



The Godley Beacon

The Godley Head Heritage Trust Newsletter no 8 February 2005

Historic Hut heads for Head

Graeme Hines our Curator is always beavering away on behalf of the Trust, but this time he's beavered even more successfully than usual.

Seeing a house in Redcliffs that was coming under the wreckers' ball, he remembered an old two man army hut, used as a shed in the back yard.

Approaching Frews, the demolition company, he asked if they would consider donating the hut to the Trust. Not only were they prepared to donate it but they would make their heavy equipment available to help get the hut off the site.

Ian Hill checked out the Godley Head fort record book and found there had been a two man hut at the Head - used as an orderley room at Camp 2.

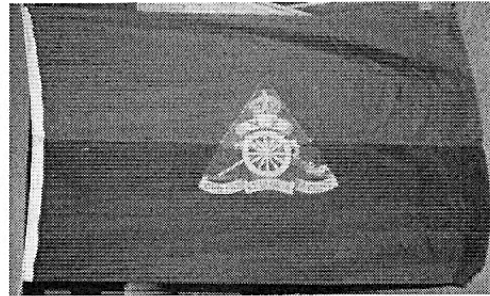
Graeme, Norm Webb, Peter and Paul Wilkins cleared ivy and brambles off the hut, which is largely in good order under its modern cladding.

With David Stock's help, the hut was moved to the Head.

Its future use will be decided down the track, but we will keep you posted.



11th Coast regiment flag returned



Elizabeth Petrie, a keen trust member, grew up at Godley Head. She has fond memories of her childhood there from 1958 - 1963.

Her father, WO Alan M Petrie of the 11th Coast Regiment was the last person stationed at the Head. His task was to oversee the dismantling of the camp.

Sadly Alan passed away in Picton in 2003.

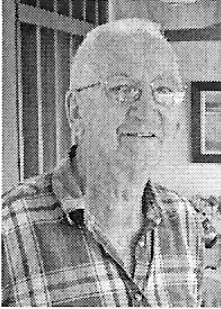
Elizabeth's sister from Picton recently gave her a box of Godley Head memorabilia. In amongst it was the old regimental flag that once flew at Godley Head.

Recognising its significance, Elizabeth kindly donated the flag to the Trust, together with manuals and other material that will be used in the museum. She has previously given the Trust other artifacts associated with Godley Head.

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Rogues Gallery



Norman Webb

Norman is a foundation Trust member responsible for fundraising and sponsorship.

As a schoolboy during WWII, he lived in Sumner and experienced the invasion of that Borough by the New Zealand army. Many buildings, including schools, were taken over, sandhills on the beach were levelled and tank traps with machine gun sites looking down on them were dug.

Norman completed a masters degree in history before becoming a secondary school teacher. He had the great experience of teaching in Australia, India, Egypt, England and Western Samoa.

While on the staff of Christchurch Boys High, Norman was commissioned in the Cadet Corps and an interest in military things deepened. He was a committee member of the Sumner-Redcliffs Historical Society and became their representative on the Godley Head Heritage Trust. Elected as a Trustee, he served as our treasurer for two years.

Retired from paid employment, Norm often guides school groups at the Head on behalf of the Trust.

He feels strongly that when the Trust's plans to establish a museum on the site, maintain the buildings and explain their function is achieved, Christchurch will gain a worthwhile tourist asset. One that will record and educate about a significant part of our history.



Lynne Lochhead

Lynne comes to the Godley Head Trust Board as representative of the Canterbury Branch Committee of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, for which she is chairperson.

She does the secretarial work for the Godley Head Trust and keeps board meetings on track.

She feels very strongly that our military heritage is something that we need to preserve and sees Godley Head as a vital link in a chain of military sites nationally. By being a member of the Board she turns that interest to practical effect, especially through our working bees at the Head. Lynne is now a dab hand at limewashing and a stalwart on our working days.

Before joining the Trust she had little particular knowledge about Godley Head other than as an awe-inspiring landscape to visit, so at times her involvement has involved a steep learning curve to become familiar with coastal artillery jargon.

Lynne works at what used to be known as a remedial teacher, helping kids with learning difficulties, mainly teaching reading and maths and also using computer assisted learning.

As a keen conservationist with a Phd in resource management, the nature conservation aspect is one of her other interests in Godley Head. She is an enthusiastic gardener and tramp.

Godley Head workday
Sunday 13 March 10am
ring Gnome if you can help - 332 3466

Photos overleaf - Peter Wilkins and Graeme Hines with hut
Top right 11th Coast Regiment flag

right top - Chairman Kit stretches to remove flaking paint
right centre - Norm Webb cleans off loose paint
right- Selwyn Frewin



Whats been happening

In December 2004, the Trust had a Christmas work day followed by a festive repast at the Head.

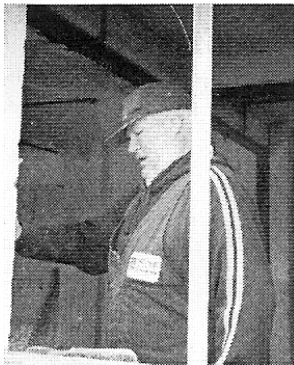
Don't know if you remember December, but it was extremely wet - and sure enough our work day was a very soggy one.

We planned on painting the interior of the plotting and engine rooms and despite the weather did scrape off the flaking paint and got a cream coat on the upper half of the walls. Because of the wet, the damp ceiling and lower half of the walls was left. The 12 volunteers kept warm with scraping and painting, with quite a lot of talk and banter.



Even lugging the paint, ladders and tools down to the site was a tricky exercise, as the track was extremely slippery. More than one volunteer ended up ignominiously in the mud.

Peter Wilkin's wife Anne, had done a great job of catering for lunch and it was most welcome to peel off wet overalls and enjoy the dainties she had prepared.



Partners and other Trust members joined us for lunch.

Graeme Hines and Peter Wilkins returned in January to give a second coat - this time in the dry.

Graffiti buster

Vandalism has been an ongoing problem at the Head for over seventy years but with more people visiting the area, we had been fortunate until a weekend in early February. Some hoon in a stolen car rammed through the locked gate at the entrance to the DOC compound, taking out the gate and a large part of the fence. Around the same time fluro pink graffiti appeared inside and out of the miniature range, plotting room and engine room.

DOC sought help from the City Council who despatched a contractor to eradicate the sexually explicit scrawlings from these heritage buildings.

Trust members, Graeme Hines and Peter Wilkins, doing work there at the same time as the contractor, report that his magic chemicals did a fantastic cleanup job - even removing old graffiti on the outside that has resisted our efforts to scrub off. Our thanks go to the City Council for their assistance.



right - Graeme Hines removes ivy from hut

bottom - Paul Wilkins and Graeme with their prize - the hut about to be removed from Redcliffs to Godley Head

