

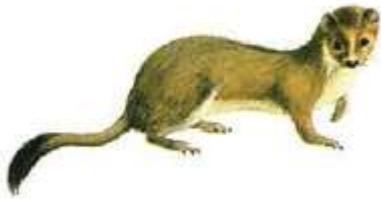


# The DUNTROON DIGGER

February edition 2019

Editor: Mike Gray

## Some Recent News.



**Pests** - A stoat was observed crossing the track near the Beryl Hey entrance. The DDDA got into action and two traps have been set. So far a hedgehog is the only victim. So be warned and keep your pet hedgehogs on a lead!

**A Gift** - A copy of the map of the Otekaike Station land allocations was donated by Hamish Gray to the DDDA. The map is of significance to locals, so Hamish thought it should be displayed locally. Perhaps it could be shown in the in the Chemist Shop building when it is refurbished. In the meantime it might be hung in the supper room of the Duntroon Hall?

**Cute wild life** – A covey of Quail were observed in the garden area near Vanished World Centre last week. It would be great to hear of any further sightings. Perhaps you might hear their call - “McPherson”. Katrina also spied the quail family near the Town Sign – 2 Adults and about 13- 15 young ones.

**Thank You David:** The latest Oamaru Mail will have informed you all that David Eckhardt, is stepping down as Duntroon Volunteer Fire Brigade Chief Fire Officer. We acknowledge David’s significant service to those in need in our community over the many years that he has been a member of the Duntroon Brigade.

Go Well David, with a big **THANK YOU** from us all.

(The cartoon on the right is one done by Burns Pollock and published in the Duntroon Digger December 2015 along with an article celebration 51 years of service provided by the volunteers from our very own brigade.)



## Next DDDA Committee Meeting

6:00 p.m. Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>, February 2019, at Vanished World Centre.



Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust invite you to attend a Public Presentation by

## **PATRICK McKEEVER**

**OAMARU OPERA HOUSE  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm.**

Patrick is coming to advise the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust on ways to strengthen its application for membership of the UNESCO Global Geopark Network.

Professor Patrick McKeever was instrumental in establishing the first Global Geoparks in 2000. Head of Ecological and Earth Sciences at UNESCO and advisor to the Global Geopark Network, he has undertaken numerous expert missions, advising countries on every continent regarding the creation of UNESCO Global Geoparks. In New Zealand as a guest of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust, this talk will allow Patrick to share his knowledge of geoparks worldwide, his impressions of ours, and what it means for our district.



Gardener required for large garden In Duntroon.

Flexible days & hours to suit.

**Phone or text Rachel Gard 4312803 or 0274428964**



## **Nicol's Blacksmith Shop, DUNTROON**

Working Blacksmith 10 a m – 3 pm each  
Saturday and Sunday

**Tool Sharpening Days are**

**Sundays Feb 10<sup>th</sup> , March 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> :**

Bring knives + gardening tools. More details: [www.blacksmith.net.nz](http://www.blacksmith.net.nz)

### **Report from Duntroon Wetland working-bee held on 19<sup>th</sup> , January 2019**

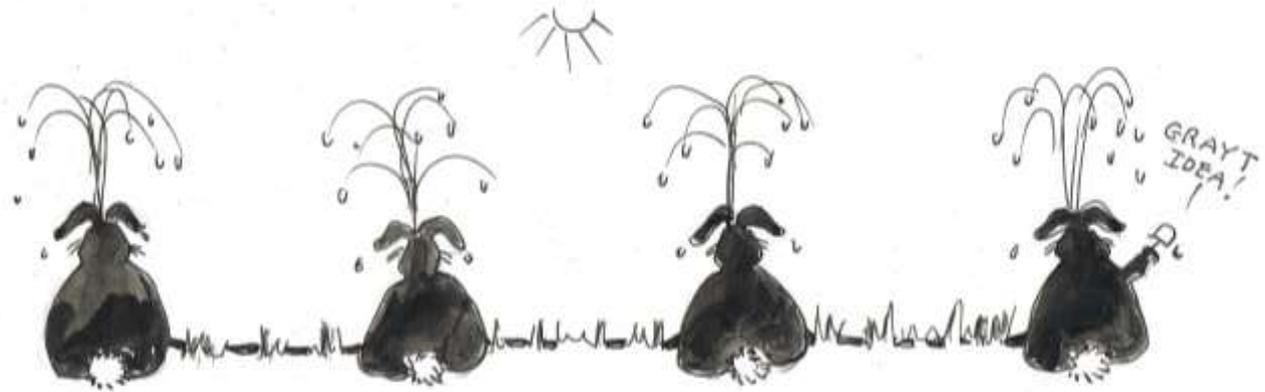
There were quite a lot of plants extracted from long grass around the spring area. More Manuka was found and doing very well. What with the past two months bringing more than the usual rain and then the heat, the growth on most of the plants are staggering to say the least. Thank you to John, Owen , Daniel, Karan, Isobel and Imogen for helping out on the day.

Owen King.

**Moles in Duntroon?** – Yes there are a lot of holes and dirt mounds popping up around town. It appears that Fibre Optics will soon be available.

I believe that the latest in adventure tourism in Duntroon is to stare down the holes and scratch your head at the same time. If anyone has photos of locals enjoying this pastime please forward them on to the editor.

The photo on the right shows the hole, but no sign of the person peering into the hole!



**This story is continued from the last edition of the Duntroon Digger (December 2018)**

In 1974 by advice from their solicitors and accountant that the administration of the yards should be formed into a company, this was duly done and it was called the Duntroon Saleyards Company.

In 1975 the funds in the bank of the company were nearly \$6000 so it was certainly quite a revenue earner with up to four sales per summer season. Over the years the yards were maintained by various farmers, mainly the directors, and in 1984 a section of land on the western boundary was purchased off the transport company Waitaki Holdings and this enabled a further 16 sheep pens to be built. The cattle yards down behind where the toilets are now had been removed a number of years earlier and that area had further sheep yards built on it. The capacity of the yards by now was in excess of 13000 and on a number of occasions the yards were filled to capacity and one year there were so many sheep brought to be sold that some were left on the trucks until some were sold to allow the pens to be used a second time.

A welcome fundraiser for the Anglican Church, which was totally reliant on the sale day, was providing the morning teas and lunches from a small area of land at the eastern end of the Anglican Church. It is fair to say there was a certain amount of competition amongst the ladies as to who could provide the best baking to butter up the stock agents. Their cups of tea or coffee were also most appreciated by the truck drivers and farmers as well. They had a small hut probably a relic of the construction of the Waitaki dam where about 6-8 dedicated women beavered away making sandwiches and providing tea and coffee to those people who had arrived very early to

get the stock organised for the sale. In the later days of the sales, the stock had to be yarded the night before the sale day so that the stock agents had time to get them sorted and into their pens.

Another business that did particularly well was the pub where I am sure many farmers found the banter there considerably more interesting than the actual stock sale.

So from the early 50's through to 1998 the sale yards were very much a part of the farming industry of the district, and Duntroon community, with sheep being drawn from around the Duntroon /Tokarahi area as well as the Hakataramea Valley. I understand that earlier in the century there were weekly sales held there but as the minute book only starts in 1952 there is no record of this.

With reducing number of sheep due to the growth of the dairy industry the stock coming to the sales got less and less and the last sale held there was in 1996. After 2 years of no sales to 'see what happens' it was decided by the directors with consultation with the stock firms to close the yards permanently and sell off the assets. The yards were sold by tender and removed and then the land was sold also by tender. The toilets are still owned by the land owner but are leased to the Waitaki District Council .Probably the only privately owned public toilets in the country.

Once the yards and land were sold along with reserves held by the company there was over \$24000.00 in the bank.

After considerable debate it was agreed by the then directors to place the money in a 'Trust' and it be called the Duntroon Saleyards Charitable Trust and that \$1000 from the interest earned from the money invested in the trust be paid to a student leaving high school and going on to a University or Polytechnic{Tertiary Education}. In the first year of the scholarship being in operation 1999 there were 11 applicants.

Over the following 15 years the scholarship has been run every year but in the later years the applicants have been very few and if I had not gone out and canvassed for applicants some years there wouldn't have been any applicants at all and the trustees had serious reservations as to whether the scholarship should continue. Last year, the first year the scholarship was not advertised or run, there was only one enquiry and as well as the fact that the interest on the money that was invested was not enough to cover the advertising and \$1000 for the actual scholarship it was decided to terminate the scholarship.

So it was a combination of factors that made the trustees come to the decision they did.

So what to do with the money held by the trust.

The trustees were at complete liberty to do what they liked with it but after considerable discussion by the trustees and our lawyer it was decided to do the following, taking into account that the saleyards where the money originally came from was an asset of Duntroon it was decided to do the following.

The money to be divided into 3 and the Duntroon Hall , Duntroon Blacksmith Trust, Duntroon Development Association be given an equal amount of \$8383.00 each.

So that ends an era of the saleyards which for over 65 years played an important role in the history of Duntroon and the surrounding district.