



The Godley Beacon

The Godley Head Heritage Trust Newsletter no.10 November 2005

Trust takes Award

Good News! The Godley Head Heritage Trust has been acknowledged with the receipt of a Community Heritage award.

Norm Webb and Graeme Hines put their heads together and applied to the Hagley-Ferrymead Community Board for the Trust to be considered for the Christchurch Star Heritage Awards 2005.

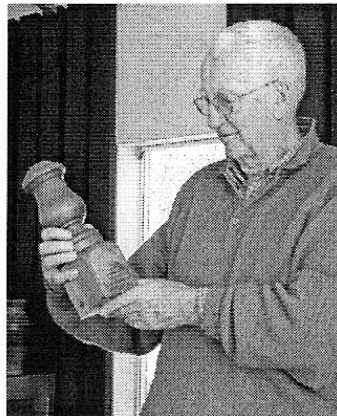
Chairman Peter Wilkins was conscripted to attend the award function at the Women's Club in Hereford Street. He was startled to find Norm Webb and himself up front receiving the award as Category Winner in Conservation and Restoration for the work of restoration at Godley Head.

This is a great effort by some of the Trust's most active members, a serious boost to our public image and a great feeling that our efforts are publicly acknowledged.

The awards celebrate and encourage projects that promote and restore buildings, places and objects that form part of our cultural heritage. They aim to encourage individuals and groups to take pride in their local heritage. And it is pride that the Trust takes in our coastal defence heritage at Godley Head.

The award is in the form of a framed scroll and carved wooden trophy, which the Trust holds for the coming year.

Above: Norm Webb and the Heritage trophy



Work day

Late September saw a group of keen Trust volunteers giving up a sunny Sunday to clean and clear out the QMS in preparation for work towards the heritage centre (museum project in plainspeak). The Trust gear and cabinets were moved to the RHQ rooms and the plastic, tin and aluminium rubbish collected from around the Head by

the caretaker, was sorted into bags for recycling. The cans were stomped to reduce bulk. The Kleensaks to the left of photo contain crushed cans that Bill Mooar will take in for cash. The heftiest object - a breach block was hauled out of the way.

Volunteers Tay Rakanui, Mike Ray and Evan Hannan flex their biceps in moving the breach block.



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Visiting heritage expert



Peter Wilkins and Sir Neil Cossons at Godley Head

Godley Head was visited in October by Sir Neil Cossons, CEO of English Heritage. This is the government-lead body responsible for advising government and providing grants for historic areas and buildings in England.

Sir Neil gave the keynote address at the official opening of Christchurch's annual Heritage Week.

Despite his hectic schedule Sir Neil, whose trip was partly sponsored by DOC, took time to visit Godley Head, accompanied by Conservator Mike Cuddihy, Godley Head Heritage Trust chair Peter Wilkins, Ian Hill and Gnome Hannah-Brown.

The headland, a superb place on a sunny day, was at its stunning best, with clear sky, bright sea, and warm windless morning.

Sir Neil looked through the Mess buildings and regimental headquarters where the Trust are working to establish a Heritage Centre. He is strong in his view that a building used is a building saved and gave advice on how to go about managing a Heritage Centre. He commented on the well kept state of the gun emplacements area.

Odd facts corner



Wheatleys Drift

The other day we got an enquiry as to what the little wooden weather-worn sign 'Wheatleys Drift' means. Eagle-eyed members may have noticed it on the north east side of the road on the way out to the Head. Trust member Ian Hill enlightened us.

The story as told to him is that Wheatley was a Christchurch City Council truck driver. Some years back when council staff were doing maintenance on the Godley Head road the bored drivers had a competition to see who could travel the furthest with their truck in neutral.

The starting point was reported to be in the vicinity of the old quarry on the right hand side of the road as you travel out to Godley Head. At that point the truck was put out of gear into neutral and then allowed to freewheel (drift) until it stopped. Wheatley won the competition by travelling the furthest from the starting point. The sign marks the end point of his easterly drift.

Christmas celebration

Trust members are invited to a BBQ lunch and look around Godley Head
Sunday 11th December
Meet 11.00 at the RHQ

For numbers for catering ring Gnome on 3323466 , or Email ghannah@clear.net.nz if you can come.



Fort Taiaroa trip

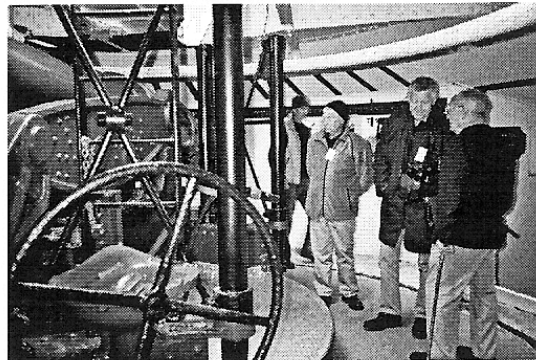
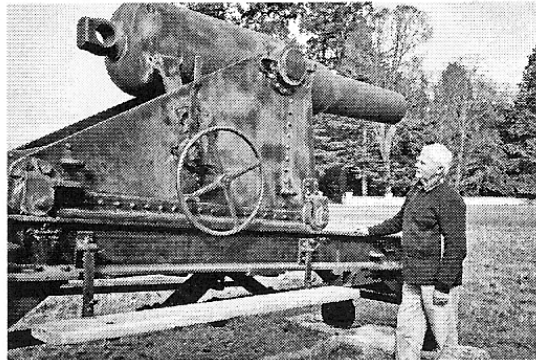
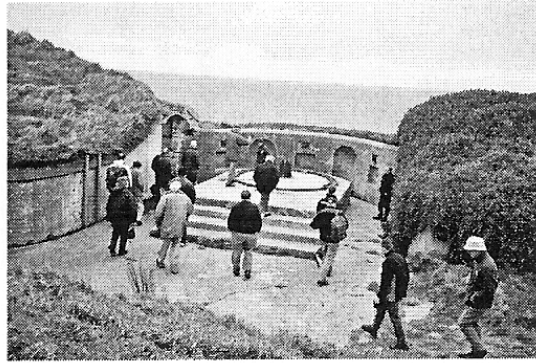
Early Friday 2nd September, seven Trust members wended their way south in a minivan to the Fort Taiaroa conference in Dunedin.

Friday afternoon involved talks on coastal defences by Laurie Stewart and Brigadier Graham Birch, retired Director of NZ Artillery.

Early Saturday the bus picked up the Trust team from the camping ground and took them to Taiaroa Head via St Clair, site of a Victorian 7inch RML battery; Tomahawk and Highcliff. The trip was an opportunity to meet some of the other conference participants. At Taiaroa we toured the disappearing gun site and looked at how the military and conservation aspects co-exist, with the royal albatross colony and battery occupying the same headland. A short stroll led to an inspection of the Channel Battery and Howlett Point emplacements. In the afternoon the bus took us to Rerewahine to inspect the battery site. It was quite reassuring for Trust members to compare this battery with the relatively well kept ones at Godley Head. At Rerewahine the landowner has built a cafe and offers conservation tours and outdoor recreation. He is raising money to carry out some restoration maintenance on this battery which is now used as shelter for stock.

Sunday dawned sunny as the team drove to Kuriheka Estate at Maheno. They had time to wander around the estate looking at the amazing collection of Victorian artillery pieces before the bus-load arrived. It was a marvel that these hefty pieces ended up at a North Otago farm. Later the team were given a guided tour of the house and its outstanding collection of military memorabilia.

Many thanks to the Fort Taiaroa Historic Society who organised an extremely interesting weekend. It was an opportunity to talk with like-minded historic buffs, and to get ideas on how to progress our project. We made some invaluable contacts and have established ourselves as a good example of a community group that is making a difference in the preservation of coastal defence.



From the top: Channel battery gun emplacement, Rerewahine pillbox; Kuriheka 64 pounder gun and Graeme Hines; Restored Armstrong 6" disappearing gun at Fort Taiaroa