

The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust Newsletter

April 2018

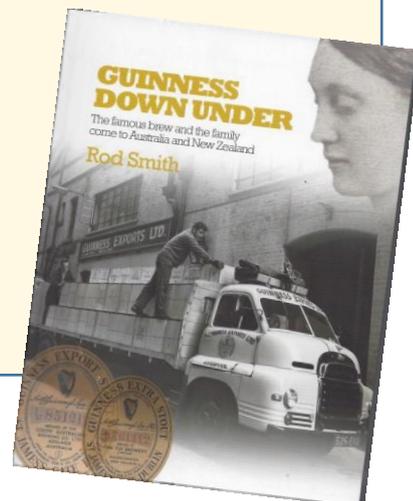


Local History Event - Sunday 13th May at Burkes Pass Church at 2pm

Michael J Burke, who was he? What was the connection to our very own township and the world famous Guinness family brew?

Rod Smith has just published a beautifully illustrated and extensively researched book, 'Guinness Down Under', and is coming to the Pass to share some of this fascinating saga of the Burke/Guinness family who came out to New Zealand and Australia. Of particular interest to us, is M.J.B the successful Canterbury pastoralist and businessman with connections to Raincliff and Burkes Pass.

Celebratory refreshments afterward at the Gallery opposite the church.



Art Events

Two of our talented resident artists have exhibitions on at present:

Julie Greig is featuring at the national 'Purely Pastel' exhibition, where she was awarded 'Winner of the Master Circle' for her beautiful high country work of man and dogs, named 'Troopers'. The exhibition runs until 22nd April @ Aigantighe Gallery, 49 Wai-iti Road, Timaru. More of her work is on display at her Gallery in Burkes Pass. <https://www.facebook.com/aigantigheartgallery/>

John Emery also has his unique and amazing 3-D paper and watercolour exhibition at the Little River Gallery, entitled 'Frocks, Feathers and Fabrications' on until 9th May. He combines objects redolent with memory and nature making a visual story. You can view on line at <http://www.littlerivergallery.com/exhibitions/>

St Patrick's Church Makeover

The exterior has been expertly repainted and repaired to a high standard ready to face the future again. At 146 years of age, the oldest church in the Mackenzie is entitled to develop the odd bit of rot and need some TLC from time to time. It has just received a wonderful makeover at the hands of painter, Chris Haugh from Kolour It of Fairlie, with the assistance of Colin Peake. Richard Herlund and his team at L&L Construction also provided some skilful repair in a few areas and the building is now in a cheerful state and ready for its new fence to complete the picture.

Thanks to the Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury for a grant toward this work and to a few generous individuals who have assisted the Burkes Pass Heritage Trust with donations, so we can all look with pride on this delightful historic building.



Alma Cottage

A significant area of the roof was upgraded in February, with a clean out of the narrow space between iron and T&G ceilings, repair of purlins, installation of insulation (thank goodness!), fire retardant building paper and new iron. While the iron was off we were able to complete earthquake strengthening, with new additional beams, bracing and 1.2 m helifix screws fastening the beams to the walls. These screws were relatively simple to insert with a hammer drill just tapping them so they self rotated down through the middle of the cob.



Annis Cottage

Earthquake strengthening has also been started with additional beams and a compression sandwich of the eastern gable which will be replicated on the western end as well. We plan to use helifix screws to stabilise and reinforce the walls and start cob repairs again in spring. The pigeon family who made use of the interior for nesting over the summer has been put on notice for next year.

Fruit Galore

The orchard at Alma Cottage has been laden and **quinces** and **medlars** are overflowing. Bags are available outside the little red Musterer's Hut beside the Gallery and any funds raised will go to the Trust and church maintenance.

The easiest and very yummy quince dessert recipe is to quarter them, (no need to peel) and just bake them with a little water, a sprinkle of sugar or honey and a knob of butter to caramelize. They can also be tasty just cut up and roasted like a vegetable with meat.

Medlars, rarely available, have been described since ancient times as the King of Fruits. They must be left to 'blet' or go soft, dark brown and wrinkly over a few weeks. When they look ready for the compost heap, they are ready to eat or cook up for a slightly smoky flavoured and rosy coloured jelly or paste. When the fruit is left until soft, the pulp can be spooned out as a special foodie accompaniment to wine, cheese and crackers. I like the fact that there is no pressure to process them, just leave them to soften in a paper bag or layer on a tray.



Little Dorritt Potbelly Stove Wanted.

The base of the stove at Alma Cottage has developed a couple of holes in the side at the base after many years of use and we would love to find a replacement base for it. If anyone knows of one or has one lurking in their shed we would be very grateful.



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