

The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust Newsletter March 2010



Cobbing Day – Easter Sunday the 4th April, 9.30 am at

Highfield Cottage, Horwell Downs.

Have a go, for.... relaxing, constructive, artistic, therapeutic, eco-friendly fun!
Bring old clothes, all welcome. Phone 03 348 1531 or 03 685 6271 for details.

Thank you to The Lion Foundation for a grant for roof repairs and paint for Highfield cob cottage, and to **Resene** for a generous discount on the paint.

Two major projects for the Church in 2010.

1. **Highlighting the Church-** Lighting can work magic to enhance significant buildings at night and is used extensively in Europe and increasingly in NZ for this purpose. Christmas lights draped over the porch of the church were much admired especially by one resident returning home every night from work in the dark during December. Some permanent gentle lighting for the front of the church would provide not only security but also but show off the delightfully quaint Gothic- revival architecture.
2. **Re-instating the original picket fence and wooden gate** in the style recorded in early photographs is also on the list. Recommended in the Conservation Plan for the church in 2003, 'This would give greater prominence to the church from the road as originally intended and would reinstate its historic form.'. The shape of this swagged picket fence was repeated down the road in the cottage next to the hotel and is visible faintly in the background of one old photo.
The cost of these projects is in the order of \$650 for the lighting and \$2000 for the fence. We hope to raise the majority funds for this ourselves and welcome any contributions.

Pass 2 Pub Bike Event

Energy food was the focus of our fundraising effort this year. Not an easy task selling to bikers in their pocket-less lycra shorts, however we were ably assisted by Max who did a great job for us in Timaru on registration day and at the Pass by our enthusiastic sellers, Louise Corcoran and Liz Angelo- Roxborough. Thanks also go to Alan O'Hagan, a keen cyclist from Christchurch, who donated the lettering for our BPHT banner.

Memorial Altar Table

An antique table has been given to the church for use as the altar table in place of the rickety temporary one. It has been donated in memory of my parents, Nan and Graham Thomson, who enjoyed their holidays at Burkes Pass for over 20 years and were supporters of the Trust.

Flower Prints

Some original vintage prints that were produced as supplements inside a NZ gardening magazine in the 1930's are for sale in the church. They have vibrant and colourful retro character and all proceeds go to restoration of the church.

The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust

T-Shirts

Hand printed T- shirts highlighted our supporters this year for the first time at the Pass 2 Pub, combining heritage with cycling. An engraving of a dashing young man in top hat and tails riding his 'Dandy-horse' made his appearance on our white shirts. This forerunner of the bicycle was basically a plank of wood connecting two wheels that the cyclist sat astride whilst pushing off the ground with alternating feet. It was a machine for the fashionable young man who had everything, but did not really catch on as a mode of transport until the 1860's when pedals made their appearance and gave significant gains in speed.

We have some available for sale, two sizes, large and medium @ \$20 each plus postage.

Sibbald Relations Found via Internet

The power of the internet to make lost connections was demonstrated this week when Max Willets was contacted by a relative of William Sibbald of 'Rustic Place', Sawdon. Max was keen to raise the fallen column of William's grave stone back onto its plinth and was interested in his background, but William did not have any children or known family to start looking for. An email from a relation in the UK who saw Max's request in our newsletter via an internet search, revealed that several other family members still reside in Dundee, Sibbald's home town.

Hoheria Lyallii Seeds - gather now before the grubs get them.

These beautiful local hardy native trees have just finished putting on a great show of white blossom and I have been gathering more for our seed stall in the church. If you have access to a tree, they are the easiest seed to grow I know of, and 'yesterday' was the day to gather it. As soon as these seeds have matured they need to be collected quickly to avoid the munching of small grubs that are specialized to eat this seed on the tree and bore a holes encircling the seed cluster eating out the centre. They know when breakfast is served, so as soon as it is collected you need to treat the seed to some sort of insecticide. A quick squirt of fly spray into the bag can do the job effectively I have found.

Best wishes

Jane Batchelor

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The 'Dandy-horse.'
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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 an email with your address if you require a tax deductible receipt.