



# the Duntroon DIGGER

Established 2005

September/October 2024 Edition

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## The 150th Anniversary for Duntroon in 2025

Community members who are keen to be part of a sub committee involved in helping to organise the 150th anniversary for Duntroon in 2025 please be in contact via The Digger.  
Email: [duntroondigger@gmail.com](mailto:duntroondigger@gmail.com)



### Karan Lawrence

We graciously thank Karan Lawrence, a dedicated member of our local Duntroon community, for her unwavering dedication to our town's growth and development. In light of her contributions Coral, our Duty Manager, presented her with a sizable meat pack, generously donated by Bidfood Timaru through a sponsorship agreement in support of the Inaugural Rattling Rocks Gig.

We hope this gesture demonstrates our appreciation for Karan's commitment to our community and provides some solace during these trying times.

Russell Arthur

## Duntroon Grafting Workshop:

Sunday 15th of September 1pm-3pm with Donal Ferguson from NZ Tree Crops Association.  
Meet outside Duntroon school gates. Cost \$35 which includes the grafted tree. If you wish to have a 2nd grafted tree ( heritage stock) the cost is an extra \$18.  
Contact for further info: text Gill 0212301452

## Dates to remember:

Next meeting of the Duntroon and District Development Assoc (DDDA)  
9th September at Vanished World 7pm.

Duntroon Wetlands working bee 14th September. Meet at the information kiosk at 10am.

**"We're coming back with a bang at the Rattling Rock Bar and Restaurant"**

**on the 5th  
OCTOBER  
t.o' k.e.  
will be  
RATTLING  
the rafters  
with some  
AMAZING  
SOUNDS.**



*Tickets numbers limited to 120. \$25 per ticket with all proceeds going to the band.*

*We will supply a Continuous Supper in a Secure Safe Environment.*

*Call Russell on 027-9510215 or pop into THE DUNTROON HOTEL.*

## Duntroon - the Place to Be!

Come to Duntroon for an enjoyable holiday !

# DUNTROON HOTEL



Table is absolutely First Class, and guests find Accommodation comfortable and refined. Best Ales, Wines, Spirits and Liquors. Meals at all hours.  
— Free Garage for Light Cars. —

Trout and Quinnt Salmon Fishing within half-mile of Hotel. Splendid Duck Shooting. Hare Drives organised throughout the Winter.

TARIFF: 8/- per day.    ::    Phone 2    ::    A. T. ROSS, Proprietor.

From the New Zealand Motorist's Road Guide (South Island) Pg.234,15th Edition, 1935

## Duntroon Photography Group News

The Duntroon Photography group had an excellent evening on the 15th of August at Richard and Janice White's home. The members of the group reviewed photos from a variety of locations. There were photos from the recent trip to the Mackenzie Country as well as photos from Thailand and Fiordland, along with local scenes.

It was a pleasure to welcome a new member to the group. Dranreb Evangelista Manangkil has a real flair for photography and, while working on a local dairy farm keeps him very busy, he does take time to capture the beauty around him. His interest in astrophotography intrigued the other members and has inspired them to give it a go. Check out his images on the group's Facebook page.

The group is planning to visit the Oamaru Gardens on the 7th of September at 10:00 AM. Feel free to join us.

On the subject of photographs, recently local resident Steve Smith hired a cherry picker so that he could attend to some alterations to his working area behind the Vanished World Centre.

This was too good an opportunity to be missed by another local and before the cherry picker was returned to the hire firm, the picker was situated on the village green in a position to replicate a photo taken of Duntroon township in the early 1920s.

The old railway station on the right is the point of reference because trees now obscure so much of the town. We can only speculate what Duntroon will look like one hundred years from now.



# Apply now for Meridian's Power Up Community Fund

At Meridian, we only generate from 100% renewable resources: wind, water, and sun. We're committed to doing good things with our energy. That means good for people, and good for the environment.

We're proud to back local projects in the communities around our wind farms and hydro stations with our Power Up fund.

With Power Up, your community has a say on what initiatives we support and fund. Managed by a panel of locals and Meridian staff, we're working together to build strong, sustainable communities.

Power Up Waitaki provides grants for projects in Aoraki/ Mount Cook, Twizel, Omarama, Otematata, Kurow, Hakataramea, Duntroon, Ikawai, Papakaio, Glenavy.

## How to apply

Applications for the next funding round are open until midnight on 22 September 2024.

For more information and to apply:

visit [meridian.co.nz/pu-waitaki](https://meridian.co.nz/pu-waitaki)

email us [community.fund@meridianenergy.co.nz](mailto:community.fund@meridianenergy.co.nz)

call 03 357 9732

**Do you know of a community project that's working to reduce carbon emissions? Visit [meridian.co.nz](https://meridian.co.nz) and search "Decarb fund" for more information.**



# Historic Duntroon: St Martin's Church, a Gothic Gem

by Anne Phillips-Vira

In this edition, I return to the little architectural masterpiece that many of us see daily "rising out of the rough ground" (Choy, 1989 p.32) in the middle of Duntroon.

Over the past few months, I have stumbled across some interesting facts around the historical context and design of St Martin's Duntroon. My curiosity led me to a search for information on the link between the Scottish Campbell name and the English church in Duntroon. According to Choy (1989) Duntroon's architectural gem took its name from a "similar Anglican church at Duntrune in Scotland" (p.32).

I searched online for evidence of a church named after St Martin in the Duntrune/Argyll area. I found a Scottish Episcopal Church called St Colomba, which was originally built on the Poltallach Estate, Argyll in 1854. The interior view of the church and some elements of the exterior bear a remarkable resemblance to St Martin's Duntroon. Interestingly the land upon which the St Colomba

chapel is built was once owned by the Campbells but passed to the Malcolms in 1562. According to an online source (The Castles of Scotland, n.d), the Malcolms now live at Duntrune Castle, the historical home of the Campbells.



*St Colomba's, Poltallach (Mackie, 2020) Argyll, Scotland*



*Above: The nave, St Colomba's (Malcolm, 1987)*



*Left: The nave, St Martin's, Duntroon*

Another church in Argyll, Kilmartin Parish Church, was built in 1834/5, and bears the name of St Martin in Scottish Gaelic (Colmcille.org, n.d). This is probably the church to which Choy was referring in his ODT article (1989). The graveyard at Kilmartin Church is the location of the Campbell tomb where Bishop Neil Campbell was interred in @ 1627 (WoSAS, 2020). So, the connection between St Martin’s Duntroon and the two churches in Scotland seems related to the history of the Campbell empire in Argyll and the Campbell family relationship to the Scottish Episcopal Church.



*Kilmartin Church (Nolan, 2006)*

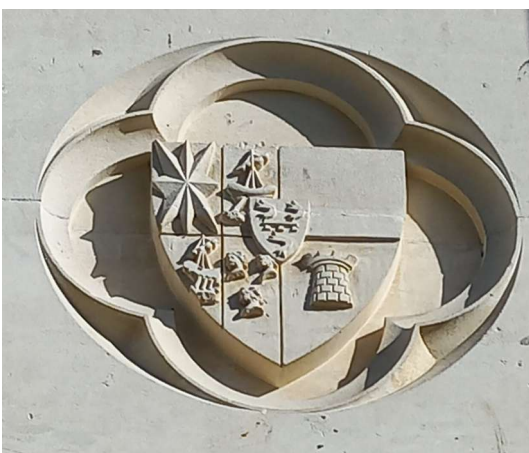


*Neil Campbell tomb (Burgess, 2009)*

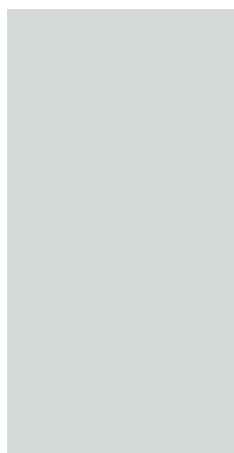
St Martin’s Duntroon was designed by Thomas Cane in 1899 (Knight, 1993). Cane was a Sussex born artist and architect who was to become Canterbury’s provincial architect in 1875. The plans for the church were submitted to the parishioners in 1899 (St Martin’s Duntroon, 1901). Cane was seemingly inspired by the 14th century Gothic style of architecture. His earlier designs also reflect this style including those of the Lyttleton Time Ball Station and Christchurch Girls High School (National Library of New Zealand, n.d).

The various parts of the church include the nave (the seating area), chancel (area which contains the altar), vestry (office/changing area for the vicar), organ chamber and bell tower. Special features include an ornate timber ceiling, a Rose window in the west wall, a font carved out of Oamaru stone which stands on wrought bluestone (also known as basaltic building stone), beautifully tiled floors and detailed carvings.

The Oamaru stone carvings are a stand-out feature. The stone was quarried from Perry’s Totara quarry and John Menzies of Maheno “supervised the cutting and carving” (Choy, 1989, p.32) of

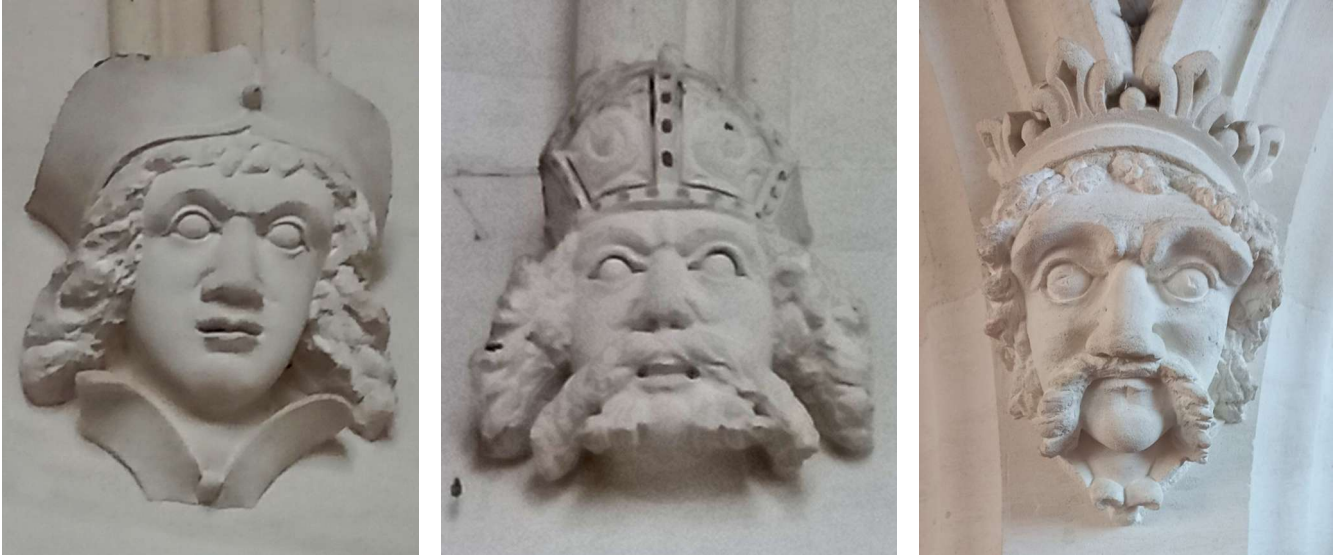


*Campbell Coat of Arms*



*Otago Diocese Coat of Arms*

the designs which were created by Thomas Cane. Mr Baird of South Dunedin (Knight, 1993) executed the carving. On the right side above the front entrance is the Campbell coat of arms and on the left side is the Otago Diocese coat of arms. Inside the church above the entrance to the chancel are the carvings of two, presumably, English kings. Another is located above the entrance to the vestry. I would be fascinated to discover exactly who these carvings represent.



*The three kings, St Martin's Duntroon*

In terms of its importance to the district, St Martin's has inherited hymn books, a large bible, and an altar cover from the Ngapara and Kurow Anglican churches. It has also inherited pew cushions, a church organ and a stained-glass window from the former St Magnus Presbyterian Church in Duntroon.

Sadly, in the past few years nesting pigeons have taken over the bell tower resulting in internal damage to the tower and blockage of the spouting which has, in turn, caused water damage to some internal walls. Urgent repairs are now needed to help maintain the structural integrity of the church. Services are rarely held there nowadays due to demographic change in the district. The absence of a congregation now makes the funding of repairs very difficult to achieve. However, it's encouraging to meet visitors from the A20 cycle trail and many passers-by who marvel at its beauty and express a desire to see it repaired. To those readers who haven't yet been inside the church, I would highly recommend a visit and a look with discerning eyes at the carvings, ceilings and all the architectural attributes that this amazing church has to offer. My hope is that we might spread the word on this Campbell legacy and perhaps help to preserve it. Contributions for its repair can be made at the donation box in the nave of the church, or by contacting Alison Simpson on 03 437 2529 or emailing Anne at [duntroondigger@gmail.com](mailto:duntroondigger@gmail.com) for bank account details.

I will finish with a quote from The Oamaru Mail (1901) which reads as follows: "It is impossible to say how many generations would use it as a place of worship. St Martin's Duntroon would remind them ... of those who had ... remembered and labored (sic) for the foundation of the church. There would be the memory of the village churches of the dear Homeland: and the new building would remind them too of [Robert Campbell] of Otekaieke" (p.4).

Thank you to Alison Simpson for providing much of the background information for this article.

NOTE: References Overleaf

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## Young Lady Walks into 60ft Deep Fissure Unawares

A young lady residing at Duntroon (North Otago) met with a remarkable mishap a few days ago. She had been seen walking along the road reading a book, and was subsequently missed. A search party was formed. After searching every likely place in the neighbourhood the party directed their attention to what are known as "earthquakes"— deep fissures in limestone near Duntroon —and eventually the lady was found at the bottom of a fissure 60ft deep. In some places the fissures are overgrown with vegetation, and evidently the lady, deeply absorbed in her book, had walked into a fissure unawares. Her fall was partially broken by the narrowness of the cavity, and the ledges on the sides, and it is not thought that she has been seriously injured.

*This story appeared in the New Zealand Times, Volume XXVIII, Issue 5927, 16 June 1906, Page 14 Would anybody happen to know who this young lady was? The question has been asked, but no one seems to know .*

### Women's Wellness/Awareness Evening

The Tokarahi Rural Women's Group are holding an evening with Marja Captijn, Registered Nurse, with a Post-Grad in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Marja is also a personal trainer/movement coach, and a yoga teacher. Marja's presentation will be focusing on perimenopause, and menopause, helping women understand what is happening to them, and offering some tools to cope with some of the challenges they may be experiencing.

This evening will be held at the Ngapara Sports Body Rooms (the rugby clubrooms), on the 17th of October 2024, from 7-9pm.

Cost is \$30.00 P.P, Supper will be provided.

**For any queries, please contact Liz Hutton on 034312880, or 0273081101.**



## Aurora Photographs



Photo of the Duntroon Hotel by Sonya Pickles



Photo at Elephant Rocks taken by Dranreb Evangelista Manangkil.