

Protecting, preserving
& celebrating our heritage



Autumn 2022



Butlers Farm, Fruitlands

ABOUT US

The Central Otago Heritage Trust, established in 2008, comprises member groups and organisations within the local heritage community. The role of the Trust is to represent the collective interests of these groups in protecting, preserving and celebrating our unique heritage. It is governed by trustees nominated and elected by members.

The Trust is the founding organisation of **Heritage Central Otago**. Our community-based initiatives are represented under the Heritage Central Otago identity.

OUR TRUSTEES:

David Ritchie (Chair), Russell Garbutt, Lynda Gray, Warwick Hawker, John Kerr, Ross Naylor, Kristy Rusher & Graye Shattky.

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HERITAGE MATTERS

FROM THE CHAIR

Over the last few months, the heritage sector continues to negotiate event planning under the Red Traffic Light setting. Cancelling the 30th Goldfields Cavalcade will have been a huge disappointment, not only for participants but to the wider community. We often underestimate the economic value of heritage to our local economy, particularly to small communities. Millers Flat residents were ready to welcome weary Cavalcade participants and supporters at the finishing line - hopefully all goes smoothly next year!



Our museums continue to offer some great exhibitions and events. You can catch up with what's been happening in the sector below.

Interviews have been put on hold in our Oral History program to ensure our interviewees and interviewers are kept safe from potential Covid harm. Our volunteer team are putting this time to good use, researching new interview topics and getting our oral repository ready for online publication. I'd like to take this opportunity to reinforce our gratitude to our 31-strong team of volunteers who commit many unpaid hours to this successful program.

The Trust welcomes Ann Rodgers as the Central Otago District Council Liaison to the COHT team. Ann is the Principal Policy Planner at CODC. Her expertise will be a great asset to the team, particularly in the coming months as CODC commences a review of heritage aspects within the District Plan.

I would also like to welcome the Otago Central Rail Trail Trust as a new member. Now in its 28th year of operation, the Otago Central Rail Trail is New Zealand's 'Original Great Ride.' The 152km trail between Clyde and Middlemarch allows cyclists and walkers to engage with some of our best heritage offerings. This has helped reinvigorate the local economy of the small settlements along the trail. We look forward to working alongside the Rail Trail Trust in their endeavours to tell our unique stories.

It is pleasing to see an increase in member contributions to this newsletter. If you have heritage news or events that you'd like to share for our next Winter edition, please get in touch with our Heritage Coordinator, Maggie Hope - maggie@heritagecentralotago.org.nz.

In the meantime, we hope you are making the most of our autumn golden weather.

David Ritchie, Central Otago Heritage Trust.

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF BUTLERS FARM

Gee Nick, that's a big job!

Nick Taylor first came across Butlers Farm on one of his many Central Otago tramping trips. He'd been looking at buying a heritage property in the area for some time and on his first visit to the site he knew "there was no alternative."

Eleven years later, Nick is enjoying the challenge of restoring the Category 1 Heritage New Zealand listed site which comprises the original 1870s homestead, stable, dairy and livestock enclosures, all crafted from local schist stone.



Nick Taylor, Butlers Farm owner.

Once part of a larger station, Butlers Farm is located between Alexandra and Roxburgh on the Alexandra-Fruitlands highway, an area originally known as Bald Hill Flat or Speargrass Flat.



Butlers Farm homestead and farm buildings today.

The farm name has endured despite several ownership changes over the last 149 years. The name refers to the second owners, John and Mary Butler who moved to the farm in 1878.

Nick was well aware that the old stone buildings were in poor condition and would require significant restoration work. He was under no illusion about the scale of the job ahead.

“The one comment I never want to hear is - Gee Nick, that’s a big job,” says Nick.

While tempted to roll up his sleeves and get stuck into it, Nick knew careful planning was needed to guide the restoration project. He received funding from Heritage New Zealand’s Preservation Incentive Fund to complete an archaeological assessment, conservation plan, engineering report and site survey.

“Getting a conservation plan was key to understanding the site’s history as well as being a vital blueprint for guiding restoration work.”

In between training pilots and flying charters, Nick is working on the two-storey barn, with the long-term goal of converting the 100sqm building into boutique heritage accommodation. The first major job was securing the barn’s western wall which had largely collapsed. It wasn’t an easy job given the 600mm stacked stone walls. Once secured and earthquake strengthened, Nick engaged local heritage stone mason, Keith Hinds, to repair the stonework. The repairs are undetectable thanks to the traditional pointing and stone laying techniques used by Keith.



Before and after: Barn wall strengthening.

The next stages of the barn restoration are underway. “Much of this work involves hard physical labour. The Baltic pine floorboards on the second level needed to be scrubbed many times before being sanded and polished.”

There is no finish date in sight for this labour of love, however the 150 anniversary of Butlers Farm next year would be the perfect time for a party that compares to the legendary soiree held by John and Mary Butler in the barn back in 1879.

A brief history

Butlers Farm was established on land bought in 1869-70 by pioneering Bald Hills Flat locals John Mc Donough, John White and Robert Leslie. Evidence suggests that John Mc Donough had the stone homestead and outbuildings constructed in 1873.


The property was originally run as a dairy farm and was well-regarded in its day, as the following extract from the *Tuapeka Times* illustrates:

'Dairy farms... are few and far between, but those that exist, if the generally substantial appearance of the homesteads are any criterion, I should imagine, pay well. The best one of this class is that of Messrs White, McDonough, and Co., on Speargrass Flat, whose homestead is a pattern for others to be guided by. The whole of their buildings – including a large two-storey dwellinghouse, dairy, barn, cow byres - are all of stone.' (1 Nov, 1876)

When the McDonough and Co. partnership dissolved in 1878, the dairy farm was sold to Irish immigrants John and Mary Butler who used their spoils from local goldmining successes to purchase the property.

Aside from farming, the Butlers clearly enjoyed after-hours socializing and local get-togethers. The *Tuapeka Times* records a lavish ball held at the Butlers Farm barn on 1 February 1879 where, after formalities and speeches, guests sang and danced till dawn.

The large stone stables were put to good use with John offering a Clydesdale stud on the farm. His horses were also regular starters at the local 'Limerick Sheffield' races.



Pure-bred Clydesdale Entire,
I R O N D U K E,
Will stand at my Farm,
B A L D H I L L F L A T,
THIS SEASON.
— — —
Pedigree in Future Issue.

— — —
Terms—£1 10s, to be paid 1st of
February, 1884; £1 10s when Mare
proves in foal.
(Groomage fee, 5s, to be paid on
service.

JOHN BUTLER.



Dunstan Times, 26 October 1883.

The Dairy on Butlers Farm.



The Butler family outside the homestead (circa 1873). Source Hocken Collections.

The Butlers converted the dairy farm into a cropping enterprise, producing oats and barley. By 1883, John had increased their holding, adding a further 2,000 acres carved off from the original Teviot Run.

John Butler was also a notable figure in provincial government, serving on the Vincent County Council from 1885 until 1908. The large procession at his funeral in 1910 confirms his strong standing in the Teviot and Alexandra communities.



John Butler's funeral procession (1910). Source: Hocken Collections.

In 1912, the farm was sold to Eardley Reynolds, one of the original partners of the Fruitlands Estate, who quickly transformed the property into a large-scale orchard. With 40,000 fruit trees planted, Bald Hill Flat soon became known as 'Fruitlands'. However, by 1928, not a single crop of apples had been harvested, with continued late frosts ruining the fruiting buds. Today only a handful of apple trees remain from this failed venture.

Butlers Farm was subsequently purchased by James McCambridge who leased out the property. One noteworthy tenant in the 1930s was renowned journalist and historian FWG Miller. In his 1949 book, *'There was Gold in the River,'* Miller describes the homestead as being in poor condition.

The next occupant of the house appears to have been James McCambridge's son John (John Butler's grandson), who lived there in the 1950s. Electricity was installed in the late 1940s or early 1950s, but it appears that no plumbing was ever fitted.

A new house was built on the property, closer to the road, in the 1970s. The land was owned by the McCambridge family up until 1991, when it was sold. In June 1997, ownership was transferred to Doctors Point and Obelisk Stations Ltd as part of a larger landholding.

The property was used as a film set in the 1990s and a number of cosmetic changes to the outbuildings were made at this time. In 2008 the farmstead and modern house were subdivided off and sold separately.

Acknowledgements:

A special thanks to Nick Taylor and the Alexandra Friendship Club for the invitation to attend their visit to Butlers Farm in February.

Community and Promotions Grant is now open



The Central Otago District Council community and promotions grant funding round is currently open for applications. This is the second of two funding rounds for Council's 2021/22 financial year.

Scan the QR code to get information on funding criteria and to access the online application form.



Applications close 21 March.

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

MEET HANNAH HAYES

Ernest Hayes was a 19th century pioneer of industrial design and is well-known in Central Otago due to the Hayes Engineering works at Oturehua. But let's not forget Ernest's wife, Hannah, who also deserves time in the limelight for her contribution to the business and the Hayes' family legacy.

Hannah Eleanor Pearson married Eben 'Ernest' Hayes in Norfolk, England, in February 1881. The couple, and their first child Llewellyn, emigrated to New Zealand in 1882. They settled in Rough Ridge (Oturehua) where Ernest developed their small farm and engineering workshop. Ernest designed and manufactured a series of handy agricultural tools, from rabbit bait cutters to wind turbines and wire strainers. The latter was a patented device for applying tension to wire farm fences, is still in production, and is used on farms the length of New Zealand.

It was initially hard to find buyers for the rabbit bait cutters, and so Hannah, mother of nine children, took up the challenge of sales and marketing. Armed with determination and physical agility, Hannah left her 12-year-old daughter in charge and set off on her bicycle, in ankle length skirts, to find orders. Her door-to-door, direct marketing approach became well-known across the region, as she cycled far and wide to the Maniototo and Vincent counties, as well as to the Lindis Pass and the Mackenzie Country.



Hannah and Ernest Hayes (circa 1914).
Source: teara.govt.nz.



Hayes rabbit poison-pollard cutter.
Source: NZ Museums.

In her 'spare time', Hannah educated their five sons and four daughters. It is through her lessons in letter writing that we get a glimpse into the Hayes' home life. The children were encouraged to write to the 'Dot's Little Folks' children's page in the Otago Witness. Son Llewellyn wrote in 1891 describing his Christmas presents, including a clockwork figure of two sawyers and an engine, as well as practical presents such as a wheelbarrow and a dog whistle. The girls requested names for their pets - Skip and Fluff were suggested for kittens and their rooster was to be named Andy.

The Hayes family originally lived in a small mud-brick cottage, known today as Hannah's café, before a larger homestead was built in the 1920s. Hannah and Ernest's children went on to have successful careers associated with engineering and farming. Inheriting his mother's skills in sales and marketing, Irving Hayes opened the Invercargill store 'E. Hayes and Sons' in 1932, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year.

The Hayes Engineering Works and homestead at Oturehua was purchased by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust in 1975 and is classified as a Category 1 listed site. The complex is open daily to the public from September to May (9am - 4pm) with workshop Operating Days held on Sundays (1:30 pm).

So next time you are visiting the Hayes Engineering complex for a coffee or tour, make sure you take a moment to remember Hannah's integral role in the success of the Hayes' family legacy.



Descendants of Hannah and Ernest Hayes gather at Hayes Homestead at Oturehua in October 2021 to mark 100 years of the homestead.

WINDING ALONG THE OLD MANUHEREKIA RACE

One of the things that has intrigued me over a few years now, is just how little communities generally know about water races. Yes, there are a few people that know a great deal about who built which race, its purpose and if it was a failure or a success. But given the crucial role that water played in sustaining domestic life, goldmining, farming and horticulture in a hot dry climate, it's always seemed that how it was shifted from one spot to another deserved a great deal more exposure. These races not only represent a logistical solution, but they are also a living display of our heritage and emphasise that tomorrow's heritage is being created today.

I first became interested in the water races in the early 1960s when I drove my VW Beetle into the road that leads to Chinky Gully near Chatto Creek. The road was flooded near the aqueduct and the Beetle sort of surfed, bobbing up and down to get some traction before losing it again.

The aqueduct was full of water and the source was a tunnel that disappeared into the hill. On the lintel of the tunnel was a date - 1937 - but all around were distinct reminders of much earlier works and I wondered who had built these races and why they had become abandoned.

Many years later, along with friends, I climbed up from Chinky Gully to follow the old dry abandoned race. It was a superbly interesting day, full of adventure and surprises. Not far into Chinky Gully was a plaque on the side of the hill that simply said, 'The Kaiser's Dream.' Why and when was the Kaiser ever in Chinky Gully?



The race wound through the gully and then entered into the Manuherekia Gorge winding high above the river below. In places the race had been filled with falling rock from the steep hills above, and more disconcertingly in places it had simply fallen away down into the Manuherekia. It was not easy walking and took a little longer than we had anticipated, but all along the route the scenery was stunning within this little known but impressive gorge. However, what was even more stunning was the engineering to construct this deep race along these hills. Winding in and out of little gorges, through rock bluffs by way of tunnels, and all the time ensuring that the levels were maintained so that the precious water would flow to where it was needed.



The abandoned race eventually met up with the working race which turned at right angles and entered into the tunnel I had seen at the aqueduct. The race continued up the gorge for a short distance to where it met the Manuherekia River and all the associated ponds and control gear for diverting the river water into the race. From here it was a steep road over the hills back to the aqueduct.

After a good chat with Matt Sole of Kopuwai Consulting, I confirmed that the race was constructed as a government scheme in the 1920s depression years when both single men's quarters were built in Chinky Gully and married men were housed at Chatto Creek. The race was a triumph of engineering in many ways but became impossible to maintain because of the constant movement of the rock above the race and the collapse of some sections into the Manuherekia Gorge. Eventually a tunnel was driven through the hill and most of the race abandoned. The new aqueduct was constructed and today supplies water to properties all along the Manuherekia valley

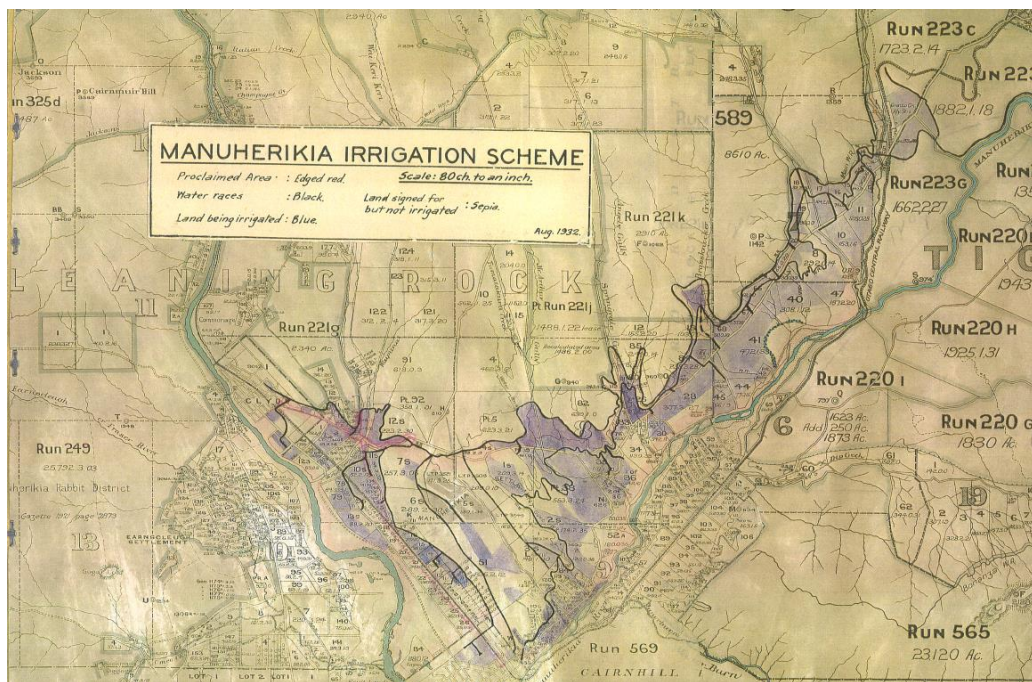
and right into the Springvale Road area of Clyde. The water can be seen descending a ladder to the lower stretches of Springvale Road not far from the Dunstan Road intersection.

Matt supplied me with a copy of 'Maoriland Worker' (3 March 1920) which described in graphic detail the horrific conditions faced by these government workers. Their day started at 5.30am and finished at 7pm including a long walk in to where they were working in the Manuherekia Gorge. Food was expensive and living conditions squalid, cold, and draughty. No means of heating water was supplied, and the workers were not even given ropes to help protect falling from the precipitous hillsides.

And who was the Kaiser? He was actually the Chief Engineer for the construction of the race. Anti-German sentiment was high in those years and his Germanic sounding name was his downfall. Rumour suggests that the failure of the race led to his suicide, but in discussion with historian John McCraw many years ago, it was suggested that he left the area and went to the West Coast to continue his engineering career.

Russell Garbutt, COHT Board Member

The Manuherikia Irrigation Scheme was constructed by the Public Works Department over the period of 1910 to 1922 and by 1925 was irrigating 2,282ha in the Chatto Creek, Springvale, Letts Gully and Dunstan Flat areas. The old map below shows the water races (black lines) and land being irrigated by 1932 (purple).



HEALTH ON THE HILL: THE WAIPIATA SANITORIUM

On the Rock and Pillar foothills overlooking the Maniototo plain is the former Waipiata Sanatorium. Nowadays, the imposing medical facility is mostly bypassed and forgotten, as is the role it played in containing the scourge of Tuberculosis (Tb). But Waipiata was an important bricks-and-mortar front line of defence against Tb, a disease rife in many New Zealand communities following World War One up until the early 1960s.

The infectious bacterial disease, mainly affecting the lungs, killed more people worldwide than any other disease during the nineteenth century. Medical physicians at that time struggled to understand what caused it and how to treat it. The highly transmissible nature of the disease became a global concern.

The New Zealand government's strategy, launched in 1901, included compulsory notification and public education to tackle the disease. But the major emphasis was on diagnosis, isolation and institutional treatment of patients in 'sanitoria' - dry and high-altitude medical facilities where a combination of open air, rest and good food was believed to strengthen bodies and fight off Tb.

Five sanatoria were established throughout the country between 1903 and 1910. Waipiata opened in 1923. Originally established in 1914 by Dr George Byres for the treatment of patients with respiratory problems, the complex comprised basic wooden buildings and shelters.

Following the acquisition of the site by a group of southern district hospital boards in 1922, new and specialized pinkish-red brick and wooden buildings were built. At 1600 feet above sea level, the Waipiata Sanatorium became a hospital-based community, with the Men's and Women's pavilions, each with upper and lower decks, at its centre.

The upper level was for bed-ridden and seriously ill patients, whereas the lower level was for those afflicted with milder infections. The defining feature of both pavilions were the large balcony windows open almost 24/7 for patients to imbibe the bracing mountain air, regarded as essential for recovery. There are many written accounts of patients and nurses recalling the often sub-zero temperatures which were partially offset by water bottles being topped up throughout the night. The lower deck of the men's pavilion had a shop and post office which provided an important link to the outside world.



*The youngest patient at Waipiata aged 3yrs (1959).
Source: Hocken Collections.*

The 'diet' or kitchen pavilion, between the patient pavilions, was where meals were served to those not confined to bed. The kitchen was supplied with meat and milk produced on the surrounding 600-acre farm.



Patients outside the Diet Pavilion. Circa 1920 -1930s. Source: Maniototo Early Settlers Museum.

The Medical Superintendent's residence was across the road, as was the well-appointed 30-bedroom nurses' home. Both were constructed from the same brick used in the main hospital buildings.

There was a constant shortage of staff, largely due to the geographic isolation of the sanatorium. Steps were taken to make the facility a more appealing environment for staff. The nurses' home was fitted out with sitting rooms and balconies, and bedrooms decorated with wallpaper rather than the spartan walls and surrounds of most nursing homes of the time. Tennis, rugby, and basketball clubs were established to encourage social sport. The introduction of a weekly and free-of-charge bus to the Waipiata township was another hook to attract and retain staff.



The Waipiata Nurses' Home.

*'The Hill of Health, Aspects of Community at Waipiata Sanatorium 1923 - 1961'*¹ provides an excellent insight into the life and times at the sanatorium. The author, Susan Haugh, described it as a "unique kind of community, more often resembling a country town than a medical institution" and suggests that the creation of the community was integral in supporting patients along the road to recovery."



Waipiata Sanatorium (2005). Source: Susan M Haugh. ¹

Advances in the treatment of Tb, most notably antibiotics, led to closure of the sanatorium in 1961. It briefly took on a new lease of life as a 'borstal', a youth detention and corrective training centre from 1980. The facility was sold in 1987 to the current owners, the Bradfield family, who run it as a Christian retreat.

Thank you to Maryann Devereux, Curator, Maniototo Early Settlers Museum for background information and photos.

*Scan the QR code to view:
'Waipiata Sanatorium: in sympathy with the isolated'
A brief newsroom.co.nz documentary on YouTube.*



¹ *'The Hill of Health: Aspects of Community at Waipiata Sanatorium 1923 – 1961.*
Susan M. Haugh, October 2005.

TELLING OUR STORIES - ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

MEET ALISON GRAY

My mother was one of many hundred southerners shipped off for enforced rest and recovery from Tb at the Waipiata Sanitorium.

In a recent Oral History interview, she recalled her 18-month stay at Waipiata from September 1947 until April 1949. A routine chest x-ray as part of her application for Karitane nursing revealed her Tb diagnosis. The news was a devastating blow for the 17-year-old school-leaver ready to embark on her next life chapter of independence and discovery beyond her rural upbringing in Oamaru.

She was admitted and isolated at Oamaru hospital for three months before space became available at Waipiata. Her parents received a detailed list on what to take - lots of warm clothes. A small radio was recommended, and Mum was lucky to have the luxury item added to her suitcase.



Alison Gray (nee Forrest) soon after her discharge from Waipiata Sanitorium in 1949

“I thought I’d be there a few months...I guess ignorance was bliss,” she said.

Mum was admitted to the ‘lower deck’ of the hospital and her treatment was simple: rest, routine and lots of food!

“The meals were very good. We had three meals as well as morning and afternoon teas. I ate them all and put on a lot of weight.”

There was a hierarchy of staff, a senior doctor assisted by a junior doctor, an eagle-eyed matron and the nursing team. Mum remembered a senior nursing sister who ruled with an iron hand, had an unfortunate bedside manner and was not well liked. Needless to say, the patients were delighted to wave her off when she accepted a proposal of marriage.

Mum’s parents visited every fourth Sunday on a specially chartered bus from Oamaru. It arrived at midday and departed at 3.30pm for the return three-hour trip.

Mum's recovery appeared to be going well, but an x-ray four months into her stay confirmed otherwise. It was back to bed rest and missing out on her brother's wedding. It was a cruel blow.

"I cried my eyes out. It was all too much."

Back on the road to recovery she was given kitchen duties to help fill in the day. There were also lots of art and craft activities. Tatting, a type of lace making, was popular and men were particularly good at it because of their hand strength. Mum did a lot of stamped embroidery and sewing. There were regular craft shows and the standard of competition was high.

Mum was eventually released from the lower decks to the relative freedom of the 'shacks', semi-detached wooden cabins with a communal bathroom and kitchen block. 'Freedom' included smuggling in of a bottle of wine one night. There were also opportunities to sneak out for a smoke in a nearby thicket of pines (a serious taboo given the patients compromised lungs).

She recalls a friendly atmosphere and great camaraderie, especially among the large group of younger patients.

"I was happy while I was there but of course you were always looking forward to being discharged."

In hindsight the experience was an eye opener and life changing.

"I was living in close quarters with people from all walks of life, so I learnt a lot about tolerance, how to get along with people and just get on with things."

Lynda Gray
COHT Board Member



*New Zealand's first Christmas Health Stamps,
issued in 1929 and 1930*

MUSEUMS UPDATE

OTAGO MUSEUM

Kia ora koutou

You may have seen in the recent news we have been gifted a new te reo name by local runanga to replace our previous official name 'Otago Museums: Te Whare Taoka o Otago.' From now on we will be known as Tūhura Otago Museum. The new name and associated branding will be rolled out in the near future.



Nyssa Mildwaters

Work continues at pace on the Tū Tonu Regional Museums Project. A huge thank you to those who have already returned their Tū Tonu surveys. Kimberley is now working hard going through all the feedback and will be announcing a number of workshops and other activities in the coming weeks.

In other very exciting news, we were notified just before Christmas that we were successful in securing Heritage and Environment Lottery funding for our Hidden Hazards Project. The project will develop New Zealand specific guidelines and protocols to assist heritage organisations and museums - from identifying hazards, and legal requirements through to options for management, and ultimately if required, safe disposal. These resources will be tailored to the needs of organisations around Otago, and will be available nationwide, both on-line and in hardcopy. We are currently in the process of appointing a project officer for 12 months to work with stakeholders to look at hazardous materials in heritage and museum collections. We anticipate running training sessions on hazards and health and safety as part of the project as well as reaching out to many of you as part of the development and testing phase of the project.

In the meantime, if you would like to know more about the project or have any questions or suggestions around hazards in collections, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We are as always very keen for your feedback.

Kā mihi nui

Nyssa Mildwaters

Conservation Manager, Otago Museum

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DDI: 03 479 3230

CENTRAL OTAGO MUSEUMS TRUST - ALTOGETHER BETTER

It's official. The Central Otago Museums Trust has been formed with the seven Trustees keen to get on with the job ahead. The idea of establishing the Trust was born from a desire to see our five District museums working collaboratively within a network that will see a greater sharing of ideas and resources.

The Central Otago District Museum Strategy 2021 was vital in determining the need for better collaboration across the District's Museum sector. "It contains a range of agreed strategic goals and actions that serve as a framework for the Trust to build on," says Owen Graham, the Trust's Independent Chair.

"Trustees have shown there is a keen willingness to build a cohesive network for the greater benefit of our museum sector. This can include shared policy and exhibition development and aligned data collection and artifact management practices. Most importantly though, this will be achieved by supporting the identity of each individual museum and enabling them to continue to be community led and run.



Chair: Owen Graham

It is clear many of the issues facing Central Otago museums are similar. "Aside from funding, the retaining and recruitment of volunteers is a prime example. By working together, we can look for solutions that meet each museum's needs, while also respecting the valuable work undertaken by all their volunteers."

Owen says that "rather than take charge, a key purpose of the Trust is to support connectivity between the museums, and with their communities. That can be done by coordinating expertise and training, by facilitating the sharing of resources and by looking hard at how best to engage future generations in our District's heritage.

There are great opportunities in training and educational programmes available to the museum sector, but these have not always been broadly available to all our museums. The Trust represents all the Central Otago museums and so intends to build on the valuable relationships they have established to maximise benefits District-wide."

The Trust includes seven Trustees – one representative from each of the five District museums, a representative from the Central Otago Heritage Trust and an Independent Chair. As a key stakeholder in the success of the Trust, the Central Otago District Council provides a staff member as liaison.

Meet the Team:

Independent Chair	Owen Graham
Central Stories Museum & Art Gallery	Malcolm Macpherson
Central Otago Heritage Trust	Maggie Hope
Clyde Museum	Andy Ritchie
Cromwell Museum	Peter Mead
Maniototo Early Settlers Museum	Sam Inder
Teviot District Museum	Barbara Fraser
Central Otago District Council Liaison	Paula Penno

Funding for the Trust was secured following submissions by the museum sector to Council’s Long-Term Plan on the District Museum Function. Some of this funding will be used to employ a part-time coordinator whose role will be key in implementing tasks in the Trust’s Action Plan. Expressions of Interest for this role will open in the next few weeks.

If you would like to make contact with the Trust, please email
Owen Graham: chair@museumscentralotago.org.nz

Scan the QR code to view the Central Otago District Museum Strategy.



TEVIOT DISTRICT MUSEUM



In early February, I was asked to visit the local Teviot Valley rest home to entertain residents for an hour or so. Because this year’s 30th Cavalcade was due to finish in Millers Flat, I decided to take along some old horse memorabilia. So armed with a beautiful side saddle, a collar and hames, some farrier’s tools and a video of the 2001 Cavalcade called ‘Rocky Road to Roxburgh’, I set forth. These items can be viewed online by searching ‘Teviot District Museum collection.’

The residents enjoyed touching the leather work and really enjoyed the video. It showed maps of the different trails and people recognised areas they knew and, in some cases, lived. They also picked out some locals. Dawn Pickett, who rode the first Cavalcade side saddle, was spotted, and many memories of her were shared. When Dawn passed away, just before the 20th Cavalcade, her death notice said, “79 years and 19 Cavalcades.”

After my visit, even though the Cavalcade had been cancelled, we installed a pop-up display of Cavalcade items at the local information centre. We have a video there and

many people have sat and watched it. The leather work at our museum has been lovingly restored by one of our volunteers.

Margaret Hill, Teviot District Museum



Cavalcade pop-up display at the Roxburgh Information Centre.

Cavalcade beginnings

In 1991, the first Central Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust's Cavalcade re-traced the historic journey of the Cobb & Co coach from Dunedin to the Dunstan Goldfields. The coach left the Provincial Hotel in Dunedin on 22 November, 1862.

160 years later, on the same day, the first Goldfields Cavalcade left Rockland's Station, near Middlemarch, heading inland for the Dunstan, and ending the journey at Cromwell.

Over 220 people participated in the inaugural Cavalcade with 240 horses, a gold coach, wagons, carts, gigs and buggies.



The Cobb & Co Coach in Roxburgh (1901).

CROMWELL MUSEUM

The Southern Cross Visits Cromwell March 1933

In March 1933, the famous Australian aviator Sir Charles Kingsford Smith visited the Cromwell Aerodrome in his plane, the Southern Cross, accompanied by the Southern Cross Kitten, piloted by Squadron Leader T. W. White.

Kingsford Smith had made the first transpacific flight from the United States to Australia in 1928. He was also the first to achieve a non-stop crossing of the Australian mainland and flights between Australia and New Zealand.



Charles Kingsford Smith.

People from near and far assembled at the Cromwell aerodrome (at this time a racecourse) to see the pilot and his aeroplane. A civil reception was held at the grandstand in his honour.

The Southern Cross was a Fokker F.VII/3m with specially designed long exhausts for the two outboard motors which curved over the top of the wings. It was also fitted out with an electric landing light of 60,000 candle power driven by a special generator for landing in the dark.



An Aero Club in Cromwell was formalised later in 1933, and the runway had been declared the best in the Domain by Kingsford Smith.

Kingsford Smith disappeared in his plane the Lady Southern Cross with co-pilot John Thompson in 1935 while flying overnight from Allahabad, India to Singapore as part of their attempt to break the England-Australia speed record.

This April, 89 years after his auspicious visit, the Cromwell Museum will have a small display exploring the history of aviation in this region with assistance from the Wanaka Toy and Transport Museum.

Jennifer Hay, Cromwell Museum Director

*IMAGE Kingsford Smith's Southern Cross Aeroplane in Cromwell March 1933.
Cromwell Museum Collection.*

CENTRAL STORIES MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Our Central Stories' four event summer season was a great success, two sell-outs an audience total of 220 and great support from a band of volunteers and members.

Waiata Theatre Productions, a local semi-professional entrainment group, featured at two of the events with an eclectic mix of showtime favourites, folk and country-ish music. A cabaret night with veteran jazz pianist Les Richardson, featuring Janice Millis, Bruce Potter, and the global colours of the Mundi Trio, rounded out the programme. Definitely something for everyone.



It was financially worth-while. But it's not just about money. We need to offer variety, make the best use of our special venue, and attract new audiences, all in support of our guardianship responsibilities. Keeping our doors open, employing skilled professionals, being relevant to our communities – those are our underlying purposes.

Malcolm Macpherson, Chair, Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery

Meet Moniza Fenton

Moniza Fenton started her role as Manager at Central Stories on 1 November 2021.



Originally from the UK, Moniza gained most of her managerial experience whilst working as a TV Producer where she made programmes for the BBC & Granada Television. Initially from an arts background, her storytelling and communication skills soon helped to develop a career in factual filmmaking, and her leadership and people management skills led her to senior roles in Broadcasting.

Since emigrating to New Zealand 12 years ago, Moniza diversified her skills towards an educational context where she found that aspects of her producing role transferred very well to other sectors. She has managed departments for high schools, led teams for libraries, managed art exhibitions for galleries, directed productions for the local amateur dramatics society and taught visual art within the community.

Moniza embraces the challenge of helping Central Stories reach its full potential.

“I want to help Central Stories become a thriving hub that resonates with our community by making art more accessible and bringing history to life through an engaging series of programmes and exhibitions that appeal to all generations.”

CLYDE MUSEUM

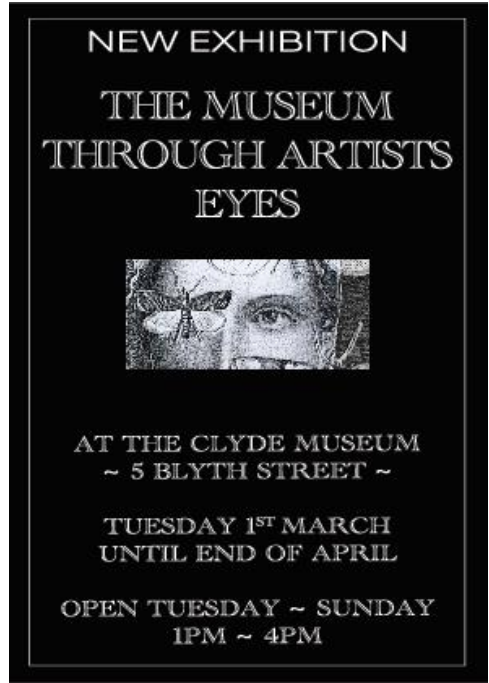
Locals experienced the newly refurbished exhibition space at Clyde Museum at the recent opening of ‘The Museum Through Artists Eyes.’

This exhibition brings together an eclectic mix of works in an array of mediums that are informed by museum objects, stories or simply the act of collecting.

From explorations of lace tatting to reimagining artifacts, “the exhibition is designed to make the visitor take a fresh look at what they might otherwise overlook in the Museum” says Andy Ritchie, museum Chair.

While an experimental collaboration with members of the Central Otago Arts Trust, contributing artists are already looking forward to the next project.

The exhibition runs until the end of March.



Exhibition opening on the 28 February in the refurbished museum exhibition space.

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Send your news and events to our Heritage Coordinator for our website or next newsletter: maggie@heritagecentralotago.org.nz

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- Central Otago Environmental Society
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- Otago Central Rail Trail Trust
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- Teviot Valley District Museum
- Vallance Cottage Working Group

OUR SUPPORTERS

Heritage Central Otago acknowledges the generous support from the following organisations.





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