

Tuesday 29th April at 2.30pm.
Alma Cottage (Look for the picket fence and flag pole)

**An invitation to all for a yarn and a cuppa to celebrate the handing over of
the original Oral History tapes to the South Canterbury Museum Archives**

The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust Newsletter – April 08

A major step forward in recording the history of Burkes Pass was completed recently when Jacqui Foley finished a series of interviews with several long time residents. The generosity of those who agreed to be interviewed has been tremendous and the resulting flavour of the past has surpassed expectation. The interviewees were:

- **Maurie Angelo** - artist, landscape architect and teacher, has been a village resident at 'The Stone House' for over 45 years.
- **Brian McCarthy** – was brought up in the village and worked for the Rabbit Board, later known as the Pest Destruction Board, until his retirement and move to Tekapo.
- **Janet McCarthy** – has memories of working in the Burkes Pass Hotel before and after marriage to Brian and bringing up their family in the village.
- **Len Waters** – farmed at Coolgardie in the Rollesby valley with Olive and their family and had a long involvement with the Mackenzie Collie Dog Club.
- **Don Willetts** - grew up at Dornie, and has a long family association with Burkes Pass. He has worked in the area as a shearer, musterer and at the sawmill before farming at Winscombe and has a great memory of people and events.
- **Helen Willetts** (nee Ross)- was brought up at Single Hill and later with Don had their family at Dornie, recalled memories of domestic life, community and social interactions including schooling, St Patricks Church, and the Country Womens Institute.

All the participants have been given CDs of their interviews and despite some initial anxiety about the process have been very positive about the experience. Due to the willingness of the participants and expertise of Jacqui, an extraordinary record has been created for future researchers and listeners. The success of this project and knowing that there are several further obvious candidates has raised enthusiasm for further recordings to build on this archive.

The Trust is grateful for grants from **The Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury**, **The Lion Foundation** and **The Southern Trust** to enable this project to happen.

Mountain Beech Trees

Thank you to **Trees for Canterbury** who kindly donated 60 trees for our landscaping projects. Gregor MacDonald, a worker at the 'not for profit nursery', is pictured with one of the trees. T4C is the project of the Green Effect Trust who have won several awards for employment and training of disadvantaged people, teaching environmental awareness and regeneration of native plants. They have a large native plant nursery in Christchurch open to the public at very reasonable prices and make plants available to community planting projects.



Web Address Change - We had to change our web address. The new address is <http://www.burkespass.org.nz>. While in the transition phase you may have to use the old address : <http://www.burkespass.kiwiwebhost.co.nz>

Registration with the New Charities Commission

The Trust has been successful in our application to be as a charitable entity under the new legislation and our registration number is CC21800. Our details as always are available on our own web site, and now they will also be available on the Charities Register website www.charities.govt.nz

Smart Estate Legacy

Thank you to the generosity of the late Eric Smart, the Trust has recently received a significant donation which will be used for the restoration of St Patricks Church.

Hymn Book Donation

An old hymn book from St Patricks in the 1930's surfaced in Melbourne recently and has been donated back to the church.

“Shimmerings”

More copies of this delightful book of poetry and sculpture illustrations have been donated to the Trust by author Catherine Blaikie (nee Clark) to raise funds for the Trust They are for sale in the Church. Catherine was brought up at Paddys Market Homestead opposite. She wrote these poems while living in Malaysia and they reflect her experiences while both living overseas and her childhood in the Mackenzie. Thank you again Catherine.

David Studholme of Te Waimate

Our mentor and friend who tirelessly supported Graham and I when we became proud owners of a cob cottage 24 years ago, recently passed away in Timaru aged 94 years. His enthusiasm for clay as a building material and practical skills, motivating and leading a team of likeminded people to volunteer for hard labour in wet and muddy conditions was recognised with a QSM some years ago, and an NZHPT award. More significantly, the survival of many of the few remaining early cob buildings in the South Island, including The Cuddy at his home farm, is due to him.

Musterer's Hut.- The hut is externally completed and the limestone trough installed in its shelter thanks to Mike's handy tractor forks. The interior is well on its way but Max is still on the look out for a few ancient/battered/rusty plates, enamel or china, knives/forks, an old butchers knife, a couple of aged horse blankets for the bunks and any very old tins/containers of condiments such as salt/pepper or tea/sugar etc. ph 03 6884654.

Cheers, Jane Batchelor

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