

March 2014

It was small group of fifteen us who met for our AGM and general meeting. The election of officer holders resulted in no changes from that of last year. Frances remains our President, Lyn Anderson and Margaret Sadler are our Vice Presidents, our treasurer is Tracy Hampton and our secretary and newsletter writer is Graeme Farrant. During the meeting we certainly felt the absence of Les who usually sat to the right of Frances.

Condolences:

Our sympathies go to the families of Lois Howell, nee Dobbin (79yrs) and Reg Baron, (84 yrs) who recently passed away on the 20th and 28th of March respectively. Reg and Fay



A recent photo of Reg taken at a Christchurch Meeting with Jack Robertson and Jim Sullivan on each side

were to have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary the following week. We sent their families each a card acknowledging their loss, which they both were delighted to receive.



A rather spectacular rainbow which I attributed to Les

Les' Final Farewell:

On the evening before we spread Les' ashes in a glade alongside Greek Creek I took this photo which I took as his personal goodbye. Note that there are two rainbows and that the apex was where the next day we would spread his ashes.

DOC Developments

We welcomed Gavin Collis of DOC who was standing in for the holidaying Jim Staton. We have lots of

news here.

Following on from the most attractive signs that have been erected at Jos Divis' house and the Post Office, there are to be another couple erected. One is to be at the Blackwater School, which should encourage visitors to make that little extra effort to visit our town just a little way up the road and the other, which will be partially covered, is to be sited near where you first come into town by the Empire Hotel.

Poisoned Ground Remediation.

Work that was to have started this month has yet to start in the Prohibition Mine area. The Snowy area is also now coming under scrutiny. Remediation done some years ago is now deemed unsatisfactory and DOC have had to reroute the track around the cyanide tanks. DOC are also seeking funds to fix this permanently.

Gill's Cottage.

The good intentions to get this painted in autumn have been thwarted by ill health within the family of one the key workers has delayed

its start. There was an off chance that we would get this painted by televisions "7 Sharp" programme but sadly we weren't successful. It would have given us immense publicity.

Blackwater School:

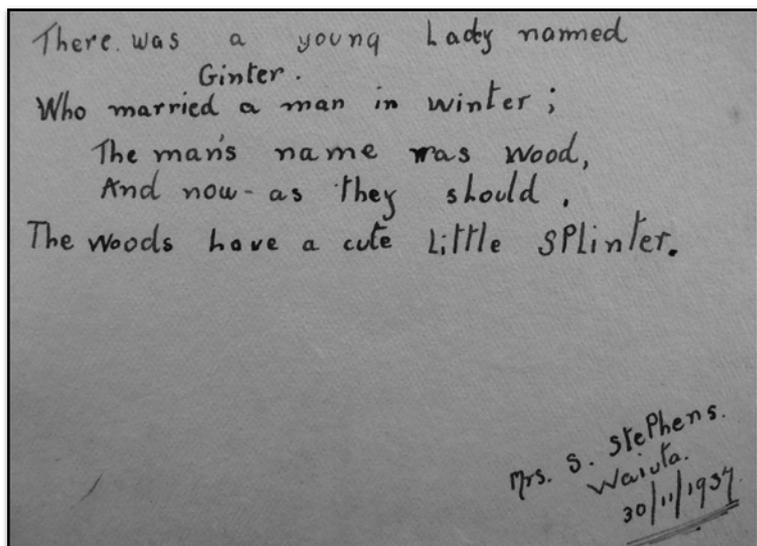
The owner was generously going to gift this us the land the school stood upon. However unforeseen problems have arisen causing him to retract his offer. It remains an ongoing issue we will keep you informed on.

Aerial Spraying:

DOC are conducting aerial spraying against rowan and gorse around the Prohibition site over the coming week. You can clearly see how much effort DOC put into our town.

On a Lighter Note

And another from the days of the autograph books. This is from Mrs Stephens and was written in 1937.



Christchurch Meetings:

Did you know that in Christchurch there is a group of Waiuta enthusiasts lead by Alva Morgan and Diane Calvert. Each year for the past 14 years they have arranged 3 or 4 smaller house meetings at which anywhere from 10 to 20 people might come to reminisce and share memories from photographs. Over those years they have also arranged 4 big reunions where up to 40 might attend.

It's interesting isn't it, the hold that that small now deserted town had on those who lived and worked there.



A typical pose of those at a Christchurch Meeting. Reece and Gwen in deep conversation.

Our Bank Balance and Mail in the Digital Age

Over the years our members have completed some extraordinary work on the buildings and structures in the town. However with time, age, skill set and distance constraints becoming apparent it has become clear that we need to adopt an easier, more pragmatic approach. Hence in future when we apply for funds for work we are going to apply for enough for us to employ suitably qualified people to do the whole job. This requires that we are able to show the funding organisation that we are a well run group with respectable funds in the bank. Our balance currently sits at a respectable \$5310. This raised the idea of how we might save on our expenses. One idea was that we commence emailing our newsletter to those with computers and an email address. This alone, if half our members took it up, would save hundreds in a year.

If you happy with this idea then email me at <g.far@clear.net.nz> and we will get this under way.

Please note there is no compulsion in this. If you want to receive your newsletter in paper form simply don't give me your address.

Subscriptions

Please continue to pay these. They are now due. Having held them for many many years at \$10 at the last AGM they rose to \$15 per person. Please pay them soon.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at Frances And Graham Hunter's residence at 31 Victory St, Reefton on Thursday 24 July at 7 pm.