

Newsletter

Friends Of
WAIUTA Inc.

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August 2019

Hyperactive. That was the word that came to mind when reflecting on recent trips to Reefton - in the warmth of George and Carol Lindsay's lounge for the meeting, and then a week later for the working bee in Waiuta. Read on to find out why this is no exaggeration.

DOC Developments - Sam Symonds

Sam, our new DOC liaison officer wasn't able to attend our last meeting in Reefton and so we weren't able to welcome him to our group. However, following on from our introduction of Janet Bathgate's project at the last meeting we're informed that finger street naming signs, a panorama panel with a town map, and some town feature 'I.D.' signs are currently being produced and are expected to be installed during October. This first round of interpretation signs supports the self-guided town walk. In addition, following reports that some visitors coming to Waiuta sometimes stop at Blackwater School and go no further. Hence a sign introducing Waiuta will be installed at Blackwater School to alert visitors to the fact that Waiuta is a few more kilometres along a winding road and advising them to turn their car lights on.

General News

Electricity: two weeks ago ElectroNet informed us that 'all agreements and consents are now in place allowing the 11 kV line construction to proceed.... reconnecting the Lodge to Westpower's network'. We enthusiastically welcome this.

Waiuta Road: following a near collision leaving Waiuta last April we wrote to the Buller District Council alerting them to the real and potential dangers of this road. Happily they have quickly responded with several new speed signs, a narrow road sign and a new layer of shingle. These combined with Janet's new sign should alert drivers of the care needed on this narrow road.

Documentary

It's full steam ahead with the documentary. At the working bee we encountered in the midst of an intensive interviewing programme, VisionCo producer Dave Kwant with professional assistants, scriptwriter Robyn Janes and director, Luis Castanon. As we, the working bee were 'on site' it was inevitable some were interviewed. There were some who mumbled about not wanting to be a b...y film star who, when suddenly confronted with a large lens and film crew

summoned unknown depths and abilities to present silver screen qualities that left them wondering whether they'd pursued the wrong career path. LOL. In fact I've just been informed that after completing a final interview in Mosgiel with Leslie Black all the interviews have been completed. 🎬



Leslie Black being interviewed for the documentary. He was amazed at the amount of equipment used

Gill's Cottage - Working Bee

From Thursday 25 to Monday 29 July a group, (including the very welcome new addition of Murray Cochrane) of rugged 'Dad's Army' type individuals, most possessing a doubtful range of skills and a lot of enthusiasm, assembled to accomplish a remarkable range of achievements. Most but not all were to do with Gill's Cottage. We....

- ripped out and replaced the verandah floor with a new substructure and boards
- dismantled and replaced the front picket fence
- cleaned and prepared the west wall of the cottage for painting. This is the final wall.
- pruned back the large rhododendron so sunlight could get to the wall and dry it out.
- carted shingle to realign the footpath into Gill's and then filling in pot holes on Gill's access road.
- ignited yet another borer bomb beneath the house. This battle we are winning as evidenced by the declining quantity of borer dust on the floor.
- took the Blackball History Group and the Senior Citizens Group for a walk around the town followed

by a cup of tea. They appreciated the day so much they wrote a letter to the Grey Star commending us on our vision and work.

- called into Colin McMaster's workshop in Stillwater for a trailer load of sized, machined flooring for the verandah - all done voluntarily.
- had a lot of fun.



Leaning on the new fence are Eddie Stancombe, Murray Cochrane, Alan Stephens and Paul Elwell-Sutton. Absent: Oliver Young

For those connected to the internet you will be able to view pictures - there are 65 of them - of the weekend by copying and pasting the following into your web browser - or to just double click on it ...

<https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0JGfnH8tGzVBIO>

I have included a few extras including Gwen's well thumbed 1828 bible and of Jos' Cottage showing the vandalism of a few months ago.

There are no limitations on their use so feel free to download any you wish. I will leave them there for about a month.

Colin Wynn Paintings

When returning home from the working bee Alan Stephens called into Reefton i-Site and hung them above the Tas Hogg theodolite display. Waiuta now has a significant presence in that building.



Prominently on display in the i-Site Centre are our paintings

Subscriptions are now due

There are still a number of unpaid subs due. Please get onto this. Included with this is a form if paying by cheque or if your details need updating.

Some handy details if you're paying via the internet

- our bank number is 02 0880 0037433 00
- and next to **Particulars** to write 'Subscription'
- and next to **Reference** to write your name

Requiescat in Pace

It is with sadness that we learnt of the passing in early June of Gwen McGuinness, nee Jones aged 94. Gwen came to Waiuta on New Year's day 1930 and was to stay there, until the mine closed in 1951 - barring a short time away during the war. Blessed with a sharp mind and a keen sense of humour she enjoyed relating the many hilarious stories of her life in Waiuta. We grieve over her going.

Did You Know:

That the test drill holes beneath Waiuta, usually for more than 500 metres, each cost more than \$800,000!



Alan and Eddie proudly stand on the new verandah

Next Waiuta Meeting

When: Saturday 23 November 2019

Time: 2 pm

Where: Waiuta Lodge

Please: as usual, bring a salad or dessert. There will be a BBQ at which we will provide meat.

Next Christchurch Gathering - it's Christmas!

When: Sunday 8 December 2019

Where: Paul McGirr's house - 9a Wittys Road - Avonhead

Time: 10.30 am - finishing about 3 pm

Bring: \$15 and Christmas good will

Long Term Planning - - - 9 July 2021

That day marks 70 years since the mine closed. Mark this in your diary - for we will be remembering this somehow ! ?

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