce (Scientific Advisor), John Hore, Steve Yanzick and Faye Ormandy.

Do you share the dream too?

Then why not help it happen by becoming a volunteer host at the Vanished World Centre in Duntroon.

We desperately need to increase our pool of volunteers, to enable us to consistently keep the Centre doors open to visitors.

You do not have to be a geology / fossil enthusiast. You simply need to be a "people person", one who enjoys meeting a variety of visitors and making them welcome. We have the exhibitions and the information about them, all we need are the hosts!

We can offer training and assistance with petrol costs. We have a 'buddy system' to help you grow in confidence. Why not come to a special open day for potential volunteers on Saturday December 9th at 11am at the Vanished World Centre, Duntroon.

Please phone Alison Simpson on 437 2529 to register your interest and so that we can cook the right number of muffins for a cup of tea or coffee.

WANTED

More volunteer hosts for the
Vanished World Centre,
Duntroon.

**Check us out at a
Special Open Day for potential
volunteer hosts.**

11 am Saturday December 9th

At the Vanished World Geology
& Fossil Centre, DUNTROON.

To register your interest please
contact Alison on 437 2529

Waitaki Combined Churches

invite you to join in a

Family Christmas Service of Carols and Readings

with the **Waitaki Valley Singers**

St Martin's Church, Duntroon

Sunday 17th December, 2017 at 7.00pm

Refreshments will follow the service

Christmas Eve Service

St Martin's Duntroon

6pm December 24th

A short service with an emphasis on
involving children.

Everyone is very welcome to join us
in celebrating the birth of Christ.

Tokarahi Rural Women

are having their annual

Christmas Pot Luck Tea

on Wed 20th Dec, at Tokarahi Hall.

All ladies are invited. Please bring a plate, and friend, a food bank contribution & a \$10 gift to play our silly exchange game.

**Best wishes to all for a great
Christmas and New Year.**



Last DDDA Committee meeting for year

Tuesday 12th ,December at 6.00 p.m

Venue : John and Margaret Hore's home.

A short meeting covering the past years work etc, followed by a Barbecue.
Please bring a salad and a dessert, DDDA will provide drink and meat for BBQ

DUNTROON GARAGE

Holiday Trading Hours

We would like to thank you for your support throughout last year and look forward to continuing to service your needs in the new year ahead.

As Dave will be having a well deserved break from December 15th to January 7th, we will be unable to issue WOFs over this period, so please use these two weeks to renew your warrant of fitness.

CHRISTMAS TRADING

The Garage will be closed from 5pm 22nd December.

We will re-open on Wednesday January 3rd 2018.

Compliments of the Season

Andy, Sonya, Sue, Abby, Dave, Jac, Camden, and Liam.

