



# The DUNTROON DIGGER

June edition 2018

Editors: Mike Gray

## **Meridian Waitaki Power Up Community Fund**

Earlier this year Vanished World Inc submitted a proposal to the Meridian Waitaki Power Up Community Fund.

The Waitaki Power Up Community Fund advisory panel reviewed our application on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and recently informed us that our project was granted support from the Meridian Power Up Community Fund to the total value of \$3,400. This funding is to purchase 2 educational work stations for viewing “diatoms” through microscopes with the image seen on a computer screen.

This is another step towards making the Vanished World Centre a true “Discovery Centre” for young and old.

## **Winter is here!**





### **A Progress Report on the proposed 'Waitaki Whitestone Geopark'.**

Last month saw the Project Group send a very professional Expression of Interest to Wellington to be assessed by an Expert Advisory Panel on behalf of the NZ National Commission for UNESCO.

If we are successful with our Expression of interest then the real task of preparing our Centre, an expanded Trail and a strong documented case for admission to the UNESCO Global Geopark Network has begun. So 'roll up your sleeves', there is still work ahead.

On the next page you will see an invitation to attend a presentation in the Duntroon Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup>. It would be really great to have a large turnout of locals to this event, which will provide you with a chance to acknowledge the determination and dedication of a visionary group of locals who established Vanished World back in the year 2000. Seventeen years later, their vision is not only a reality, but it is about to be embraced by the whole district as it is hopefully transformed into New Zealand's first Geopark. What an achievement!

During the evening you will get an understanding of the key elements that collectively form a UNESCO Geopark. You will be impressed at the variety and quality of what this district has to be proud of.

Fergus Power (Chief Executive WDC) will present an outline of the process required in being accepted as a member of the UNESCO Global Geopark Network. There are currently 140 such Geoparks in 38 countries, the majority of which are in the Northern Hemisphere.. If we are successful in meeting their stringent conditions we could be the very first one in New Zealand. The potential for the whole district is enormous. I promise you, Fergus will impress with his vision and passion for this project.

As a community, we invite you to share in our achievement, and help plan the future of our very own Geopark. We welcome your questions and want you to help us explore the myriad of opportunities that will present themselves.

Tourism New Zealand will tell you that our overseas visitors are looking for new experiences. They are not looking for more bungy jumps or adventure tourism. They are looking to discover the 'Real New Zealand' and that is what this district has in abundance.

So turn off the TV, bring your family and neighbours to the Duntroon Hall (the heaters will be on!) and share in the excitement and achievement of your fellow locals who have literally 'made a difference' to their community, and left a legacy for the whole district. That is an achievement worth sharing and celebrating.

*Mike Gray, chairman of VW and member of the Geopark Project Group.*

Vanished World Inc.

Invites the local community to a

**“Waitaki Whitestone Geopark” Presentation**

In Duntroon Hall at 7.30 pm on SATURDAY JUNE 9<sup>th</sup>

Fergus Power (WDC Chief Executive) will address the meeting.

Come and find out how this project will help grow economic development in our district. The

Hall will be warm - Supper will follow.

It is our district – It is our future – It is our Geopark – It is our time to shine. .

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. I suggest you watch them closely for a construction upon each one!

What do you think they are for?

- A 'charging point' for electric cars?
- A Duntroon Visitor Centre?
- A Meridian Energy Wind Tower?

A 'hop scotch' pad? (We could do with one of those!)

## Community Pot Luck Dinner

To be held at the Tokarahi Hall  
on 29th June from 6 pm

Bring: Pot Luck meal to share

Finger food desert

BYO + glasses

Crockery & Cutlery provided

A great opportunity for all families to meet the  
locals and people new to the district.

Gold coin donation.

**DDDA committee meeting:**

**6 pm June 14<sup>th</sup>** at Vanished World Centre.

Followed by a Wetland Meeting at 7 pm.

**Wetland Working –Bee**

**10.00 a.m. Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup>**

More plant release work, mulching and  
mowing.

Please bring along spade, grubber, gloves.

Owen King.

## AN OPPORTUNITY



**Would you be interested in a FREE warm workspace  
with phone and internet access ?**

In return, we ask you to be a host at Vanished World Centre  
from 10 am to 4 pm. ( You won't be busy – it is winter!)

Days are flexible – by mutual arrangement.

Where? – Vanished World Centre, DUNTROON.

Interested? Contact Mike Gray on 434 2565 or [tokarahi@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tokarahi@xtra.co.nz)