

Protecting, preserving & celebrating our heritage



Autumn 2023



*St Bathans Primary School
Rescuing the Ruins*

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www.heritagecentralotago.org.nz

ABOUT US

The Central Otago Heritage Trust, established in 2008, comprises member groups 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. Ann Rodgers (CODC Liaison). Maggie Hope (Heritage Coordinator).

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HERITAGE MATTERS

FROM THE CHAIR

The cooler autumn mornings have been a welcome change after our long hot southern summer.

In mid-February fellow Trustees, Graye Shattky and Kristy Rusher, spoke to our written submission at the Otago Regional Council hearings on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement (pRPS). Our submission covered the following amendments and recommendations:



- An amended definition of Historic Heritage to reference both the tangible and intangible aspects of cultural heritage.
- Recognition of the contributions of all ethnicities to Otago's distinctive heritage legacy.
- Establishing policies which encourage Otago's district councils to support the identification, recording and preservation of our cultural heritage including those without a physical presence.
- Recognition of heritage as a significant resource for our economic wellbeing, which supports a thriving visitor industry and attracts new residents into the region.

The 'intangibles' cover images, music, oral histories, poetry, letters, diaries and documents that provide substance to our physical or 'tangible' heritage. Together they form the fabric of our multicultural heritage legacy. Graye and Kristy received positive feedback from the hearing commissioners. You can view the video of their oral submission in the library section on our website.

The Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust's 30th Cavalcade finished on the 4th of March to much fanfare at the Cavalcade Carnival at Millers Flat. Congratulations to the OGHT team for another successful event. More than 500 people took part in this year's Cavalcade. The horse riders, wagoners, walkers, runners and cyclists travelled across eleven different trails that traversed through areas rich with our gold mining history.

At our February board meeting, we were pleased to welcome the Cromwell and Districts Community Trust as a new member. The Trust works with local communities to identify issues and opportunities that are expressed in their District Community Plans. We look forward to working with the Trust on their heritage-related projects.

David Ritchie, Chair - Central Otago Heritage Trust

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

MUCH MORE THAN A WOOLLY YARN

Jillian Jopp's Central Otago Heritage Trust talk was sheep-centric, but it wasn't a woolly yarn.

'The History of Merino in Central Otago and Moutere Station' kicked off COHT's 2023 series of talks. Jillian's presentation was well-researched and clearly appreciated by the 80 people who attended the event at Central Stories.

Jillian, who now lives in Alexandra, lived at Moutere for 25 years with her late husband Tony and family. She recalled her time at Moutere, the recent on-farm advancements of the 8,000ha property and Prince Charles' visit in 2005. But most of the talk covered the introduction of sheep to the Central Otago region, and the development of the station over the five generations of Jopp family ownership. Much of the information was drawn from 'In the Shadow of the Rock, the story of Moutere and its Merinos', written by Tony and published in 2004. The title alludes to the station's location beneath Leaning Rock, a prominent high point of the Dunstan Mountains.



A reoccurring theme was the tenacity and extreme resilience of both the people and the livestock, especially during the pioneering years. A good example were the Shennan brothers, Watson and Alexander, early pastoralists of the Central Otago hinterland. The pair, in search of land to run sheep, headed inland and discovered the Manuherikia Valley, which they described as 'a land of promise'.

The brothers took out depasturing licenses for 100,000 acres on two runs, Galloway and Moutere. A condition of occupation was stocking the land, leading the Shennans to buy a sheep flock from Tokomairiro near Milton. Moving the sheep inland meant driving them over the Lammerlaws which was where they were caught in the April 1858 blizzard. They were forced to camp out in primitive conditions and had to guard the sheep 24/7 from packs of marauding wild dogs. It took three attempts before they pushed up and over to the Manuherikia Valley. This physically and mentally grueling journey cemented the start of sheep farming in the region.

Alexander Shennan took another pivotal step in 1861, when he ventured to Germany to buy purebred Merinos from the King of Prussia's stud. The sheep were

sent to Otago - some of them ended up in Central Otago and formed the foundation of Central Otago's fine-wool industry.

Jillian talked about the austere beginnings at Moutere including the first 'homestead', a one roomed corrugated iron musterers hut built in 1873. The Jopp family connection started in 1891, when Andrew and Eliza Jopp purchased the property. The Moutere Merino Stud was established in 1904.

Merino sheep have generally thrived in Central Otago's extreme and arid climate producing a fine micron, the high-quality fibre used in clothing and textiles. But the climate has on occasion pushed to the limit the people who farmed them. At Moutere, the 'Big Snow' and plummeting temperatures of 1903 froze the household bread and mutton, and the bare hands of shepherds froze and stuck to spades and other implements if they were not gloved. Bob Jopp later recalled the 'curious green tinge' of the sky in the lead up to the storm on 10 July which claimed 25 percent of their 16,000 sheep. The hardy survivors ate wool from the carcasses to stave off starvation.

The chapters of challenge and development at Moutere mirrored that of many other Central Otago farms: drought, snow and rabbits tested skills and patience. Securing reliable water for irrigation and lucerne provided new opportunities for improved productivity.

Jillian concluded by saying that each Jopp generation had built on the efforts of the previous one and that being part of the fourth generation was a privilege.

Thanks Jillian for sharing (or should that be shearing?) the Moutere Station and Merino story.

By Lynda Gray (COHT Trustee)



Jillian Jopp presented to a full house at Central Stories

CELEBRATING THE 30TH CAVALCADE

Horse riders, wagoners, runners, cyclists and walkers took to the hills this month for the 30th Goldfields Cavalcade. The first Cavalcade in 1991 retraced the historic journey of the Cobb & Co Coach from Dunedin to the Dunstan Goldfield, via the Dunstan Trail. This year's 30th Cavalcade was a much bigger operation.

Behind the scenes the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust (OGHT) and a dedicated team of volunteers made sure everything ran smoothly for the 500 participants traversing the eleven designated trails. Terry Davis has been the OGHT Cavalcade Coordinator for ten years and each year has had memorable moments.

"The standout for me this year has been the amazing support we've received from local farmers. Not just for providing us access over their land, but the unexpected support we've received along the trails. We've had one farmer going the extra mile, transporting folk to the back and beyond. Another helped out with a rescue mission for an injured rider. It's been a very humbling experience," Terry said.

Following in the footsteps of early gold seekers, the trails offered rare glimpses into the remote Central Otago landscape and what life was like back then. For wagoner John Taylor, traversing the Knobby Range was a highlight. "It was quite a steep pull for the carriage horses, but well worth it," he said.

This was the seventh Cavalcade for John, a sheep and beef farmer from Marton. His wagon, pulled by four horses, travelled the 'Light Wagon' trail, covering over 150 kilometres. Other highlights were stopping off at Earnsclough Castle for lunch and meeting up with farmers along the way - some who have been on the land for many generations.



*John Taylor's wagon in front of Earnsclough Castle
Photo courtesy of Marco Creemers.*

John was also impressed with the food along the trail. “You wouldn’t believe how well we’ve been fed. The Omakau Scouts did a great job. We’ve had things like ice cream pavlova, and crispy chicken. It was like dining out every night.”

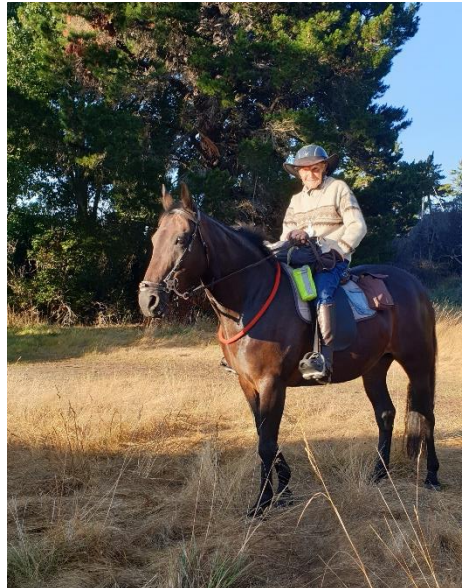
“You get to meet people and you see things you’d never see driving a car. But ultimately there’s no better view than over the top of four beautiful black horses.”



Each year, the Cavalcade starts from different points and follows different trails. This year the trails ended at Millers Flat where weary riders and supporters enjoyed a knees-up celebration at the Cavalcade Carnival before heading home.



All dressed up for the Cavalcade Carnival at Millers Flat.



Alice Sinclair, aged 87, has ridden all 30 Cavalcades.

Photos above and right courtesy of John Taylor.

YOU HAVE MAIL

Today it takes seconds for an email or text message to reach the other side of the world, but in the 1800s it took months for a letter from New Zealand to reach Britain. In the early 19th century whaling and sealing ships carried mail between settlements in NZ and Australia. The first letter from NZ to England was sent in 1815 by surface mail (sea). Getting the mail to inland communities was also a slow process.

In 1840, when New Zealand became a British Colony, the first official post office was opened at Kororāreka (Russell) in the Bay of Islands. Post offices sprung up soon after each gold rush started. In 1860, 107 post offices across the country handled almost one million letters and raised more than £10,000 in revenue.

The first mail delivery from Dunedin into Central Otago started in February 1857 - at this time it was a hazardous and difficult journey. These early mail runs to the first runholders in the district were undertaken by private individuals on horseback. In September 1862, the Otago Daily Times announced that one such individual, *"a well-known, and somewhat eccentric Dunedinite, rejoicing in the soubriquet of 'Red Coat', went through the town on Saturday morning last, mounted on horseback, announcing at the corners of streets to the inhabitants, called together by sound of trumpet, that he was about to proceed to the Hartley diggings...and that merchants, grass widows, forsaken sweethearts and others wishing to forward letters would find, upon payment of half a crown, that Red Coat would prove a fast and faithful courier."*



Mail coach outside Pitches Store 1867
Photo courtesy of www.Ophirnz

The first post office in Dunstan (Clyde) likely resembled other early buildings. It was made from canvas and light timber framing, and later clad in wood and corrugated iron. This was the earliest post office serving the goldfields. In January 1863, the Otago Witness reported that the post office was unable to keep up with demand.

'A long file of people extending for nearly quarter of a mile, go up in turns to be served. It takes on an average about two hours to reach the window. From morning till night the office is besieged. An extra clerk would only be in the way, as the postmaster's den is a square cramped up building, filled already to suffocation.'

The first Cobb & Co Coach service started on 11 October 1861 and brought people, goods and mail into Gabriel's Gully near Lawrence. Further services were added to connect with the Dunstan Goldfields and Whakatipu. As the goldfields populations exploded, further horse-drawn mail services were established to meet the growing demand.

In 1865, the Electric Telegraph Act was passed, giving the government the power to construct and maintain telegraph communication. A few months later there were nine telegraph stations, all in the South Island, and in May 1866 the Clyde Post Office was connected to this network.

Central Otago's Post Office Legacy



In 1900, the Clyde Post Office's wooden and corrugated structure was replaced with a magnificent building constructed from local schist. The stonemason was William Gair, who also built many of the stone buildings in Clyde and Cromwell.

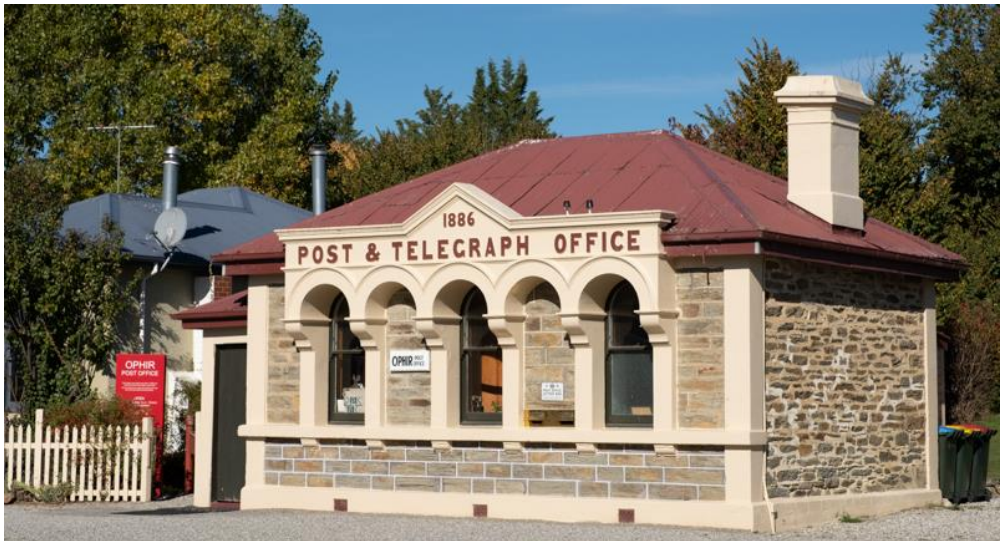
In March 1989, following the restructuring of New Zealand Post, the Vincent County Council bought the post office and the Postmaster's House next door and ran a postal agency for a number of years. After further local body restructuring in 1991, the post office was transferred to the Central Otago District Council and closed two years later. The Post Office Café and Bar now operates from this historical building and the former Postmaster's House is a bed and breakfast.



Chatto Creek has New Zealand's smallest post office at (1892-1975). You can still frank your letters and post them when visiting the Chatto Creek pub.



The grand St Bathans Post Office opened in 1909 and operated until 1937. It is now owned by the Department of Conservation.



The first post office in Ophir was a wooden building constructed in 1876. It was located where the Lockup currently stands. It was replaced by the iconic stone building in 1886 to serve the thriving goldfields town. In 1976 it was taken over by Heritage New Zealand. The interior remains largely unchanged from the time of its construction. Nowadays, postal services are available for three hours each weekday morning. Letters posted from here carry the original VR (Victoria Regina) rubber stamp postmark and are prized by collectors.

HERITAGE TALKS

Central Otago Heritage Trust has teamed up with our local museums to offer the 2023 Heritage Talks programme. For the price of a cup of coffee, we'll make sure you leave knowing more about this fascinating place we call Central.

Book your place at [heritagecentralotago.org.nz /events](https://heritagecentralotago.org.nz/events)

Entry by koha, with proceeds going to the museums.



The History of Central Otago Merino Farming

Jillian Jopp presented this talk at Central Stories in late January to a full house. If you missed it, here's your chance to hear it at Cromwell Museum. Jillian talks about how merino farming developed in Central Otago, life on Moutere Station and what makes merino wool such a desirable fibre on the world stage.

Cromwell Museum (*limited to 30 places*)

Wednesday 26 April, 6:30pm



Black gold - the history of coal mining in Alexandra and Clyde

For the swarms of miners that came to the area in search of gold, there was very little wood to build with or keep warm. Coal became a pivotal resource for domestic use and eventually to power dredges operating along the Clutha River. Russell Garbutt sheds light on our little-known coal mining industry.

Wednesday 3 May, 6:30pm

Clyde Museum



Remembering the Hyde Rail Disaster

On June 4th, 1943, the crash of the Cromwell to Dunedin express near Hyde ended lives, devastated families, and shook an entire country. It was the biggest catastrophe the peaceful Maniototo district had ever seen. Twenty-one of the 113 passengers on board were killed and 47 injured. Eighty years on, historian Jim Sullivan examines this fateful day and its consequences.

Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery

Wednesday 31 May, 6:30pm

WHAT'S IN A NAME - MUTTONTOWN

Muttontown Road just outside of Clyde towards Alexandra, reflects a time in our goldmining history when pastoralists swung into action to feed hungry miners.

After the Hartley and Reilly gold strike in 1862 in the Dunstan Gorge near Cromwell, tens of thousands of miners from New Zealand and Australia flocked to the Dunstan goldfields to try their luck.



At this time the pastoralists had scarcely established themselves on their runs when the solitude of interior Otago was interrupted by gold miners. Moutere Station bounded the Molyneux River where the full force of the gold rush was felt. Early pastoralist and station owner, Watson Shennan, who witnessed the landscape transform from a quiet wilderness to a scene of great activity, described the rush as “this terrible affair.” Arriving exhausted from their journey, feckless miners had made no provisions for their daily needs and immediately looked to the runholders for their supplies.

Shennan ordered 13,000 sheep to be mustered from the surrounding three runs (Earnsclough, Galloway & Moutere Stations) to sell to the miners. Bullock drays were driven to the banks of the Molyneux and then tipped up with tarpaulins stretched over them to set up shop. A roaring trade began with mutton sold for a shilling per pound. Muttontown was born.



*Gold camp on the Molyneux River near Clyde
William Hodgkins circa 1862
Source: National Library*

Despite Shennan's efforts and strict rationing, stores quickly ran out. Supplies from Dunedin were slow to arrive and, due to the treacherous journey, were non-existent over the winter months. In desperation miners started helping themselves to sheep. There were comments made that “wild dogs were no match for the two-legged predator!”

By Jillian Jopp

‘THE CARRICK RANGE’, BY JIM WALTON

Every part of New Zealand has its own unique history, whether it be the landscape, the people, the work carried out or many other things or even combinations of the above.

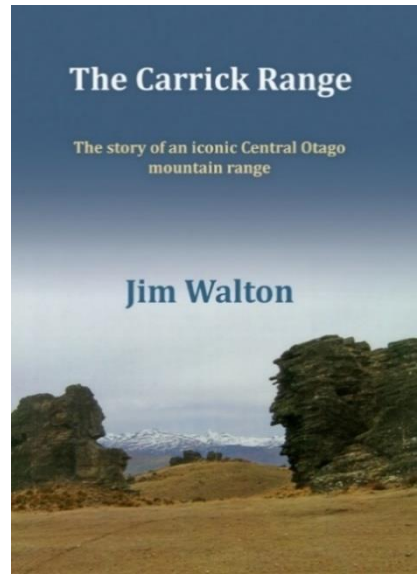
After giving a recent talk on the historian John McCraw, I was gifted a copy of ‘The Carrick Range’ by Cromwell historian, Jim Walton. This book is a very welcome addition to the lexicon of Central Otago history.

The Carrick Range is a local landmark towering above the western boundary of the Bannockburn Valley as it sweeps up to the rugged skyline and down to the Nevis Valley. “Carrick” is Gaelic for “rock or rocky surfaces.” Looking at the stark rugged slopes it is not difficult to appreciate the range has its own geological, insect and plant life, and forestation history that has developed over millions of years. Jim’s book starts with this ancient geological history beginning with Gondwanaland and the extensive wilderness that provided a final refuge for Moa and the Bouaki or Haast Eagle.

The book then examines the people who came to live and work on the slopes - from the Polynesian arrival in the 13th century to the subsequent run-holders, the miners and farmers who came to work its riches, and the town dwellers who lived on the base of this rugged and isolated range. Life was tough for these early pioneers. The extreme climate of snow and bitterly cold winds or the driving hot Nor’ Westers made trudging up to the mines above Carricktown, or down to the stores in Quartzville, a perilous journey. Life for the pioneering miners, pastoralists and residents is examined through stories of exploration, ingenuity, hardship, relationships and death.

Much of what happened on the Carrick Range also happened close-by on other ranges in Central Otago, but this book does what few others have done. It is not a snapshot in time, perhaps telling of just the search for gold or other minerals in a particular place or at a particular time, it is a book which takes a much wider perspective. It is not a book to be read from cover to cover but rather to explore and dip into. The 314-page large format publication is beautifully printed and wonderfully illustrated with meticulous references and maps.

I’d suggest that this book will, in many ways, become one of the most important reference books for anyone wanting to get a deeper



understanding of the natural and social aspects of this iconic mountain range and its connection to the wider Central Otago history.

By Russell Garbutt (COHT Trustee)

'The Carrick Range' is available for purchase at Cromwell and Central Stories Museums.

100 YEARS AGO – ROXBURGH CELEBRATES POWER

From the Otago Witness, 20 February 1923

Monday was a red letter day for the residents of the Teviot when the first step in the electrification of the district took place in the official erection of the first pole. There were upwards of 1000 persons present. Before the official proceedings began a procession in fancy dress, headed by the municipal band, marched through the town... Slowly it was raised into its place, the Union Jack flying at the top. The first shovel of gravel was thrown in by Master Gerard Waigh, and midst the cheers of the large crowd gathered the chairman declared the pole well and truly erected. Following the erection of the pole inspiring addresses were delivered by Cr Shacklock and Mr Todd, both of whom congratulated the district upon the commencement of the electrical scheme and predicted great developments for the future... In the evening a social was held at which over 500 people attended. The hall was filled to overflowing, and dancing was indulged in till after midnight.



The Teviot Electric Power Board
A gala day in Roxburgh to celebrate raising the first power pole on 12th February 1923
on the corner of Scotland Street and Hawick Street.

MEET ELLEN DAWSON - AN ACCIDENTAL ORCHARDIST

Ellen Darling arrived in Alexandra in 1863 under a scheme that paid the fare of single women prepared to work as servants on up-country sheep stations. The following year she married Richard Dawson, a miner who made his luck in Conroys Gully diggings. This liaison set the course for what was to become a successful intergenerational family orcharding business.

As soon as the couple moved into their newly built house, Ellen established vegetable, strawberry and currant gardens. Her harvests were bartered for produce by Billy Theyers, a well-known storekeeper in Alexandra.

Then came the episode of the arrival of the fruit trees. A bundle of 12 fruit trees and two nut trees addressed to Galloway Station arrived at Billy Theyers store but for some reason the station manager refused the parcel. In an effort to recoup the 12 shillings for freight, Theyers offered the trees to Mrs. Dawson. Ellen was happy to accept the trees but knew her husband would have balked at the price, so suggested to Theyers that he offer half the trees to her neighbour Andreas Iverson. It all worked out. Iverson and Mrs Dawson each got six fruit trees and a nut tree, and so began their orchards.

Richard Dawson wasn't much interested in fruit trees. He was a busy miner with a six-acre claim employing six men. But he changed his tune when the gold bearing ground began to run out. Together Richard and Ellen expanded their orchard by levelling the tailings and races along Conroys Creek. Soil was wheel-barrowed in from nearby hillsides and laid over the gravel and then planted with a wide range of stone and pip fruit trees imported from Australia. By 1880, cherries were being grown commercially - one of the first orchards in New Zealand to do so.



*The Dawson Family - Ellen Dawson standing (left).
Source: Central Stories*

In 1887, Dawson applied for 'protection' of his claim for 90 days to 'allow harvesting and disposal of a perishable crop.' This meant their fruit was now of sufficient value to justify closing his mine for three months.

The orchard and homestead were passed down to Ellen and Richard's daughter Evelina and her husband Alexander Taylor and are still in the Taylor family today.

(Adapted from 'A Fruitful Land' by John McCraw)

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

RESCUING THE RUINS

Where once some forty children tried to scrawl out their lessons using frozen ink in a cold classroom, now stands the ruins of St Bathans School. The stone building was the education hub for generations of primary school children until its closure in the 1940s. Today the roofless ruins are in private ownership and locals are fundraising for the fragile stone remains to be stabilized and safe for people to enjoy.

Guardians of the ruins, Alistair and Karina Toms, bought the property nearly four years ago.

“The ongoing crumbling of the stonework is a huge concern. The first step was getting permission from Heritage New Zealand to use fallen rubble to stabilise the ruins,” Alistair said.

This work requires significant funding. The Toms are hoping the public will contribute to the project.

“It’s going to cost us about \$50,000 to shore up the ruins using original stonemason pointing and capping. It’s a lot of money which is why we started the ‘Rescue the Ruins - Give a Little’ fundraiser.



When we bought the property, it was always our intention to keep the ruins open to the public. We’re also planning to put in seating nearby so people can come and reflect on the school and the rich history of St Bathans.”

Local heritage stonemason, Keith Hinds is also keen for stabilisation work to get underway. He’s lived at St Bathans for 37 years and witnessed the gradual deterioration of the building.

“Just before Christmas, a portion of the gable fell, leaving a big gap and a large pile of stones on the ground. If we don’t act now the old school will end up as a pile of rubble, which will be sad for both the history of Otago and St Bathans,” said Keith.

School lessons originally started in the nearby church. In 1874 the St Bathans community was successful in campaigning for a purpose-built school and received £90 from the Otago Education Board towards the construction. The stone building was designed by Scottish-born architect John Somerville and opened in 1875 with a ‘Grand Ball’ to mark the occasion.

Mining in the area began in 1864 with miners chipping and sluicing their way through the quartz rock of the 120-metre high Kildare Hill which by 1933 had been scraped and gouged away forming a 168-metre deep pit that became Blue Lake. From the 1880s, mining used hydraulic lift technology, like a giant vacuum cleaner, to suck water and gravel out of the pit to where it could be worked for gold.

By 1887, St Bathans was a bustling town with around 2,000 people living in the area. The mining stopped in 1934 because the side of the pit was starting to encroach on the town. The school roll declined, and the final blow came in 1943 when the building was damaged during an earthquake. Lessons continued in the nearby vacant two-storied post office. In 1949 the school was finally closed and leased to the local Pest Destruction Board.

The building was originally a single stone room with traditional Gothic style windows. A second room was added later and had gabled end walls, rectangular windows and a fireplace. The stonework appears to have been made from local rubble, some of which has now tumbled, and some stones have no doubt been removed.

The school ruins will turn 150 in 2025. Alistair and Karina hope that remedial work will see the ruins standing for at least another 150.

To find out more about the local fundraising efforts to stabilise the ruins, follow the QR code in the image below.

Scan to watch our video about the stabilisation process and for information about the School's history. You can also contribute through *givea little*.

RESCUE THE ST BATHANS SCHOOL RUINS

Please share
@ rescue.the.ruins

In 2025 the St Bathans School will turn 150 years old and it is our mission to stabilise the fragile ruins, making them safe to visit. We have to stop the clock and begin urgent preservation work on the Category 2 listed structures.

TELLING OUR STORIES – GROWING UP AT VALLANCE COTTAGE

“It was so warm in the winter and cool in the summer,” was Te One Wesley’s first recollection of growing up at Vallance Cottage, during a recent oral history interview.

Te One lived in the historic cottage between the ages of 5 to 15 with his mother Hazel Wesley, and grandparents William (Bill) and Jean Vallance. With no siblings, he had the run of the house, but always felt surrounded by his warm and supportive extended family and local community.

Te One recalls his grandfather as having a keen sense of humour, particularly on the occasion when his cousin Dick Maskill came to visit. “Old Bill told him there was heaps of gold all over the place, even down in the fowl run where the hens were.” Dick dug there for days. Whenever old Bill looked down to where Dick was working, he started chuckling away to himself. Needless to say, no gold was found.



*Te One Wesley
Interviewed from Auckland via Zoom*

When requested to run food errands as a young lad, it was only to the butcher, as the garden and orchards provided for all their other needs. Gardening and preserving was done by Te One’s skilled and hard-working mother, Hazel. Along with the many other tasks such as bringing in and heating water on the stove, she kept the fire going, boiled the copper for the washing, and took care of her elderly parents.



The Tuesday baking days were a weekly highlight. Te One would race home from school in anticipation of the home cooked shortbread, which was also shared liberally and sent to family members around the country. After-school activities included rugby and competitive swimming with practices held in the local cold water swimming baths.

For Te One, growing up at Vallance Cottage and Alexandra was a wonderful start in life. He still values the many life skills gleaned from his mother and grandparents and the lessons of hard work, saving money and finding contentment in the small things in life.

GETTING READY FOR THE CHANGE - THE NEW INCORPORATED SOCIETIES ACT 2022

There are about 24,000 incorporated societies in New Zealand, and about 7,000 of those are registered as charities. The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 (the new Act) updates a piece of legislation that is over 100 years old, and quite a lot has changed. But your society doesn't need to do anything just yet. There's a transition period that gives you plenty of time to become familiar with, and prepare for, the new regime.



Find out if you are an Incorporated Society

The first step is finding out if the legal structure of your organisation is an 'Incorporated Society.' This is simple. Enter the name of your organisation into the search-box tool on the Incorporated Societies Register website <https://is-register.companiesoffice.govt.nz/>.

Key changes in the new Act

Here's a quick summary of the key changes:

- The minimum number of members required for an incorporated society will be reduced from 15 to 10.
- The majority of officers on the society's board or committee must be members of the society.
- Dispute resolution processes must be included in the society's constitution.
- Officers will need to disclose any conflicts of interest.
- Societies can provide insurance and indemnity for officers and employees.
- Introduction of simplified financial reporting for small societies. Thresholds on the requirements for different sized societies are expected in April 2023.

- If your society is not a registered charity, it will need to file annual returns with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.

You can find a straightforward comparison table between the 1908 Act and the new Act by following this QR code.



Timeframe for registering your society

Until a society re-registers under the new Act, it continues to operate under the existing 1908 Act. The re-registration period will run for 2½ years - from October 2023 to April 2026. Before re-registering, most societies will need to update their constitution/rules to include the information set out in Section 26 of the new Act. This process also presents an ideal opportunity to review your constitution for any unnecessary rules that you can take out.

If you have any questions about these new requirements or if you would like help updating your constitution, you should seek legal advice.

MUSEUMS UPDATE

OTAGO MUSEUM - TŪ TONU PROJECT

Kia ora koutou

This will be my last communication for the newsletter. I am moving on to a new role back in the UK working for the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, however I will be leaving you in very capable hands.

Shannah Rhynard-Geil will now be your contact for ongoing work in the Tū Tonu Project. Shannah will coordinate the final two workshops on copyright and exhibitions as well as the launch of the Tū Tonu Heritage Portal.

I will enjoy watching the project and its legacy of increased networking and skill sharing across our region continue. A huge thank you to you all for taking part in the project. It has been even more wonderful than I and the rest of the Otago Museum team had imagined when we wrote the funding application. That is wholly down to all the amazing people that have participated.

If you're ever in London and want a trip to the V&A, please reach out.

Kā mihi nui

Nyssa Mildwaters



Introducing Shannah Rhynard-Geil

CENTRAL STORIES MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Studio 5 Art Group Exhibition

3 March – 31 March

A group of Clyde artists experiment with a wide range of mediums including etching, watercolour, pastels, cyanotypes, charcoal and more.

Artists: Ross Cowie, Judy Campbell, Irene Weaver, Julie Notman, Shona Horne and Annetta Cowie.



CLYDE MUSEUM

Sanctuary Exhibition 7 March - 30 April

The belief that our possessions have the power to create a charmed circle around us is human nature. These possessions sometimes end up in museums with explanations as to their use/history etc. They are treated with great care, but the price of this asylum is loss. The objects become spiritually inert within their glass cases.

But the artist is not anchored by the rationality of the museum. Artists are concerned with illusion, with magic and making charms. With this in mind, the Clyde Museum has asked artists to re-imagine our objects, challenge our perceptions of them and engage with them in a new way.



CONNECT WITH US

Become a member

We can help you and your heritage organisation with:

- Applying for and accessing funding and grants
- Identifying opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing with other heritage organisations
- Promoting your project and initiative in the community
- Providing advocacy to members through our participation in heritage decision-making forums.

Share your heritage news and events

Send your news and events to our Heritage Coordinator for our website or next newsletter:

maggie@heritagecentralotago.org.nz

Our website

Get the latest news and events at:

www.heritagecentralotago.org.nz

Use our logo

We encourage members and interested parties to use our logo in heritage related communications. Download this logo from our website.

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OUR MEMBERS

- Aukaha (*Kai Tahu*)
- Alexandra Miners Village & Riverside Park Trust
- Bodeker Scientific
- Central Lakes Trust
- Central Otago District Council
- Central Otago Environmental Society
- Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery
- Otago Central Rail Trail Trust
- Clyde Historical Museums
- Cromwell Districts and Community Trust
- Cromwell Museum
- Drybread Cemetery Trust
- Department of Conservation Central Otago Area Office
- Goldfields Mining Centre
- Heritage New Zealand Pohere Taonga
- Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust
- Otago Museum
- Promote Dunstan
- St Bathans Heritage Environment Preservation Trust
- 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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