



The Godley Beacon

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August 2007

Welcome to our new look streamlined newsletter.

Having done a survey of many of our members and associates, we are aware that communication last year was inadequate, and have adopted this shortened form of newsletter, which will come out monthly.

Annual General Meeting

Held 17 July, this was a time for members and associates to get together for a chat about what has gone on in the last year and our plans for the future. Gnome gave a pictorial presentation of this, which is briefly recapped below for those who were unable to attend.

During the year Tim Davidson resigned from the Trust Board, leaving a vacancy, and at the meeting Kit Iverson was elected back onto the Board again. Kit was a foundation member of the Trust and its first Chair. Welcome Kit, we value your experience in Coastal Defence and Artillery matters. Kit will be assisting us with fundraising activities.

Can you help?

We still need assistance with administration – particularly fund raising. If anyone is able to spare some time to assist with this, it would be much appreciated. Ideally we need someone with good communication skills, who are able to use the computer and is good at organising and putting information together.

2006/2007 Round up

The Department of Conservation has again been a terrific ally in obtaining funding. Grant Campbell, as DOC liaison officer on the Trust, has worked hard and the Department will shortly be removing all asbestos from the Headland. This includes roofing on most of the building, asbestos sheeting in kitchen areas, asbestos cladding and dumped asbestos debris all around the place.

DOC has also obtained national funding for much needed maintenance on the buildings, and is working on interpretive signs to add to the excellent ones previously installed.

Internal work on the RHQ/QMS building has progressed with the door hole cut between the two levels, and the ramp framework in place. Thanks to Peter Wilkins and Graeme Hines.

Work is continuing on restoration of the 3.7 heavy AA gun and the Clark tug, which I last heard was up and running – just a few challenges with stopping. The brakes are still to be tweaked, but that's in the capable hands of Bill and Kevin Moorar and David Stock.

Trust finances are in Matthew O'Sullivan's very able control and he has put some clear auditable systems in place, and is excellent at chasing up receipts and invoices for a clear paper trail.

We have had several enquiries from groups wanting interpretive tours of the Head – Norm Webb is now organising and keeping track of these.

The PD gangs, under Pat Lyons care, have added muscle on clearing areas and their work is continuing.

Our secretary, Lynn Lochhead has done a great job of organising our meetings and minute taking. As Historic Places Trust liaison rep on the Trust, she has smoothed the way for some of our up-coming projects – a pill box which has been donated and will be installed as an interpretive feature, and a former barracks building which we hope to get in 2008.

Further interior construction work in the Heritage Centre, is on hold till the roof has been replaced.

The Trust is purchasing a Fortress Searchlight, similar to those used at Godley Head. Although we won't be able to reinstall it back where it was, it will be an invaluable interpretive tool, for explaining to students and other interest groups, why searchlights were needed at Godley Head, and what their purpose was.

We need funding for this purchase.

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Other Associations.

Godley Head now is a vastly modified place to what it was in war years and CMT days. And it's a totally different visitor who goes there. The Trust acknowledges the work of the Christchurch Music Society in running the mid winter 'Soulstice' rave at the Head for young people. These music parties are run with a concession from DOC, and the Trust is given a donation. This is much appreciated.

We also thank the Canterbury Officers Club, who allows us to use their premises for the Board's monthly meeting, and to hold our AGM.

This year we established contact with Te Papa – their National Services unit provide support to museums – particularly smaller regional ones. They organised training which Trust members were able to participate in. We learnt about diverse subjects ranging from 'strategic planning' 'interpretive material' 'governance' and 'marketing'. This gave us not only a better understanding of these subjects, but the opportunity to meet and learn from other small museums.

Matthew O'Sullivan from the Trust, who works at the Wigram Air Museum as photo archivist, will be running a workshop on Photograph Conservation later this year. As we are amassing a significant collection of photos, this will be invaluable in preserving them and in learning how best to make them accessible to students and researchers.

Acquisitions

We have been donated more army uniforms, photographs and manuals, as well as gun parts and a fancy copper cowl which once adorned the top of the magazine ventilators.

And we are still collecting memories in our Oral History project, which Peter Wilkins is working on.

Please remember the Trust if you have any material relevant to the Head. We take good care of donated material.

Any bequests would also be gratefully received and acknowledged.



Lugging the map cabinet down five flights. That's Bill Moorar on the left, at the awkward front end!

The Shifters

After 20 years in Victoria Street the Department of Conservation has shifted to Torrens

House in Hereford Street. This has meant some reduction in space which has been to the Trust's benefit.

Trust member, and DOC historic officer Ian Hill, has donated some of the late Doug Preston's printed material, relevant to the Head, and DOC gave us storage cabinets.

At short notice a team of Trust members met at DOC to collect these. The only snag was that some of the map cabinets must have been built in situ, as they would not fit in the lift, and despite Herculean efforts would also not fit down the stairwell.

Fortunately our guys are practical and carry their tools everywhere. With some grunt effort the disassembled components were lugged down five flights of stairs.



Hmm – large cabinet stuck between floors, before being disassembled

Godley Head on a winter evening is a grand place to unload – and with a chain gang slaving away, it was a darn sight faster than loading.

If you have any comment on this newsletter, or anything to add for the next one, please contact Naomi on 9814363, or by email, ghannah@clear.net.nz