

Newsletter

Friends Of
WAIUTA Inc.

P.O. Box 493
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www.waiuta.org.nz

July 2017

This must easily have been the most interesting venue we have conducted our meetings in. Not only was the Alpine Fault immediately below us it was the former Waiuta Catholic Church which went on to serve the Poerua, Rotomanu, Inchbonnie community for 40 years before becoming the Hidden Valley Lodge. We hired it for the night and so were able to sense the history oozing out of the woodwork. I'm sure I detected the smell of incense and the hymn "Faith of Our Fathers" wafting subliminally from those walls.

A good muster made up the quorum and we covered, as you can read below, a great range of projects aimed at raising awareness of and the stature of Waiuta. We are humming!

We had perfect weather, which when combined with Margaret and Aileen's cooking for dinner and Paul's for breakfast - left us well satisfied.

We left with regret.



The view of Lake Poerua from the back of the former Holy Cross Church

DOC Developments - Gavin Collis

We welcomed Gavin Collis to our meeting. He is the DOC Senior Ranger in the Historic Division and takes over from Jim Staton. He is the new liaison person between DOC and FoW. With him we will continue to have close relations with DOC. Over the years this has developed into a mutually beneficial symbiotic relationship. Long may it continue.

Gavin reported that

- the \$3.1 million remediation work at the Prohibition and Alexandra Mine Sites has now been completed.
- the barber shop has been re-piled. When work on re-cladding and securing the building is done the barber's chair will be returned.
- the bathhouse and the boiler house at South Shaft are to be tidied up with some restoration done.

- Interpretation panels for the tennis courts, the bakers oven and the wine cellar are in the proposed work for the coming year.
- Waiuta is being looked at as an Iconic Historic Site. To gain this would certainly raise our public stature.
- In conjunction with DOC, we are recovering with vinyl the kitchen and hall areas. This corked tile area has become impossible to keep clean.,
- FoW and DOC are also proposing to replace the inefficient wall heaters with a commercial grade heat pump. The pot belly stove / heater in the kitchen will be retained. A fan is to be installed in the main room to conduct ceiling heat to floor level.

Jim's Farewell

Margaret, Aileen, Graeme and Alan S attended his well attended farewell function in Hokitika in July. He was genuinely pleased when as Margaret was speaking, Graeme and Alan scooted up the hall with an outdoor chair - made by Graham Hunter - that was our presentation to him.



Jim settled very easily into his chair - here seen with his great granddaughter

The Becker Family

Remember the excitement when Eve Leggett made contact with us regarding a book made by her mother, Pansy Harvey containing many Jos Divis photos - some had never been seen before.

Every now and then someone important in Waiuta history gets in touch with us. It's happened again. Tony Becker has been in touch with us. Tony with sister Thyra are the children of Don and Dorothy. Don was a winder driver. Although Tony has been to many of our various reunions over the years it took his letting us know that he had a few photos we might be interested in to alert us to his existence. Somehow the Becker family who lived for many years on the Pro Road above the swimming pool and then on Nob Hill have been missed out in the Waiuta book.

Tony brings with him a superb collection of family photos and a like collection of memories.

Tony, now retired, went on to a life of sign writing and we have been able to utilise these skills and contacts (*John Tan*) with the creation of a new letterhead (*did you notice?*) a bookmark that we'll give to selected book sellers / libraries (*cheap advertising*) and the creation of new road signs, soon to be erected, either side of the Waiuta turnoff on Highway 7. All of these are commercial grade top quality work.



From the Becker Collection comes this delightful photo of Tony and Thyra on Lower Road

Reunion - Easter Weekend 2018

Recently your energetic committee made an executive decision to have a reunion next year. Planning is already well under way with strong interest shown by families all over NZ. It is planned to run from Friday 30 March to Sunday 1st of April. This promises to be a

humdinger weekend. Catch up with old friends, share stories tall and true, reacquaint yourself with this unique town! Get your entry in!

See the attached sheet for further details and registration information.



Another from the Becker Collection comes this photo of Thyra, Don and Tony at their Pro Road house

Requiescat in Pace

It is sad to report the recent passing of 2 Waiuta-ites. Our condolences go to Mary Sanderson who lost her husband Geoff in September. We remember also Barbara Hepburn (nee Chandler) sister of Kath Waghorn and the late Myra Sutton who was on the first committee of FoW.

Subscriptions Due

Aileen, our much appreciated treasurer reports that subscriptions for the year 1st April 2017 - 2018 are now due. For those doing internet banking our bank account number is:

02 0880 0037433 00

Remember under the heading of:

Particulars write "*Subscription*" - and under **Reference** to write your name.

Otherwise simply post it to the post box listed above. Our subscription remains at \$15 per person.

And remember too that being a member allows you to stay at the Lodge at a discounted price.

Next Waiuta Meeting -

When: Saturday 18 November 2016

Time: 2pm

Where: Waiuta Lodge

Please: bring a a salad or a dessert to share with the BBQ

Christchurch Meeting

Where: Ross and Pauline's house at 24 Bryndwr Rd Fendalton

When: Sunday 22 October - **Time:** 10.30am

We start at 10.30 am and finish about 3pm. To keep costs down we ask that you bring a plate.

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