

# The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust Newsletter September 2011



## **Work Day – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** (Labour weekend- how appropriate)

Planting is the main activity- including more native beech trees. Bring a spade and grubber. Morning tea provided. Meet at the church 9.30 am, and later all welcome to bring their lunch or something to share at Alma Cottage.

## **Earthquake Update**

Nails that worked out and small sealed cracks that opened up in the September quake are to be repaired and painted in the next few months, so the old church building will be looking quite dapper again soon. Our insurance will cover a part of the cost but unfortunately will be less than the excess. The insurance bill from our insurance company this year has hiked up over 500% for all buildings prior to 1935. A structural engineer's report has been sought to try and mitigate this whopping rise.

## **Security Issues**

Two burglaries of the donation box in the church in April have been countered by installation of a tamper alarm by Graham. This box continues to be a small but reliable source of income for the work of the Trust from casual visitors and travellers from all over the globe. They record in the visitors book how much they appreciate being able to come in the open doors and enjoy the peace and quiet while taking in a bit of local history. Security cameras are also to be installed shortly.

**Thanks to the Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury** for a generous grant toward repair and painting the church and security equipment.

## **Thank you to all the Supporters of the Trust** who make it happen:

- **Jim Allen and Whitestone** for digging the drainage for Highfield cob cottage.
- **Prue Clark** who has donated a pair of tablecloths for the altar table, made from beautiful antique embroidered linen. These are quite at home as they belonged to her Great-grandmother, Helen Grant who farmed at Grays Hills. Helen and her husband Alex later moved to 'Aigantighe' in Timaru and eventually the



family donated their home to the Timaru District Council where it is now an art museum and gallery.

- The **Corcoran Family** who open and close the church daily and **Christine Rolton** who has been looking after the Musterer's Hut.
- **The Easter work party participants** and wonderful scone bakers including **Maureen Willetts** and **Kathryn Wales**.

### **Coffee and Crafts in the Burkes Pass CBD**

At last a colourful and lively retail experience at the shop on the former hotel site with a cute coffee caravan has brought life to our town. Julie Davis of Red Rock Hats and Dave Taylor have done a stunning job of making this a destination to be savoured. Come and see for yourselves.

### **Fundraising Brain Waves**

Seeds of local native plants, cottage garden plants, reproduction school books, a poetry collection, vintage flower prints, bags of fruit and knitted items for sale at the back of the church have all contributed to funds at different times in a small but important fashion. If you have an idea or a small project /surplus produce that you could add to the mix.... Go For It!!!!

### **Church Windows**

The project is still on hold as our glass conservator rescues priceless heritage windows from damaged buildings. Wouldn't it be great to have them installed for the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up fast next year?

### **Tree Felling**

A large pine to the east of the church is to be removed before it causes problems. We plan to do this with Trust volunteers. The gnarled old pines on the west side also will be topped but retained for shelter until alternatives grow. An arborist will be engaged for this hazardous task.

Cheers  
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 an email with your address if you require a tax deductible receipt**

**PS: Can anyone tell me Shirley O'Connor's contact details?**