



November 2023

Greetings... It was very positive meeting as demonstrated by the many new positive things happening. FoW is on a roll.

General Business and DOC News

Casey Rhodes, DOC, Historic Ranger was able to report on recent progress.

He reported that Jos Divis' cottage restoration is finished. It has been a long and worthy project with project with teams of DOC workers around NZ working and learning on such restoration work. It is most satisfying to see the renovated cottage. It is a credit to all concerned. Work on the grounds surrounding the cottage has started. Casey referred also to the general work that has been completed around Waiuta.

Remember the Wagenar burner that we have mentioned many times in the past year - well, it has finally arrived and is now waiting only to be installed in the Lodge.

Economisers: It is planned to have have one of them in place in the flue structure at South Shaft in time for the March meetings. The other will remain outside this with signage explaining its function.

Police Cottage Restoration

Margaret reported that she recently did a 'Happy Dance' when she received news that our funding application from Lottery Environment and Heritage has been approved to the value of \$45,000. To this is added a further grant of \$27,500 from Community Funding making a total of \$72,500. This is to weatherproof the building to prevent deterioration so we will be concentrating on the foundations, walls and windows. We will keep you updated on the project's progress which will start in early 2024.

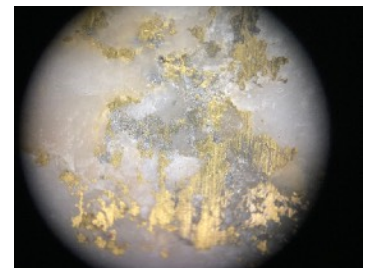
Snowy River - Federation Mining:

During the last month they have completed nearly 3km of diamond drilling. Matt Mengel reported that excellent progress is being made with them well into the Birthday Reef beyond that of the miners of 1951. Exploration in over sixty drill holes have yielded samples described as 'very rich'.



Two very rich samples from the Birthday Reef

The development of a small processing mill is planned for 2024 on the Snowy River site. With its commencement the workforce will climb to 140, up from a current 60..



Volunteer Workers:

We had a muster of five reporting for work. As is usual we had to work around the weather but we are used to this and have long incorporated flexibility into our work schedule. The forecast gave Thursday as being our best dry day and so it was with energy that we attacked Gill's Cottage for the painting of doors, sills and window surrounds. It was with satisfaction that we achieved this as the weather soon after made painting impossible. The building, externally, now looks 'finished' and credit to all



**A resplendent and fresh looking
Gill's Cottage**

who have laboured over the years.

The following days the inclement weather had us heavily pruning the rhododendron that was sheltering the west wall, which because of its shady position never dries properly and so is deteriorating badly. We also cleared the Side Road to Middle Track again along with the our continued attention to the school site, this being a major and ongoing job.

Jos Divis' Cottage Historic Cottage Opening

Our local DOC has made great progress over the last few months using the project as a learning / teaching project for DOC rangers in other parts of NZ for historic renovation projects. From being a building that was slowly rotting and disintegrating we now have a building that has future educative uses planned and will serve us well into the future.

Looking to the future we have a celebration day planned for DOC and Friends of Waiuta.

The date has been set for **Friday 15 March 2024 at 1 pm.**

This is going to be a big celebration with the families of many identities coming. These include six of Jos' family and members of the Jones' and Dick Davis' families.

Note too that on Saturday morning at 10.00 am on 16 March at Reefton Cemetery there will be an unveiling of Jos Divis' new headstone. This will be followed at 2pm by the FoW AGM/ General Meeting at Waiuta.

More information about this very busy weekend will be forwarded to you early in 2024

Accommodation in the district will be in great demand over this period and we'd advise you consider arranging this as soon as possible.

Documentary: "JOS: The Forgotten Photographer who saved a Town"

Here are the details of when you'll be able watch it at home.

- The deal with SKY ARTS has started on 1 August 2023 and runs through to 31 July 2025.

- The deal with PRIME starts on 1 February 2024 and runs through to 31 July 2025.

And AROVISION will be streaming **"JOS.... and "Whispers of Gold"** together from 1 October 2023

Requiescat in Pace

It is with sadness that we record the passing of Noelene Dale, nee Magee, age 94 in Timaru. In later years Noelene remembered Waiuta as

'having sense of community where everyone was equal - we were all the same'.

We also remember Clarice (Clarry) Behm, a relative of the the Purton and McTaggart families, who passed on 12 October, aged 93.

On a lighter note: we were pleased to report that recently the Greymouth Brownies spent an excellent 2 nights at our Lodge exploring Waiuta and in the process learning of their values, skills, and beliefs.



Who said that learning wasn't enjoyable

And on an even lighter note and against personal experience Oliver Young showed us that there are still crawlies in Greek Creek.

Catching these was a common Waiuta childhood experience.



Meetings for 2024

Friday 15 March 2024 at 1pm

- Jos Divis Cottage opening ceremony
Saturday 16 March

- Unveiling of Jos' headstone at 10 am
- AGM and General Meeting at Waiuta Lodge at 2 pm.
- Refreshments will follow.

*And finally as it is Christmas we wish you, your family and loved ones all the best over this period and trust the New Year brings care, love and happiness.
Our Best Wishes go to you all.*

