

CENTRAL OTAGO HERITAGE TRUST (COHT)

Confirmed Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)

St Enoch's Church, 20 November 2024

Meeting opened at 5:30 pm

Present

Frances Anderson (Haehaeata Natural Heritage Trust), Ali Ballentyne (CDCT), Mary Boyd, Roger Browne, Wendy Browne, Loretta Bush, Shirley Calvert, Nick Carol, Penny Clark, Grant Campbell (Clyde Museum), Marco Creemers (COHT), Andrew Dowling, Amanda Dowling, Russell Garbutt (COHT; Clyde Museum), David George, Kate Goodfellow (Clyde School), Tracey Grose, Tony Hammington (CODC - VCB), David Hurd (COHT; OCRT), Christine Hammington, Warwick Hawker (COHT; OGHT), Susan Heal, Bill Jermyn, Louise Joyce (Promote Dunstan), Margaret Jarrold (Alexandra Genealogy Group), William Jermyn, Marnie Kelly (Historic Clyde), Jane Lancaster (CO Museums Trust), Joanna Leigh (CO Oral History Group), Carol Mackenzie, Leslie Middlemiss, Pene Morris (COHT; Teviot District Museum), Don Morrison, Ross Naylor (COHT; Drybread Cemetery Trust), Julie Notman, Simon Park, David Ritchie (COHT; Alexandra Riverside Trust), Graye Shattky, Wendy Shattky, Joe Sherriff, Charlie Sklenar (DoC), Faye Somerville, Fiona Sutherland, Andrew Swann, Laurence Van der Eb, Rebecca Williams (CODC), Jo Wilson, Maggie Hope (COHT).

1. Apologies

Andy Ritchie (Clyde Museum), Janeen Wood, Sarah Gallagher (Heritage New Zealand Te Paerangi), Lynda Graye, Matt Begg (Central Lakes Trust)

David Ritchie moved that the Apologies be accepted.

Seconded: David Hurd

Carried.

2. Welcome

The Chair welcomed members and the public to the meeting. David introduced each of the seven Trustees.

3. Annual Report

David Ritchie moved that the Annual Report be received.

Seconded: Graye Shattky.

Carried

The Chair presented the Annual Report, highlighting progress over the past year under the following key outcome measures:

Growth

Since the last AGM, membership has grown to 35 organisations with an interest in heritage (including four new members who will be formally welcomed at this meeting).

Oral History Project

- The Oral History repository continues to expand (see report from the Oral History Manager below).
- Additional funding has been received this year for the continuation of the project: \$9,500 from the Lotteries Environment & Heritage Fund and the second tranche of funding from the Central Lakes Trust.
- A full-day oral history training workshop was held, resulting in 16 new volunteers.

Heritage Talks Programme

The *Heritage Talks* programme remains highly popular, attracting large audiences to community events.

Quarterly Newsletter and Digital Engagement

- Quarterly newsletters, available in both booklet and digital formats, serve as an important channel for sharing membership updates, heritage news, and events, keeping the wider community informed about the significance and value of heritage in the district.
- Social media and the COHT website continue to be key tools for promoting upcoming events, heritage funding opportunities, and council initiatives.

Supporting the Museum Sector

- Continued support for the museum sector is provided by having a Heritage Trust representative (Maggie Hope) on the Central Otago Museums Trust Board.

Advocacy

On behalf of our members, the Trust continues to advocate for the preservation and enhancement of heritage both locally and nationally, through submission processes:

- A submission to the Government on the proposed Fast Track Bill, urging the identification of potential heritage site losses and the inclusion of qualified heritage experts on Advisory Panels to mitigate the impact of development on heritage sites.
- A submission to the final hearing on the CODC Heritage Precinct Guidelines. This milestone reflects a long journey toward formally recognizing the unique architectural characteristics of each of our five heritage precincts and providing property owners with clear guidance on how new builds and large-scale renovations can enhance and reflect these characteristics.
- A submission to the CODC in October, advocating for the Council to ring-fence a finite pot of funding and property support for the Central Otago Museum sector, and for this funding to be allocated by the Council on a three-year Long Term Planning cycle.

Future Direction

- In the coming months, the Trust will work alongside the Council to prepare for the consultation process required to update the heritage provisions in the District Plan. This consultation is long overdue, as it has been 12 years since the *Towards Better Heritage Outcomes* consultation document was developed with the community. This feedback is vital for guiding the Trust's strategic direction and informing the development of a combined Arts, Culture, and Heritage Strategy for the District.

Acknowledgments

David Ritchie thanked fellow Trustees and the Heritage Coordinator for their contributions over the past year, also acknowledging the contributions of outgoing Trustee, Lynda Gray. David also acknowledged funders, particularly the Central Otago District Council, whose generous support has been vital for the success of the Trust's endeavours.

Marco Creemers moved that the Annual Report be adopted.

Seconded: David Hurd

Carried.

4. Minutes of the COHT AGM 29 November 2023

Russell Garbutt moved that the Minutes of the COHT AGM on 29 November 2023 be accepted as a correct record of what took place at this meeting.

Seconded: Warwick Hawker

Carried.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Annual Financial Statements

The Chair presented the financial accounts for the Year Ended June 2024, noting:

- A net surplus of \$8,638, which is committed to the funding received for the Oral History Project.
- Grants received for the financial year (Total: \$82,430)

Ross Naylor moved that the Financial Accounts for Year End June 2024 be adopted

Seconded: David Hurd

Carried

6. Confirmation of New Members

The Chair welcomed four new members to COHT:

1. Clyde Primary School
2. Old Cromwell Inc
3. Haehaeata Natural Heritage Trust
4. Maniototo Early Settlers Association

Marco Creemers moved that these four organisations be formally accepted as members of COHT.

Seconded: Penny Morris

Carried.

7. New Member Presentations:

Clyde Primary School

Kate Goodfellow highlighted her interest in history and heritage, as well as the opportunities for engaging primary school students with Central Otago's heritage. She shared an excerpt from a film in which new entrant students reenacted the historic Clyde robbery, a story featured at the Clyde Museum. The film was based on *The Tale of Parker and Cunningham* and its accompanying book. The full version of this 7-minute film can be viewed via the following link: <https://youtu.be/K6RyKl8PvWM?feature=shared>

Haehaeata Natural Heritage Trust

Frances Anderson provided an update on their activities, noting:

- The lack of biodiversity in Central Otago due to land use changes from historical activities (fire, mining, farming) and the Trust's work in raising awareness of the benefits of dryland native biodiversity, which is a key aspect of their work program.
- The Trust's Clyde Railhead Community Eco-Nursery, which propagates locally sourced native plants for planting projects.
- Native planting sites at Flat Top Hill and other sites.
- Partnerships with community groups, such as the Clyde Community & Enviroschools Restoration Group, the Lower Manorburn Working Group, and Keep Alexandra Beautiful.

8. Other Member Updates

Central Otago Museums' Trust

Jane Lancaster, Independent Chair of the Trust, gave an update on their activities including the Museums 100 Project which launched in October. The funding received from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage for this project enabled vital training for museum staff and volunteers. From photography and cataloguing to digitisation, storytelling and exhibition display techniques. The exhibition runs until April 2025. Jane thanked COHT for their support with Trust activities.

Project Manager, Joanna Leigh, provided an update on the project:

- There are now 119 oral histories in the repository, with 45 published online.
- Significant progress has been made in improving interview sound quality, using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to filter out unwanted background noise.
- Joanna played a short excerpt of an interview with Rosie Turnbull, the great-granddaughter of Charles Henry Wong Gye, who was an interpreter for the Chinese during the Dunstan Gold Rush. This interview excerpt, along with the full interview, can be listened to via this link:
<https://www.heritagecentralotago.org.nz/meet-rosie-turnbull/>

9. Election of Trustees

The COHT Trust Deed provides for up to 8 Trustees, with each Trustee being appointed for a three-year period. The resignation of Lynda Gray was received in July 2024.

- One nomination was received: Kate Goodfellow was nominated for Trustee by Clyde Primary School.
- As no further nominations were received, an election was not required. David welcomed and confirmed Kate Goodfellow as new Trustee

10. Draft Central Otago Heritage Strategic Plan

Louise Joyce moved that the draft Strategic Plan be received.

Seconded Russell Garbutt

Carried.

David Ritchie noted that the Trustees chose to update the plan rather than undertake a full review. It is hoped that the consultation process required to update the heritage provisions in the CODC District Plan, scheduled for early next year, will help inform the COHT Strategic Direction. David also mentioned that this consultation process could ideally assess the benefits of the Council and the community developing a broader arts, culture, and heritage strategy for the district.

Marco Creemers moved that the Draft Central Otago Heritage Strategic Plan be adopted

Seconded David Hurd

Carried.

11. General Business

No items were raised for General Business

The Chair thanked both the members and the public for their participation. Guests were then invited to enjoy a refreshment break before the Heritage Talk commenced at 6:45 pm.

HERITAGE TALK – FROM CANTON TO CENTRAL: CHINESE EXPERIENCES ON THE OTAGO GOLDFIELDS (6:45PM).

Associate Professor James Beattie from Victoria University sheds light on the lives of Cantonese goldminers in Otago. From Canton to Central – Chinese Experiences on the Otago Goldfields

Next Meeting: to be advised.

Meeting closed 6:22pm

Minutes were recorded by Maggie Hope, Heritage Coordinator

Minutes were approved for distribution by COHT Chair, David Ritchie