



The DUNTROON DIGGER

July edition 2018

Editor: Mike Gray

How time flies!

Some of you may remember back about 18 years, when the rural community felt very vulnerable. There were the regular periodic droughts, a number of rural schools were closing and there was a feeling of uncertainty as to the future of Duntroon.

A public meeting was called and the issues discussed. Who was going to save our school and town? The answer was clear – no one, other than the community itself!

So was born the Duntroon & District Development Association and Vanished World Inc. There was the Project Aqua proposal which managed to polarise some and later irrigation arrived along with a different land use.

Today, we have a village with its own distinct and unique character, that others are sometimes envious of. We have a wetland and an A2O Cycle Trail. The blacksmith shop is 'alive' on most weekends (winter excepted) and Vanished World welcomes visitors each day of the year. And we are all rejoicing at the sight of the building progress at the Duntroon Hotel.

But one key element of a town is its school. And we can proudly say we still have our school. This is due to the willingness of the community to support it by serving on the Board and/or joining the Home & School, which is where this article is heading. Yes, it is AGM time again. Don't assume others will carry on and you need not bother. We all need to 'do our bit' and take our turn. New members bring new ideas and enthusiasm – this annual renewal is a sign of strong community life.

Some people are slow to volunteer so why not invite a neighbour to come along to the upcoming AGM.

Duntroon School - Home & School

Annual General Meeting

All school parents are invited to attend the upcoming AGM. The home and school is the engine room for fundraising for our school. A great way to meet new members of our school community and make a valuable contribution to the school and our children. A short meeting will be held on

Thursday 5 July 2018 at 7pm, Room 1, Duntroon School.

This will be followed by Trail Ride Meeting at 7.30pm

Duntroon Public Meeting Report

On Saturday June 9th a group of 50 people came to the Duntroon Hall to hear a presentation outlining what is meant by the term “geopark” and how the proposed Waitaki Whitestone Geopark is likely to stimulate economic development throughout the Waitaki District.

Once established, the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark will be promoted as a destination with a mixture of special geological features and unique marine fossils of International significance. We already have some very popular sites like the Clay Cliffs, Moeraki Boulders and more recently Elephant Rocks.

We have stories to share with visitors, whether they relate to the early Maori settlements at the mouth of the Waitaki River or their travels through the area, where they left their drawings on the limestone cave walls. The river mouth is the source of the renowned Willetts’ Collection of Maori artefacts.

There is the renowned “Whitestone” that typifies the district and led to that unique Neo-classical Architecture of Oamaru and the building of our unique Victorian harbour. The districts agricultural story begins with the large farming estates that brought wealth to the region and the success of the first frozen meat shipment from Totara Estate that changed nature of farming throughout the country.

Tourism will be an important growth area. Many repeat overseas visitors look for “New Tourism Products” and hopefully we will have both Tourism NZ and Air New Zealand supporting the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark as a “New Product”.

Fergus Power addressed the group and the audience seemed pleased with what he said. Most people stayed for tea/coffee and a chat, even though it was a cold night and the All Blacks were playing the French in a Test Match.

So, on behalf of Vanished World Inc, a sincere thank you to those who supported us by attending the meeting. There is still a lot of work to be done, and you can help by.....

Support

Vanished World and the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark

by attending a fundraising movie event

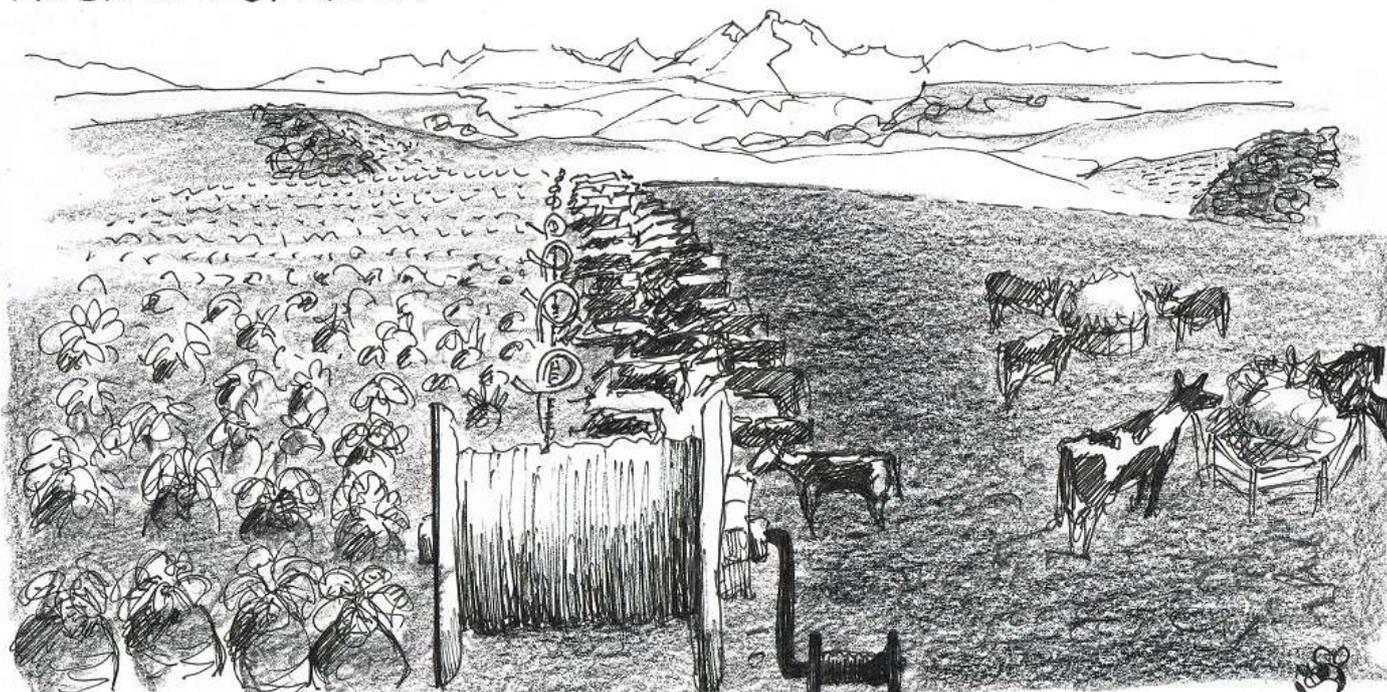
at Limelight Cinema on Saturday August 4th at 7.45pm

Gaylene Preston’s Film “My Year with Helen”

Helen Clark is a Patron of VW and hopefully she will be attending the screening and take a Q & A session at the conclusion of the movie. Tickets \$15 each, should be purchased prior to the movie, as seating is limited to 150 people. Tickets will be sold from Vanished World Centre in Duntroon and Limelight Cinema in Oamaru.



ROLL ON SPRING



WANTED

Someone to edit the September and
October editions of the
“**Duntroon Digger**”

while I am overseas on a holiday.

Otherwise there will be no publications until
November.

Phone: 434 2565 or email ddda@xtra.co.nz

Next DDDA Committee Meeting :

6 pm Thursday 12th July at Vanished
World.

Next Working Bee:

Saturday 28th July at 10.00 am
at THE PHARMACY building

Bring along gloves, wheel-barrows,
spades.

(No working bee at wetlands this month.)

Owen King, Chairman DDDA.

June edition's question:

Have you noticed the two new concrete slabs on the North side of Hwy 83 – one opposite the hotel and the other opposite the blacksmith shop. What do you think they are for?

ANSWER: Cycle Stands!



VISIT VANISHED WORLD

School Holidays are one week away!
(7th – 22nd July)

Why not bring your family to Vanished World Centre, Duntroon

See ancient fossils and 'dig a fossil' to take home and treasure.

Bring this advertisement for a 50% reduction on admission charges.

Children are free.



July Edition Question:

Congratulations to "The Thunder" on his win on Saturday night. Glad to see the 'local lad' perform so well.

Question: Just who is "The Thunder"?