



The Godley Beacon

The Godley Head Heritage Trust Newsletter no 4, December 2003,

Christmas Function

Your committee has arranged for a Christmas bash on December 16, at the Canterbury Officers Club. See inside for details.

We hope you can make it, to chat with other Trust members, and see what your Trust has been doing.

Godley Work day

It was an unseasonably wet day for the Trust's third working bee, but 12 hardy souls braved the deluge and met at Godley Head to do some maintenance work.

Because of the extreme weather, the planned work at Taylor Battery was postponed. Instead the team cleaned out the rooms at the east end of the RHQ (Regimental Head Quarters). This area will become the new home base for the Trust.

The rooms are what a real estate agent would call 'original, a handyman's dream.'

The Department of Conservation used the area for storing rolls of wire and sundries like old signs.

Trust members lugged stuff and swept out to make way for the bits and pieces they are collecting.

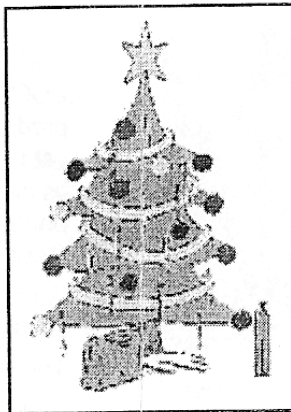
Some repair work and painting is needed so the memorabilia can be stored in the manner it deserves.

A couple of hardy volunteers, including DOC staff member Tony Woods, put in a

gate across the entrance to the Officers Mess.

It involved soggily digging holes for gate posts, and installing a cyclone gate that will keep out errant sheep.

Miike Rea replaced rocks that over the years have been knocked off the rock wall around the grassed area. By the way some of the rocks had 'grown' into the ditches, they had been their a mighty long time.



Other news

Godley Head's resident caretaker is doing a great job of keeping the grass mowed and the Head tidy. He does a round each day, picking up litter, cans and bottles that untidy visitors have left behind.

DOC and the Christchurch City Council have signed a memorandum of understanding. The Council are taking responsibility for the

tracks from Taylors Mistake to the Head. DOC is still responsible for the tracks from the Carpark to the gun emplacements and searchlights.

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Saving the Past

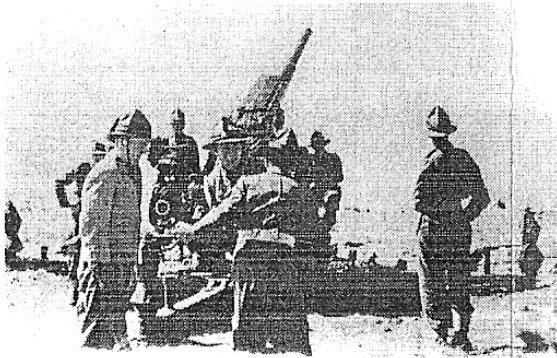
QMS gets revamp

The Quartermasters Store at Godley Head has had some major alterations so the 3.7 Heavy AA gun can be housed in it.

Finance for the alterations came from the Government's historic grant that we reported on earlier. Ian Hill, DOC's historic officer was instrumental in organising the funding application.

The Department of Conservation is no longer using Godley Head as a workshop base, and has cleared out from the QMS.

The door has been enlarged enough to allow the 3.7 to be stored inside.



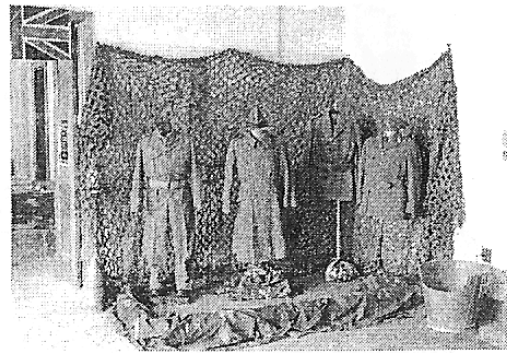
3.7 Heavy AA at Godley Head in CMT days.

Working with Ferrymead Historic Park, where the gun is presently residing, volunteers from the Trust have refurbished the wheels to make the gun more manoeuvrable.

DOC is working on logistics to get the 9 ton gun shifted from Ferrymead Historic Park to Godley Head.

During CMT (Compulsory Military Training) days, the 3.7 complemented the 40mm bofors guns at Godley Head for air defence. It is very fitting that the gun will be returned for permanent display.

We will keep you informed of progress. It is hoped to have a ceremony to mark the return of the gun to the Headland.



Uniform's display, organised by Graeme Hines.

Godley Head Open Day

It was a cold and grey October morn, when DOC staff and Trust members gathered on Godley Head for a Heritage Week event - an open day of the coastal defence battery.

They had previously cleared out and cleaned up the Officers' Mess and put up the best displays we've yet had.

DOC's graphic designer, Sandra Parkkali, has produced some great new interpretative panels, yet to be installed, and we had coloured prints as posters. Together with other posters, aerial photos, historic photos, uniforms and flags the Mess was transformed.

Further ambience was created by WWII music playing in the background. Good old Vera Lynn. The Historic Places Trust and Christchurch City Council joined us with displays.

Although the day started slowly, the sun shone by mid morning, and over 400 visitors called out to see the underground magazines and gun emplacements, where Trust members were on hand to provide interpretation.

Military vehicle club members had four old jeeps on display - one with machine gun mounted on it, and Selwyn Frewin's fund-raising sausage sizzle did a great trade in sausies and drinks, while a busker entertained diners.

Event coordinator, Gnome Hannah-Brown, breathed a sigh of relief at the end of the day, as tired DOC staff and Trust members, plumb tuckered out with talking, packed up the displays.



Christmas Social

7pm
tuesday
16 december

Canterbury
Officers Club

nibbles provided
A chance to
see film of Godley Head,
chat with other Trust members.



The Officers Club is at
64 Gloucester Street.
Partners welcome.

Parking at rear of building, access down side alley.
Please ring Annette 3713 743 if you are attending
- we need to know for catering.