



THE GODLEY BEACON

The Godley Head Heritage Newsletter No 18 May 2013

Earthquake update

For those of you who attended our 2012 AGM we reported on the earthquake damage to Godley. Our Heritage Centre came through remarkably unscathed, as indeed did all the buildings in the camp area. However the gun emplacements fared less well and there has been no access to the underground chambers since the quakes. The Department of Conservation is still in the process of negotiating insurance issues and also of dealing with the issues of bringing the structures up to current earthquake codes.

Because of major cracks on the cliff face, the Department has built a new safety fences right around the edges of the gun emplacements. The cracking remains a concern and is a potential threat to the gun emplacements. Ongoing geological monitoring is taking place. DOC has also built authentic security fences around the perimeter of the camp, which looks good and has helped to tidy the area between the gun emplacements and the camp and those of you who have been to the Head recently may have noticed a new toilet block behind the Heritage Centre. Unfortunately this is not yet operating but once it is, it will certainly save a long trek back to the car park area.

Trust activities

Radar Hut

For a considerable time after the earthquake access to Godley Heads was impossible. This has slowed down our work programme. However, since the road reopened we have been busy. Enthusiastic volunteers have put a great deal of time and effort into the construction of a radar hut to house our radar equipment, which was originally used at the head. The building has been painted and we are at present working to get the display established

Archives Room

Although the archives room may not seem so exciting as a radar hut display, it is nevertheless an important aspect of the Trust's work. Once completed it will allow us to safely store the many archives we have accumulated on site. The room has been rewired, ready for painting. Work is also underway on building shelving. Pillbox. Our pillbox, which was moved from Mt Pleasant is in place near the flag pole. Soil has been placed over top of it and the tussock is growing well and steps have been cut down to it, allowing access. All that remains to complete is some duck boarding for the interior to avoid wet feet when visiting it.

Walkway Opening and Open Day

On Sunday March 3rd, the Minister of Conservation, Nick Smith, officially opened the upgraded Taylors Mistake Walkway. Godley Head Heritage Trust held an open day in conjunction with the opening. Unfortunately, numbers were not as great as we had hoped, perhaps because the weather in Christchurch was damp, although it was fine at the Head. Nevertheless those who came enjoyed the opportunity to look at the guns and inspect the pillbox and the new radar hut. As always the chance to swivel the A.3 gun was very popular with young visitors.

Madeline Manning

The Trust was saddened to learn of the death of Madeline Manning just a few days short of her 90th birthday in September 2012. Maddy was a WAAC based at Godley Head during WW II and had been a member of the Godley Head Heritage Trust from its early days. Maddy passed on to us a wealth of valuable information about the role of the WAAC's at Godley Head and was always very supportive of events held by the Trust.

Keep up with our news on Facebook or our blog site

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Godley-Head-Heritage-Trust/125443000890142?ref=hl>

<http://godleyhead.blogspot.co.nz>

We need volunteers

Do you have an interest in Godley Head and would you like to help. We are always looking for volunteers. We would especially like to hear from anyone with archiving skills or skills in oral history. Those who were stationed at the Head are not getting any younger and we would like to capture as many of their stories as possible but unfortunately we are unable to put as much time into this as we would like. Those with practical skills in painting and carpentry are always welcome.

AGM

Keep your diaries clear for our AGM on Tuesday 13th of August at the DOC office, Nga Mahi Rd, Sockburn. We will send out a reminder with further information closer to the date.