



The DUNTROON DIGGER

October edition 2017

Editors: Mike Gray and Jo Todd

Have you read about Duntroon lately?

People often tell me they see Duntroon in the news quite often. My reply is “because it is a happening place” – by that I mean the locals make it happen!

As I write this editorial I note references to Duntroon in Saturday’s (Oct 30th) ODT. Matt King’s Moa Bike (Article and photo on page 21) refers to his “Moa sculpture at Duntroon”. Then an article on P23 about the WDC’s economic benefit study on Steam Punk is to be reshaped and “could... include Duntroon’s geology and fossil based Vanished World and the Alps to Ocean cycle trail.”

Then in mid-September there was a story in the ODT on the VW “Short Rides and Walk Event” on Saturday Sep 16th.

The ‘Unique Stories’ film screening, held at the Oamaru Opera House on Friday evening September 8th, showed how much creative talent there is in Waitaki when it comes to movie making and telling stories about the district. Guess who the winners were?

The winners were:

School category: *Fossils and Frolicks* by North Otago Home Education

12-18 Year Old category: *Penguin Tracks* by Joseph Newton

Open Professional category: *Altitude Surveying - My Unique Story* by Damien McNamara

So Vanished World featured in the “Fossils and Frolicks” film. And now we are about to have the opportunity to see some of Damien McNamara’s work. He will present some work to interested people following the DDDA AGM (Thursday 26th, October ,7.00 p.m at Duntroon Hall..) You may recall that Damien gave us “bird’s eye view” of the flooding in and around Oamaru. His drone footage of the flooding that was featured on *Seven Sharp* at the time..

News of the Duntroon Hotel: (courtesy of new owners)

Our first month of owning the Hotel has been very productive. We have enjoyed meeting many of the local people who have called in to introduce themselves and welcome us, many to offer us assistance where required. This has been much appreciated. We are presently working with the Waitaki District Council, the Draughtsman and the Engineer to have the building up and running as soon as we can. It is still too soon to announce opening dates though. More news of progress to follow as we have some.

Omarama's High Country Garden tour on Saturday 28th October from 10am to 4pm.

Those heading on Omarama's High Country Garden tour next month are in for a rare treat. The tour is the first step in a major drive to raise about \$200,000 for an outdoor sports facility for the town. It will be a one-off opportunity for garden enthusiasts to view these gardens – nine in all. The challenge of gardening in the high country has resulted in some remarkable and creative solutions – each gardener has their own story to tell. Food and refreshments will be available to buy throughout the day. For those passionate locavores Ben Ohau Road Cheese and Ostler Wines will be selling wine and platters. And there will be no need to “bring a plate”, although you're welcome to bring a picnic lunch. In best high-country style our own Wrinkly Rams will be serving Devonshire tea on the lawn at Buscot. Artists, all with local connections, will have work on display at Benmore Station. Raffle tickets for hampers loaded with garden-themed goodies – beautiful and handy – will be sold throughout the day. The day culminates in an auction at Omarama Station. Businesses have generously donated some amazing items to the cause. Among the many; the Hermitage has donated a night's accommodation and a delicious breakfast for two, Helicopter Line has given a premier scenic flight for two over Mt Cook and the glaciers - a trip of a lifetime!

Omarama's High Country Garden Tour

10am to 4pm, Saturday, October 28,
the auction begins at Omarama Station at 3.30pm

Tickets are available from GlenCraigs Omarama, LJ Hooker, Twizel, FMG Oamaru
or phone these contacts: **Jemma Gloag 021 275 3662** **Georgie Robertson 027 486 1525**
Like the facebook page: www.facebook.com/highcountrygardentour for regular updates.

Next DDDA Committee Meeting Thursday 12th, October 6.00 pm at Vanished World Centre.

You are invited to attend

Duntroon & District Development Association's A.G.M

on Thursday 26th, October 7.00 pm at the Duntroon Hall.

Following this short meeting, we are pleased to welcome

Damien McNamara

who will present a comprehensive view on drone use around the district.

This should be very interesting evening.

A light supper will end the evening. Will we see you there?

WDC is seeking feedback on the issue of

Easter Sunday Shop Trading

The Issue

Central Government has given Councils the right to have a policy allowing more businesses to open on Easter Sunday – should we adopt this policy, or keep the status quo?

More information

For more information go to www.waitaki.govt.nz.
Alternatively pick up information at Council offices in Oamaru or Palmerston or our libraries.

Deadline

Deadline for your feedback is Wednesday
18 October.

The latest on the Duntroon Toilets?

The following update comes from Mark Burgher, Projects and Assets Officer, WDC.

“Since our last meeting, Council has discovered that the land for the proposed toilet block belongs to LINZ. We are going down the road of making application to purchase the land under the PWA. This process may take anything from 1 to 2 years. The NZTA has just approved our application to make a vehicle entrance crossing off SH83. The vehicle exit point into Harris St has also been approved by the WDC

On the 9 August Council conducted soil permeability tests to ascertain the type of disposal field required. The results were sent to the Engineer so as to be available when the time comes to progress the project further.

In the meantime Council has informed MBIE as to our delays and has requested an extension of time for the funding grant to remain available.”

Working Bee @ the Duntroon Wetlands

On Saturday the 23rd. 10 people came down to the Wetland to plant, prune, mulch and weed. About 200 bronze tussocks, broadleaf, pittosporum and cabbage trees were planted. Some protectors were put on, but the rest will have to wait for more to come from Christchurch.

It was good to see most of the gorse, broom and willow cut and pasted, and some blackberry and willow sprayed. Great to chat while we work and meet new people.

Great comments about what we've achieved from a group of visitors from Vanished World the week before.

Well done everybody.

John Hore

The photo to the right is not of the wetlands!
It shows VW personnel at the Hakatarmea Quarry.



Duntroon Village Market...re-opening for the summer

- Saturday 21st October 11am till 2pm
- local arts, crafts and produce
- sites still available. \$2...phone: Maureen 4312004
- also in conjunction with Nicol's Blacksmith a fund raising 'sausage sizzle' will be held.

So if you are having that spring clean out that you have been promising yourself...put it the car boot and bring it on down..as they say "one man's trash is another man's treasure".

Nicol's Blacksmith Shop Duntroon

Live blacksmith days from 10am – 3pm Saturdays and Sundays
(from Labour Day Weekend till Queen's Birthday Weekend.)

Visit our website for more details: www.blacksmith.net.nz
Contact: Mike Gray 03 434 2565 nbht@xtra.co.nz



I'll leave the final word to our cartoonist

