

The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust Newsletter – September 2008

Work Day and Meeting - Sunday 5th October

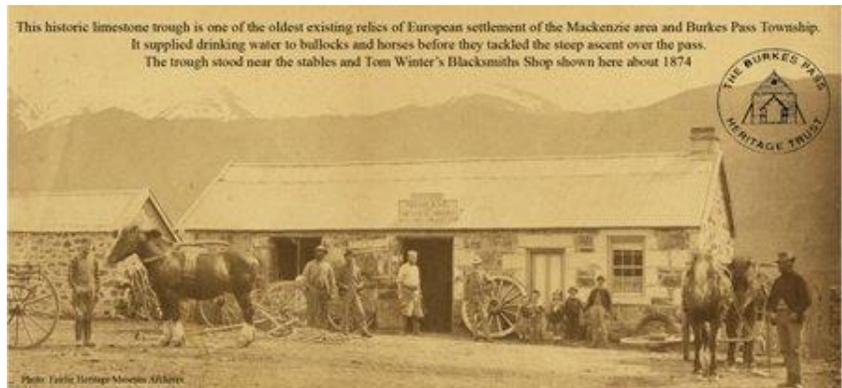
Meet at the Church 9 am. Short meeting at morning tea break.

Bring tools for a variety of jobs including some planting, weeding, constructing seat, hitching rail and old fence, trailer for gravel, step ladder for replacing light shades, brass polishing, and erecting sign.

Contact Jane Batchelor: Ph. 03 685 7261 (Burkes Pass) or 03 348 1531 (Christchurch)

Musterer's Hut Project

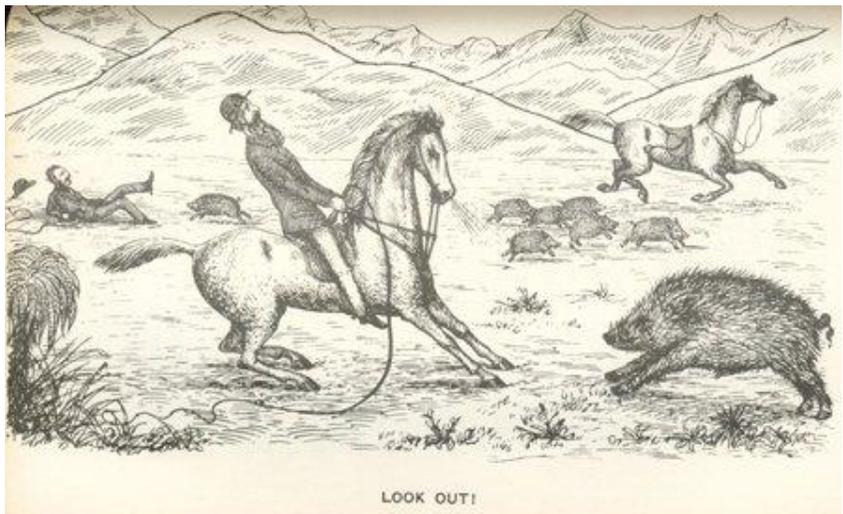
It needs a resident old timer. Does anyone know where to find a cloth dummy who could be given a makeover? Or does anyone have some suitable old clothes – woollen/tweed jacket, trousers, shirt, ancient socks or hat perhaps? The hut is pretty well completed and furnished. Just a few minor finishing touches to go like some shingle around the veranda area, a bench seat and a few more plants to complete the landscaping should do it.



New display above the limestone trough at the Musterers Hut

The Hut Book

A large storybook with good yarns from our area will be kept in the hut to read. Some extracts from "Crusts" will be put in it to start the ball rolling. This book was written by Laurence Kennaway and published in 1874. He and his brother Walter took up Run 184, later known as Rollesby, in 1856 and also held Opawa and Clayton at various times. Kennaway's writing records incredible situations and adventures with humour and zest. Take, for instance, the new settler who grills his breakfast chops in the glowing embers of his cottage razed by fire during the night; or the resourceful run-holder who serves his storm-bound guests with mutton long set aside as dog tucker. In the book he notes that the "illustrations (taken from rough sketches by the author) are all the work of a young artist who is both deaf and dumb."



Native Seed Fund Raiser

I have available a limited supply of three species of local Burkes Pass native seed for sale. The proceeds will go to fund Trust projects. The seed was gathered this year from local plants, germinates easily and will thrive in the Mackenzie climate. All three are good for damp areas but will also grow in drier places if not 'bone dry' all the time.

- *Carex secta* (pukio) – a large green to orange-green sedge can grow 50-80 cm tall.
- *Cordarteria richardia* (toetoe) - coarse green tussock form, grows 1m.
- *Hebe salicifolia* (koromiko) – a long leaved hebe, fast growing with showy white drooping flowers, grows 1-2 m.

They are available by sending a self-addressed and stamped envelope to Jane Batchelor at 41 Kirkwood Avenue, Christchurch 8041. The cost is \$5 each or \$10 for 3.

Oral History Project

Due to the success of this project and the realisation that there was a wealth of further potential interviewees, we have been encouraged to embark on STAGE 2. Jacqui has agreed to do this and funding applications will be made with the aim of starting this early in the new year. Thanks to the generosity of the six interviewees so far that have shared their memories of life at Burkes Pass, a wonderful archive of stories has been established at the South Canterbury Museum. The 18 CDs were handed to Davina Davis, the Curator of Collections, at a very enjoyable afternoon tea at Alma Cottage in April this year. Excerpts from the recordings were played and triggered the start of many a yarn.



Heritage Township Signs

Remember a few years ago when we canvassed ideas for signage to complement the entranceways to the Burkes Pass 'CBD'? The design we have decided on is relatively simple, with end posts in the style of the walkway markers. It has been approved by Transit NZ. Helpers are needed to erect one on the work day on October the 5th.

Church Window

The exciting news is that the one remaining original leadlight window from St Patricks, found in a dilapidated state under the church about 4 years ago, has been resurrected and restored by Graham Stewart, a specialist stained glass window conservator. We are privileged to have him do this work as most of his time is taken with major tasks for the NZ Historic Places Trust and projects such as The Provincial Council Chambers and Christchurch Cathedral. Our window is not yet installed and the aim, as indicated in the conservation plan for St Patricks, is for windows in a similar style to replace the more recent plain glass ones.

.....which brings me to **FUND RAISING**

Please consider making an annual donation to the Trust. We are registered with the new Charities Commission and will send you a tax deductible receipt for amounts over \$5. You can post this to; The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust, c/o 41 Kirkwood Avenue, Christchurch 8041, or make an electronic transfer to the Trust's Westpac bank account: 03 1718 0030625-00

I look forward to seeing some of you at our work day on 5th October—even if it is just to give some encouragement—and hope that you are enjoying these warm spring days.

Jane Batchelor

Chairperson

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