

The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust Newsletter

December 2013

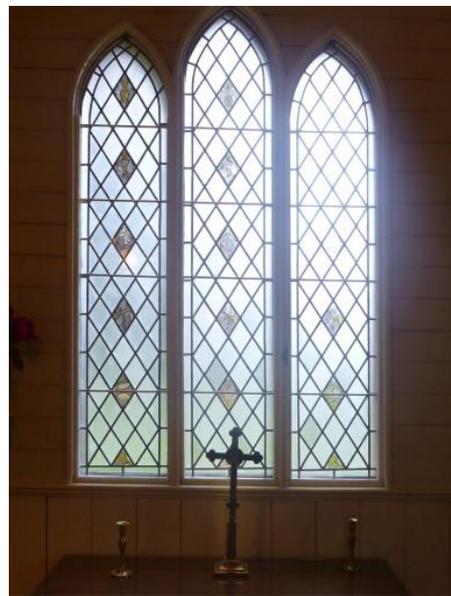


Christmas Carols at St Patricks Church

Join us **Sunday 22nd Dec at 2 pm** for a celebration of Christmas and carols. Children are very welcome and the Reverend Andrew McDonald has kindly agreed to lead this occasion. Julie Greig has invited us to the Gallery afterward for refreshments so please bring a small plate of finger food to share.

Original style Windows Bring a Beautiful Light

Nine years was worth the wait when Graham Stewart lifted the refurbished original window into its proper place on 17th October. It created a quiet peaceful light into the church that transformed the little building completely. Constant adjustment and planing of the lead surrounds were needed to account for the permanent lean on the church after years of gale force NW winds and asymmetrical window shapes however the well-organised team of Graham and his son Vic had the remaining reproduction windows in place by the end of the day. The reproduction quarries were made to match the old glass by sandblasting the thin glass, applying ground glass enamel fired in a kiln and finally piecing it all together. A simple decorative element of acanthus leaves from replaced pieces of the Canterbury Provincial Council building windows were added. These provide a link for the refurbished window with our early history and the new phase these windows bring. The Trust is grateful to Stewart Stained Glass Ltd, and the sponsors of windows including; the Burgess family, whose ancestors donated the land for the church, the Hayter and Parker families, Helen and Don Willetts and Liz Angelo-Roxborough, along with the helpers who made this project possible.



A New Jubilee Oak Tree

On September the 20th this year a lightening strike split the magnificent oak in the centre of Burkes Pass township,. It was planted in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. Sadness was overtaken by a desire to plant another tree beside it of significant local historical interest and to mark the year of Queen Elizabeth II's diamond jubilee. A search of the cemetery to find a seedling oak was unsuccessful, however a suitable young tree was found by Max Willetts at the entrance of Dornie, his ancestral home, and donated by his brother Don. The seedling originated from two oak trees planted by their grandfather, Elijah



Smart, in memory of his two sons, Charles and Tom, who died as a result of WWI. They formed part of the original Peace Avenue concept that was said to stretch from Cave as far as the Hermitage. A big thank you to the digging and transporting team; John Cuthbertson, Max, Don and his tractor, Graham, and also Warren Frost for mechanical digger assistance at the rock hard new site.

The Gathering

A great afternoon of celebrating was had with some stunning vintage finery, flags flying and a table laden with delicious food and drink. The proceedings started in the church with a welcome from our MC, Kim Perkins. The story of the windows was told and we were pleased to have with us Nancy McKinnon, whose wedding photo provided the pictorial evidence for the window project. After a blessing from Angela Walters, a short walk down the roadside led us to the new oak tree where everyone took their turn at adding a ceremonial trowel of compost to encourage it to grow well. In keeping with the past, it was given a watering with beer, Speights being the ale of choice. The gathering enjoyed Dave Taylor's colourful cluster of heritage style buildings and vehicles before heading to the much awaited opening of the Burkes Pass Gallery by new owners artist Julie Greig and Jasio Zyzalo. The Gallery displays Julie's original works and that of others including jewellery and clothing from Chrissie Bell that have contemporary and vintage flavour, making the Pass a great little destination for browsing and a coffee.



Merry Christmas,

Jane Batchelor

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