



# The DUNTROON DIGGER

October edition 2019

Editor: Lynda Scott Araya

Greetings to all our Duntroon Digger readers,

It is great to see the Valley getting busier with tourists including the first of the cyclists for the season. We had a group of seven Australian cyclists staying with us this week before cycling on to Edendale. They were absolutely fascinated by the rich history of the area. It was quite hot as they were setting off, so I am sure that they enjoyed something to eat and drink at the Duntroon Hotel, which is where I passed them going into Oamaru.

John and I attended the community meeting held at the Kurow Memorial Hall about the above ground pipes by the Kurow cemetery. There was a good turn out of people and even a young black cat came along! It was great to hear both 'sides' of the story and we were pleased that we had gone.

We hope that those caring for children enjoy the holiday activities that are being offered, including the Halloween treasure hunt at the Duntroon Hotel and the new bike park in Kurow.

Please contact me if you would like to contribute at all to the Duntroon Digger.

Lynda's email for all Duntroon Digger matters is: [westernhouse.kurow@gmail.com](mailto:westernhouse.kurow@gmail.com)

## **Nicol's Blacksmith**

The unofficial opening of the summer season in the Waitaki Valley is upon us and Labour Weekend marks the weekly opening of Nicol's Blacksmith Shop in the village. Again, we aim to be open 10am -3pm to visitors with the forge fired up on Saturdays and Sundays through until Queen's Birthday weekend next June.

There will be beginner blacksmith courses as frequently as we have tutors available. Last season, we introduced 17 people to the joy of blacksmithing. Courses start from \$50 for a 2-hour session. Booking is essential as there is a limit of two trainees per session. Full day sessions and weekday courses can be arranged when there are tutors available. To make a booking or find out more information email Judy at the address below.

Exceptionally priced tool sharpening will be from November - get those garden tools out for their late spring spruce up. Heating the thistle grubbers up briefly makes sharpening them quick and longer lasting. Keep an eye out for the dates or contact Judy for updates.

Last weekend, a fantastic working bee and BBQ was held at the forge, where the last of the winter maintenance was completed and the forge had its trial firing. The new backplate and tuyere were put to the test with pleasing results. Being able to find parts for something that's over 100 years old is challenging. But parts were found and modified slightly to fit.

We are always on the hunt for volunteers to help run the forge and host visitors on the weekends. Anyone interested in local history or engineering stuff from metal would really enjoy this work. Between now and Labour weekend, Judy, the managing blacksmith will be at the forge on Sundays setting up and planning, 10-3pm, so feel free to call in and chat. Full training is given and it's a great way to meet new people and share the local history with visitors from around the world.



Also, we are on Facebook -Nicol's Blacksmith, please look us up and like to get the updates more frequently.

For more information on courses or volunteering please email Judy - [judithwaterston@gmail.com](mailto:judithwaterston@gmail.com) or message us on Facebook.

## School holiday activities

are always in demand, particularly if they offer something that is both educational and fun to do. The Vanished World Centre in Duntroon is pleased to offer two different activities for children and their families during the upcoming school holiday period.

There is a **Duntroon Information Treasure Hunt**, which is best suited to a family. "The children will happily do the searching aspect of the challenge" says Mike Gray, VW Chairman. "It is important that adults accompany the children when crossing the highway and wandering through the wetland. On a nice sunny day, everyone will enjoy a good walk, the challenge of completing the quiz and have a lot of fun in the process."

**Vanished World Rock Garden Challenge** requires a basic understanding of the three basic rock types: Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic. A question sheet describes several rocks located in the VW Rock Garden. The challenge is to correctly locate each rock



### School Holiday Activities in Duntroon.

September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- **A Duntroon Information Treasure Hunt** – A Family activity. (1 hour)
- **Vanished World Rock Garden Challenge** – Qualify for a VW Fossicking Certificate.



Activity sheets  
are available from  
10am –4pm

**Vanished World Centre**

from the description given, then record its identification number on the question sheet. A VW staff member will check the answers and award a VW Fossicking Certificate to each successful 'Rock Hound'.

"The Vanished World staff will be happy to provide the appropriate Question Sheets for these activities" says Mike. "But, please remember to bring a pencil or two and perhaps your lunch as well." (Currently, the Duntroon Hotel is open from 11.30am on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.)

**Contact:** Mike Gray. Ph 4342565 or [tokarahi@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tokarahi@xtra.co.nz)

## Duntroon Hotel - Progress:

Don't be put off by the builder's fence around part of the building. The Duntroon Hotel is still very much open for business. The builders have started on renovating upstairs and the fence around the eastern part of the building is to keep the area safe. As the weather warms up, the Hotel's hours will be lengthening. These can be checked out on [www.duntroonhotel.co.nz](http://www.duntroonhotel.co.nz)



### DDDA AGM

Duntroon District Development Association

10th October 2019

Duntroon Hall 7pm

Update: Pharmacy progress

**Our Guest speaker is Margaret Munro**

**"Tourism growth and local opportunities"**

## Vanished World Workshop

Planning the way forward.  
Saturday Oct 19<sup>th</sup> in Duntroon Hall

**Purpose:** To bring together existing VW members and potential VW supporters.

1. Outline the broad plan to transition Vanished World into the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark.
2. Brainstorm what these transition steps might look like
3. Explore future volunteer roles and determine the level of such support.

Interested in attending? For more details, please contact Mike Gray on 03 4342565 or [tokarahi@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tokarahi@xtra.co.nz)

# SMASH PALACE

Car Parts ~ Car/Van Rentals  
Alps to Ocean Cycle Hire  
Taxi - Shuttle Service  
Geoff

## POSITION AVAILABLE AT KUROW INFORMATION CENTRE



Do you genuinely believe every day is a good day in the Waitaki?

Are you able to deliver excellent customer service?

Do you have a can-do attitude?

The Waitaki Valley Community Society has a position available at Kurow Information Centre, Bledisloe Street, Kurow

***The position is primarily for Saturdays over the summer season, every third Tuesday of the month and cover for sickness and leave throughout the year***

Your key tasks will be focused on both enticing people to spend time in the Waitaki District and meeting the needs of the local community. Computer literacy is essential. Full training will be given

### TO APPLY

Send an email to Diane Curtis, WVCS Chairperson at [dianeandtheo@outlook.com](mailto:dianeandtheo@outlook.com) selling yourself in terms of skills, relevant experience, and capacity to contribute to the role of Kurow Information Centre as a Community Hub.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE: SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2019**

Email Diane for indicative job descriptions or for more information