

Newsletter

Friends of Waiuta

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November 2015

The day was appropriately overcast with the odd passing shower when we paid homage to the lives of Francie and of Les with the unveiling of two granite plaques on the side of the Lodge - just to the left of the main door. Perhaps with their help the rain held off and we were able to gather in the area just in front of the verandah to watch Jim Staton perform the unveiling and to listen to a few words from Margaret our President. She concluded with:

"The best memorial to both Francie and Les is to continue their commitment to Waiuta, but we also are taking the opportunity today to remember both of them in one of their favourite places, here in Waiuta."



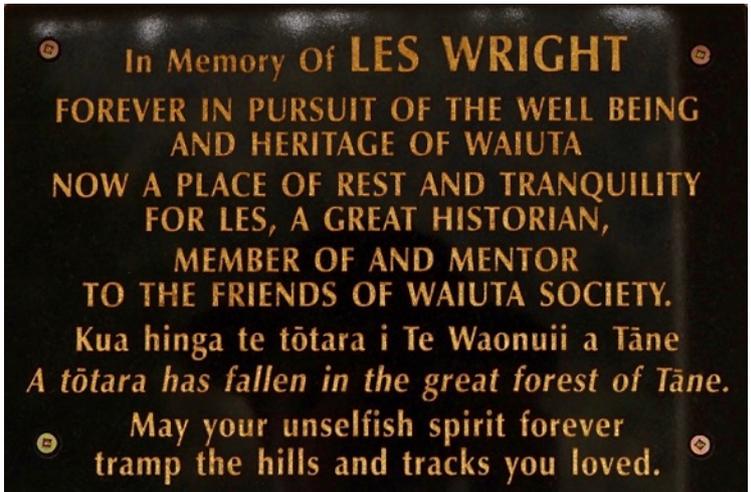
Jim Staton, Margaret Sadler and Graham Hunter just prior to the unveiling.

The Theodolites Have Come Home

We were excited to see at last the theodolites which were on show at the meeting. There are in fact three of them and all of them were on display for members to look at, to look through and to try and figure out how they worked. It was fitting that we had Tas Hogg's granddaughter, Diana Calvert at



the meeting enabling a photo to be taken of Diana with the these vaunted instruments.



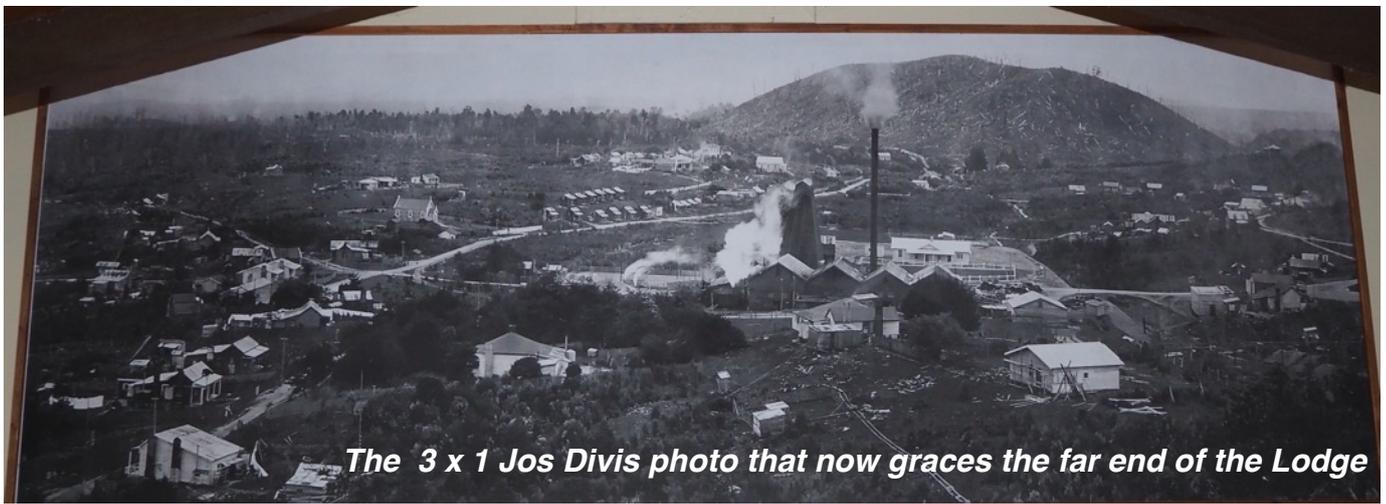
A closeup of the unveiled plaques

The plan now is to display them in a special glass display case lit with special LED lighting in the Reefton Visitors Centre. With it will be an explanation of its use and a large silhouette photo of Tas Hogg using it underground. It will be spectacular. Pop in and see it next time you are passing through Reefton.

DOC Developments - Jim Staton

- Contaminated Ground Remediation

After a protracted period of re-evaluation after finding substantial unrecorded processing 'using lots of chemicals we don't know much about', a way forward is evident and work is about to resume with the clean up. So for three months from the 1st March until the 31 May the Lodge, which will be accommodating the workers will be largely closed to



The 3 x 1 Jos Divis photo that now graces the far end of the Lodge

the public. Note also, that the Prohibition Area has been and remains legally closed to the public.

- the large holes that have appeared around the South Shaft continue to be of concern. We hope to be able to use a 3D ground penetrating laser to evaluate problem. Meanwhile the adit near the swimming pool has been added to the areas already fenced off.

- following a recent marathon cleaning effort by Margaret and Aileen, we are looking at ways to consistently ensure that the Lodge is maintained to the highest possible standards of cleanliness. This is important as good first impressions mean repeat business.

- Waiuta Township Entrance Building. So that new visitors to the town will appreciate the style of building it is proposed to add a large photo of the Red Huts along with the other information.

- DOC had heard a whisper that the magnificent barbers chair was under threat of 'removal'. It's one that periodically is made. To be safe, DOC have removed it to Reefton for the time being and a potential security hole has been removed.

Oceana Gold

There is little to report here. With the 25% drop in gold price the Globe Mine will be put into a 'care and maintenance' regime with the plant and equipment remaining on site. Of relevance to us the CEO of Oceana Gold, Mick Wilkes claims they 'continue to explore other options including the Blackwater Project at historic Waiuta.'

At Waiuta Lodge

Margaret, some months ago on surveying the interior of the Lodge thought it needed lifting. Her proposal was to install two 3 x 1 metre Jos Divis photos at either end of the main room. They have now been fitted and look fantastic. They are completely in tune with the Lodge and its objectives and must prompt further enquires about Waiuta from those who stay overnight.

Waiuta Meeting

At our last meeting a few members expressed concern over our efforts to gain access to funds to bring Gill's Cottage up to liveable standard. This was good as it cleared up what we should do with Gills Cottage and to clarify where our future efforts

should go we formed a sub committee to guide us in future decisions.

Christchurch Meetings

As mentioned in earlier newsletters we have regular meetings in Christchurch, in fact we had our end of year one last Sunday complete with BBQ. Our grateful thanks go to Paul McGirr who has kindly hosted the last several of these.

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. We start at 1030 and finish about 3 pm.

Remember too that next year we are considering a Nelson meeting like that of 2009. If this interests you then let Margaret know at 027 237 0794 or at 03 7687 118.

Requiescat in Pace

It is with sadness we note the recent passing of Nita Soster. Nita, the eldest of four children was born in Waiuta only leaving when compelled to find work. She lived all her life on the West Coast. Nita's grandmother and grandfather came from Cornwall with about 10 children who all lived at Waiuta too. Later Nita settled in Greymouth with her Italian husband Joe, where they had three boys and a girl.

Subscriptions

Thank you to those who have paid their subscription. Aileen, our very able and conscientious treasurer reports that there has been a substantial inflow of funds into our account. However there are ten who remain outstanding for the 2015 year. Please pay soon as this represents \$150 in our accounts.

Next Meeting - also the AGM:

When: Saturday 30 April 2016 at 1pm

Where: The Lodge - Waiuta - BBQ afterwards.

Please: bring the salad. We will provide meat.

Note: This is 2 hours earlier than is usual as Graeme Farrant will take a walking tour of the town beforehand for those who wish this.

Be of Christmas Cheer

Finally, the committee of FoW wish you all a Happy Christmas and good fortune in the new year.

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