



Newsletter

Friends of Waiuta

P O Box 493 Greymouth 7840 - www.waiuta.org.nz

July 2015

For a number of years the July meeting has been held in the warmth of the Hunter's lounge. So it was certainly strange but somehow most appropriate that at Graham's invitation we had our winter meeting there. We could feel Francie's presence as we moved through the agenda and especially when it came to the after meeting refreshments when our individual offerings seemed somehow paltry in comparison to the delicious food Francie would have prepared. Thankyou Graham.

Sometimes we Win - and Win - continued



Mick Brett and Tas Hogg using the theodolite in the Waiuta Mine

At a recent Christchurch meeting Alan Roberts informed us of two theodolites owned by Tas Hogg now in a private collection, were now for sale for \$3000. Being aware of our parlous financial position we gulped and said we'd bring it up at the Reefton meeting. We did, the outcome being a resolution to investigate its purchase, for its possible 'disappearance' into a private collection, possibly in the USA, where the seller could have



A very polished theodolite in 2009

doubled his price. This was unthinkable. We have now purchased it and plan to show it in a special case in the Reefton Visitors Centre together with an explanation of its use.

Stop Press. *A benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous has agreed to pay for and donate them to FoW. The support we receive is quite humbling. Thankyou - you know who you are.*

DOC Developments

Jim Staton was unable to attend the meeting and so gave us his written report.

- Contaminated Ground Remediation - Once work started on this it was found it was going to be more complex than expected. Hence the decision was made to put this project on hold until a new design for the Ball Mill interment pit is drawn up. The area remains closed to the public.

- the large holes that appeared in the ground above the road in the South Shaft area continues to be of concern. Laser scanning of these has been completed. Once funding becomes available, DOC, via John's company will 3D scan the Blackwater shaft collar and the new hole above the road, this when combined with ground surveys will accurately determine where the reef track ran and give us accurate information on the location of the winze's, shafts and other potential collapse sites

- materials for the re-piling of the Barbers shop are now at the Reefton DOC yard. This should be completed in the summer months.

- the Waiuta Township Entrance sign. This has morphed into something more substantial. Dave Hawes has designed and built a magnificent new information kiosk that looks like a mini red hut. Inside it will go the interpretation panels.

We are certainly being served well by DOC.



The Mini Red Hut / Information Kiosk now greets visitors to Waiuta

I'd like to acknowledge here the gift of stamps from the Staton family to help ease the burden with the distribution of the newsletters.

Oceana Gold

Oceana Gold has confirmed that work at the Globe Mine is about to end, probably about mid October.

For the next two years the mine would be put into 'care and maintenance' while the site is rehabilitated. There are still extraction resources and gold there, including at our Blackwater Mine but the current low price of gold makes it uneconomic to continue. If conditions were to improve then it would be relatively inexpensive to restart mining.

Christchurch Meetings

Another reminder here that 'on this side of the hill' we have regular meetings about 3 or 4 times a year where 'Waiuta-ites' and those interested meet to reminisce, tell stories and show photos. Organized by Diana Calvert and Alva Morgan they are held on a Sunday at a volunteer's home. We start at about 11am and finish about 2.30pm. There are two meetings planned between now and Christmas.

Let us know if you'd like to attend one of these meetings by phoning either : -

Diana 027 217 1701 or Alva on 021 257 6098

Next year we are considering a Nelson meeting like that of 2009. If this interests you then let Margaret know at 027 237 0794 or at 03 7687 118.

Subscriptions

With this newsletter we attach a letter exhorting members to ensure they are paid up financially. A significant number have not paid for some years and it is vital that we receive this income. With the revamping of our finances the financial year now runs from 1st of April to 31st March. Subscriptions are now due so please pay soon.

Remember too we would like to send our newsletter via email. The postage savings are substantial. Just let me know at <g.far@clear.net.nz> There is no compulsion about this. If you aren't on the email list you will receive it through the mail.

Photographs

As I stated last newsletter I am always on the lookout for Waiuta photographs. Fortuitously this coincided with an email from Eve Leggett (nee Harvey. Her mother was Pansy Harvey) enquiring whether we'd be interested in "viewing a most beautiful book ... made by my mother ... all the photos are by Jos Divis."

This was a big find for us, both for the pictures and the names, events and dates recorded. Simon Nathan, author of, **'Through the Eyes of a Miner'** and Les Wright



Eve Leggett's book - compiled by her mother Pansy Harvey



Jos and Pansy - Christmas 1962

knew of the book's existence but didn't know who had it.

I'd often wondered about Pansy after seeing her in this 1962 Christmas photo with Jos. To find Eve's book was very exhilarating.

Requiescat in Pace

It is with sadness we note the recent passing of :

- Pamela Ball (nee Hocking) aged 81 in June. Pam lived in Waiuta from aged 3 to 9 after which she went to Christchurch. Her mother ran the Boarding House for single miners.

- Jack Robertson in July, aged 89. Jack, after completing an apprenticeship as a boilermaker / welder with the Railways became a maintenance worker. He lived in Waiuta from 1947 till 1951.

- Margaret Sadler - Senior (nee Dunn) aged 92 in June. Margaret went to Waiuta as a teenager from Greymouth to work for Julia and Les Harvey at their Bakery, only leaving after the closure of the mine.

- Jean Hunt (nee Lewis) aged 85, in September. Jean was one of the last babies born at Waiuta and lived there until she left for Christchurch for a short time before returning Reefton where she married Joe. She was one of the founding members of the FoW society in 1986. "She and I were like sisters," said Gwen Poole when she heard of her passing.

Memorial Plaques

At our next meeting two granite plaques to remember Les Wright and Frances Hunter are to be unveiled at Waiuta Lodge. FoW are paying half with the other half kindly donated by Laurie from Anisy Funeral homes. Thankyou Laurie.

Next Meeting:

When: Saturday 21 November at 2pm

Where: The Lodge - Waiuta - BBQ afterwards.

Please: bring the salad. We will provide meat.

Note: This is an hour earlier than is usual as we will be unveiling the plaques to Les and Frances.

The printing of this newsletter is kindly sponsored by the Anisy Funeral Homes, Greymouth and Richmond, Nelson. This is very much appreciated.