



November 2014

Our last newsletter began:

“There were only ten of us who assembled in the warmth of Hunter’s lounge on a cold winter’s night in late July. For those of us who had travelled we were well sated having just enjoyed yet another of Frances’ splendid meals.”

Little did we suspect that this was to be the last, for on 22 November, a week before our November meeting, Francie passed away, the result of a stroke following surgery.

Naturally we were all shattered. She was gone too soon and especially too soon after the loss of Les W. Her vitality, drive, love and common-sense approach to all things Waiuta are a huge loss to us all. Suddenly we felt fragile, adrift and without direction as we were thrust into unfamiliar roles, scrabbling to make sense of our upended world.

Clearly, with loss of this magnitude it was deemed prudent that the committee meet a day before the actual meeting to map out some achievable objectives to put before the full meeting. With the loss of Francie we felt we were overreaching ourselves and that we should constrain our efforts to matters directly related to Waiuta and that were achievable in the medium term.

At the meeting next day our general objectives were agreed to. Basically we are to concentrate two projects. One is to continue with our efforts to bring Gill’s Cottage up to liveable standard (more on this later) and the other, to have the jail returned to its position next to the former police station.

Our efforts regarding Jos Divis’ cottage, which has foundations that are in a very bad state and Blackwater School are to be de-emphasised for the immediate future.

A True Story

I don’t regard myself as being superstitious but sometimes things happen that cause me to reflect that some are eerily unexplainable.

On the evening before our last meeting a passing shower combined with the setting sun to give a magnificent rainbow - in fact a double

rainbow. Racing for my camera I took this shot, then took the card out of it so I could look at the results on my computer. There’s nothing usual about that - until I considered that in all the times I have ever been to Waiuta I have only seen two rainbows. The other time was on the evening before we scattered Les’ ashes in Greek Creek.

It doesn’t stop there. An hour later Alan S and I were walking along lower road when I suddenly came to a stop for in front of us about 60 metres away was a deer standing stock still looking at us assessing our danger. Slowly I raised my camera to take a photo and ‘took’ several pictures. Suddenly the doe and it’s fawn bolted



Frances’ Rainbow highlighted against a roiling cloudscape

off towards Greek Creek. Alan followed it like a shot while I fumbled with my camera to view the masterpiece I had just taken. To my horror I then realized that I had left the memory card in my computer and so didn’t capture any images. It doesn’t finish there - for the place we saw them was outside the house that the Thorne family used to live.

Am I superstitious? No, No, No, - Yes - Maybe.

Sometimes we Win

You will be aware from earlier newsletters that we have been making special efforts to gain significant finance to maintain and extend our efforts in making Waiuta more attractive and interesting to a wider public. Well we have been successful for recently we have been awarded

a Lotteries grant of \$4600 **'for repairs of doors windows and locks to secure Gill's Cottage.'** This is tremendous news and takes a lot of pressure off Alan S who has devoted many hours maintaining and repairing the building. We can now direct his and the efforts of others into more productive directions. We have already found a local builder who has started this work.

DOC Developments

Jim Staton, as is usual had much to report.

Poisoned Ground Remediation - Leading up to the election work on the Pro site ground to a halt. However it is now understood that funding has been made available with work due to start in March.

Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment, visited Waiuta recently to view the contaminated site. He has shown renewed interest in Waiuta and its history and has asked about the numbers of visitors to the town. The road in has recently had a traffic counter laid across the road to assess this. Clearly, we are on the right track in promoting our town.

Seats in the Lodge - these are becoming a little ragged and worse for wear. DOC is looking at recovering or replacing these.

Painting the Lodge - DOC has put a case to Dulux for the Lodge to be painted, at no cost to us, by the Master Painters Association members.

This is great news as we need to maintain attractive facilities for those many groups who in a year stay over for days at the Lodge.

OceanaGold:

Despite the gloomy news regarding the gold price and the Globe Mine operations which are moving to a 'care and maintenance' mode the case for the Blackwater Mine remains at base, 'economically robust'. However the project is for now technically stalled with further studies required before a decision to go ahead is made. To give an idea on the eye-watering costs involved in opening this, the cost of driving a tunnel from the Snowy River to intersect the reef is \$97 million. You need to be very careful when committing to extensive mining operations.

Our Bank Balance and Mail in the Digital Age

The number of you who are opting to receive this newsletter via email is rising steadily. Remember that if a good number you do this, it will save us hundreds of dollars each year.

Obviously you will need a computer and an email address. To get this under way then simply send me an email at <g.far@clear.net.nz> and we will get this under way.

Again 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 and you will continue to receive it the way you always have.

Subscriptions: - and - Internet Banking

In the same vein, if you feel confident enough to bank using the internet then consider paying your subscription electronically.

If you decide to pay this way there are a couple of provisos.

From our bank statement we need to know who and why money has been sent to us. Therefore under the heading of 'Particulars' write *Subscription* and under 'Reference' put your name.

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Above are the details of our bank account. ... Again, if you are not happy with this then simply ignore this and we'll continue in the old way. If you haven't paid your sub for this year please pay it soon. They are now due. Having held them for many many years at \$10 at the last AGM they rose to \$15 per person.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting which will include the AGM will be held at Waiuta Lodge on Saturday 28 March at 3 pm. It will be followed by a BBQ. Please bring a salad to share. We will provide meat.



A grieving family says goodbye



Requiescat in Pace

FRANCES HUNTER

1936 - 2014

.... Commemorating a life well lived

