



The Godley Beacon

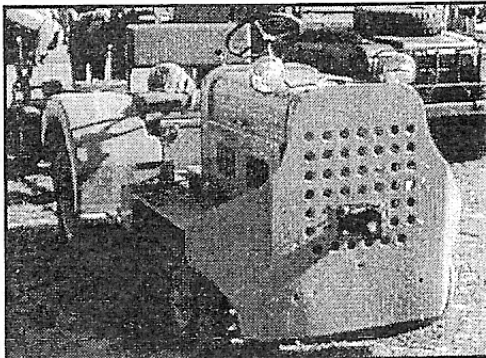
The Godley Head Heritage Trust Newsletter no 6 June 2004

Clark Tug

One of our previous newsletters spoke of the challenges of getting the Heavy AA gun out of the store.

Our problems may soon be solved with the arrival of a Clark Tug at Godley Head. These hefty little workhorses were used during WWII to tow bombs for loading onto aircraft. With its low profile, it could be driven neatly under the wings. It was also used for towing planes on aircraft carriers.

Selwyn Frewin who has leant the Trust his Tug, will be working on its restoration with other Trust members. Hopefully it will soon be back in service, hauling the 3.7 Heavy AA gun out and back in again.



Clark Tug photo Selwyn Frewin

Museum for Godley

Imagine a military museum at Godley Head. This dream may become a reality.

The Trust is working on a concession application to the Department of Conservation to gain security of tenure for the Regimental Headquarters' building.

We are working on funding applications to turn this dream into a dynamic experience for visitors.

Kirwee Country Fair

Selwyn Frewin joined a team with military equipment at the Kirwee Country Fair and Rally.

Among the vintage farm machinery, war armament from WWI and WWII captured the imagination of young and old. Big guns, little guns, machine guns, armoured cars, a replica slit trench and more.

Military display at the Kirwee Country Fair and Rally, March 2004. photo Selwyn Frewin



Selwyn promoted the Godley Head Heritage Trust with his display of photos graphically showing the move of the 3.7 Heavy AA gun back to Godley Head. He talked to visitors and handed out Trust information.

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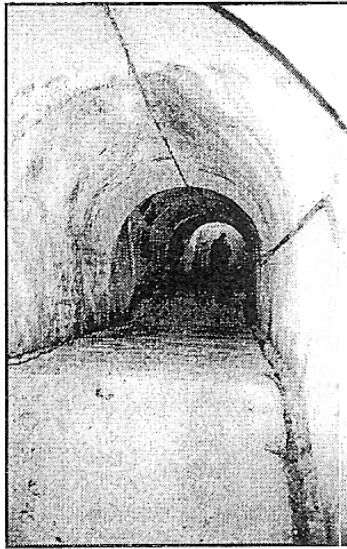
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Saving the Past

Repair work

Progress has been made with remedial work on the underground magazines and gun emplacements. With money allocated by the government for historic maintenance at Godley Head, the roof of the gun emplacements has been stripped off and new bitumen type cladding installed. This will help weather-proof the emplacements.

No. 3 magazine (the large one) now has a handrail alongside the steep stairs. When this magazine is opened for visitors they will not longer have to gingerly climb down clutching onto the wall. With the new lighting, this will make the magazine a safer area to visit. It is closed to the public except for open days.



Steps to No.3 magazine before handrail installed

Volunteer workday

On Saturday 27 March, a group of PD workers under the supervision of Patrick Lyons, dug out the Taylor Battery 60 pounder gun site.

The large concrete pad and eyebolts were buried under 40cm of compacted soil. The PD gang dug it out and left the soil in a large heap.

On Sunday, despite strong Nor-west winds blowing dirt everywhere, Trust volunteers and DOC staff filled four truck loads with the spoil and transported it up hill to the flag pole. Here it was shovelled out to level the area where the ground had subsided.



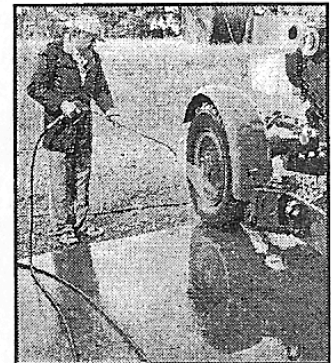
Mike Ray and Ian Hill installing interp. panel in plotting room.

Photo Gnome

Ian Hill, Peter Wilkins and Mike Ray painstakingly drilled into the very solid concrete walls of the miniature range, engine room and plotting room, and installed the new interpretation panels. Even while they were doing the work, visitors were reading the panels. The area is getting increasing usage, and the interpretation will make a visit more meaningful.

While this was going on, Bill Mooar and Graeme Hines water-blasted the 3.7 Heavy AA gun that was recently soda blasted to remove all its layers of paint. The gun is now back to bare metal, and will be repainted.

After a BBQ lunch, the wind died down, leaving temperatures pretty hot, but the work was finished and tired workers went home.



Bill Mooar high pressure hosing the wheels of the Heavy AA gun.

Vandalism

The day after the new interpretation panels were installed, someone 'coined' them - scratching a line across the new panels. Vandalism is a continuing problem at the Head. When the emplacements were being constructed in October 1939, a group of youth used 'abusive language' at the contractors, pushed a roll of reinforcing steel over the cliff and damaged the fences.

On a happier note, the graffiti in the gun emplacements has been soda blasted off. We hope that with more visitors to the head, vandalism will be discouraged.



AGM

You are invited.
Tuesday 27 July
5.30 -7pm.

Canterbury Officers' Club

Nibbles supplied. The bar will be open.

Video on Godley Head from 5.00 pm.

Guest speaker: **Captain Brendan Wood**
of the Medical Corps who will speak on
his experiences in Timor.

Annual General meeting

Its that time of year again when we have our AGM. As per the Trust agreement, three Trust board members are standing down. Annette Hamblett, Ian Hill and David Stock are standing down but are willing to be relected.

If you have any nominations for the board, please come to the meeting and put forward your nomination, or contact Lynne Lochhead, the Trust secretary, prior to the meeting.

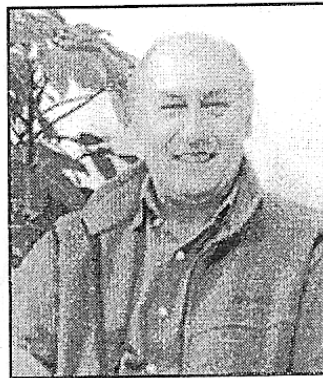
Just to refresh you memory, the other board members are: Kit Iversen - chair; Norm Webb - treasurer; Lynne Lochhead - HPT representative and Trust secretary; Richard Dibble; Graeme Hines; Patrick Lyons; Peter Wilkins; Gnome Hannah-Brown ex officio member- DOC representative.

At the AGM the chair will give a report on what has happened in the last year, and the treasurer will update on our finances.

Our guest speaker, Captain Brendan Wood, has served in Timor in the medical corps. He is an interesting speaker.

The Canterbury Officers' Club is in Gloucester Street, and there is ample parking at the rear of the building. From the east, the drive to the carpark is on the right hand side of the building. You can then access the Officers' Club through the rear door.

Profile - Ian Hill



For a long time I saw a need for community involvement in Godley Head and set about trying to establish a Trust back in the early 90's with the support of the late Ian Bell and the late Warwick Peers.

It is pleasing to see the Trust assisting in the management of the Head.

Although I am a Board member as a personal interest, as DOC's Officer for Historic Heritage I feel privileged to be a involved in Godley Head as part of my job as well.

My military interest comes from my father being in the RNZAF, school cadets and being a member of the ATC, but I missed out on having to do CMT under the ballot system. As well as the DOC military sites of Godley Head, Ripapa and Mount Pleasant, I have an interest in other military sites in Canterbury and have been building up a data base of what still physically remains out there.