



THE GODLEY BEACON

The Godley Head Heritage Trust Newsletter April 2010

From the Chairman's Desk

Dear Trust Members,

A new year and it's first newsletter. 2009 was a busy year for the Trust's Board, but a quite one for members. The Trust's museum at the Godley Head Quartermaster's store building has progressed so rapidly that we outran both our funds and planning. Since then a major planning effort has been undertaken and this is detailed later in the newsletter. Without the planning process fund raising simply cannot progress. The planning is now far enough ahead for the first round of funding applications to get underway.

Many other projects however are in hand. DOC is anticipating receiving enough funds to complete the emplacement of the Trust's pill box. They are also well ahead with replacing the perimeter fence for the main gun emplacements with an excellent replica of the original. Negotiations by DOC for the use of the Officer's mess by various groups is well underway. If successful the effect on both the Head and the Trust will be outstanding.

The Board is most conscious that in concentrating on the Museum it has not paid anywhere enough attention to the needs

and interests of the members at large. With this in mind it is to consider a program which maintains the momentum of the Museum while providing the opportunity of involvement for the general membership to progress the Trust's objectives. We will keep you up to date as the planning for this advances. As always the Trust is the sum of its members and we are always in need of more members. With this in mind a membership form is included with this newsletter and we ask you pass it to anyone you believe would enjoy being part of the Trust.

Peter Wilkins Chairman

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ORAL HISTORY

RIP



The Trust's faithful Sony Walkman Professional tape recorder has recorded its last oral history. It finally gave up its mechanical ghost during a recent interview. Unfortunately the interview was proving to be outstandingly informative and will have to be redone. Before this can happen the Trust has to go through the process of deciding its replacement and raising the funds to purchase the replacement.

As with all devices the technology of recorders has galloped ahead. They are now solid state electronics with interviews recorded onto chips and stored on hard drives or DVD discs. The great advantage to the interviewer is the entire process can

be recorded in a continuous stream rather than having to swop the tape over half way through or worse still have the tape run out in the middle of a discussion. The 'rumble' of a tape drive is at last gone from the background. On the downside is the fickleness of electronic media - an ability to die without warning. Electronic mediums such as DVD's deteriorate with time. This however becomes a matter of good housekeeping by the Trust's archivist to ensure mutiple copies, correct storage and regular checking for quality.

The Trust's research has narrowed the Walkman's replacement to three machines.



The Fostex FR-2LE is the 'top of the line unit and one used by professionals in the oral history field.

The complete 'kit' totals \$2,205 incl.



The Sanyo PCMD50 is a cheaper and simpler unit which meets the recording quality required by accepted oral history standards.

The unit totals \$ 844 incl.



The Olympus LS-10 is a cheaper and simpler unit which meets the recording quality required by accepted oral history standards.

The unit total \$ 799 incl.

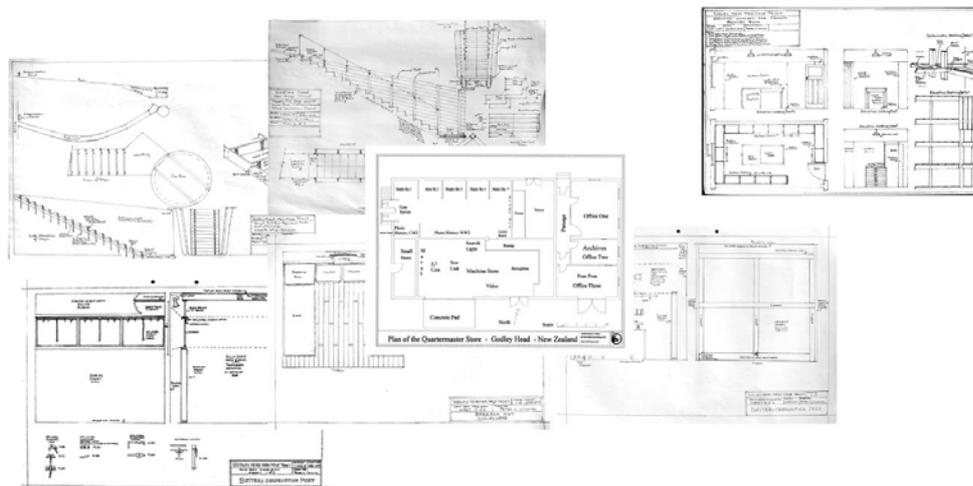
We are open to advice from members on our selection and will keep you posted on progress towards a new unit.

PLANNING PLANNING PLANNING PLANNING

The Trust is nearing the end of a major planning regime. With the core structure of the proposed museum now in place or well into the construction process, the next step is displays. Some of the uniforms and equipment needed to fit out the displays are already held by the trust, but much is still to be acquired. Items ranging from army blankets to a 10 inch Aldis signal lamp are needed and a multitude of photographs to 'walk' visitors through the Head's history. All of this has a cost and while planning is essential, it is futile without the funds to undertake it. To accelerate the funding process the Trust has asked Michael Fitzgerald, who has recently joined the Board to assist Norman Webb in his never-ending search for new funding. Other Board members are working to provide these two with the information and resources to facilitate their

efforts. Norm recently obtained a major grant from the Community Trust towards the building of a new storage hut, which we hope to in the future upgrade to house the Trust's WW2 radar set for public display.

Most people are spared the labyrinth of planning, specifying, tendering fund raising and project management required to bring a concept to reality. The next two pages of this newsletter forms an introduction to the process that is an ongoing task for the Trust. The subject is the proposed display representing the Royal New Zealand Navy manning the Port War Signals Station at Godley Head during WW2. The Navy controlled all ships entering and leaving Lyttelton Harbour from the PWSS. They did so from 1941 to 1945 in close cooperation with the NZ Army's Coast Watch radar operating from Godley Head.



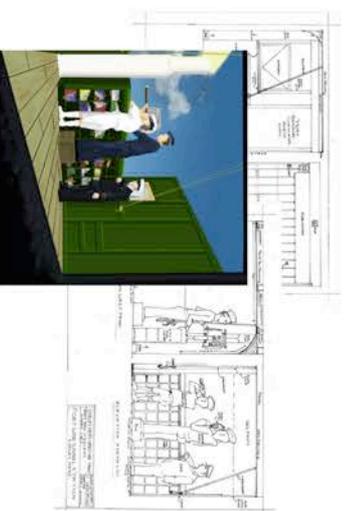
BUILDING A PORT WAR SIGNAL STATION DISPLAY



RESEARCH

The most important task for any museum or heritage group is good research. From research comes understanding of the realities of the time and which subjects have the potential to become effective displays. Black and white photographs provide a good start, but a display has colour. Research of the actual or likely colours and textures is crucial. Add both atmospheric (wind & seagulls) and dialogue (the figures appearing to discuss the scene) sounds to ensure the visitor takes away not only an image but the very feel of the time which is as close to actuality as the Museum can recreate.

Research doesn't end with the move to planning as the planning process often throws up the need for more research.



PLANNING

Part of the planning process is learning how such a display is constructed. While it would be preferable to have experienced professionals do the design our work for us the eternal shortage of funds forces the Trust's members to learn these skills. Where possible an original scene is reproduced in the display. However as the Museum's display space is constrained by the building's size and shape. An original scene is therefore adapted to fit the display space which can be allocated for it. In the case of the Port War Signal station scene a seaman has been removed and the flaglocker shortened. This en-

sures the viewer can appreciate the relationship of both the Observer's shelter at one end and the flag pole at the other. While this is not an entirely 'true' reproduction of the original, the viewer is given more knowledge of what the moment and location felt like than would a simple 2.7m 'slice' of the original would portray.



FUNDING & BUILDING

After the planning is complete the tender documents are written up specifying the construction, materials and finishes required. Copies of this paper, plus all relevant plans and drawings are passed to prospective tenderers for quotation. The tenderers are also invited to submit their own solutions if they consider them a better answer to our needs. The quotations when received are reviewed against the tender documents and the best price that meets the requirements is used as a base cost. This cost is then used to approach various funding groups for the money needed. As each funder usually only gives a

proportion of the sum required it is essential to apply to several to procure the funds needed. Once the amount needed is assembled the Trust completes its negotiations with the successful tenderer and lets the contract. The Trust's Curator or his appointed deputy then monitors the contract's progress and authorises progress and final payments. Finally a report on the project is forwarded when required to the funders. Where the project is within the skills and capacity of the Trust's own members the project is completed in house.

A new Trust plan of Godley Head

Though there are many plans of Godley Head there are none which bring the past and present together. The Trust has employed a recent satellite image of the Head, a 1950's map of the defences and landmarks with period photographs to produce a map which shows the buildings, roads and tracks that were and are there.

In addition the significant structures have been named to provide a comprehensive guide to the Head and its history. It is anticipated a fold-out copy will be included in a guide book the Trust is developing for visitors to the Head.

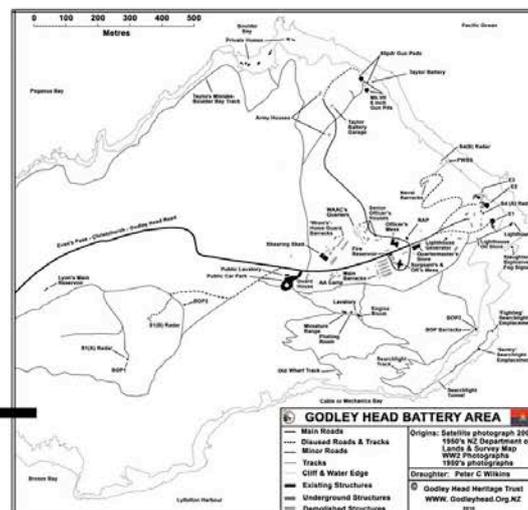


The 1950's map



The 1950's map superimposed over a satellite image

The resulting composite map



déjà vu

Recently the Christchurch City Council published a map of Christchurch showing how far it is anticipated the sea would penetrate inland given a certain rise in sea level resulting global warming. The water was shown well up the Heathcote Valley. This may or may not be the future but it was also the past. During a recent interview the Trust was told by the interviewee about the Heathcote Arms in 1932.

“...I think because Mister because Mister Humphrey had given money to put Humphreys Drive around, and they were building that road - before that the water used to come into the hotel and they used to sweep it out every high tide. Ah that stopped that, yes I remember it was just past where it would have come in and my Dad went out to them and said ‘Look free beer if you can get that road so the water doesn’t come in here’. Well they worked like Trojans, and that’s how we stopped the water coming in to the hotel”.

Mary

The New Zealand Archives are testing a new search engine for their web-site. While it is still only in its Beta form it appears to work really well. The Trust has made extensive use of it and found a whole range of files located in other centres outside of Christchurch that are both relevant to the Head and previously unknown to us.

Give it a try for your own research and let Archives know what you think of it - we need all the good search engines we can get.

The address is:

<http://searchpilot.archives.govt.nz/search>