



The DUNTROON DIGGER

October 2020

Editor: Lynda Scott Araya

Greetings to all our Duntroon Digger readers,

Spring- time and it looks as though there has been so much progress made on the Duntroon Community Garden. It has been lovely to see our Spring display of daffodils in the garden. We have our Lily of the Valley popping up again by the back door. These flowers were first planted in the same spot 80 years ago, so it is great that they are still there. It's definitely time for the strong winds to stop though!

We have been busy preparing for the upcoming season and have been painting our perimeter fence. Of course, we have also been planting our vegetable garden and trying to use up all of the eggs that we are getting. We had our first 'rubber' egg a few days ago – a perfect egg but completely without a shell!

I have been doing a lot of writing. I will be the featured writer in a North American literary journal in December as well as having a short story, based on the circus coming to town in Kurow in the 1930s, in November's issue of *Landfall*, published by the Otago University Press. I am enjoying volunteering both at Vanished World and at the Waitaki Archives.

Lynda Scott Araya

lyncostello2017@gmail.com Deadline for the November issue October 25th

School Holidays

VW Centre, Duntroon

Open Daily 10am – 4.30 pm.

Adults \$10. Children under 12 free.

Discover the "Ancient Marine Fossil" story and
Dig your own 25 myo fossil from limestone.

I am very happy to take on new students to tutor, especially secondary school students preparing for the NCEA examinations. My specialist subjects are English, Literacy, History and ESOL, as well as general study skills and CVs.

Lynda Scott Araya

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Explore Duntroon Day

Thurs Oct 1st or Tues Oct 6th.

A fun filled programme from 10am to 2.30pm \$10 pp covers all activities.

(Under 5's free)

Details: www.vanishedworld.co.nz

Bring a picnic or eat at Duntroon Hotel.

Bookings essential.

Phone Mike: 021 159 7904 or

E: vanishedworldcentre@gmail.com

Blacksmith news

Nicol's Blacksmith will be open and working with volunteers during the holidays on the following days:

September: Sunday 27th

October: Thursday 1st, Saturday 3rd, Sunday 4th,
Tuesday 6th, Friday 9th, Sunday 11th



Is your child keen to try being a blacksmith for a few minutes and getting a photo? For \$5 they can now put on the blacksmith apron, gloves and glasses and have a go at hitting, shaping, and bending some hot steel. Opportunities like this make fantastic memories!

Spaces are filling for the beginner blacksmithing courses, so if you are interested please contact Judy at Nicolsblacksmith@gmail.com for any questions or to make a booking.

We have received our new flag "open" sign thanks to funding from Network Waitaki and Lotteries. We are now forging an appropriate holder from our plentiful supply of heavy steel to hopefully withstand the Nor'Wester's.

If you like creating things, please consider joining our volunteer crew helping out during the summer season. We have a great bunch of people who help but love having new people to ease the roster. You will always be working alongside one of our experienced blacksmiths. Our current volunteers have all learnt the art of blacksmithing whilst volunteering at Nicol's Blacksmith.

We are having an open day / working bee BBQ with as many of our current volunteers as possible on Saturday 3rd October and would love for anyone interested to come along. If you would like to know more, please email Judy at the above email address or come along.

For any questions on the holiday sessions, or Nicol's Blacksmith in general please contact us. Jan Keeling 0274979006 or Nicolsblacksmith@gmail.com

**Duntroon & District Development Association
AGM
7pm Thursday Oct 22nd - at Duntroon Hall**

Guest speaker: Andrew Oliver
**"Our land – heritage - eco systems –
facilitating a sustainable future"**
Supper to follow.

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Andrew Oliver was until recently DOCs only full-time educator of Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom (LEOTC) based at Aoraki / Mt Cook National Park.

He is a co-founder 'The eco-project – Waimate' and 'The friends of Studholme Bush Scenic Reserve'.

Andrew has a Master of Science degree in Education for Sustainability from the UK.

His presentation is a generic overview of the uniqueness of New Zealand's post Gondwanian heritage and how dominant cultural perspectives have contentiously led to New Zealand having poor environmental indicators amongst developed nations ... and what we can do to change that.

WESTERN HOUSE SHORT FICTION COMPETITION

We are proud to announce our inaugural short fiction competition. In 2020 the theme is Victorian Literature.

Conditions of Entry

- 1) Your short fiction must be **NO MORE** than 1500 words
- 2) It **MUST** include **ONE** of the below lines
- 3) **NO** adult themed content
- 4) **No** family members of Western House may enter.
- 5) The judge's decision is **FINAL**. This year, the judge is Lynda Scott Araya. Lynda has been published both internationally and within New Zealand. She is an upcoming featured writer in *Prospectus; A Literary Offering* and will also appear in *Landfall 240*.
- 6) Your submission **MUST** be emailed or sent to Western House **NO LATER** than November 10th 2020 5pm

ONE of these lines **MUST** be included:

"And I am bored to death with it. Bored to death with this place, bored to death with my life, bored to death with myself." Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*

"Have a little compassion on my nerves. You tear them to pieces."

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

"Why didn't you tell me there was danger? Why didn't you warn me?"

Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*,

"Beware; for I am fearless and therefore powerful." Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

"Everybody, soon or late, sits down to a banquet of consequences."

Robert Louis Stevenson

First Prize - \$50 Voucher from River T Estate

Second Prize - \$20 book voucher

<p>* Next DDDA Committee meeting 6:00 P.M [prior to A.G.M at 7:00 P.M.] Thursday 22nd, Oct. at Duntroon Hall.</p>	<p>* Next Wetland working - bee 10:00 A.M Saturday 31st, October. More planting and mulching to be done. Please bring bucket, grubber, gloves.</p>
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Kia Ora from the Duntroon Hotel

Chase the Ace was won by a local. He got \$255.00 and only brought 5 tickets to win. Thank you to all who took part in the game and congratulations again to the winner.

We are still looking for a couple of new staff to start right away. We are looking for waitresses, cleaners to do day & night shifts, weekdays & weekends. If you are interested please email your CV to dhduntroonhotel@gmail.com or come in and talk to staff.

We are looking for interest in starting a junior pool team. It will be for ages 6-17 years old. You do not need to be from Duntroon to take part. We will have weekly or fortnightly "training" and once a month friendly competitions. We will also be looking for adult volunteers to help with coaching. We would like two teams of four, with varying age groups in each. If things go well, we will talk to other places about seeing if we can go against other teams from other areas. Hopefully, this will be similar to the adult games. If interested, let us know via email, Facebook or come in and talk to staff. If we get a minimum of six players, we will start the team.

The September market day was originally cancelled but due to people's interest, we decided to go ahead with the market. We ended up with only three stalls as a result, but we are hopeful there will be a lot more next month. Our October Market day is on Sunday the 11th. Again, it is FREE to set up a stall, or use your car boot. Extra details are on the Duntroon Market's Facebook page or call/pop into the hotel to find out more.

Our Halloween kids' day is at the end of month. We still have a limit of 40 kids for the day, so please book your kids in early. And don't forget we are doing a family pumpkin carving competition where you can carve the pumpkin at home then bring it done. We have 3 categories to win in. We are also looking for a couple of adult volunteers, so if you are interested please let us know. Please check out our Facebook page for all of the information.

We will be putting up our new hours this month. They will be displayed at the hotel and our Facebook and web page. Our accommodation & restaurant/function room will also be opening this month.

We would like to thank the local community and everyone who have come in and support us since we have been open. From owners and staff, we hope to see you in again.

Come to Otematata at Labour Weekend and grab a bargain. We are having a "town-wide" Trash to Treasure day, Sunday October 25th from 9am. Unwanted items are being placed on front lawns/driveway/kerbside – have a wander around town and find some treasures.

(Dealers and re-sellers are discouraged - this is a community initiative, not-for-profit).

ALSO- there is a car boot sale at the Otematata District Club from 10am Saturday 24th. Site holders welcome, call 4387830, \$10 site.

"Explore Duntroon Day" – A School Holiday Day Trip to remember

Duntroon, a 35 minute drive from Oamaru, is a place full of surprises. Locals have developed a number of attractions over the last 20 years and are proud of what they have to offer.

During the coming School Holidays, there will be a chance for young and old to come and “Discover Duntroon” through a variety of activities.

Young people are usually fascinated by dinosaurs and see them in books or in animated movies. Some people come to Vanished World and are hopeful of seeing dinosaurs. But it is not long before they realise that much of the Waitaki District was once under the sea., and the local fossils are ancient marine animals, whose evolution followed the extinction of dinosaurs. They discover giant penguins, very large shark’s teeth and the fossilised bones of ancient whales and dolphins.



After learning about Zealandia and being amazed at the marine fossil, visitors are able to go to the “Dig Room” where they can dig into local limestone which is about 25 million years old. And when they locate and dig out a small fossil, they realise it is real and must be 25 million years old too. They can name it and place it in a paper bag to take home and treasure. They can receive a Junior Paleontologist Certificate.

Outside the VW Centre is a Rock Garden. Here the visitor can wander and touch a wide variety of rocks from throughout the district. Some are black and sharp, others orange and smooth and still others have fossils trapped in them. They can be classified as Volcanic, Metamorphic or Sedimentary. Visitors are encouraged to take on the challenge of discovering and identifying 9 different rocks on an activity sheet. If successful, they will be awarded a VW Fossicking Certificate.

Moving further into the Village, the visitor will soon discover a ‘tomo’ (sink hole) at the rear of the blacksmith building. This was formed when the land sank into an underground stream. The stream flows under the village and seems to form a ‘spring’ which flows into the Duntroon Wetlands. This interesting geological feature is called “The Brewery Hole” and has the Maori name “Waikoakoa”, which translates as “Happy Waters”. Historically it was a site of a very early brewery. The site is guarded by a Moa Sculpture, which was created by sculptor Matt King, from the blacksmith’s scrap heap.



Nicol's Blacksmith Shop was established in the early 1900s and restored in more recent times. It is usually open each day for people to view the interior. It is very authentic and has a NZ Heritage Category One. Classification. Often there are volunteer blacksmiths using the forge on most weekends of the year, particularly from October to June. It is possible to enrol for basic blacksmith training courses. (www.blacksmith.co.nz)

On the North side of highway 83 is the historic Duntroon Gaol, which is often open for visitors to inspect. Alongside is the A20 Cycle Trail, which goes from Aoraki Mt Cook to Oamaru. If you follow the trail down the hill it leads to the Duntroon Wetlands, where you are bound to see ducks and pukeko and even trout if you are very quiet.

There are numerous interpretation panels throughout the village, that informs visitors of interesting pieces of history. If you like a challenge, call into the Vanished World Centre and pick up a Duntroon Quiz, It takes about an hour to seek out the answers, it is more fun if you do this as a family group. When finished, call back to VW Centre for the answers.

And of course, you will need refreshments throughout the day. So either bring your picnic hamper, and enjoy a sunny site on the Village Green or call into the Duntroon Hotel for coffee, food and ice creams.

As part of the school holidays programme, Vanished World in conjunction with the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark have organised two "Discover Duntroon" holiday programmes on Thursday 1st Oct and Tuesday 6th. The programme begins at 10am and finishes at 2.30pm. Bookings are essential.

Details: www.vanishedworld.co.nz

