

Dunroon Digest October 2025

We are counting down the days now to the 25th and 26th of October when all our planning will come to fruition. Celebrating 150 years of Dunroon township has unearthed some very enlightening information. Past and present residents have rummaged through their photo albums and provided some real gems. These in turn have inspired others to contribute images and information to flesh out the Dunroon story. Check out the page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1Ayrz4Zibz/> . Feel free to contribute to the conversation.

The working bee at the Dunroon Wetlands on Saturday the 6th of September saw a lot of work done in the wetlands and about the town. The community share shed received a new coat of paint as did the stocks in front of the Gaol.

Other work done on other days; Owen King and Lloyd Grafton removed the damaged window in the Gaol and Owen has since repaired and replaced the window.

Richard White has kindly constructed planter boxes that now contain flowers to brighten up Campbell Street. The refurbishing of the sexton' shed is almost complete. New notice boards have been created and installed by Owen King and Richard White has polished and affixed vintage tools that were purchased for the shed by Anne Phillips-Vira. Anne has maps and historic information to be added.

A new installation in the Dunroon Hall is the art of Colin Wheeler. A mural that Colin had painted as a backdrop for a school play many years ago has been set into a frame by Owen King, thus protecting Colin's work.

The Oamaru stone statues on the village green, known as the Pioneer Couple have been given a facelift.

In conjunction with the 150 Celebration is the launching of a children's book by local author Mary Duff. Mary was brought up in North Otago and attended Dunroon School. The book is entitled A Discovery in the Rocks and tells the story of how the fossil discovery inspired the establishing of the Vanished World Centre. Aimed at children between five and nine years, the book has been illustrated by pupils of Dunroon School. Burns Pollock, himself a founding member of the centre donated his own artwork for the cover of the book.

The pamphlets for the Dunroon Township Heritage Trail have been printed and look superb. Allan Kynaston has done a first-rate job of presenting the information, with illustrations and a map for our town visitors to guide them around Dunroon.

Come along to the 150 Celebration on Saturday 25th October to join the guided commentary of the trail. Additionally, there will be an arts and craft market and photographic and media displays at the hall on both days. Then Sunday, a service at St Martins's at 11.30 followed by a tree planting at the village green culminating with a cake cutting ceremony at the hall. See you there.