



The DUNTROON DIGGER

September 2021

Editor: Mike Gray

Geoff Keeling, local farmer, has recently attended the Network Waitaki Power Trust AGM, and has supplied the following information for our readers. I believe there will be a number of local people who will qualify.....so please read this article now!

At the recent Waitaki Power Trust AGM there was a presentation from the Cosy Homes Trust regards a program run by the government called **Warmer Kiwi Homes**.

This Government **Warmer Kiwi Homes** program provides an **80% subsidy** to qualifying homes for UNDERFLOOR and CEILING insulation AND **The Cosy Homes Trust** funds the remaining **20%**

This **Cosy Homes Trust** is funded by various organisations including DCC, ORC, SDHB and relevant for the Waitaki - the Otago Community Trust.

To qualify you must;

own and live in your own home (not rent or be rented out) and

- built prior to 2008
- hold a community services card or a Super gold card with community services card combo.

If you qualify this is a FULL GRANT - it will not cost you anything and it does not need to be paid back.

If you meet the criteria above, they say contact the installers directly and they will take you through the process. In the Waitaki they are:

Absolute Energy - 0800 423 454

SmartEnergy Solutions - 0800 888 766

There is also a subsidy of up to 80% for a heating option up to \$3000 - provided you meet the same criteria as above PLUS you have insulation and you have NO OTHER functioning heat system such as heat pump, wood or pellet burner, flued gas heater or central heating system

For further information look up their website: cosyhomes.org.nz or contact Jeremy Baker at jeremy@cosyhomes.org.nz or 021 999 395

DDDA Notice

Due to Covid 19 restrictions there is no set dates for a Wetland working-bee and DDDA Committee meeting. The DDDA Committee meeting could probably meet under a zoom format.

LOCAL NEWS.

Duntroon Hotel News.

Hi all, this latest COVID outbreak is a huge setback for us all, but let's keep our fingers crossed that going hard and fast will get us all on top of it quickly.

Obviously we are closed while under Level 4, but we will be reopening as soon as we reach a level which enables us to do so and we will keep everyone posted.

When we do reopen, it will probably involve the same distancing and signing in rules as previously, but we all managed to do that okay last year and we can do it again.

Stay safe everyone.

The Team at Duntroon Hotel.

Below is an update on what is happening in the Duntroon area.

Toilets relocation - Pharmacy building has been demolished. We really appreciated the support from the Ahuriri Board and Councillor Ross McRobie. The project seems to be progressing, but COVID has applied an unwanted 'handbrake'!

Wetlands area – Always an ongoing project. A new metal sculpture is a recent addition.

Community gardens – Quiet through the winter with a couple of volunteers at each weekly working bee. Looking good for the spring. Has a core team of 6 regular volunteers with extras visiting to help on the Wednesday afternoon working bee's

Blacksmith – Prior to level 4 restrictions, regular Sunday training courses booked and tour groups visiting during the week. Have a trained blacksmith volunteer shortage. Opening again both weekend days from Labour weekend

Duntroon School - In a good place with a stable roll currently at 93

Community Hall - Prior to level 4, used regularly 3x a week by community groups plus occasional meeting, school and function use. Looking at Meridian and WDC community group funding for WIFI access for hall-users.

Duntroon Domain- Extremely quiet even compared to winter 2020. This year there appear to be virtually few visitors moving around. A high number of older NZ travellers in Feb / Mar and early April with campers or caravans with E-bikes, many staying multiple nights. Following closure from the January floods R & M being undertaken on doors, windows and flooring. Between busy builders and now Covid restrictions this has taken longer than expected. Local children's sport regularly played at the domain includes football and cricket.

Vanished World – We really appreciated the support and financial commitment from WDC LTP. Recent large Tour Groups are helping promote our Duntroon attractions.

General Comments: Having Duntroon within the Ahuriri Board has been a real bonus. We feel that the Waitaki Valley now has a common voice.

It has been a breath of fresh air to have the Ahuriri Board members show such a genuine interest in our town and issues by attending our meetings.

Apply now for Meridian's Power Up Community Fund

At Meridian, we're committed to doing good things with our energy. That means good for people, and good for the environment.

We're proud to back local projects in the communities around our wind farms and hydro stations with our Power Up fund.

With Power Up, your community has a say on what initiatives we support and fund. Managed by a panel of locals and Meridian staff, we're working together to build strong, sustainable communities.

Power Up Waitaki provides grants for projects in the Waitaki area, including Aoraki Mt Cook, Twizel, Omarama, Otematata, Kurow, Hakataramea, Duntroon, Ikawai, Papakaio and Glenavy.

How to apply

Applications for the next funding round are open until midnight on 26th September 2021.

For more information and to apply:

- visit meridian.co.nz/powerup
- email community.fund@meridianenergy.co.nz
- call 03 357 9732

