

Duntroon Digest August 2025

The days are drawing out and that means more daylight hours to work through the “To Do” list.

With the 150th Celebration of the founding of Duntroon township on October 25th and 26th, foremost in their minds, the DDDA committee have been preoccupied with the planning of the weekend.

There is to be a special service on Sunday the 26th of October in Saint Martin’s Church at a time to be finalized. It is considered appropriate to hold this service in appreciation of the bequest from Emily Campbell that made the construction of this most beautiful little church possible back in 1900.

Interestingly, on the same day that Saint Martin’s Church was consecrated, August 29th, 1901, the Duntroon cemetery was consecrated too. The sexton’s shed at the cemetery has undergone an upgrade. As already reported in this column, the windows and ceiling have been repaired, the bespoke table has been installed, with chairs and now a beautiful wooden form has been added. This form was made by Richard White from oak timber donated by Lloyd Grafton. It all sets off the interior of the stone building wonderfully.

The Duntroon Gaol has also received some attention. Once again, our skilled and generous volunteers have come to the rescue. Owen King and Lloyd Grafton were the dynamic duo removing a cell window in need of repair from the building on Saturday July 19th. Plans are afoot to have the building painted soon too.

Down in the wetlands some of the board walks have been undergoing maintenance. The weather and the traffic have tested the original boards in places, and it is time for some of them to be replaced.

On the village green, the pioneer couple are slated for some cleaning and sealing. By the time the Labour Weekend is upon us, the village will be sparkling.

While the number of visitors to the domain campground have dropped off substantially, there are still some travelers stopping for a night or two. The guest book is filled with positive reviews and words of appreciation for the work done by the caretaker. One couple were inspired to leave a donation to be spent on the camp. The caretaker, Steve Smith, bought a lovely wooden tub and planted some flowers in it, for everyone to enjoy.

The new Facebook page, entitled Duntroon 150 Years is proving to be a positive development. Many former residents have uploaded their photos and recounted their experiences growing up in Duntroon. For some of us “newbies” not only does the page

serve as a window to an earlier time, but it is also putting names to faces in some of the historic photos.

On that note, in the process of inviting people to the celebration, old friendships have been rekindled. People from far and near have expressed an eagerness to be part of the celebration.