

newsletter FRIENDS OF WAIUTA

PO Box 83, Reefton 7851 www.waiuta.org.nz

April 2007

Waiuta's 101st year has seen plenty of action already, both up at the town and within our organisation. The March meeting at Reefton was well attended, with a strong contingent from Christchurch, and plenty of good progress reported. So let's catch up....

BROCHURE(S)

The Waiuta brochure has been updated (including a section on Friends of Waiuta) and re-printed. It all looks pretty good, except the new website address was mysteriously left off - the culprit has volunteered to stamp it on all 20,000 copies, given the time (and the stamp). A copy is being sent out with each newsletter, so check your envelope. We aim to sell them for \$1 each to the general public, but a good few will be given away for 'promotional purposes', so let's have any ideas in that direction.

Waiuta also figures prominently in 'Footsteps on the Coast', an impressive free colour brochure produced by Heritage West Coast to guide visitors to the region's main heritage sites. Unfortunately they're too bulky to include in this envelope, but if you'd like one, write to or email us and we'll arrange to have one sent - or a bundle of them if you know of a place where they might be handed out.

MOVIE(S)

Our new movie, 'Waiuta 9.11.05', featuring the reef discovery re-enactment and the Easter reunion, has been widely viewed and enthusiastically reviewed. A copy is yours for \$39.95 plus \$5.50 packaging and postage. Be sure to specify whether you want a DVD or good old videotape. Our original 1986 movie, 'The Ghost Town Ball', is also available for the same price.

BIRTHDAYS

Members keep on passing milestones, with Pat Stephens turning 90 in January and Marg Sadler celebrating her 60th at Waiuta on Easter Sunday with a large group of friends and relations. Both have long associations with the town, Pat marrying Stan

Stephens in the Anglican church 70 years ago this June (see the Waiuta book for photos) and Marg being there from infancy (see 'Our Own Fun' for some very cute pics). People perusing her old photo albums at the gathering were interested to note the number of fast motorbikes and cars in Marg's past, and we're glad to say she hasn't slowed down, doing much of the background work in getting our website up and running, the brochure re-printed and book sales increased.

WAIUTA LODGE

New paint inside and out has the lodge looking very smart as it enters a third decade. Once more, congratulations are due to the Department of Conservation for that work and the town's general appearance. We're sorry to report that Nia Rowlands, who has devoted a lot of work time and DoC funding to Waiuta with wonderful results, has recently left the department (but remains on the

Coast). We sincerely thank Nia for her contribution, wish her well for the future and look forward to meeting the new person in the historical position.

WEBSITES

Hope you've managed to have a look at our website - address at the top of the page. It's already attracted a lot of good comment - and some book sales. Alan Hunt's 'Little Earth', featuring a miniature Waiuta, also has its own site - try www.littleearthmodelvillage.com.



Margaret Sadler making short work of her birthday candle outside the lodge at Easter, with support from Rae Woolhouse.



These old photos continued to fascinate us. This one, from the McEwin collection, is a view down the 'short-cut' that went down from Top Road past Devescovis' house in the centre foreground and alongside the creek to emerge near the junction of Bottom and Side roads. Any information on places and houses in the photo are always welcomed by those who are putting together a detailed record of the town and its people.

LLOYD JONES

We were surprised to have Lloyd Jones's December newsletter returned, and shocked to hear that he had died earlier in the year. A mining engineer, Lloyd first came to Waiuta in 1937-38 as a student and returned in 1945-48 while gaining his NZ mine manager's certificate. In between he was assistant manager on a tin mining development at Laboo on the border of Malaysia and Thailand, where he was captured by the invading Japanese in December 1941 and interned in the notorious Changi gaol in Singapore. Released after nearly four years, he later recorded his experiences in a manuscript titled '1372 Days', a copy of which is in the Friends of Waiuta archive. More recently he was one of the New Zealanders chosen to return when Changi was reopened as a memorial. Lloyd was Inspector of Mines, Greymouth, in 1954-63 and Chief Inspector at Wellington, 1963-82. We extend our sincere sympathy to Lloyd's family.

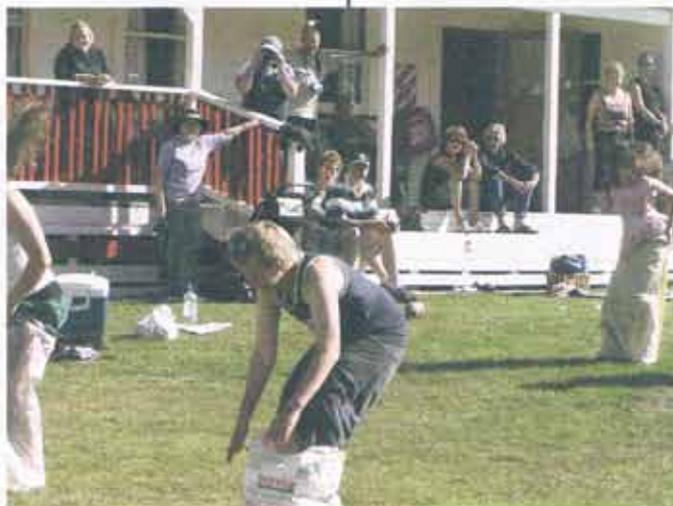
GILLS COTTAGE

New spouting in time to take the winter rains is the latest task for our enthusiastic team of volunteers who

care for the cottage. Alan Stephens will again be overseeing the project which will complete the major work on the exterior. Finishing tidying around the section and restoring the inside to a homely state will follow - thanks again to all involved.

PENS FROM LANCE

Just as we were going to press we received four ball-point pens that Lance Dean has made from Prohibition shaft timber. (An example was illustrated in our December 2006 newsletter.) Besides being beautiful to look at and handle, they work perfectly and are functional mementos of a great gold mine. Lance has given them to us to sell for the normal retail price of \$25 each, with funds going to Waiuta projects - so let's know if you'd like one. Thanks too to Lance.



Competitors in a good old-fashioned sack race go bounding past the lodge during Marg Sadler's birthday celebration at Easter.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 26th July is the date for the 2007 Annual General Meeting, in the Reefton Visitor Centre meeting room (entry from the Strand) at 7.30pm. All members are welcome, particularly any who would be willing to serve as treasurer - we're going to need one. All the best until then.