

# The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust Newsletter March 2012

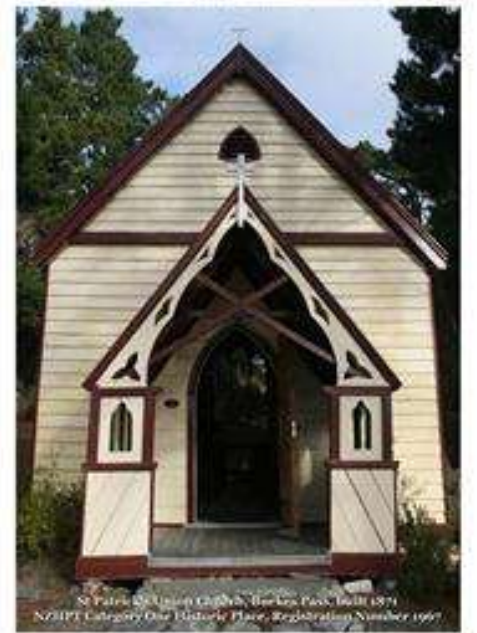


## Highest Rating Awarded to St Patrick's Church

Our little church hit the headlines this year when the NZ Historic Places Trust reviewed its registration and elevated it to a Category 1 historic place. They wrote: St Patrick's Union Church is special or outstanding in its rarity as one of the earliest union churches built in New Zealand and, according to research, the oldest one with continuous use as a church whilst remaining on its original site. It forms a tangible reminder of cooperative behaviour in remote areas influenced by major events in New Zealand history, namely the Otago Gold rushes and, in the Mackenzie District itself, the 'land rush' to take up remote areas for pastoral farming. The good news for the Canterbury regional office of NZHPT made it to their Christmas card and the Timaru Herald gave it a write-up on 27<sup>th</sup> January headed "Church Rated Tops". To read the detailed report go to the web site [www.historic.org.nz](http://www.historic.org.nz) and search the Register number 1967 (or just click here if you are on line)

## Season's Greetings

From the Christchurch Office, New Zealand Historic Places Trust.



## Tree Surgery

John Baxter, a skilled South Canterbury arborist, dealt the final cut to a huge threatening pine tree in the church grounds in January. Using his enviable gymnastic ability he also scaled the enormous gnarled trees to the west of the building and gave them a 'haircut' to be proud of. The height was markedly reduced but in such a natural manner that even a keen observer would be hard pressed to see his handiwork. They now are considerably safer and should be good for a few years yet. Thanks to The Lion Foundation for funding this work.

## Old Man Pine - Split and Ready for Sale

They say wood warms you several times, and especially for our great wood splitting team who on 10<sup>th</sup> March, chain-sawed, carried, split, loaded trailers, measured and unloaded about 33 cubic metres of wood from the church grounds. This will be great for firewood next winter and is being sold as a fundraiser for the Trust. Many thanks to all of the participants on the day





## New Look Web Site with On-Line Shop and Facebook Page

The Trust has had a revamp of its web site making it easier to find your way around, including a shopping section. We also now have a facebook page for a quick update of news and events. <http://burkesspass.org.nz>

## Burkes Pass Spinsters Ball Memorabilia.

Need a small present or card for someone who has everything? By special permission from the Alexander Turnbull Library a delightful invitation to the ball held at Burkes Pass Schoolroom in 1890 has been reprinted as a tea towel (presented in a wrapper with a small insert of its story) and as a post card. Available at the church or by contacting J Batchelor, 41 Kirkwood Avenue, Christchurch 8041, Phone 03 3481531 or email [jbatch@clear.net.nz](mailto:jbatch@clear.net.nz) The proceeds will all go to church restoration projects including interior repairs, heating, floor coverings and replication of the original picket fence and gate.

Tea towels @ \$20 at the church or by post. Add \$5 per order for post and packaging.

Postcards @ \$2 each at the church.



## A Chat with Evelyn Godfrey (nee Allan)

David Reynolds, our Patron, met with Evelyn in Christchurch recently to talk about her childhood in one of the cob cottages at the Pass during the 1930's and 40's. Her parents, Peter and Christine Allan lived in the home owned currently by John Cuthbertson, and called Elm Tree Cottage. She attended school at the Pass and recalled their neighbours, the Greenes, providing local supplies of milk and butter, and having to collect the

mail from the Hotel. The rural mail service started from Fairlie about 1939 when everyone got their own roadside mail box.

Cheers  
Jane Batchelor

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**We do not have a subscription but welcome donations which 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.



Barbara Corcoran pulling her patented Corcoran barrow.