



THE GODLEY BEACON

The Godley Head Heritage Trust Newsletter, No.17, May 2011

From the Chairman's desk

Much has been written about the damage the February earthquake has wrought on our community, some on the loss of major heritage structures, a few of which may be rebuilt. Almost nothing has been said on the minor, the community heritage that we pass each day, that we take for granted. The old life boat shed at the east end of Moncks Bay, a proposed mortuary during World War II, leans into the Estuary, its structure broken, its repair doubtful. The wounded Sumner Council Chambers rests behind a barricade of containers, its injuries probably fatal; within it, the Sumner Museum, its files, its displays facing homelessness. Our Trust's building and collection at Godley Head passed through both quakes and their aftershocks virtually unscathed. The Head itself, like much of the Port Hills is fractured. The struggle for us now

will be to raise the funds so essential to bring our concept to reality. Many deserving organisations will be struggling for finance to rebuild, to recover – in a charitable environment reduced by the reduction of our city's economy. So little of the community's military heritage has survived the passage of years that it is essential what remains is preserved. There will temptation for authorities to look at old, cracked or broken concrete structures and say "Let's clear that away, we need to recover, to build a new city." These battered 'lumps' of concrete encapsulate

Peter C Wilkins Chairman

1. Chairman's Desk.
2. Trust activities.
3. Annual General Meeting notice and details.



DOC is making major progress bedding the Trust's pill-box into the hillside near the Quartermaster's Store. The retaining wall is in, and the steps poured. The backfill, approach path and lower drains will be completed shortly. The Trust will work on the 'gun gate' during this year. This is a gate like structure which allows the crew to swing the pill-box's machine gun from one slot to the other. It is hoped to have the pill-box operational for visitors by this summer.



The Trust's Radar hut has received its building compliance certificate and Doug Joy has finished the radar aerial's mounting braces and is working on the radar operator's bench. He and Bill Mooar have installed over half the hut's insulation and the planning for the hut's wiring is complete. The hut will be the first complete display planned for the Trust's museum and will set the standard for those that follow.



After February's shock major cracks appeared in the slopes around the three gun emplacements at Godley. The fear was further shocks or weathering would cause the cliff top to shear off and ruin access to the emplacements. DOC urgently called in experts and Hamish the 'Kamikaze' digger driver of Redcliffs School fame to follow the cracks down and see how much danger they represented to the emplacements. To everyone's relief they were mostly very superficial and those that weren't could be fenced off.

The general damage to the Head was extensive in places such as the path to the light-house, yet the light-house itself largely escaped. BOP's one and three had little to none but three showed a combination of spalling and shaking. The path to the search lights is closed though the tunnel itself was barely scratched. The path on from the tunnel to the search-light emplacements is completely gone and the first emplacement damaged by rock falls. There are questions as to whether the public will ever again have access to them.



**The
Godley Head Heritage Trust**

Notice of Annual general Meeting 2011

The Godley Head Heritage Trust Board gives notice that the Trust's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Department of Conservation's Mahaanui Area Office, south end of Nga Mahi Road, Sockburn (Off Blenheim Rd), at 2pm (1400 hrs), on Sunday 12th June 2011. Afternoon tea for all will follow.

Any one having transport difficulties getting to the venue should please ring Peter Wilkins at ChCh 942-1942.

If you have a matter you would like raised at the AGM please telephone Peter Wilkins at ChCh 942-1942 or e.mail peter.wilkins@paradise.net.nz

Please remember Trust Membership Subscriptions are now due. Could you please post in your \$20 or bring it with you to the Annual General Mtg.