

Duntroon Digest July 2025

When driving through Duntroon township on your way up or down the valley it may appear as though nothing much is happening. The truth is, local people are working away quietly in the background doing their bit to maintain the town's features.

Eagle eyed travelers will notice that Nicol's Blacksmith building is devoid of its signage. The sign above the front entrance has been removed and is being refurbished as part of the maintenance and restoration program. The Nicol's Blacksmith Trust is most appreciative of the support for this work by the Lions Foundation and the Oamaru Licensing Trust.

Out of sight, work has been going on at the Sexton's Shed at the Duntroon cemetery. The broken window has been restored by Owen King, who fortuitously had the exact timber for the job from renovations of the Summer House at Elderslie Estate. Owen and Steve Smith have created a table to be installed, and Steve bought a couple of chairs and reupholstered them to go with the table. Richard White is building a wooden seat to go under the windows, and to complete the furniture, Steve turned a lovely vase out of almond wood to display some flowers. That's what I call a community effort.

So good to see the tradesmen on the roof of Saint Martin's Church recently. Built in 1901 from funds bequeathed by Emily Campbell and a category 2 Heritage Place, this magnificent fourteenth century Gothic style building is much valued by locals who take an active role in keeping it clean and tidy.

Last month the Duntroon Volunteer Fire Brigade took on the Sky Tower Challenge and succeeded, this month local lad, 15-year-old George Sutherland, took on the World Vision 40 Hour Challenge.

George set out from Duntroon on Sunday morning, 29th of June with three companions, Will Dukes, Blake Van der Spek, and James Soal and walked 54kms along the Alps2Ocean Cycle Trail to Oamaru. George had set himself a goal of raising \$100 for the people of the Solomon Islands, so far, he has succeeded in raising \$550.00! George would like to thank those people who supported his efforts, he really appreciated their generosity.

If you would like to support George, you can do that by following the link provided.

<https://fundraise.worldvision.org.nz/fundraisers/georges/>

Another link that may interest Valley residents is the new Facebook page, Duntroon 150 Years. This page showcases the images and memories of people of Duntroon and beyond. Check it out. <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1693MQdyq1/> and feel free to join in.

So good to see the tradesmen on the roof of Saint Martin's Church recently. Built in 1901 from funds bequeathed by Emily Campbell and a category 2 Heritage Place, this magnificent fourteenth century Gothic style building is very precious to many locals.