

The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust Newsletter

September 2019



Working Bee

Sunday 8th Sept 9.30 am– the Heritage Walk needs a few hands for both small and larger tasks, planting more trees/tussocks, carting and spreading mulch, chainsawing some fallen willow trunks/branches and someone with a steady hand to retouch some of the signs (paint and brushes supplied). Meet outside Alma Cottage, anyone with a trailer/shovel, chainsaw and expertise would be a great help.
Ph Jane/Graham 685 6271.

Speed Review at Burkes Pass

The residents at Burkes Pass are being consulted about speed issues through the Burkes Pass Township and an initial meeting is being held on **Wednesday 28th August at 12.30 pm at the church** with two representatives of NZTA and any residents who are available. They are then conducting another session at Tekapo to which Burkes Pass residents are also invited.

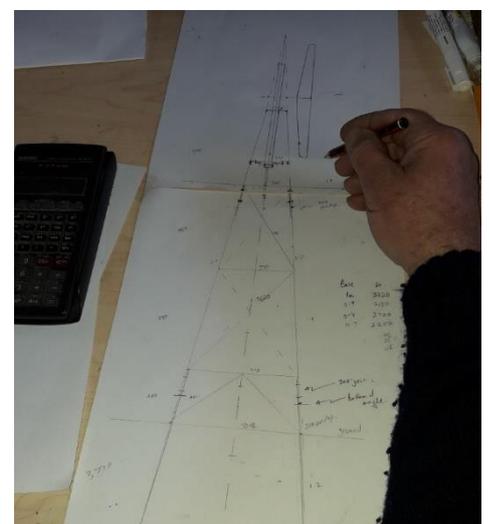


- Residents are invited to attend a session to discuss their views with Transport Agency staff on Wednesday, 28 August from 3 – 5 pm at Reflections Café, SH8, Tekapo.
- There is also the opportunity to give feedback on line [at this link www.nzta.govt.nz/canterbury-](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/canterbury) (operational from 28 August)
- Or by email SH8Tekapo@nzta.govt.nz

I hope that at long last we can achieve a reduction in the speed limit. On the map we appear to be a just small township but there are factors that make our circumstances higher risk, with a curve in the road in the town centre, limited visibility, and significantly increased numbers of visitors starting and stopping vehicles together with pedestrians of all ages crossing the highway. These factors need to be safely and reasonably accounted for in the speed limit and other design elements.

Windmill Project

Graham has always had a hankering for a windmill, and one that will actually work at pumping water. Several attempts to acquire one to restore have been unsuccessful over the years, as even a wreck that has been deteriorating for decades becomes precious once interest is shown. However finally he got his big opportunity when his brother allowed him to gather up from long grass the pieces of rusty 100 year old iron that once resembled a windmill or two and



it has taken a couple of years of figuring out and fiddling to put parts from two similar 'motors' to make one. Hurdles have been numerous, including breakages, one turned clockwise and the other anticlockwise, and don't mention the vital cog that dropped off the back of the truck never to be seen again. Persistence has

paid off and now it is set up in our Christchurch garage and building the tower has started. Eventually it will be installed by the sheep yard stream outside Anniss Cottage - watch this space.

Burkes Pass Cemetery Book

The intriguing stories and lives of people remembered in the historic cemetery were the catalyst for Liz Angelo-Roxborough to record some of these several years ago with the idea of writing a booklet. Many family members generously contributed photographs and information and it was difficult to choose only a few to document. However, this was done and the project, while being on hold for some time, is now being brought to fruition, and hopefully will be published by the end of the year. Ten acres were donated by Alexander Bruce Smith of Rollesby in 1873 and surveyed as a reserve by the provincial government.

Heartbreakingly an eight-day old baby boy, Frank Cowan was the first to be buried there later that year in the plot on the far left in the photo. Now surrounded by mature sheltering trees, the cemetery is a pleasant spot on a sunny day for a wander amongst the headstones and remembering those who lie there.



Stall in the Church

The church at Burkes Pass is a welcome place for visitors to the Mackenzie, providing local history to read and see on the walls while absorbing the original atmosphere of the place. Fantails seem to find it an attractive space as well and frequently are fluttering about the high ceiling. Items of local interest are also for sale and provide a welcome trickle of income to fund the restoration projects, the Heritage Walk and township landscaping, hopefully adding to the enjoyment of all who live at Burkes Pass or visit.

Currently in stock are; denim aprons with a pocket and printed with an image of Rona shearers hut, carry bags printed with a pen and ink sketch of Alma cob cottage, tea-towels with a Burkes Pass School Junior Red Cross scroll of honour from 1939 (has many familiar names on it), an invitation to the Spinsters Ball of 1890, packets of cottage garden seeds, those of the colourful kakabeak and also local native seeds of plants that thrive in the Mackenzie district.

Come and visit and perhaps you can sort out a gift for some lucky person at the same time.



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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.