



OTAGO GOLDFIELDS HERITAGE TRUST

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OGHT President's Report

I am pleased to present my second annual report for the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust.

Staff Matters

The past year has been one of stability on the staffing front. As the new face of the Trust Terry Davis has fitted well into the position of Cavalcade and Events Coordinator and is putting his own individual stamp on proceedings. We have also recently appointed another staff member specifically for the over-seeing of the Gold 150 Celebrations.

Cavalcade

This year's Cavalcade "Stake Ya Claim in Oamaru" was our 19th Cavalcade and the success of this event was due to the superb organization of the Oamaru host town committee spear headed by Malcolm and Trish Oakes and very ably led by Bruce McNab. The professionalism and dedication of the trail bosses and their various assistants must also be acknowledged. This year we had 10 trails in total - five riding, one light wagon, one heavy wagon and three walking trails.

The whole event though was overshadowed by the tragedy of the Christchurch earthquake of February 22 which occurred less than a week prior to the commencement of the Cavalcade. As a result of this a considerable number of people who had registered to take part were unable to come and therefore numbers on many of the trails were down on what was expected. Each of the trails paid tribute in their own way on the national day of mourning – turning for many people what was a personal tragedy into an experience that will not be forgotten.

The 2012 Cavalcade is to finish in Cromwell. This will be the third time that this event has been held in Cromwell and will coincide with the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold at Cromwell by Hartley and Reilly. Already an enthusiastic committee is formed and the whole event promises to be memorable.

Other Events

We held two field weekends over the past year. The first of these was held after the last AGM at Alexandra when we ran a bus trip around some of Central Otago's historic pubs and hotels. The trip started off at Clyde and proceeded via Chatto Creek, Matakanui, Drybread, St Bathans (where we had lunch at the Vulcan), then to Naseby for curling

followed by dinner. The following day we went via Oturehua (the old Ida Valley Hotel) and Moa Creek back to Alexandra.

The second field weekend was held in and around Roxburgh where we also unveiled two new signboards at Pinder's Pond describing the mining developments there and the part played by John Ewing. Dave Hamilton took us on a conducted tour of the Teviot power schemes and associated water races, there was a visit to the Teviot woolshed, dinner was held at Lake Roxburgh Lodge and the following day started with Stu Edgecumb going around his goldmining enterprise before heading up to Gorge Creek for a very interesting tour with Ed Dwyer and lunch at the Shingle Creek Tavern.

Numbers attending both weekends were good and feedback from both of these has been very positive and we are planning to hold these events regularly. Suggestions from members as to suitable locations for field trips are always welcome.

As a result of a conversation between John Hall-Jones and Terry, the idea was mooted of a guided trip along the Fiordland coast on board the Milford Wanderer in 2012. This idea has now taken root and the 16 places we block booked on the boat were all snapped up very quickly. This promises to be a memorable experience and if successful we will look to repeat this in future years.

And the Annual Gold Panning championships were held again in old Cromwell. While numbers were down slightly on previous years it was a successful event and our thanks go to David and Amanda Gatward-Ferguson and their committee for their enthusiasm and dedication.

Submissions

The main focus this year has been on the Nevis valley. The Trust lodged submissions on the tenure reviews on Ben Nevis and Craig Roy stations. Our main concerns centre round the need to preserve access to the historic sites and artifacts from the Nevis Crossing bridge upstream to the head of the valley. To date there has been no response from either of these two reviews.

And members will recall that there was a new draft Water Conservation Order for the Nevis River published by a special tribunal. The Trust had been active in lodging an earlier submission to the Tribunal. The main outcome from this was to rule that as a result of the presence in the catchment of a rare native fish species (the Gollum galaxid) there should be no damming of the river. This decision was appealed by various parties and an Environment Court mediation was held earlier this year at which the Trust was present. The matter is still with the Environment Court and it seems as though the parties may end up in a full hearing.

Other Projects

We erected an interpretation sign and kiosk on the Lindis Pass located in the layby near the Old Faithfull road. This sign outlines the early discovery of gold in the Lindis which predated the discoveries at Gabriels Gully and Cromwell.

In conjunction with the Department of Conservation the Trust assisted in stabilization work on stone walls at the Come in Time battery.

And as previously mentioned we erected two signs at Pinders Pond in Roxburgh with the assistance of the Central Otago District Council.

Other Activities

During the year I have spoken to various groups including the Cromwell Community Planning Group, Cromwell Promotion Group, Geanealogy Society, Cromwell Rotary and (with Terry) Central Otago Recreational Users Forum.

Gold150 Celebrations

With funding assistance from the Central Lakes Trust the Trust has established a part time short term position to provide coordination across the region of all events to mark the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold. We have appointed Julie Hughes of Arrowtown to this position and she brings a wealth of experience based on her years running the Arrowtown autumn festival. The support of the Central Lakes Trust needs to be acknowledged together with their commitment to the whole theme of gold celebrations over the next two years.

The OGHT is itself planning a number of events to mark this occasion including the erection of more interpretation signage, the creation of audio histories of notable people with affiliations to the goldfields and a series of talks or lectures during 2012.

In Conclusion

Your committee recognizes that in order for our Trust to remain relevant and to grow its activities it needs to not only retain the current membership but also attract new members. We currently have 490 financial members with rural members comprising about half this number. The majority of memberships (around 55%) are held by single individuals with around 36% being held by family groups. Our members are fairly evenly distributed around the South Island, particularly from Christchurch south but with a good proportion North Island based.

I wish to thank all the committee members for their encouragement and support during the year. In particular I would like to thank our Treasurer Nola Gollop who once again shouldered a large and complex job during the time leading up to the Cavalcade.

And a special final thanks to Terry who has performed with energy and commitment and made the job of President that much easier.

Martin Anderson
President

Committee Members 2010/2011

Kay Adam
Graeme Anderson
John Cook
Mike Floate
Nola Gollop
Bruce McMillan
Don Morrison
Dave Neill
Amanda Ware
Tessa Bunny

2011 Cavalcade Trail Bosses

Chris Bayne
Sandra Cain
Tony Cumberbeach
Peter Dymock
Alistair Gibson
Stu Moore
Tony Roderique
Morley Williams
Steve Vickers
Alice Stewart

Long Term Cavalcade Sponsors

Tussock Creek
Gran's Remedy
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Allflex
Cromwell Mitre 10
Gronell
S.O.G.
Tussock Tucker
Whittakers
Speights

Honorary Life Members

Graeme Anderson
Dick Skinner
Fleur Sullivan
Kay Adam
Michael Floate
Roberta Laraman
John Hall-Jones
Don Morrison