

# Newsletter

Friends Of  
**WAIUTA** Inc.

P.O. Box 493  
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[www.waiuta.org.nz](http://www.waiuta.org.nz)

## November 2019

As is often the case we combined a working bee with our meeting in the Lodge and so were able to demonstrate our recent and proposed work to our wider membership. Paul McGirr has an impressive command of meeting etiquette and typically ran a tight meeting so that a little over an hour later we had our chef, George Lindsay busy at the barbecue leading to a delicious meal with great company.

### DOC Developments - Sam Symonds

It was great to meet Sam our new DOC liaison officer a few days before the meeting. Not having anything to do other than a 'walk and talk' enabled a few of us to leisurely stroll around town acquainting him with our work, our hopes and perspectives. We also were able to probe the practicality of some of our more 'blue sky' thinking.

He wasn't able to attend our meeting but did send through a report of DOC's doings.

- Firstly, it was very evident that DOC had had the lawnmower and weed-eater working hard. The town looked fresh and welcoming.

- After some vandalism of recent months it has been decided to put a security light on a pole in the vicinity of the car park between the main building and the toilet / shower block. It would come on automatically at dark, hopefully deterring wrongdoers. This has been installed in the last week and reportedly is 'working really well. It's not too intrusive'.

And what I've found to be typical of the West Coast is that Greg Topp Electrical is gifting the labour and charging only for materials related to this work.

- Over winter, windfalls, snow damage and a slip on the Snowy track caused it to be closed. The track to the battery is now open - you can walk there and back safely - but the section between the cyanide tanks and the powerhouse remains closed due to concerns over the severity of the slip and the need for a geotechnical assessment.

- Janet Bathgate's signs have been delivered to DOC. Expect to see them scattered strategically about the town soon.

### General News

Electricity: Whoop whoop! Main's power is back on at the Lodge. It's sooo good to open the Lodge door, walk in and turn on the switch rather than having to go to the generator, reading the complex starting instructions before escaping the noise and diesel fumes.

Waiuta Road: the Buller District Council have been quick to respond to our request for help again. This

time it was regarding two washouts, one on Side Road where there was potential for the removal of your car's sump - and at New Road where a washout required the engagement of your 4WD skills. Both were quickly repaired.

### Documentary

After completing some final film takes in Waiuta last weekend Dave Kwant reports that: *'it is coming together nicely at 48 minutes [length] which is perfect for a broadcast hours it'll be very close to [being] broadcast ready as is when finished.'*

### Working Bee - Gill's Cottage - Track Clearance

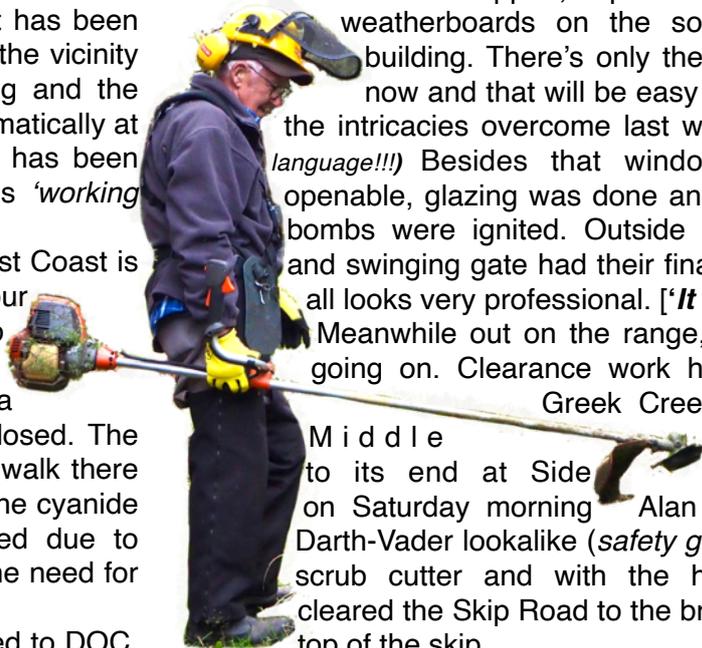
Alan Stephens, Paul Elwell-Sutton and myself were joined on Saturday by Brendon Wilshire. We accomplished much. It's been a long haul but as we near the end the external repairs a walk around Gill's Cottage gives cause for quiet satisfaction. Our aim has been to get the cottage to a state that represented a typical miners dwelling of 1940 - 50's Waiuta - that is close to being achieved. —

And now for the interior! 🤔 LOL

This time we stripped, replaced and primed the weatherboards on the south side of the building. There's only the west side to go now and that will be easy in comparison to the intricacies overcome last weekend. (*Ooh, the language!!!*) Besides that windows were made openable, glazing was done and yet more borer bombs were ignited. Outside the picket fence and swinging gate had their final pales added. It all looks very professional. [*'It is!'* - Editor]

Meanwhile out on the range, other work was going on. Clearance work happened on the Greek Creek track between Middle Track and close to its end at Side Road. And then on Saturday morning Alan dressed up as a Darth-Vader lookalike (*safety gear*), grabbed his scrub cutter and with the help of Brendon cleared the Skip Road to the brake bands at the top of the skip.

Finally the McGregor family have recently come to our close attention. Following a family reunion it came to light that the site next to the first Miners Hall was where they established a drapery - Alva recalls purchasing a pinafore from there!! If you have photos / recollections of using this shop then please let me know and I'll pass it on to the wider family. In recognition of this, the site, which was held by multiple family businesses over time - including the Teape family - was cleared - and now is an interesting diversion at the intersection of Middle Track with Top Road.



## Alva's Home

Did you know that the Baran's and the Stephen's preceded the Gill's in living in the cottage. Hence we took much delight in having Alva walk through and around the house. Vivid emotions played across her face as she privately recalled her early life, especially when she stood by the rhododendron tree that her mother Edna, planted.



**Matriarch-like, Alva, standing on the verandah of her former home**

## Tasman Mining - reopening a gold mine

Project manager, Nigel Slonker was a welcome attendee of our meeting.

Already over \$4 million has been spent on engineering work and site preparation. This includes a 22-metre steel bridge to cross the Snowy River, with workshops, offices and changing rooms established. Powerlines now run to the site and with the required substations and distribution boards installed. Planned work includes geo-technical work to establish the entrance of the two 3.3 decline tunnels.

**Stop Press!!** A \$15 million commercial loan to Tasman Mining from the Provincial Growth Fund has been announced last week. This is excellent news as it gives future investors confidence in the project, making it easier to raise funds for the next required tranche.

## Photos - one picture is worth a thousand words

There are far too many words and photos to fit into this newsletter so I'll add much of the latter to iCloud.

There you will have access to all of them - in better quality and with the ability to download them..

There, find photos of all the activities related to our last meeting. Note that there are others - the spectacular sunrises and sunsets due to the Australian bushfires - the progression of the work on Gills Cottage - a borer bomb ignited - Alan doing his Darth Vader impression - and much more.....

You have to be connected to the internet to view pictures - there are over 50 of them - just double click on the address below or copy and paste it into your web browser. I apologise that they are arranged

randomly - I can't figure out how to order them - that's for next week

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

<https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0J5ejO17G2Fa1>

## Subscriptions

Paul who is also our treasurer has asked I include the following -

*At the AGM held April 2019, it was agreed that the financial year would end on the 31 December each year. Therefore for this year, the financial year will be from 1 April 2019 to 31 December 2019. That is - it is 3 months shorter.*

*And it follows that for the next and all future years our financial year will be from 1 January to 31 December of that year - ie, it will be the same as the calendar year.*

*That means that your subscription paid for 2019 finishes at the end of this month and will become due again as of next month - January 2020.*

Included with this is a form you should use where 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

## Waiuta Meetings for 2020

Here they are for the entire year. Mark these in your calendar. A reminder will go out some weeks beforehand.

Sat - 28 March 2020 - AGM at Waiuta

Sun - 19 April 2020 - gathering in ChCh (that's the weekend after Easter)

Sat - 18 July 2020 - meeting in Reefton

Sun - 2 August 2020 - gathering in ChCh

Sat - 21 November 2020 - Meeting at Waiuta

Sun - 6 December 2020 - gathering at Christmas Function in ChCh.

So, our next meeting, as above is ....

**When:** Saturday 28 March 2020

**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.

## Very Long Term Planning - - - 9 July 2021

That day marks 70 years since the mine closed. Note that this is a Friday. We will probably have a remembrance activity on the Friday with other activities moving onto the weekend.

Mark this in your diary.

## And finally it is Christmas.

*We wish you, your family and loved ones all the best over this period and trust the New Year brings love and happiness. Our Best Wishes to you all.*

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

