



# The DUNTROON DIGGER

July 2021

Editor: Mike Gray

## You are invited to have your say at the **Duntroon Destination Management Discussion.**

on 8<sup>th</sup> July from 10.30am to 12.30pm at the Duntroon Hall.  
(Tea & Coffee will be available from 10.15)

**A Waitaki Destination Management Strategy** is being developed and we are keen to hear your views. To register please confirm attendance – [mjones@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:mjones@waitaki.govt.nz)

The purpose of the meeting is to

- share the results from the recent survey and
- agree areas for focus for the future.

Below is the link to the survey if you can't attend and would like to share your views:  
[www.waitaki.govt.nz/DestinationManagement-WaitakiValleyResidentsSurvey](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/DestinationManagement-WaitakiValleyResidentsSurvey)



### **Duntroon Community says Thanks.**

We are very proud of our achievements and sincerely thank the many people who have made it happen.

The Duntroon & District Development Association (DDDA), Nicol's Blacksmith Historic Trust, the Vanished World Inc, Duntroon Hall and Duntroon School would very much like to thank the following funders who have supported us financially with our projects over the last 18 months.

Waitaki District Council, WDC Community Group Grant, Meridian Energy Power Up Community Fund, Network Waitaki, Lottery Community Fund, Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund, Trust Power, Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS), Museum Hardship Fund, and the Colin G L Jones Trust.

## The Flying Pig is once more open for business.

I dropped in last Thursday for a coffee and met Sara Kingsbury, who was delighted to chat about their new venture.

A paint job inside has brightened up the interior. There are some fabulous seasonal photographs of Lake Ruataniwha adorning the walls. A welcoming atmosphere, ideal for a lunch or coffee break.



Mel and Mark (alias Mum and Dad) were in the kitchen preparing food for the passing visitors and locals, some of whom are 'regulars' already. Yes, it is a family affair!

Open daily (Thursday to Monday) from 8am to 3pm. Please drop by and say hello.

## A Nicol's Blacksmith Shop update

On Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> June, NBHT had our winter working bee at the blacksmiths. Duntroon gave us a minus 4 degree frost, but that did not deter 14 willing volunteers from contributing their time and energy to a successful working bee. Volunteers came from as far as Timaru, Oamaru, Kakanui and Kurow to support our core group from Duntroon and Livingstone.

Apart from a clean up and improvements inside the building, a massive clean up of the autumn leaf fall was undertaken outside. Trees were trimmed and tidied. On the roof, the guttering was cleared and the chimney cleared. The large stack of donated fence standards and metals was sorted into relevant piles.

Thanks to Mary for putting together our BBQ lunch.

Duntroon's own blacksmith shop has had a very busy year to date, with a large number of Kiwi travellers stopping and appreciating a working blacksmith with a fascinating history. In conjunction with Vanished World Visitor Centre, we are now receiving bus tour groups.

A growing number of people are also booking day class's to learn blacksmithing skills, and regular "have a go" sessions are proving popular.

The tireless management and organisational skills of Judy Waterson and Jan Keeling have contributed significantly to the growing success of the blacksmiths, along with the ongoing support of all our volunteers.

This winter, the blacksmiths will continue to fire up every Sunday from 11 am until 3pm, and when required for tour bookings and students.

Thank you to all volunteers that ensure NBHT will remain a great asset to Duntroon and community.

Colin Martin

### Next DDDA Committee Meeting:

Thursday , 8<sup>th</sup> July 7:00 P.M at Vanished World Centre.

## **Duntroon Hall News.**

Over the last 2 years I've been doing a lot of reading about the happenings in Duntroon over the years and thinking about how life has changed for people in the community. One of the things as pointed out in the minutes of the hall committees over the years is - that there have always been two commodities in short supply - money and volunteers.

However, perseverance over the last 12 months has been well supported by various funding groups which has been morale boosting to us all. It has been a pleasure working with various volunteer groups, seeing them chip away and gain momentum. We have a community with so much potential and when we work together, we can achieve great things.

The Hall is an asset that is underutilised. Please consider it as a venue for meetings, classes, parties and general gatherings. It may not be the fanciest venue in the Waitaki District, but it is ours. We need to be using it regularly to be able to apply for funding for projects to upgrade and future proof it. There is money for feasibility studies before there is money for projects....and right now it might not be seen as feasible to spend \$75K+ for reroofing and upgrading the bathrooms and the entrance for the amount of usage it is getting.

The June shared community meal was fantastic, with 40+ attending. Hopefully all who attended either met someone new or caught up with someone they hadn't seen for a while. Our next shared meal will be held in November, date yet to be confirmed.

Below I have shared most of a newspaper article about a community meal some years ago, there's a few things to note...firstly - how descriptive the newspaper articles were pre-Snapchat stories being a thing. I removed the two paragraphs describing who sang what during the music interlude.

What struck me most was the time of night they all departed for home. When you think about the year that this event took place, this is surprising, and as the article states that friends came from Kurow to Kokoamo, it makes you realise how far they had to travel to get home that night. This is all pre-cars, not many bridges and not the best roads.

At least it wouldn't have been frosty in October!

Jan Keeling

## **Valedictory. 29th October 1904**

From-a Correspondent. On Thursday evening there was a "gathering of the clans" at the Defence Hall, Duntroon, to farewell Mr and Mrs Mcleod, who are leaving for Wanganui Mr McLeod having been promoted to that rising North Island town. Though the weather had been unpropitious to an unusual degree all the day, heavy rain being in evidence most of the time, yet the hall was full of friends, who came, gentle and simple, from far and near, from Kurow and Kokoamo and round about; the whole district having a kindly feeling for the departing guests and being desirous of saying good-bye. About 8 o'clock- Mr Thos. Reid, jun., of Kokoamo, took the chair, and opened the proceedings by calling on a few ladies and gentlemen for a little music.

Mr Reid, the chairman, then commenced the real business of the day. He said that, as they all knew, they were gathered together on that occasion to do honor to a man and his wife whom they all respected and liked, a man who, while invariably considering his duty first, yet never-re-fused to oblige any who required advice, information or assistance. High or low, rich or poor, it was just the same. He was consistently obliging in hours or after hours; in fact, there was no doubt he was the best stationmaster in the service. From Auckland to the Bluff he was top, and he hoped some day to see him stationmaster at Oamaru. He was an able financier, and chiefly by his advice and counsel the Caledonian Society could show a credit balance of about £40. It was hardly possible to say too much in his praise, but the hour would not permit everything to be said in his favour that could be said. Mr Reid, therefore, concluded by handing Mr McLeod a valuable purse of sovereigns and a handsome pipe as tokens of their most sincere regard and esteem. Mrs Stevenson then rose and, in a few kindly sentences, handed Mrs McLeod a very handsome silver kettle on a stand, hoping she would live many years to enjoy the use of them and would not forget her friends when she lived in Wanganui. The Rev. 'Fynes-Clinton followed in a pleasant speech, expressing the great loss St. Martin's Church would suffer through Mrs McLeod's leaving, much necessary work in the way of decorations, attending to the altar, the Ladies' Guild, and more particularly the singing in the choir, which was punctually and willingly performed by Mrs McLeod, who, having exceptional gifts, social and otherwise, had ever used them in the work of the Church and in much hospitality. In the name of St. Martin's people he presented a silver-backed hair brush and comb, begging her to accept them as an evidence of the love borne to her. Master Oswald Orr then took the floor and handed Master -Cyril McLeod a purse of gold from his schoolfellows, at which there was much applause.

When the various laudatory utterances were finished, Mr McLeod got up to thank the friends and givers for their extremely handsome presents. Mrs McLeod and himself would never forget the Duntroon people as long as they lived, and if he did not say as much as he should, it was because his heart was too full. Words failed him to adequately express his thoughts, and he trusted his hearers would give him and his wife credit for the thousand thanks they could not utter.. - The large audience immediately stood up and gave "For he's a jolly good fellow." A very nicely-served supper in the way of tarts, cakes, sandwiches, etc., was then served by willing ladies —plenty of everything, including tea. The good things were from Messrs Fyfe Bros.

Inter alia it may be mentioned that the silver kettle and the brush and comb were obtained from Mr Young, the pipe from Mr J. 'E. Hood, and the purse of sovereigns from everybody in the district.

The customary dance brought one of the pleasantest possible functions to a close. Messrs J. Johnston and Malcolm Francis acted as M.C.'s, and Miss Orr and Messrs Fyfe Bros., J. Sutherland, J. More, and J. F. Finch supplied the music. **At 3 a.m.** all joined in that most appropriate melody "Auld Lang Syne."

Yesterday some lady friends from Kurow waited on Mrs McLeod informally at her residence and presented her with a handsome dressing case as a token of their regard. This morning the whole district turned out to bid Mr and Mrs McLeod good-bye, and they received a most- enthusiastic send-off.