

CENTRAL OTAGO HERITAGE TRUST



Minutes of the Board Meeting 4pm Monday, 7 August 2023 Clyde Museum Blyth St

PRESENT: David Ritchie (Chair), Russell Garbutt, Kristy Rusher, Lynda Gray, Ross Naylor, Rex Johnson.
Maggie Hope (Heritage Coordinator).

APOLOGIES: John Kerr, Graye Shattky, Ann Rodgers (CODC Liaison).

David Ritchie welcomed Rex Johnson (Elected Officer on the OGHT committee) who was standing in for Warwick Hawker, who was unavailable. Rex is the immediate ex-President of the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust (OGHT).

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The unconfirmed Minutes of the Board meeting held on 24 April 2023 and the Special Meeting on 17 July 2023 were reviewed and confirmed as a true and accurate records of these meetings.

Moved: Russell Garbutt
Seconded: David Ritchie
Carried

FINANCIAL

The June (and part July) Kiwibank statements were circulated with Agenda papers prior to the meeting.

Current Account Balances as at 1/08/23

Heritage Trust Working Account	\$54,092.16
Heritage Trust Debit Card Account	\$1,094.26
Oral History Account	\$11,175.83
Total	\$66,362.25

Moved: David Ritchie - Financial Statements be accepted
Seconded: Rex Johnson
Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

An email was received from Hazel Harrison seeking support to rectify the spelling of Earne St in Naseby back to its original name of Earn St. Any name alterations must receive approval from CODC.

Hazel's research validated that the letter 'e' was appended to the street name in 1876. Trustees agreed to endorse Hazel's endeavours to rectify this historical oversight. However, this support is contingent upon obtaining backing from the local community as well as the businesses situated on this street.

BUSINESS

A: PRESENTATION FROM DAVID GEORGE, CROMWELL

David joined the meeting at 4:16pm. He raised three topics for Trustees to consider:

(i) Community Consultation on the proposed site for the new Cromwell Museum

David is of the opinion that the community consultation carried out by the Council was insufficient and has raised this issue with the Office of the Ombudsman. The location proposed for the new museum and cultural events centre, necessitates the demolition of the Memorial Hall. A decision from the Ombudsman is anticipated within the next few weeks.

(ii) The part-reconstruction of the Chinese Village (adjacent to the proposed site for the museum)

David is eager to ensure that this project encompasses acknowledgment of the Chinese commercial enterprises that were once active on the main street above the old settlement, with a special focus on establishments like Kum Good Wa and Co. He is prepared to oppose the development if Cromwell's Chinese history is not appropriately recognized and integrated into the project.

(iii) Heritage site at Gees Flat

Gees Flat, situated above the Mining Centre on the Kawarau Gorge cycle trail under development, has a rich gold mining history. Archaeologist Shar Briden has conducted preliminary investigations of this area as part of the Heritage Site Review. However, David is of the opinion that further research and protective measures are necessary to fully uncover and safeguard the significance of this site.

David gifted a book he had written to the Clyde Museum.

David Ritchie thanked David George for his presentation, emphasizing that the Trust is keen to stay updated on the progress of these matters and offer assistance where it is relevant.

B: ORAL HISTORY UPDATE

Carolyn Squires joined the meeting at 4:30pm and provided an update on oral history project. Maggie presented how the oral histories have been made available on the COHT website. Trustees commended Carolyn and Maggie for their achievements. Various suggestions were proposed for enhancing the online repository, such as creating profiles for project volunteers and incorporating social media sharing links for each interview.

Discussion took place on ideas for promoting the online repository. These included presenting at a full council meeting, community events, in the CO News, and integrating it into the Heritage Talks programme.

C: FUNDING APPLICATIONS

- A funding application for the Oral History Project has been submitted to CLT. The CLT Board is scheduled to meet on August 14th August. Once a decision has been made by CLT, other funding agencies will be approached.
- The funding application to the CODC Community Fund has also been submitted. A decision from the Council is anticipated in September, and if approved, funding is expected to be released in October.

Maggie highlighted the excellent letters of support that have been received from members, endorsing both funding applications.

D: CREATIVE CONTENT GRANT

COHT has received a grant of \$5000 (excluding GST) for capturing heritage imagery as a component of the regional identity portfolio, aimed at promoting Central Otago as a destination. Maggie proposed that sourcing such imagery from the community might be more cost-effective than commissioning a professional photographer. Suggestions were made for potential local photographers to approach for images. The concept of organising a photography competition was also discussed. Kristy offered her support in developing this project.

Maggie to contact Central Otago NZ to discuss the possibility of using the funds to run a photography competition.

E. QUEENSTOWN ARTS CULTURE AND HERITAGE STRATEGY

The Three Lakes Trust and Queenstown Lakes Council have initiated community consultation for the development of an Arts, Culture, and Heritage Strategy. COHT has been a longstanding advocate for such a strategy, noting that

this proposition was brought up in CODC's recent brainstorming for the Long-Term Plan. It was also emphasized in our recent funding application to the Community Fund.

Maggie to contact the Three Lakes Trust to gain insight into their collaboration with the Queenstown Lakes Council regarding the development of their strategy

F: POTENTIAL SPONSORS FOR THE COHT PRINT NEWSLETTER

The printing of the COHT newsletter costs approximately \$2000 per annum. Suggestions were put forward for potential candidates for sponsorship. Trustees will individually investigate each candidate before the next Board meeting.

G: UPDATE FROM OTAGO GOLDFIELDS HERITAGE TRUST (OGHT)

Rex Johnson gave a brief update on OGHT activities:

- Completed purchase of the Methodist Church in July 2023. The next phase will be earthquake strengthening.
- The Heritage Site Review has recently completed a review in the Teviot Valley.
- The OGHT AGM is scheduled for the 9th of September at Millers Flat
- The 31st Cavalcade (2024) will finish at Waikawa.
- The Gold Panning Championships will take place during the Blossom Festival and the World Goldpanning Competition is scheduled for 2026
- Interpretation signs have been updated in the Nevis Valley
- Proposal to develop a Heritage Orchard near Stewart Town, Bannockburn. (Russel suggested the orchard at Vallance Cottage as an alternative site)

NEXT MEETINGS

4th October Board Meeting

29 November AGM - Speaker confirmed: 'Children's Wellbeing on the Otago Goldfield' by Annie Sohler, Otago University.

Kristy suggested that the COHT Constitution is amended prior to the AGM to allow for online/email resolutions.

Actions:

- Maggie to check AGM records to ascertain which Trustees are due for re-election at the 2023 AGM.
- Kristy to draft wording for constitution amendments

Meeting closed at 6:27pm