



THE GODLEY BEACON

The Godley Head Heritage Trust Newsletter July 2008

From the Chairman's Desk

The 2007-2008 year has been for the Trust's members a quiet year. The Trust has sailed along like the proverbial duck – serene on the surface but paddling furiously under the water. The members of the Board have been involved in an extraordinary range of activities to further the Trust's interests.

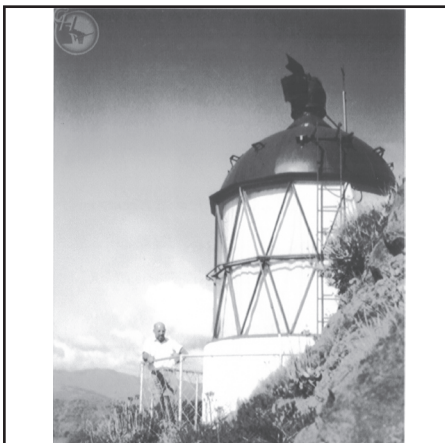
It is regretted to note that during the year Naomi Hanna-Brown has for personal reasons, resigned as Chairperson of the Trust. Naomi has been a strength to the Trust for many years, firstly as the DOC representative on the Board then recently in her own right as a very active member. We wish her well and hope in future she

has time to return to the Trust. I have taken over as acting Chairman till the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the original Provincial Council meeting room at the corner of Cambridge Terrace and Gloucester Street at 5pm on August 19. Light refreshments will be provided.

Following the AGM Mathew Lombard our Treasurer will wear his other hat as Curator of Photographs at the Air Force Museum and give a presentation on the Air Force Museum at Wigram.

Peter Wilkins, Acting Chairman



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- (enclosed) Membership forms and notice of Annual General Meeting with location map

From the Curator's Office

The Quartermaster's Store

The Trust's Quartermaster's Store headquarters has undergone a major upgrade by the department of Conservation. A decision was made to remove all the war-time asbestos materials from the Battery area. This included reroofing the Officer's mess, the Sergeants/OR's Mess, the Quartermaster's Store and the Regimental Aid Post.

Roofs were strengthened, cracking and spalling in the building's concrete walls fixed and the structures repainted for the first time in over fifty years. It is hoped that the Trust will be able to have the Quartermaster's Store painted in its 1942 camouflage finish. This will provide a unique look back into history.

A large amount of concrete rubble has also been removed from just south of the Trust's area and the surrounds cleared and mowed.

Barrack Block

The trust is in discussion with the current owners of one of the few World War Two barrack blocks still in tact and in the Christchurch area. The building is reported to have come from Godley



WW2 Barrack Block

Head but there is at present no documentary proof to hand able to confirm this. Already the proposed display area in the Quartermaster's Store is less than desired and additional space would be most helpful.

Fortress Searchlight



A 90cm fortress search light similar to those employed at Godley Head has been purchased by the Trust. The Trust team arranged for the light to be moved to Godley Head on 25 July and it is now safely ensconced alongside the 3.7 anti-aircraft gun.

It is anticipated that once restored to display condition, we will be able to operate the light using a more modern source. The original carbon-arc mechanism would be too dangerous to safely operate within the Heritage Centre.



Port War Signal Station radar hut 1945

Radar Set

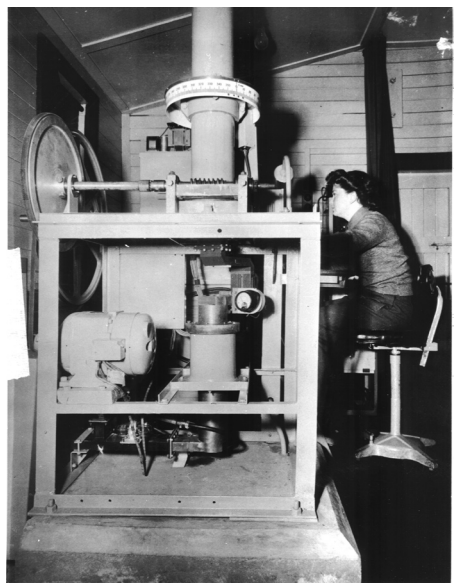
Trust Board Member Bill Moore has discovered a most fortunate find that has led to the Trust purchasing a dissembled World War Two radar set. The set appears complete save for its transmitting/receiving dish. DOC has recently brought back to Godley Head camp area a hut sold to a Bolder Bay resident after the breakup of the camp in the late 1950's. The hut was heli-ported to the camp area.

The Trust is planning to lay foundations close by the Quartermaster's store and re-erect this hut to simulate the Port War Signal Station (PWSS) radar building.

We have good quality war-time photographs of the inside and outside of the building, and will employ these in its reconstruction.

Our radar set will be reassembled inside the building, and we will construct a replacement dish that will be mounted on the roof.

The interior will present an exciting tableau for all to enjoy.



Inside Port War Signal Station radar hut 1945

Anti-Aircraft Gun

The 3.7inch anti-aircraft gun is steadily being rebuilt by Bill Moore's team, as is its tow tractor. A large concrete pad outside the Store has been designed and fund-raising is underway for its construction. Once laid, this pad will enable the 3.7inch gun to be towed out for open days so the public can fully appreciate its enormous size.



The Pom Pom

The Trust is storing a Maxim Pom Pom heavy machine gun on behalf of the Christchurch City Council. The gun was a war trophy for the city from the Boer War.



The Heritage Centre

The Trust's intent to establish a Heritage Centre in the Quartermaster's Store is with DOC, the Historic Places and the Council's agreement well underway. A doorway has been cut between the two levels and an access ramp installed. A partition wall is under construction and another access ramp to the display area's store will follow. Planning is in hand to display the Trust's extensive collection of artefacts in a modern and engaging manner. Consultation is beginning with a number of parties to flesh out the design work.



Cutting doorway for Heritage Centre access ramp

Archives Office

Once its interior repairs are finished one of the Store's offices will be turned into a well equipped archives room. Here researchers will be able to review the maps, plans, manuals and photographs of the Trust's collection.

A process of digitising the Trust's document and photographic collection is underway with the aid of funding from Te Papa. It is intended to eventually digitise all our collection so the need to handle the aged papers is absolutely minimised. The collection will then be accessible through the planned computer system and eventually through the Trust's web site.

The Trust's Web Site

The web site is in process of being completely re-written and re-formatted. This is in a three stage process, the first one already complete. Once the second is done the web site will be re-launched and the remaining upgrades will be completed as funds come to hand.



Home page of the revitalised Godley Head Heritage Trust web site

The design of the web site has been throughly modernised to the latest standards. An ongoing upgrade plan has been approved by the board, and the first two stages are now complete.

Shortly the new web site as you see it here, will be tested live and when accepted the process of further enhancement will be begun.



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for the

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