

Duntroon Digest June 2025

In the May edition of the Duntroon Digest, it was reported that a team from the Duntroon Volunteer Fire Brigade were taking on the Sky Tower Challenge, in Auckland on May the 24th. Well, they went, they climbed, they conquered!

Team Captain Richard Wills reports that “Despite facing some equipment failures on the day, the team showed true grit and determination, with a couple of firefighters pulling out exceptional performances to conquer the 1,103-step climb.”

The team consisted of Richard Wills, Mark Frear, Mark Strachan, Sarah Todd and Jamie Deans and together they raised an impressive \$11,642 for Leukemia & Blood Cancer NZ. To quote Richard Wills again “Their commitment, camaraderie, and community spirit made Duntroon proud — an inspiring reminder of the heart behind our local brigade”.

Meanwhile.... the next generation are learning some new skills at Duntroon School that will prove invaluable to our local environment. Teacher Aide, Lou Tait, has introduced the school trapping program for year seven and eight pupils. Known as Duntroon Kaitiaki Kids Collective, the program teaches the pupils to place tracking pads about and then compare the footprints with those on tracking cards to determine which animals are within the area.

Some animals are pests, so the pupils are being taught to build traps. Here again, the community has become involved and generously provided materials and skills to help the collective. Honourable mention goes to Grant Tremewan, Paul Grant, Otto Dogterom and Paul King.

The results of the monitoring and trapping are uploaded to the following sites, Give a Trap <https://giveatrap.org.nz/groups/duntroon-kaitiak> and trapnz (<https://www.trap.nz/project/28910399/info>).

Planning by the Duntroon and District Development Assn is well under way for the commemoration of 150 years since Duntroon township was first established. This celebration will take place at Labour weekend, and several activities have been penciled in. Such as a market day, a potluck lunch or dinner, a commemorative service at St Martin’s Church, the introduction of a heritage trail and the inaugural traveling of it, the opening of the restored Sexton’s Shed and other activities.

Exact dates and times are yet to be confirmed as there is still much to be done. Anyone who is interested in participating in or supporting any of these events, please contact Gill or Anne at duntroondigger@gmail.com

The June/July Duntroon Digger has just been published by our dedicated locals; readers can enjoy excellent articles about local history by going to www.duntroon.co.nz/news .