



newsletter FRIENDS OF WAIUTA

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August 2007

Hello again from the Inangahua where the weather is still quite cool, but activity is hotting up - particularly on Globe Hill. However it's to the cosy comfort of the Hunters' home at Reefton that we go first.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

With the Visitor Centre required for a function, we enjoyed the hospitality of Frances and Graeme for the AGM and the general meeting that followed. Our hostess agreed to retain the top job, so with a sigh of relief we went on to elect Lynn Anderson and Margaret Sadler as deputies and Graeme Farrant as secretary. The president's report is included with this newsletter. With no treasurer available among the ranks we have decided to employ someone - details in the next newsletter.

FROM NEAR AND FAR....

It was one of our most widely attended meetings ever, with Jill Malloy down from Auckland, Leslie and Ina Black up from Oamaru and the usual strong contingent over from Christchurch. Jill made it part of a Coast-wide holiday that (of course) included a visit to old Waiuta haunts in the company of one of our keen historians, Les Wright. Alan Stephens and Graeme Farrant were also up there, so lunchtime at the lodge was a drawn-out affair as memories flowed from Jill and Alan - and the others wished they'd made more notes.

... AND FARTHER STILL

Looking through our mailing list we're often amazed at the distance our newsletter travels - to Michail Christianson in Denmark, Lindsay Jones in Canada, Bede Cordes in the UK (for the moment) and several in Australian. The latter include Ray Hazeldene in Tatong, Victoria - a place we described a while back

as 'Ned Kelly country' but should be more accurately identified as the district where that politician most beloved by Waiuta people - Michael Joseph Savage - first saw the light of day.

A GLOW FROM THE GLOBE

Ray and another former Macraes man on our mailing list, Jonathan Leu (now in Parkes, N.S.W.), will be particularly interested in developments up on Globe Hill from where Oceana Gold Ltd are already producing gold bars as the opencast mine pit deepens.



*"Here we had a nice big comfortable lounge."
Jill Malloy revisiting remains of the Taylor family's
home down Side Road, the day after the AGM.*

On 3rd July several of our members were among the guests at the official opening of the Globe-Progress mine and processing plant. Esma Mulligan, whose father Roy Bartlett worked at the Globe (as well as Waiuta), was one of those chosen to join in the unveiling of a plaque to mark the occasion. Others included a man with a strong mining background and well known to many Waiuta people, Bill Watts of Blacks Point.

While the mine is opencast, exposing many of the old Globe underground workings, the processing plant has many features in common with what was used at Waiuta, starting with a huge revolving drum that brings back memories of the Prohibition ball mill - shows how modern that was for its day.

There are some photos on our back page, with more of the

Globe to come in future issues, we're sure.

WHAT'S UP AT DoC

One who'll be taking a keen interest in any old relics that come from the Globe is Jim Staton, the Department of Conservation's new Greymouth area manager for historic resources. Jim has also worked on many Waiuta projects for DoC and the old NZ Forest Service over three decades, so we're glad 'our town' and its mines will be part of his new patch.



From Globe Hill, top left: The Globe processing plant at what once was Cornishtown.

Above from left: Bill Watts, Joey Lewis (who baked a cake for the occasion), Esma Mulligan and Owen Duffy beside the opening day plaque, mounted on an old brick explosives magazine moved from the mine area to a new position near Oceana's offices. The text reads: 'Proudly opened on 3rd July 2007 by members of the Lawn, Watts and Mulligan families of Reefton and Blacks Point, and Mr Owen Duffy of Dunedin, descendants of mine workers at Globe and General Gordon Mines in the 19th and 20th centuries.'

Left: Esma Mulligan beside an old steam engine boiler, one of the 'treasures' recovered after being buried for decades on the mine site. Perhaps her father, Roy Bartlett, operated it during his time there.



ANYONE REMEMBER...

Gracie Keenan who had a boardinghouse in the latter days? James Watkins who had a store in the early days (a bit early for present members to remember, but there could be family knowledge). These inquiries are becoming more frequent via our website, so if you can help, let's know.

MEMORIES OF HOME

We're also continuing to collect details of Waiuta houses - where they were, which Waiuta photos they can be seen in, when they were built, who built them, who lived in them, how many rooms they had, what changes were made, what happened to them or where they are now and any other available details. Even a little diagram of the layout if possible.

SUBS DUE

Nearly forgot to say we've kept the sub the same - just \$10. Hope to have you with us for another year.



Another gem ferreted by Graeme Farrant from the Gidley photo collection. Reece and Bill lived in this cottage at the west end of Shinbone Alley before moving to something bigger. No trace of it now.

NEXT MEETING

Waiuta Lodge, 24th November, 4pm. Barbecue later, meat provided, bring salad etc. Everybody welcome!