

Duntroon Digest November 2025

The celebration of the founding of Duntroon Township 150 years ago took place over Labour weekend and the feedback has been very positive. Even the weather played its part.

It was most gratifying to have past residents of Duntroon return to catch up with friends and neighbours. On Saturday, the 25th Duntroon Township Heritage Trail was introduced. The Clydesdale horses of John and Gay Booth led the way with invited guests as passengers in the landau and others followed in vehicles or on foot.

The craft market did a good trade, according to reports from stall holders.

At Vanished World local writer Mary Duff launched her delightful book entitled A Discovery in The Rocks, a story that features the artwork of Duntroon School pupils and Burns Pollock. You can order your copy by going to Mary's page <https://maryduff.co.nz>

On both days, the Duntroon Hall had a display of images and memorabilia of Duntroon. The DDDA are most grateful to the Kurow Museum for loaning their display boards and importantly the loan of the model of Campbell Park. This model was built by Ted Banks who used to live in Duntroon till his death a few years ago. As fate would have it, Sandy Sutherland spotted it at the hall and incorporated the display into her brilliant video about Campbell Park. Check it out here. <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/16DMKYAZua/>

Sunday dawned fine, and the display of rare vehicles was a treat to behold. Meanwhile a special service was held in the beautiful Saint Martin's Church, and this was well attended.

The strains of Scotland the Brave rang out across the village green at about 1pm. Two talented brothers Jonty and Connor Nelson set the scene for the official tree planting. Preceding the establishment of Duntroon township by Robert Campbell, the Waitaha people stayed in the area and left their mark and so it was only fitting that the Totara tree was planted by Councilor John McCone and Anne Te Maiharoa –Dodds.

After the three planting the official cake cutting ceremony took place at the Duntroon Hall and two local identities, Marie Francis and Colleen Sutherland did the honours.

So many people were responsible for the positive feedback about the weekend. The DDDA committee was supported by many locals without whom the event would not have been the success it was. To all those people, they extend a sincere "thank you".