

The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust Newsletter

August 2014



A Gathering at the Burkes Pass Gallery – 7.30 pm Thursday 14th August.

- Read your favourite poem, tell a great yarn, sing a song or play your ukulele – a fun community night of amateur local entertainment,
- All welcome, BYO refreshments and a snack to share.
- Register your keen participation with Julie @ the Gallery by 11th August if you can or just turn up.
Ph 03 6856026 *funded by Creative Communities*

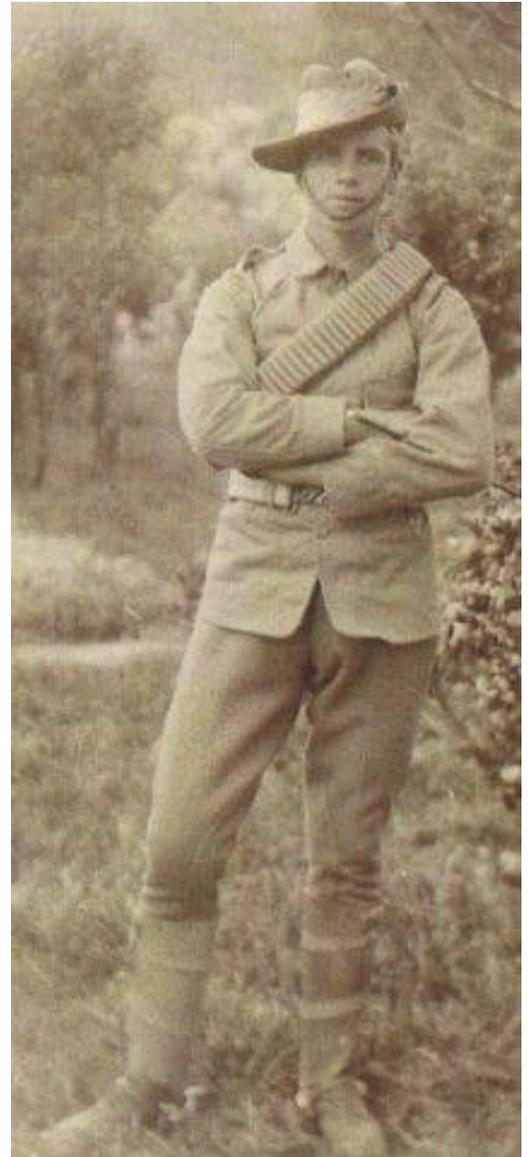
WW1 Tragedy Touched the Keeffe family from Alma Cottage

Bridget and James seventh child, Edgar, born on 10th October 1888 enlisted in the Canterbury Mounted Rifles and left from Wellington on a troopship on 15th Feb 1915. He arrived at the Dardenelles on 23rd August 1915 and was killed 3 days later, aged 26 years. His grave is on Hill 60 (NZ) Memorial, Turkey. He was awarded the British War medal and the Victory medal that were sent to his brother George. His name is remembered on the Mackenzie District War Memorial at Fairlie and the South Canterbury Cenotaph Wall at Timaru. His younger brother Alex also went to WW1 and was said to be severely affected by it and lived for many years in Rannerdale Veterans home.

Paper Treasures

Garry Kerr discovered a few surprises when sorting out contents of a recently deceased relative's estate including a copy of the first edition of the Timaru Herald from 1863. Tucked in a drawer were handwritten links through three generations of the Keeffe family. Small gems of domestic detail were written in copperplate writing on faded sepia paper from Bridget Keeffe to her daughter Amy. No date but headed Burkes Pass, Friday 1 o'clock. It recorded that it was snowing, frustration that there had been no Wednesday mail since the snow and a message to give her sister, Aggie, 3 shillings to buy a pair of galoshes to wear over her boots 'to keep her feet dry' and avoid the need to borrow her sister Alma's that were now apparently ruined (a case of first up - best dressed perhaps?).

Another letter in later years from Amy, then living at Conway Flat, to her daughter Linda also recorded notes about the mail, asks after her grandson Charlie and shares the trials and tribulations of knitting men's black pull-ons (what ever these are) for the 'sale of works' at church.



Snowdrops

Swathes of white snowdrops have carpeted the woodland behind Alma cottage over the past 2 months, in a spectacular display of defiance giving a cheerful note to these days of bitterly cold weather.



Burkes Pass Ice Rink Photos - 1963

The South Canterbury ice skating championships were held at Burkes Pass in 1963 and photos from this event emerged recently. Dick Guard from Fairlie, a keen speed skater in his day, was looking through some old copies of the Mid and South Canterbury Photo News. In the August edition he came across 3 pages of photos of this event.



Girl's Event



Wendy Grafton (left) open champion,
with Helen Glass, pairs champion



Spectators

Best wishes
Jane Batchelor

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