

November 2022

Greetings.. Read below for an account of our many activities and accomplishments. Waiuta is a happening place - as it always was.

DOC News

We arrived to a evidence of recent tidy up of our town with freshly mown and tidied tracks. It was distressing on Friday evening to hear and later see the results of three 'boy-racers' on the croquet lawn and other areas.

- Although the Fatso potbelly burner remains it's not for long as the Wagener Fairburn multi fuel stove is due shortly.
- the work on Jos Divis' house is well under way with parts of the floor now open and strengthening work well advanced. Apparently too this building was made of cluster of four smaller units rather than the three previously thought. With the internal dismemberment of the house a number of exciting finds have been made including the discovery of an original Divis photo hidden behind a skirting board. It turns out to be one of two he took at that time. Another find was of part of girl's shoe, probably from the large Jones family of eight children who owned the house before Jos.
- down at the site of the Snowy River stamper battery work is underway to remove the contaminated soil that has been fenced off for many years. This, when added to the Prohibition cleanup of some years ago will complete the decontamination of the Birthday Reef operations.

Arising From our Meeting

Memorial Board - This has been replaced by a new larger board made of heart rimu with three detachable panels that allow for easy additions of names. Made by craftsman Colin McMasters it replaces the former one that was getting to be badly out of date and in need of replacing with one more appropriate for the current additions and for those of the future. The moveable panels make additions much more convenient and the additional size gives ample room for future names.

FOW Archive and Website:

Over the years we have compiled a substantial quantity of potential archival material which is spread over a number of sites. We are now working at organizing this so it'll be accessible to those interested in a deeper knowledge of Waiuta. Black's Point Museum is a proposed depository. Part of this will be placed in the



Our new
Memorial
Board

cloud where it will be accessible anyone with a computer and internet connection.

Incidentally, Kelly Perazollo our computer specialist has recently revamped our website. It is much improved and we now have the ability to add material to it as it becomes digitised. I highly recommend a search of this.

Blackwater School Preservation

FoW has been open to involvement with its neighbours since its inception, and preservation of the Blackwater School is a longstanding interest. A flurry of activity by FoW back in 2014 eventually founded over land ownership issues. In 2015 it was resolved to move on from the stalled School project and to focus on the Waiuta issues of the day.

Over the past two years a group of enthusiasts, predominantly members of FoW, has made good progress in reviving the project and identifying key issues to enable the School building to be restored from its current dilapidated condition. The group requested FoW resume responsibility for the project which we clearly embraced back in 2014, and try again to push on to a successful conclusion.

FoW has agreed to accept the challenge, which is subject to resolving the land ownership question and securing new funding (excluding our commitments to current or future Waiuta initiatives).

Police Station

With it's relinquishment to DOC we now see it as being well worth preserving. Initially we will weather proof the building while further conservation work is undertaken. It has been suggested that FoW apply to Lottery Heritage for funds to do this, this being stage one of a project to fully restore the building.

Snowy River - Federation Mining: Decline Development

We were graced at our meeting with the presence of Federation Mining's geologist, Don McLean. He reported that the two 3.3km drives were well advanced. One was within

Managing Director, of Federation Mining , Mark Le Messurier inspecting underground



700 metres of the old Prohibition ore body workings and so the objective of ore extraction was now close. Of interest these drives now pass directly 700 metres under the Waitua access road just before the entrance to

the town. They are marked by two red and blue stakes on the roadside.

Volunteer Workers Report:

We arrived a couple of days before the meeting to enable us to get through decent amount of work. Who says it always rains of the Coast, it's just the forecast that says this. With this in mind we had two sets of work on offer; our main objective was to begin the



Oliver Young concentrating on painting a window in Gill's Cottage

clearance of the sawmill site close to South Shaft with the alternative backup of a number of small painting jobs on Gill's Cottage. Well, the weather proved to be favourable and we managed to get through large amounts of both. Gill's Cottage has been freshened up and at the sawmill the floor area has been cleared of manuka and gorse from the furnace area exposing two sets of concrete foundations along with quantities of assorted rusty ironmongery. We are only beginning now to appreciate the size and importance of the mill. This is an unfolding story - we're not finished yet?

For further photos of our activities over the weekend copy and paste this into your browser. I will only leave them there for a few weeks so take any you wish quickly.

<https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0sGWBC59Hsgux>



View from the furnace – Alan and John take a break having cleared a foundation block

Jos Divis Documentary - and book update

Margaret reported from Dave Kwant that the filming for the documentary was completed and that it should be ready in early 2023. Simon Nathan has also completed a new addition of "Through the Eyes of a Miner" which was in proof stage and should be available early next year too.

We are keenly looking forward to these and the arrival in late 2023 of his great niece from the Czech Republic.

In Memoriam

We respectfully remember Tony Mangan who passed away in Runanga aged 82 on November 26. The Mangan family lived in the Lighthouse above Waitua. It was so named as the house lights were visible all over the town and also could be seen when approaching it.

Meetings in for the remainder 2023

- AGM and General Meeting - Saturday 18 March 2023 at the Lodge in Waitua.
- General Meeting - Saturday 8 July in Reefton
- General Meeting Saturday 18 November at the Lodge in Waitua

Christchurch Gatherings in 2023:

- Sunday 2 April
- Sunday 31 July
- Sunday 3 December - Christmas lunch

Members Subscriptions

2023 is nearly upon us. Attached is a subscription form which gives all relevant payment details. And Ouch! only 70% of us have paid the sub for 2022. **Please** pay soon.

Finally we would like to thank Laurie and Val Anisy for the free printing of this newsletter over many years. Laurie has now retired. Thankyou Laurie. It is appreciated.



And 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.