

The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust Newsletter – December 2008

Christmas Carols at St Patrick's Church – Saturday 20th
December 5 pm – all welcome especially children.

Thank you NZ Post for donating post paid envelopes again to us this year.

Heritage Township Sign

Burkes Pass Heritage Township sign erected on the October working bee. The Lady Elizabeth Roxborough and Count Maurizio Angelo recently flown in from Italy for the occasion and ably assisted to cut the ribbon by Sian Waters opened it. Lady Liz bestowed on the assembly a word of thanks and the Count in his best gown and topper dispensed champagne to the thirsty working bee labourers.



The sign, designed with Transit NZ approval, and constructed by Graham Batchelor, completes the structure of the threshold area planted at the end of the Rowan tree avenue. The landscape design concept by urban planner Graham Densem in 2003 was to create a sense of arrival at Burkes Pass Township on the highway and improve traffic behaviour at the 80 km speed restriction zone. Plantings associated with the sign are predominantly tussock and low growing plants such as hebes, however the aim is to gradually increase the height and density away from the road edge for maximal effect.

Christening at St Patrick's Church

On Sunday 29th November 2008, young **Ben Douglas MacDonald** was christened at the church at Burkes Pass. Godmother Trudie Hurst assisted proud parents Jodie and Don MacDonald in the ceremony conducted by the Rev. Michael Kerr.



A Short History of Burkes Pass – compiled by the school pupils of 1934 under the supervision of their teacher Mr George Parkyn.

Winton Ballantyne, an ex-pupil, brought this booklet to my attention recently. He tells me that Mr Parkyn was an exceptional teacher and unusually highly qualified to be teaching at this small rural school however he was also preparing reports for the NZ Education Department. He taught at Burkes Pass from 1933-35. Later he moved to Dunedin and became the Director of the New Zealand Council for Educational Research. He wrote books and papers on the administration of education in NZ and teaching gifted and talented children.

I have a few copies of the 12-page booklet (A4 sized) available. They have been reprinted in two versions, one with the original worn faded cover appearance and the other as new. The cost is \$10 the new one and \$18 for the faded version (yes, it seems ironic to pay more for an aged version). Send payment and a self-addressed stamped envelope A4 size to BPHT, c/o 41 Kirkwood Avenue, Christchurch 8041.

Jane Batchelor
Chairperson

Ph : 03 3481531

Email: jbatch@clear.net.nz

Web: <http://www.burkespass.org.nz/>