



THE GODLEY BEACON

The Godley Head Heritage Trust Newsletter October 2002

From the Chairman's Desk

Dear Trust Members,

The Godley Head Heritage Trust Board is now established and taking positive steps towards its goals. It gives me great pleasure as Chairman of the Board to introduce this first issue of our newsletter, the Godley Beacon, in which we aim to keep members informed of progress and forthcoming activities as well as providing articles on the history of Godley Head and the people associated with it.

For some members of the Board, this is their first experience with a Heritage Trust and it has been a steep learning curve. It has involved familiarizing ourselves with the legal parameters within which we must operate and clarifying the relationship between ourselves and the Department of Conservation.

Board members have visited the site to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the area and to identify and prioritise the tasks which need to be undertaken as funds become available. Although some tasks will need to be carried out by professionals, we have identified a number of areas in which you, as Trust members, can assist through working bees. The first of these is planned for the end of October. Details are set out on page 4 of the newsletter. We hope to see many of you there.

In the meantime, we have agreed upon a Trust logo which appears at the

head of this page. It was designed for us by Dean Strachan of DOC and the Board wishes to thank him for his efforts on our behalf. We are pleased with the design and hope that you will be too.

We are also establishing a website (details on page 7). As chairman of the Board, I would like to thank our enthusiastic military historian and Board member, Peter Wilkins and his son Paul, who are making this possible. We hope the site will become a focal point for information about the Trust and its activities.

Finally, we are erecting Heritage Trust information signs at Godley Head and at the beginning of the Boulder Bay Walkway, with sponsorship by a donor whose generosity is greatly appreciated. These signs will help to advertise our existence and we hope will lead to new members. It is vital, if we are to achieve our goal successfully, that we increase our membership base. I urge all members to encourage others to join.

Kit Iversen
Chairman



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Department of Conservation

Te Papa Atawhai

The Trust and DOC

Working Together

How will DOC and the Trust work together?

The Department of Conservation (DOC) and the Godley Head Heritage Trust will shortly sign a Memorandum of Understanding. What for, you may ask?

This document sets out the relationship between DOC and the Trust. It outlines what the Trust will do and how they will work with DOC to preserve and maintain the historic assets.

Because the area is public conservation land, under the Conservation Act DOC has responsibility for policy and administration for land at Godley Head. The Trust has the right to make suggestions to the Department.

The Department of Conservation is responsible for the land and the structures, but is working with the Trust to provide educational and recreational opportunities, as well as doing maintenance work. It is a collaborative working relationship.

DOC has completed a GPS survey of the historic sites and developed a maintenance plan to minimise structural deterioration. It has also developed an interpretation plan and is working towards putting interpretive plaques in the various structures so visitors know what they are and how they were used. They will be mounted as funds permit.

It is proposed that the Trust will prepare a draft annual works programme setting out details of work to be done in that year, who will undertake the work and indicate how it will be funded. This

plan will be submitted to DOC's North Canterbury Area Manager who will discuss it with the Trust and give approval for work to proceed. DOC will let the Trust know how it can assist the annual work programme with likely financial contribution and staff time commitment. Health and safety is an important aspect of any work, and the Trust will develop a safety plan for any work they propose.

This working relationship will greatly help preserve this special site. The Trust will be able to seek funding for work over and above what the Department of Conservation can do with its limited resources. Preserving memories of time spent living and working at Godley Head is time consuming, but this precious part of our heritage will be recorded by Trust members.

It has been rewarding to be involved in the establishment of the Trust and DOC staff look forward to a positive future together.

Gnome Hannah-Brown
ex officio DOC staff member on the Trust board.

The Trust's Aims

In conjunction with the Department of Conservation, preserve and maintain the historic assets located on the land commonly known as Godley Head.

In association with the Department of Conservation, undertake educational activities pertaining to the area.

Provide historical data and research into the installations and sites.

Develop public support and involvement

in the maintenance of the historic assets through sponsorships, grants and donations from the public, business houses and other bodies.

Undertake other such other work and provide such other support and assistance consistent with the charitable purposes of the Trust.

Listening To The Past

Godley Head's Oral History

"A history written from the bare bones of Archives and without the flesh of people's memories, remains a cold, bare skeleton" anon.

This quotation is the core of oral histories. No matter how wise the person or how much a culture reveres oral histories, memories are still simply memories - fallible, coloured, biased but essentially human. It is the element of humanity that is their value. Yet the more people who record their part and perception of history the more value the collective record becomes. The consensus of their memories is as valid as the archives "official" memory.

Old soldiers have an inevitable habit of just "fading away". If we let them go without record, then we have all lost something

The Godley Head Trust saw early in it's development that one of its essential tasks was the recording of oral history. To record the human history of the Heads, while we still can.

An application for funding was made to the Oral History 2002 Project and we were successful in being granted a thousand dollars for the purpose. This will barely meet expenses but with the good will of volunteers, the support of Trust members and the public, we will assemble a valuable treasury of memories.

You, your family, your friends and acquaintances can make this "treasure" possible. Those that have or do serve, work, live or simply play at Godley Head have memories of value to us. No-one's memories are unimportant. The smallest piece of a jigsaw is as important as the largest. Without the smallest piece, the jigsaw remains unfinished. Each piece provides the support, the confirmation of the positioning of the next.

Not every one would have enough memories to justify the cost and time of a formal archival recording, but everyone we can manage must be properly interviewed; notes taken, written up, transcripts verified and permissions for usage gained. Between the notes and the recordings we are assembling an archive of peoples memories. It will be from these that the authors of future histories will add humanity to their books.

If you know of someone who has memories of Godley Head in war or peace, please pass on to us their name, what you know of them and where they can be contacted. We will approach them and work through the process of recording their story. Don't forget yourself; your memories are as important as anyone elses.

Already we have accumulated memories of instances such as the accidental fatal shooting at Godley in 1942 and life for the families of regular force staff there during the CMT days.

In future newsletters we will keep you up to date on the Oral History's progress.

Contact

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GODLEY HEAD HERITAGE TRUST'S FIRST WORKING BEE!!!!!!!!!!!!

At last the long awaited chance to help rebuild Godley Head has arrived.

A working-bee is planned for Sunday the 27th of OCTOBER, 2002.

We are going to clean up rubble and grass at the Taylor Battery, and for the green thumbs among us, the garden at the Officers Mess.

Meet at the Godley Head car park 10AM.

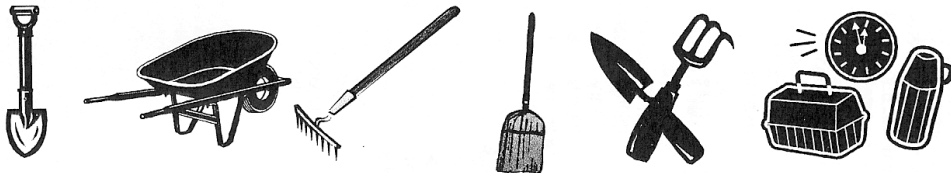
Please bring if you can pickaxes, shovels, rakes, yard brooms, wheelbarrows or gardening tools.

Mark your tools to ensure you get them back.

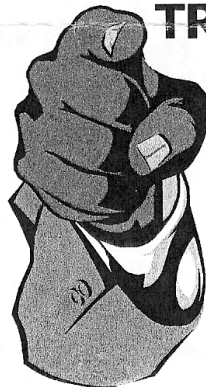
Bring your lunch and a cup – tea/coffee, milk and hot water will be provided

Dress for the weather.

Cancellation on radio NewsTalkZB 1098AM– at 8AM



YOUR TRUST NEEDS YOU



ROGUES GALLERY

KIT IVERSEN

Kit's interest in Godley Head arose from his military background. He is currently a member of the Canterbury Officer's Club of which he has twice been President. He attended compulsory military training at Burnham and was posted to 32 Battery 3 Field Regiment in April 1953 as a gunner. He was transferred to 4 Mediums Regiment as a result of a civilian move to Hamilton, then in 1961 he was posted to 5 Light Battery, a mortar of field ability, before being transferred back to 3 Field. After various appointments Kit became 32 Battery Commander and later the Commanding Officer of the Regiment. In all he served for 20 years in the Territorial service, commencing as a private and retiring before his 40th birthday as Lt Colonel.

Although Kit had no direct military association with Godley Head, he was encouraged to become involved by Warwick Peers, one of the driving forces behind the formation of the Trust, with whom he has been friends since primary school days together at Elmwood. In civilian life Kit worked in Local Government before retirement.



Kit's vision for Godley Head in the short term revolves around the need for maintenance and interpretation of the gun emplacements and buildings at the site. In the longer term he would like to see the educational potential of the site enhanced, particularly with the creation of a museum to record the history of the site and all those associated with it.

PETER WILKINS

Peter came to the Godley Head Heritage Trust through his work as a military historian specialising in coastal defence. His ten year military career was as an infantryman rather than a 'concrete gunner'. He served in the New Zealand and British forces. A field commission saw him leave the army as a First Lieutenant.

Peter's subsequent civilian employment has been in the computer and electronic security industries.

Peter's primary task with the Trust is the recording and definition of the Head's history. This work is designed to provide an accurate foundation for the preservation and restoration of the Godley Heritage.





WWW.

GODLEY ON THE WEB

In order to protect and preserve the past, the Godley Head Trust is using the communications of today. None so much represent today and the future as the World Wide Web.

Many web sites are created because their owner's feel they should be on the Web; the Trust knows it has to be. The Web has an immediacy, a spontaneity that footnote encrusted treaties don't. Yet with honesty and care it's sites can be as valuable to posterity.

When operational the Trust's Web site will provide both history and current events in a mix that will bring to life a small but representative part of a momentous moment in our country's history.

Godley Head can too easily be seen as a wind-swept barren headland, bereft of a Maori history and with little more than battered, broken and vandalised concrete to represent the passing of all of us. It is those very pieces of concrete that prove the seriousness of the moment our parents and grandparents faced.

With the Web we can take both the Head's history and its current relevance into the community, into homes in a way that print can only dream of. We can open direct pathways to people the world over who share our sense of history and its relevance to all of our communities. To show our history is an integral part of the world's experience.

Initially access to our site will be through a link from the Department of Conservation's (DOC) web site at www.doc.govt.nz

We hope to have the site and that link operational by the end of October. Wish us luck and wisdom.

SAVING THE PAST

The Trust has started, possibly at first a little reluctantly, a collection. A collection of memorabilia - a physical memory of Godley Heads. The pieces of this collection will be used for general education, for display on open days, as well as simply to ensure they survive and in public ownership.

We already have some pieces of kit and a second war army HF radio transmitter. We need anything you have; items both military and civilian that are of the same category or actually were used at Godley Head - letters, papers, photographs, drawings, kit, anything. If in doubt ring or write to us and we'll work it through with you. We will take items on loan or donation, we will copy and return documents or photographs you wish to keep. All items will be kept in a secure location, properly recorded and stored by our resident curator.

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