



Newsletter

Friends of Waiuta

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

March 2015

When we met informally in March for the first time after the death of Frances, Jim Staton requested that I, in my role of secretary write to Shane Hall to assure him of our continued existence - that we were not about to go out of existence and that presumably DOC would continue supporting us in the mutually beneficial relationship we have built up over the years. I didn't write that letter for I was not at all sure that this would happen. A few months, an AGM and another meeting this has all changed. The Friends of Waiuta group has turned a corner. We have an enthusiastic and committed group who have plenty of new ideas. The adage about '*out of adversity comes opportunity*' is certainly true here.

The care that many of us have towards Waiuta was also shown by the number of members who attended the meeting. They travelled from as far away as Fairlie, Ashburton and Christchurch. There were 26 of us who, after the AGM and elections faced the newly elected officeholders.

They are:

President / Chairwoman: Margaret Sadler

Vice President: Lyn Anderson

Vice President (2) Trevor Robertson

Treasurer: Aileen Morris

Secretary: Laurie Anisy

Newsletter: Graeme Farrant

Sometimes we Win - *continued*

In our last newsletter we mentioned our grant of \$4600 for some repairs and the securing of Gills Cottage.

Here is evidence of 'things happening.'



We have already found a local builder who has started work.



Margaret has had several signs made advertising our work at Gills Cottage.

DOC Developments

Jim Staton wasn't able to come but as usual submitted his always valued report.

Contaminated Ground Remediation - Work on the site has started with the setting up of contractors huts, specialized equipment and a weather station. An impoundment pit and a water treatment plant are being constructed. Obviously with work of this magnitude happening it is a dangerous place for the public to be. Hence Prohibition Road is now closed from Dingbat Flat until further notice.

- the Waiuta township entrance sign is due to be erected within a couple of weeks of the meeting.
- DOC are looking to re-pile the Barbers shop this financial year.
- A large hole appeared just up the road from the toilets - Blackwater shaft road area. The hole is in line with the Discovery Reef line so the whole line of tunnelling is to be fenced off.

Oceana Gold

With the Globe Progress Mine being put into a 'Care and Maintenance' regime there have been fears about the proposed work on the Blackwater Mine will be abandoned. However we hear that they remain optimistic about Waiuta saying that it could be started up at a relatively low cost and that positive news is expected this year. We remain hopeful. On his departure from Waiuta Tas Hogg maintained that there was as much gold in

the ground at Waiuta as there had been taken out. This confirms his belief.

Christchurch Meetings



A 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. At a recent meeting we had 16 attendees. We thoroughly enjoyed Jack Robertson reading about his time working as a maintenance worker at the mine including the time where, in an accident, he lost his thumb and index finger, making him one of the 'Waiuta Minus Ten Club'. This of course segued nicely into Gwen Poole recounting her tale of the day she 'lost' her finger. It's a story we've heard several times but it somehow gets better in the retelling.

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

Shantytown

Back on the 'Best' Coast the enthusiasm and commitment of Margaret Sadler and Aileen Morris needs to be acknowledged. In April they attended a very successful Shantytown Heritage Day where we were able to publicise Waiuta and FOW. They were able to highlight our continuing energy by showing our accomplishments over the years and our hopes for the future. They also sold books and leftover wares crafted by Lance Dean for the 2005 centenary - letter and candle holders, spoons, and key-rings made from timber recovered from the South Shaft some years ago. Along with the \$100 raffle we netted a commendable \$200. All in all it was a most satisfactory day.



Subscriptions

With the revamping of our finances the financial year now runs from 1st of April to 31st March. These are now due so please pay soon. The AGM recommended they remain at \$15 Remember, if you are able, we are encouraging payment directly into our bank - see the relevant details below.

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Our treasurer has noted that we have 63 members who've not paid last year's sub. This means we have missed out on \$945 for last year alone. Please pay for this year as we desperately need this income.

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

Photographs

I am always on the lookout for Waiuta photographs. Currently I have over 2500 of these covering early times to today. The earliest are of variable quality. However sometimes exciting finds are made. Below is such an example from the Blacks Point Museum. It was taken in 1910 of a horse and rake of ore trucks soon to enter the Blackwater Mine at the Joker Level. The quality is superb. If you have, or know of photos of Waiuta and its people then please loan them to me so they can be copied and returned to you. Please, please don't let them go to uncaring homes - or worse, to the dump. If you are able please date and name the event, the place and the people involved.

My number is: 027 634 4602



Next Meeting:

Graham Hunter has generously offered the use of his house for our next meeting -

When: Saturday 25 July at 3 pm

Where: He lives at 31 Victory St, Reefton.

Please: Please bring a plate for afternoon tea