



# the Duntroon DIGGER

Established 2005

October/November 2025 Edition

Email: [duntroondigger@gmail.com](mailto:duntroondigger@gmail.com)

Coordinator: Gill Gee

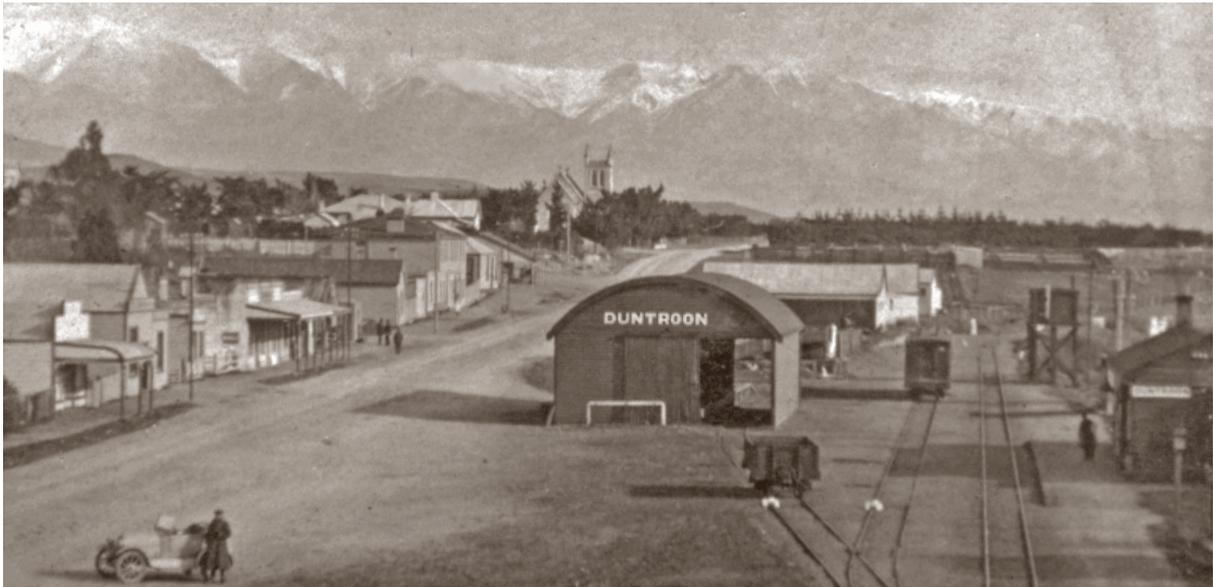
Editor: Anne Phillips-Vira

Publisher: Allan Kynaston

**Next issue:** 2nd December. Please send your contributions to us at [duntroondigger@gmail.com](mailto:duntroondigger@gmail.com) by 26th November. See 'Next Duntroon Digger Date' for this year on the last page of this issue.

## Duntroon 150th Anniversary Programme

The 150th Celebration of Duntroon is fast approaching and DDDA committee members have been busy setting plans for the event in motion over the past few weeks. Details of activities and times are as follows:



### Saturday 25th October

**Art and Craft Market** 10am - 3pm in the centre of the township. To book your space Contact Richard & Janice: [richjanwhite3@gmail.com](mailto:richjanwhite3@gmail.com) or 022 071 1081

The Blacksmith Shop, Vanished World, The Old Gaol, The Sexton Shed, and Duntroon Hall Display will all be open for viewing.

**Inaugural Heritage Trail Tour** 10am starting at the village green.

Visitors are invited to join the first historical tour of the township accompanied by a horse drawn vehicle and commentary.

**Refreshments** will be on sale at the Art and Craft Market, The Flying Pig Café and The Duntroon Hotel.

**Continued over page**

## Dunroon 150th Anniversary Programme Continued

**Sunday 26th October**

**Church Service** 11.30am - 12.15pm at St Martin's Church

**Tree Planting Ceremony** @ 1pm at the Dunroon Village Green

**Luncheon and Cake Cutting** 1.30pm at the Dunroon Hall

We would love to hear from anyone who might be available to support the setting up of displays in the hall during the week prior to Labour Weekend and especially on Friday the 24th of October. In addition, if you have photographs, family trees, albums and/or items of historical interest to display in the hall we would be delighted to add them to our current collection of memorabilia.

**Please contact the following DDDA committee members:**

**Owen King, DDDA Chairperson Ph: 0222436470**

**Karan Lawrence, DDDA Secretary Ph: 0274787133**

**or email Anne Phillips-Vira at [duntroondigger@gmail.com](mailto:duntroondigger@gmail.com)**

### Attendance Intentions

At this stage it would be helpful for us to gain an indication of those who are planning to attend the scheduled events, particularly on Sunday the 26th. Please email Karan Lawrence at [secretaryddda@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryddda@gmail.com) if you are planning on joining us for an awesome celebration.



*Roselea, Livingstone St  
1960*



*The Loft, Livingstone St 1968*



*Dunroon Store c.1980*

## Free Business/Services List

The Digger Team is reaching out to local businesses and service people for contact details in an effort to make your services known to the local community. If you would like to be included in our list for publication in 'The Digger', please contact us at [duntroondigger@gmail.com](mailto:duntroondigger@gmail.com). Please keep your entry to 2 lines maximum.

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**Barley:** can deliver. Phone Errol Wells 0274 570 700

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**Flying Pig Café:** normal hours: Mon-Fri: 7.30am-3pm Sat/Sun: 8am-3pm.  
Ph 021 08620428 [flyingpigcafe.co.nz](http://flyingpigcafe.co.nz)

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**Seed/Seed Mixes:** fodder beet, grass, oats and kale seed. [www.dufffarming.com](http://www.dufffarming.com).  
[duffs@dufffarm.co.nz](mailto:duffs@dufffarm.co.nz) or call Grant 027 7379518

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CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

**DUNTROON**

OCTOBER 25 & 26TH 2025

WWW.DUNTROON.CO.NZ



# Market Day

## Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Oct

To book your space contact

Richard and Janice  
[richjanwhite3@gmail.com](mailto:richjanwhite3@gmail.com)

022 071 1081

## MEDIA RELEASE WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

17 September 2025

### Don't Bin Your Batteries

#### *Three New Safe Battery Recycling Units for Oamaru*

Batteries don't belong in your bin. When thrown out with rubbish, they can spark fires in wheelie bins, rubbish trucks, and landfills — putting people, property, and the environment at risk.

To help stop battery fires before they start, Waitaki District Council has installed three new **Safe Battery Recycling Units** in Oamaru.

You'll now find these fire-resistant units at:

- **Waitaki Resource Recovery Park**
- **Oamaru Transfer Station**
- **Mitre 10 Oamaru**

These units are designed to take all your household batteries safely, including:

- Everyday AA, AAA and other standard batteries
- Rechargeable batteries (lithium-ion, Ni-Cd, NiMH)
- Batteries embedded in small devices such as toys, vapes, remotes, and torches

**Why it matters:** Fires caused by discarded batteries are on the rise across New Zealand. Each fire threatens lives, damages essential waste services, and costs communities dearly. By simply dropping off your used batteries at one of our units, you're helping keep Waitaki safe.

The three new units are funded through the Government's Waste Levy, so there is **no cost to ratepayers**.

**Next time your batteries go flat, remember: Don't bin them. Recycle them. Together, we can keep batteries out of landfills — and keep our community safe.**

ENDS

[media@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:media@waitaki.govt.nz)





## Apply now for Meridian's Power Up Community Fund

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 grants for projects in Aoraki/ Mount Cook, Twizel, Omarama, Otematata, Kurow, Hakataramea, Duntroon, Ikawai, Papakaio and Glenavy.

### How to apply

Applications are open until midnight on Sunday 12th October 2025.

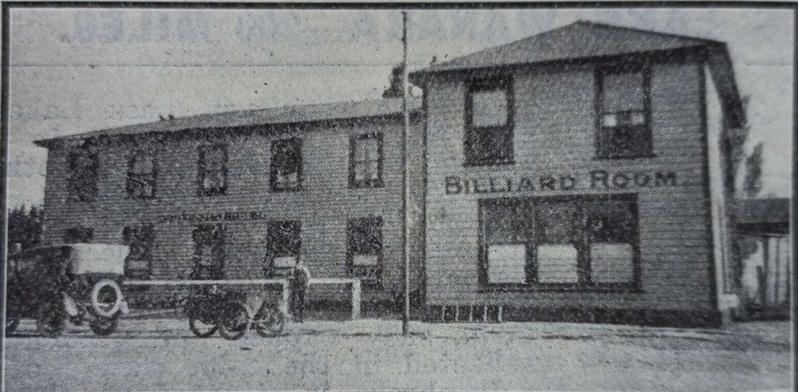
For more information and to apply:

- visit [meridianenergy.co.nz/community-support/fund](https://meridianenergy.co.nz/community-support/fund)
- email [community@meridianenergy.co.nz](mailto:community@meridianenergy.co.nz)
- call 021 733 931



Telephone 2.

# Duntroon Hotel - Duntroon



Every accommodation for Motorists. Garage, Oils, Petrol, Repairs  
Morning and Afternoon Tea. Refreshments of all sorts.  
Best of Wines and Spirits stocked.

**H. COWDERY** - - - *Proprietor.*  
(Late Supervisor N.Z. Railway Refreshment Rooms.)

From the New Zealand Motorist's Road Guide (South Island) Pg.165, 7th Edition, 1926

# Historic Duntroon: Our Settler Businesspeople

by Anne Phillips-Vira

I left readers in the last issue with an intention to complete my story on the three James' of the Orkney Islands. However, given that this issue precedes the 150th anniversary celebration of Duntroon, it seems appropriate to focus on some well-known early identities of the Duntroon township whose names and legacies have helped to form the fabric of Duntroon.

## The Blacksmith: Walter Yardley

Much has been written and spoken about Walter Yardley over the years. Stories from the past tell us that Walter was an Orkney Islander. However, a bit of 'digging' has revealed a different story.

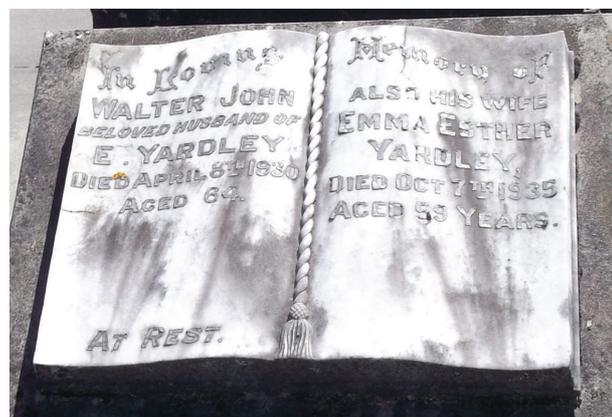
Walter John Yardley was born on February 4, 1866 (Birth Registration, 1866) in the Taieri area. He was the third of ten children born to Margaret (Christie) Yardley of Stirlingshire, Scotland and his namesake, Walter John Yardley of Camden, England.

According to a report in The Oamaru Mail (1877), Walter's father was a carrier and on "one of his usual trips" (p.2) from Palmerston to Kyeburn, he was kicked in the head by a horse and thereafter died of his injuries at the age of only 36. Walter's mother apparently lived in Kurow until she died in 1904 (Yardley, 1904). She is buried with her husband in Palmerston Cemetery.

Walter spent his early life in the East Taieri area, where he and his siblings were born. He next appears at Blacks near Omakau, where he married his first wife, Johanna Elizabeth Burren, on 19 September 1889 (Marriage Registration, 1889). The couple had no children, and Johanna died on October 16, 1900, in Duntroon. A beautiful, intricate headstone was erected for her by her husband. It is located to the left of the sexton shed in the Duntroon Cemetery.



Johanna Yardley headstone (Leefield, 2024)



Walter & Emma Yardley headstone (Leefield, 2024)

At the time of her death, Walter's blacksmith shop was well established in Duntroon. He commenced work as a general blacksmith at the beginning of January 1894, "in Mr W. Sutherland's shop" (Notice to the Settlers ..., 1893, p.4). Walter remarried with Emma Esther Grant in 1903 (Marriage Registration, 1903). The ceremony was held near Ravensbourne in Dunedin where Emma's parents resided. The couple had a daughter, Catherine May, who was born in Duntroon in 1911 (Birth Registration, 1911).

In April 1930, tragedy struck when Walter and his employee, Robert Taylor, were returning to Duntroon from Ngapara. The truck that Robert was driving was hit head-on by a lorry. Robert was killed instantly, and Walter later died of head and spinal injuries in Oamaru Hospital (Collision at Ngapara, 1930). Emma Yardley died just five years later. She and Walter are buried together in the Duntroon Cemetery.

Although Walter Yardley was not of Orkney descent, at least three of his employees were: Nicol Muirden, Robert Taylor, and Fred Taylor. Their stories will be revealed in later issues.

## The Butcher: William Sutherland

William Sutherland was born in Wick, Caithness, in the far north of Scotland on March 13, 1857 (National Records of Scotland, 1857).

According to a note in MyHeritage, William migrated to New Zealand with his parents around 1865 aboard the Helenslee. The family must have settled in the Livingstone area, as William Sutherland senior died at his residence there in 1899 (Death. Sutherland, 1899).

William Sutherland junior married Christina Helen Grant on June 10, 1881 (Marriage Registration, 1881). Christina was the eldest daughter of Jessie Grant/Welsh, who was the proprietress of the Duntroon Hotel at the time of her daughter's marriage (Marriage, 1881).

William's role at the time was that of pound keeper in Duntroon. This job involved impounding stray animals, informing the owners, and collecting fees for their return. Several advertisements appear in the North Otago Times in 1881 stating that animals, horses in particular, had been impounded and if unclaimed would be sold by public auction (Impounded, 1881).

By 1883, William was the proprietor of a butcher shop. Evidence from the Waitaki Borough Council Rates (Waitaki archive, 2025) identifies William as occupying section 8 block 2 on the corner of Campbell and Rees Streets (Plan of the township, 1875). A photograph in the Flying Pig Café shows the exact location of his butcher shop on Campbell Street while an advertisement in The North Otago Times (1887), addressed "to the inhabitants of Duntroon, Kurow, Georgetown and surrounding districts" (p. 4), provides evidence that his butcher shop was still in business in April of 1887. Times must have been tough as the ad. offers butcher's meat at lower prices due "to the depressed state of the markets" and appears repeatedly between April and September.

In 1892, the butchery was purchased by Henry McGregor (Business Notice, 1892). Reference is made to Sutherland in The Oamaru Mail as a "butcher and cattle dealer of the clan of that name - grand on the bagpipes" (Golden days and rugged ways, 1894).



*William Sutherland, Waitaki Archives ID 104629*

William died in 1929, having suffered from a stroke a short time before. He must have been a popular character, as a report in the Otago Daily Times states that the cortege of cars at his funeral "was more than a mile in length" (A settler's funeral, 1929, p.14). Christina died in 1948, at the age of 88.

The couple had three sons: George and Gordon, who remained in Duntroon, and John (Jack), who moved to Palmerston. Their daughter, Christina Helen (Ella), married William Beck in 1931 and lived until the impressive age of 91. William Sutherland is the

great grandfather of Jan (Meikle) and Roger and Karen Sutherland who, like their great grandfather, are all well known residents in the Waitaki District.

It was my intention to write more about the early businesspeople of Duntroon, but time and space have both run out. I hope to continue their stories in later editions of The Digger.

### References:

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Business notice. (1892, February 1). *Oamaru Mail*, 3.

Collision at Ngapara. (1930, April 9). *North Otago Times*, 4.

Death. Sutherland. (1899, January 20). *Oamaru Mail*, 2.

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Impounded. (1881, November 5). *North Otago Times*, 3.

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Marriage Registration for Walter John Yardley and Johanna Elizabeth Burren,1889. Registration No. 1889/936, New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs.

Marriage Registration for William Sutherland and Christina Helen Grant. 1881. Registration No. 1881/2944, New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs.

National Records of Scotland (1857). "William Sutherland". Statutory Registers. Births, 1857. Parish of Wick, Caithness. Source: ScotlandsPeople, Wick 043 / 233, page 11. Retrieved from [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) on September 23, 2025.

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Land Information New Zealand [Plan of the township of Duntroon, 1875]. Supplied by Archives New Zealand and republished with permission from Land Information New Zealand.

To the inhabitants. (1887, April 12). *North Otago Times*, 3

The death of Mr Walter Yardley. (1877, December 26). *Oamaru Mail*, 2.

Waitaki Archive. (2025). *Waitaki county council rates, 1878-1900* [Data set]. <https://www.culturewaitaki.org.nz/Waitaki-Archive/Rate-Books>

Yardley. (1904, December 12). *Oamaru Mail*, 2.

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## Next Duntroon Digger Date 2025

Please send your content, such as letters, articles and advertisements, to us by the 'Pre-Digger' Deadline date shown.

Month	Pre-Digger Deadline	Publishing Date
December	26/11/2025	02/12/2025