

The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust Newsletter

December 2009



Christmas Carol Service – St Patricks, Burkes Pass – Wednesday 23rd Dec 4.30 pm

Children and adults all welcome. There will be a Christmas tree in the church and anyone is welcome to put something on it- perhaps in memory of a loved one.

Patron

David Reynolds who has played a key role in establishment of the Trust and been an invaluable mentor, is retiring from being a trustee and has graciously accepted the role of Patron to our organization. David has been active for many years in the Mackenzie community in many different roles to do with farming, and agriculture, motor heritage, trees, District Council member, and author recording the history of the area, particularly Raincliffe. Most significantly perhaps, he has that skill of encouraging and giving confidence to others in their endeavours.

New Trustees



Max Willetts – we are delighted that Max has accepted the office of trustee as well as being the most hardworking member of the team when it comes to working bees and projects.

John Corcoran – thank you for taking up the reins and becoming a trustee. John already does a superb job together with Barbara keeping the church open on a daily basis. It is gratifying to see so many people visit the church from all over the globe and leave such wonderful comments- on how much they appreciate it being open and the opportunity to see the history of the place.



Thank you to retiring trustee, Dave Taylor, who has recently opened another 'Back Country' shop in Christchurch and is working hard keeping it stocked with wonderful wooden treasures with a heritage theme.

Cemetery Headstone Repaired

Max put his engineering skills to work to shift the massive fallen headstone of his Bain grandparents from its resting place, re-level the plinth and replace it securely in its proper position. No easy task given the weight of the stones involved.



Trees and Things

A successful working bee in October accomplished a multitude of tasks including:

- planting a small grove of mountain beech trees near the Western entrance to town.
- a sign, constructed by Graham marking this entrance, was installed and also a sign outside the church.
- the picnic table outside the Musterer's hut was shifted back from the road edge.
- a preliminary clearing around the Sexton's hut at the cemetery, another early relic from the days when graves were dug by hand and the hut stored the necessary tools.



Cobbers at Work

The majority of the holes in the front wall of Anniss cottage have now been filled with the help of a group of seasoned cobbers and some novices introduced to the craft.

We were very pleased to have the company of Eve Harding who drove with her grandson from Christchurch for the day to help. She is a very experienced hand and been cobbing for many a year in North Canterbury particularly Glens of Tekoa, Esk Head and Watters Cottage. She was a treat to work beside and learn some techniques she was taught by a master craftsman in cob from the UK.



Wanted..... From Max

- 1) A photo of the foot bridge that spanned the Opihi River just above the present heavy traffic entry to "Aires"? Nothing remains after it was washed away.
- 2) Information on "Paddy" of Paddy's Market renown. We have sighted the remains of his hut and would like to know his surname and any other details of this colourful Mackenzie identity
- 3) Contact details of any kin of William Sibbald who owned Lillybank Station about 1869. He built the house at the bottom of the long cutting and called it "Rustic Place" later to become known as Sawdon homestead. Sibbald was a Scotsman born in Dundee and it is thought he had a brother in Dunedin, He did not marry and is reported to have been a sea captain. He is buried in the Burkes Pass cemetery in a plot that now needs some t.l.c.

Thank you to all the people who kindly volunteered to help and contributed in various ways to the enjoyment of projects during the year and also those who provided some vital contributions to our coffers so that we can carry on doing 'things'.

Merry Christmas

Jane Batchelor

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On line donations can be made to bank account 03 1718 0030625 00 Put your name in the reference box. Send email with address if you require a tax deductible receipt.

