



The DUNTROON DIGGER

September edition 2019

Editor: Lynda Scott Araya

Greetings to all our Duntroon Digger readers,

While today is a very wild and windy day, it is heartening to see all the bulbs popping up at our house. As it is our first Spring at the property, it is exciting to see all the colour appearing, sometimes in the most unexpected of places. We are continuing to tidy up the section and to landscape. We have received some quotes from the arborist now for lowering the tops and tidying the branches of some of our big trees and the work will begin in September. We were also pleased to host six people on tour with the Will to Live project and to contribute a hamper to their auction. The issue of mental health and suicide awareness is a significant one for our family.

I have taken on the role of Secretary of the Waitaki Valley Community Society and am also busy helping to work with a writer on the history of the local area, and, particularly land ownership. I am also writing some work which I hope will be published in the future.

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



Signs of The Times

So there we were, outside the Vanished World Heritage Centre about to go in and have our monthly meeting, when a white van pulled up across the road and a man got out and proceeded to urinate up against a fence.

One committee member remonstrated with this offender, but they were met with insults.

The irony was, that on the agenda that night was the subject of another species' toilet behaviour, that being DOGS.

Increasing amounts of dog excrement was being found about the village and it was becoming a real issue throughout the wetlands. The volunteers at the wetlands are becoming wary of the "surprises" they encounter while working there.



Thank you to Jovy at Te Kohurau Restaurant for my special surprise coffee!





We are looking to employ a pool operator for this swimming season which will run from Term 4 2019 - Term 1 2020 (including the Christmas holidays). Full training will be given for this position.

We are also looking for a bus driver for our Eastern Road bus run. This position is due to start in September. The size of this bus means you would only be required to have a regular car licence.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact the school on: (03) 4312829 or email: office@duntroon.school.nz

Duntroon Hotel - A Progress Report:

We have now been open for 6 months and we would like to thank everyone for their patronage during that time, and to also let everyone know what is happening at Duntroon Hotel.

Our plans for renovating upstairs and the relevant consents are being processed at present. This has taken longer than we originally planned, and we are now anticipating being able to offer accommodation as early as we can in the new year.

In the meantime, however, Hayley (our friendly Bar Manager) and Damo (our Chef Extraordinaire) and the rest of our team are looking forward to welcoming everyone again this summer. We have had some great feedback on FaceBook, Trip Advisor and Google regarding our meals and service. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed there. Last summer, we had a fantastic mix of locals from as far afield as Oamaru as well as tourists from all over New Zealand and the world, many on cycles and the rest in cars or campervans. Of interest, are the car and motorcycle clubs which call in for a refreshing break on their journey. Everyone has a different story to tell. This year, we will be welcoming even more, as it will be our first full season. As the weather warms up and the number of people about increases, we will be increasing our opening hours back to 7 days, with earlier openings.

A lot of people are keeping in touch via our FaceBook page. As well as this, our website is now up and running. This will offer people easy access to information regarding our opening hours and contact details for bookings - see www.duntroonhotel.co.nz

DATES OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Working-bee Domain -ground works, general tidy up
10:00 a.m Saturday 7th September.

Next DDDA Committee Meeting:
7:00 p.m Thursday 12th September.

Next Wetland Working -bee:
10:00 a.m Saturday 28th September.

We will be doing more plant release, mulching and tidying up around the foot-loop as well as topping up the gravel at the ramp areas etc. Please bring gloves, a rake and a shovel.

A Visit from a Mayoral Candidate Included a Special Surprise

On Friday 23rd of August, Mayoral candidate, Paul Mutch, and his wife Robin, met with members of the Duntroon and District Association at the Duntroon Hotel for an informal get together with a view to meeting locals and learning about Duntroon.

After a chin wag and a much-appreciated coffee, Paul and Robin were given a guided tour of the attractions. Both were genuinely impressed by what had been achieved by members of our community.

The walk through the wetlands proved to be especially fortuitous.

Paul and Robin's knowledge of environmental issues was evident as we sauntered along and then, Robin came to a sudden halt. She then announced, that she had spied a Spotless Crake!!

Much excitement ensued as they explained that the Spotless Crake was a very rare species of bird that was seldom seen. Yet, there was one, Robin said hopping along the water's edge just before Rodney's bridge!!!

According to the Department of Conservation, the presence of Spotless Crakes "are a potential indicator of wetland health because they are dependent on the presence of high quality and ecologically diverse habitats and rich food supplies."

The Awarua-Waituna wetland complex in Southland is the most significant site in the South Island for these wee birds, so if we can establish that they are indeed in the Duntroon Wetlands, then we may have scored a real coup.

Someone is going to have go back and sit for a long time and see if they can get a photograph of it.

So, all in all, our visitors had a lovely time and some locals learned a few things too.

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/spotless-crake>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/spotless-crake-puweto/>

Karan Lawrence



A Spotless Crake



Paul Mutch, his wife Robin, and Owen King, Chairman of the DDDA, discuss plans for the restoration of the historic pharmacy in Duntroon.

WE ARE ON THE MOVE!

Feliz, Gifts & More will be moving to
18 Bledisoe Street

(Beside Wild Sage & Opposite Four Square)

The PO Boxes and NZ Post will also be moving but Box numbers will remain the same so no need for redirections.

We hope to be open at the new location
from 23rd September.

Any questions please just ask, 4360 575



**Our last day making coffee for sale will be Friday 6th September.
We apologise for any inconvenience.**



Will to Live

The Will to Live event at the Kurow Hotel on August 15th was very well-attended with approximately 100 people present. It was pleasing that there was a good write up in the paper as well.

Some really useful advice was given out and stories were shared both by the speakers and more informally.



Dogs preparing to break the silence at the Will to Live event.

~~~~~ HELP REQUIRED ~~~~~

From the Duntroon School Newsletter.

We are still requiring some help to dig a 600ml deep trench from the corner of the GP Room (where the playgroup is) along the back of the shipping container and the pool changing rooms to where the filtration shed is. This is to enable the electrical wiring to be put underground. The second job is to install some new fencing on either side of the shipping container.

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