



The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust Newsletter – June 2009

**Sunday 12th July at 9.30am.
Working Bee – meet at Musterers Hut**

Thank you to: The Southern Trust and the **Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury** for generously giving us a grant to record further oral histories of the Burkes Pass area. They also contributed to funding the interesting original six oral history records made in 2008 that have been deposited in the South Canterbury Museum. As a result of the success of this project we realised that there were further areas to explore and others with invaluable stories to tell.

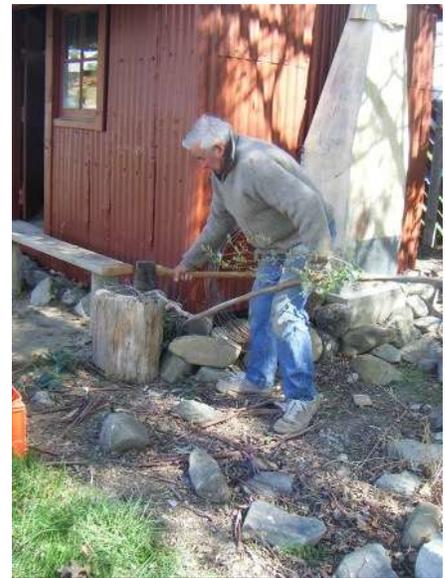
Stephanie Cordes – who cheerfully audits our finances.

Garry Harris - for kindly updating the church valuation.

The Musterer's Hut Now Open

The little red shed located in central Burkes Pass Township has had its door open for those venturing on foot in fine weather for the past few weeks. Max Willetts has pinned to the wall some photographs of the 'old days' and snippets of history. The old leather bound Hut Book has a yarn or two, worth a read. A kerosene box seat is handily placed for you to rest a while and read. For those of us with increasingly challenged eyesight the book is a big one with large print and with the overhead natural light you need not worry if you forgot to bring your glasses. More gems will be added over time.

The building has its own story and its start in life was a shocker. The framework was originally a 3- sided bus shelter constructed about 30 or more years ago for children waiting for the school bus. Originally donated to the community by the Lions Club of Tekapo, it was erected and later shifted to its final site. No sooner had the volunteer builders knocked in the last nail and retired across the road to the Hotel to celebrate and admire their handiwork than there was a tremendous bang. A heavy earth moving vehicle coming down the road veered out of control onto the road verge, first collected a telegraph pole and ploughed over the shelter, flattening it like a pack of cards. I would love to hear about this incident from anyone who was at this working bee.



Max Willetts preparing to boil the billy

The hut has some salvaged items of local history such as a mantle piece from the old Takapo Hotel demolished when Lake Tekapo was raised, an original old hut chimney and early iron stove, a concrete door step from the original Burkes Pass Hotel and it is lined with timber sarking, salvaged from an old building in Timaru. Some intriguing relics such as old saddlery and early Timaru brewery beer bottles give a glimpse of a back-country hut for those who are unlikely to get near the real thing. Beware the yellow-eyed creature near the door.

Annis Cob Cottage Update

The clay walls had more work done on them in May with some of the larger holes being tackled. An amazing tribute to the force of nature is being reversed and mended. A mature elderberry tree had self seeded and grown beside the north east corner and slowly over the years shifted the entire wall comprising tonnes of clay about 10 cm inside its original position. Now the tree has been removed the walls were tied together with a metal rod and the gap is being mended with clay rammed between shutters. Soon photographs will be the main record of this.

Heritage Walk Wetland Area

Planting of appropriate local native vegetation such as sedge tussock and toe-toe has been started in this low-lying area beside the long section of boardwalk. Despite the walking track following the highway, it contains many different environments dry wet, sheltered and exposed together with interesting small gullies as it snakes and curves its way along the road verge, all suiting different species.

Native Seeds

At present in stock are :

- Hoheria Lyallii (mountain ribbonwood),
- Hebe salicifolia, (willow leaved hebe),
- Cassinia (golden tauhinu), and
- Cordarteria richardii (toetoe).



These are all available at the church or by post \$5 each or \$10 for the set of 4. Send a self-addressed envelope to J Batchelor, 41 Kirkwood Avenue, Christchurch 8041.

Cheers

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