

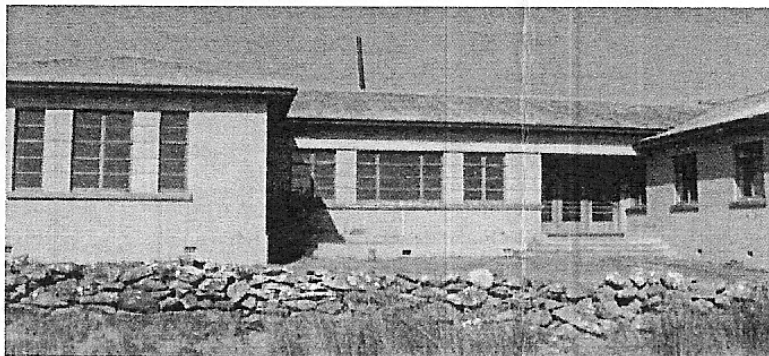


The Godley Beacon

The Godley Head Heritage Trust newsletter, November 2006

Asbestos

Godley Head coastal defence battery is nationally significant, being one of the most intact fortifications in New Zealand – it still has the administration buildings that serviced the battery. And with this we have inherited a few challenges. One of the latest is the use of asbestos for roofing the old buildings and the asbestos rubble lying around the Head.



The Department of Conservation (DOC) has had an expert evaluation of the asbestos and potential problems. Graeme Hines walked around the Head with the consultant and numerous sites containing asbestos were recorded. Crown Health testing of air samples has come back negative in ALL the buildings. It is safe to be in the buildings as the roof is in very good condition and will not pose a risk unless disturbed. DOC is seeking funding to have all the asbestos removed and the buildings re-roofed.

And that is good news for the Trust –hopefully the new roof will last another 60 years.

Funding

Norm Webb has been busy putting in funding applications on the Trust's behalf and we are delighted to report that the Carter Trust granted \$2000 towards the concrete pad at the entrance to the 'gun room'.

Periodic detention workers under the supervision of Pat Lyons, levelled the site and removed most of the rocks. After a little more preparation work we will now be able to put in the pad so the 3.7 heavy AA gun can be towed out of

the building for display on open days.

Photo: Officers' Mess, showing some of the asbestos roofing

Contents	
Item	Page
Asbestos	1
Funding	1
Towing	2
What is asbestos?	2
What is the problem with asbestos?	2
Quirky Note	3
Christmas lunch	3
Recent acquisition	3
Trust Board	3

Towing

To tow the heavy gun out, we need the use of the Clark Tug donated to the Trust by Selwyn Frewin. As reported in a previous newsletter, this little workhorse was originally designed for towing planes around on aircraft carriers. Needing some mechanical repairs after years of disuse, it is now being doctored by trust members Bill and Kevin Moorar and David Stock.

When it is mechanically sound it will be given a spray job and in its new livery will be ready to tow the gun out of the building and onto its new pad. Our three mechanical guys are also working on the gun's restoration.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral and has been used for centuries. It is resistant to fire, and some chemicals, does not conduct electricity and is waterproof.

The Greeks named it by uniting two words: 'a', for non and 'sbestos', for extinguishable. But there were problems with asbestos way back when the Greek geographer Strabo and Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder, both found sickness in the lungs of slaves that worked with asbestos.

Despite the evidence, the diseases related to asbestos use were ignored for a long time. Asbestos was used to strengthen cement and plastics; for insulating boilers, steam and hot water pipes; for fireproofing and sound

absorption; in vehicles' brake shoes and clutch pads; sewage piping, roofing and siding, electric switchboards, table pads, heat protective mats, heat resistant blankets and curtains, paints, adhesives, caulking, hair dryers - the list goes on and on.

What is the problem with asbestos?

There are four main types of asbestos, but it is the blue asbestos that is the real nasty.

The fibres are too small to be seen by the naked eye. It is nearly impossible to detect the presence of asbestos in the air without a lab test.

Years of inhaling its fibres cause problems, including the lung cancer called asbestosis or mesothelioma - a progressive, irreversible, restrictive lung disease.

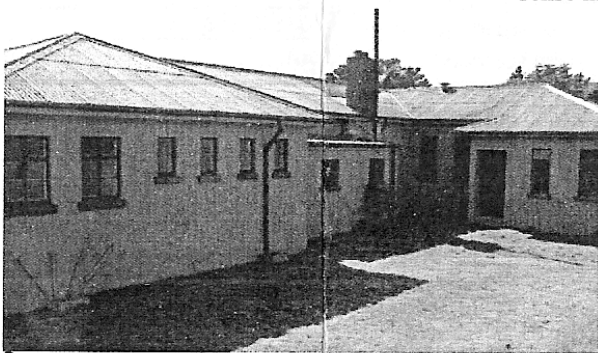
Asbestos does not cause an immediate reaction. You won't cough, or sneeze, and your eyes won't water. You can't see, smell, or taste it. If your skin becomes contaminated with asbestos it won't burn or itch.

But it is not the blue asbestos that we have at Godley Head - that's another piece of good news.

The standard advice to those with asbestos in their building is to leave it alone unless it is degraded and creating dust. Even then, the exposure is far short of that shown to cause disease in asbestos workers. But there's no sense in letting the problem fester. At some stage the roof will need work on it so it is timely to attend to it now.

Construction work on the Heritage Centre in the former regimental head quarters and quarter masters store (RHQ/QMS) building cannot proceed until this problem is sorted.

Photo: rear view of the Officers' Mess showing more of the asbestos roofing.



In the meantime the Trust is attending to building permits; seeking funding; acquiring militaria and attending to a zillion other things. Work is not at a standstill.

Quirky note:

In its natural state, asbestos is brown and has a grain, resembling wood.

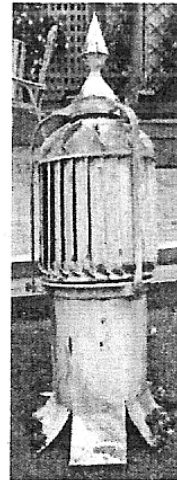
Unscrupulous merchants in the middle ages sold pieces of asbestos to pilgrims as a souvenir of the cross of Jesus. It had 'miraculous' powers, as it didn't burn.



Recent acquisition

This copper cowling was recently donated to the Trust. The doner said that it originally came from Godley Head. We believe it may have been from the lighthouse era - pre the defence battery.

If anyone can enlighten us as to where it may have been at the Head, please contact Graeme Hines. phone 384 3866.



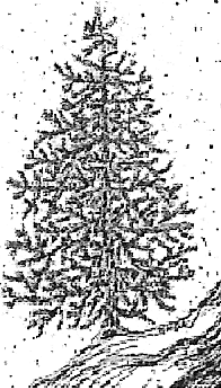
Trust Board

Your Trust Board now comprises ten members, who are each responsible for an area of the Trust's work.

To remind you as to who does what, here is the list.

Name	Portfolio
Gnome Hannah-Brown	Chair; Communications (media, newsletter)
Graeme Hines	Curator, Works (work plan coordinator)
Patrick Lyons	Volunteers coordinator; Army liaison
Bill Mooar	Engineering consultant
Matthew O'Sullivan	Treasurer; Photographic consultant
Norman Webb	Fundraising
Peter Wilkins	Historian; (oral history); assistant works coordinator
Grant Campbell	DOC liaison
Yvette Couch-Lewis	Ngai Tahu liaison
Lynne Lochhead	Secretary, Historic Places Trust liaison

Christmas lunch



Trust members and family are invited
Christmas BBQ Sunday December 10.
11am Godley Head in the Officer's Mess.
Meat and soft drink provided.
Please bring a salad or dessert to share

Please ring Gnome on 981 4363, or email ghannah@clear.net.
nz
to confirm numbers for catering.