Protecting, preserving & celebrating our heritage

Spring 2026



Hinterland
Sir Grahame Sydney

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www.heritagecentralotago.org.nz

ABOUT US

The Central Otago Heritage Trust, established in 2008, comprises 35 member groups across the 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

Marco Creemers, Jenny Dixon (Chair), Russell Garbutt, Kate Goodfellow, Warwick Hawker, David Hurd, Pene Morris, and Ross Naylor. Ann Rodgers (CODC Liaison). Tania Partridge (Heritage Coordinator).

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HERITAGE MATTERS

FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome signs of spring are emerging as we move into the last quarter of the year. I would like to warmly acknowledge Russell Garbutt for guiding our activities while I was abroad earlier in the year. A lot has been happening over winter.

It is rewarding to see the continuing high interest in our Heritage Talks. The recent talk at Central Stories, “The Alexandra Coal Mine Fire” (featured in our last newsletter), drew so much interest that we put on an additional session.

Our AGM will be held on Friday, 13 November at the Clyde Masonic Lodge on Sunderland Street. It will be followed by a Heritage Talk with guest speaker Julia Bradshaw, “Women of the Goldfields”.

The second Heritage Talk in November, “Poetry in Patearoa", will be hosted by Jim Sullivan, Russell Garbutt, and Jillian Sullivan. This talk will take place at the Patearoa Bowling Club in Patearoa.

More details about the AGM and the two Heritage Talks are on pages 3 and 21.

Our podcast group has developed great momentum with a raft of podcasts in production. We now have three available wherever you get your podcasts. They are: *Rabbits, Rabbits, Rabbits*; *Fatal Curve – Rail Disaster at Hyde*; and *Murder, Mayhem, and Malcontent – Part One*. (*Part Two* will be out soon.) *Murder at Moa Creek*, one of Central Otago’s cold cases, is close to completion, as well as one on the coal mine fire.

Some of our Oral History interviews and Heritage Talks are also providing rich podcast material. We will launch the podcasts soon with a celebratory quiz night featuring our region. We are working on the venue, but initial planning shows it will be a night to remember!

A few years after the Heritage Trust was established in 2008, a substantial document titled *Towards Better Heritage Outcomes* was prepared. It reviewed the value of heritage in Central Otago and charged the Trust with implementing its outcomes. The Central Otago District Council led the highly consultative process of developing the report.

To read the *Towards Better Heritage Outcomes* document, follow the QR code.

Nearly 15 years later, the heritage landscape has altered substantially. Legislative reform, changes in local government strategy, new digital tools, evolving community expectations, the impact of climate events on heritage fabric, and shifts in the broader funding environment mean that the 2012 document requires a thorough and structured review. This is especially important given the proposals for local authority amalgamation and new planning legislation to replace the Resource Management Act. The COHT is well-placed to lead this review. We are in the early stages of preparing a scoping document, for which we will seek some initial funding before approaching various funding bodies for support to undertake the project.

As the body representing the collective interests of organisations concerned with the promotion and protection of Central Otago's heritage, we are maintaining a close interest in the outcomes of proposals for local body amalgamation and the proposed changes to heritage protection in the Planning Bill. The Bill has been reported back to the House for final parliamentary stages and passed into law. While we have yet to see what finally emerges, indications suggest there will be significant changes for heritage protection, with higher thresholds to meet, and the introduction of a regulatory relief scheme for landowners. It remains important for all of us involved in the heritage world to be well informed about these changes and to continue to be active in safeguarding the unique heritage identity of Central Otago. Building and sharing our knowledge of historic heritage in Central Otago forms the essence of the Trust's work programme.

Recently, I spoke about the Trust and our activities at the annual general meeting of one of our members, Promote Dunstan. It was a pleasure to meet with the group and observe first-hand their commitment to the promotion and support of heritage initiatives in Dunstan. We always enjoy engaging with our members and discussing our work, and we look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

Jenny Dixon – Chair, Central Otago Heritage Trust

CENTRAL OTAGO HERITAGE TRUST

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Friday, 13 November 2026

Clyde Masonic Lodge on Sunderland Street

All members and the public are welcome

RSVP for AGM to: tania@centralotagoheritage.co.nz

HERITAGE TALK (After AGM business) 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

"Women of the Goldfields" with Julia Bradshaw

Julia will highlight the lives of the women who worked, mined, built businesses, and survived in those harsh environments.

BOOK NOW! www.heritagecentralotago.org.nz or use the QR code

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

ORAL HISTORY: SIR GRAHAME SYDNEY – A LIFE IN LANDSCAPE



The Oral History Project is delighted to announce the recent publication of an interview with Sir Grahame Sydney, Central Otago's most celebrated artist. It was recorded by Rosemary Riddell at Sir Grahame's home.

This interview offers a rich and engaging account of a life devoted to art, landscape, and the environment. Sir Grahame reflects on his childhood in Dunedin, where an early fascination with drawing was nurtured by his supportive family. He was inspired by an uncle whose sketches seemed almost magical. His school years, influential teachers, university studies, and the development of his artistic ambitions occurred during an era when becoming a full-time artist in New Zealand seemed an unlikely dream.

Listeners will hear about Sir Grahame's brief but memorable teaching career in Cromwell, his formative travels in England and Europe, and the homesickness that ultimately convinced him that his future belonged in New Zealand. Particularly compelling is the story of his return home in 1974 and the unexpected encounter that launched his professional career as a painter. Sir Grahame's account of his affinity with the landscape of Central Otago, together with his decision to work in the demanding medium of egg tempera, provides a fascinating insight into the creation of the distinctive style for which he became internationally known.

The interview also explores other aspects of Sir Grahame's creative life. He discusses photography, writing, and his collaboration with writers Brian Turner and Owen Marshall on *Timeless Land*, a landmark book of art, poetry, and writing that has become a New Zealand classic, as well as his two journeys to Antarctica that resulted in the acclaimed photographic book *White Silence*.

Alongside his artistic achievements, the interview reveals his deep commitment to protecting the Central Otago landscape. He speaks candidly about environmental campaigns, the threats facing the region, and his belief in preserving the distinctive character of the New Zealand landscape.

This thoughtful conversation is more than the story of the achievements of a famous artist. It is a reflection on creativity, belonging, perseverance, and the enduring influence of place. Anyone with an interest in Central Otago's history, culture, and landscape will find much to enjoy in listening to Sir Grahame tell his story in his own words.

SOMETHING TO DUNK IN YOUR TEA

There is nothing quite like dunking a biscuit in your cuppa. Of course, genteel ladies even in the early days never did anything so uncouth, but if a gingernut – as hard as the hobs of hell – was on offer, then to prevent a tooth or two snapping off, softening the tasty morsel was highly desirable, though done in the most delicate of manners. Dunking was never a problem in a musterer's hut or a miner's shanty.

Providing biscuits and bread for the early miners, small farmers, and their families was centred on the towns. In Clyde, or Dunstan as it was known then, one of those providers was Fred Jeffery. He opened a bakery and biscuit business on Sunderland Street. In 1875, Jeffery offered a partnership in the thriving business to John Fraser. The business was not limited to bakery; fruit and drapery were also included. But another owner was on the way with even bigger visions.

Thomas Hodgson Bell was born in North Cumberland, England, in 1844. He married Rachel Naylor – the sister of well-known Central Otago pioneer Benjamin Naylor Snr – in late 1863 in Durham, England, and is believed to have arrived in New Zealand on board the *Hudson* in 1876. After spending a few weeks in Napier, Bell travelled to Central Otago, where he promptly purchased the Jeffery/Fraser business in Clyde. The premises was situated immediately adjacent to the current Lord Clyde, on the corner of Sunderland and Matau Streets, in the area now occupied by Central Cycle Trail Company.

Bell immediately set about increasing the business through the production of first-class baking and confectionery. He soon became renowned far and wide for his production of imaginative and tasty confectionery.

He also expanded the business by opening a branch at Alexandra.

By 1882, his business was going so well that he ordered special machinery to be made to his specifications by Burt Brothers in Dunedin. Further machinery for the confectionery trade was imported from England. The following year he held a public meeting to discuss the options of setting up a flour and oatmeal mill in the area, but nothing seems to have come from this proposal.

On 4 December 1885, a *Dunstan Times* reporter had the opportunity to go through the rebuilt premises, which took three months to complete on the original site in Sunderland Street. Their summation of the newly renovated premises was positive and gave a detailed account of what had been achieved:

> *The building constituting this bakery department has been completely gutted and is now entirely enclosed within substantial stone walls—every part of it being new save the front wall of the shop which has yet to receive a thorough overhaul. The whole facing Sunderland Street is in extent 45ft., and after it has had the finishing touch it will add greatly to the appearance of Clyde's chief thoroughfare. The shop has been made much more roomy,*

with ample shelving accommodation tastefully fitted in. The lamp suspender is a very handsome one and forms an ornament in keeping with the surroundings.

From this to the right we enter a daintily furnished semi-private room, where it is the mention of Mr Bell to provide tea, coffee, and light refreshment. Here, by the way, we saw displayed two bridescakes for delivery in Cromwell—delicately artistic —the work of Mr Bell's own hand, as indeed is every other commodity in the establishment.

Still fronting the street is a well-appointed biscuit factory, provided with the very latest class of biscuit manufacturing machine, built by Messrs A. and T. Burt, Dunedin, and capable of turning out 1 cwt. most classes of biscuit per hour. The machine has recently been patented, and we understand that this was the first of the kind made, and is the only one in the goldfields district. A cutter will be shortly added thereto, which will make the whole a perfect work. This division is likewise used as a storeroom, where the Arrowtown flour is heaped up. As in the case of the shop the further end of this room leads to the bakehouse (48 x 18), which is in its every part new. The oven is 9 x 8, and is of the most approved construction, being laid with the best English tile, and supported by a foundation which involved the use of 120 loads of material.

The heating and system of flues are of the most perfect kind and can at will be regulated to any degree. The bakehouse also contains another biscuit machine for a peculiar cast of production. We are next introduced into the confectionery department, which is apart from the main building, and composed of iron and wood. It is a chamber 12 x 9. The furnace is substantially put together and fitted for the reception of the copper pans with the utmost nicety. Two cwt. of sugar can easily be boiled down here in a day. On the iron bench stands a lolly making contrivance capable of throwing off work at a very rapid rate. By the side of this boiling room stands the employees apartments—tidy and comfortable, albeit somewhat small. Opposite to their places is another building 90ft in length and presently used for divers purposes. Mr. Bell has resolved to turn this building into a jam factory of sufficient scope to compass a large output of production. This building will undergo an entire renovation and boiling pans of the most modern design will be fitted in, while there will remain plenty accommodation for stores and accessories.

On the lower part of ground will be added a suitable stable, which will make the whole tenement 112 ft. in length. The County Council have already resolved to level the public road between this building and the river, while a wall will divide the path from that highly dangerous declivity which runs nearly sheer to the river brink. We believe that Mr Bell intends to maintain

two vans continually on the road. The expense incurred in carrying out the above alterations and additions amounts to £1200. This includes his private residence, which is finished in a highly substantial manner. We trust that Mr Bell will share in all that success which a well-directed energy should ever carry, and that his handsome returns on outlay shall encourage others in the walks of local industry.

Thomas Bell was involved in an interim committee set up in October 1890 in Clyde to establish a factory for preserving fruit and canning rabbits, which clearly had been his intention when he renovated his premises in 1885. The initial meeting invited people to subscribe to a share list, which the meeting decided needed to raise £2,000, but nothing seems to have come from this initiative.

The main business was producing biscuits, baking, and confectionery of the highest standards. Success was soon to come at the 1889/90 New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition, where T. H. Bell gained the highest awards for both his biscuits and confectionery. These awards prompted a six-month burst of advertising in which he promised to supply such goods at "prices to defy competition."

In 1892, the *Dunstan Times* reporter was again inspecting the Sunderland Street factory, and in particular the new biscuit-cutting machine made by Messrs Baker and Sons of City Road in London. The machine made it "the perfect factory".

On another visit in 1894, the new machine was seen in operation, being operated by hand, although water power was being contemplated. Butter was stored in a cellar where preserved eggs were also kept, some of them being nine months old and still perfectly good, thanks to an American preserving recipe. At this point, the factory was using 13 bags of flour weekly for bread.


NEW ZEALAND & SOUTH SEAS EXHIBITION, 1889-90.

HIGHEST AWARD FOR BISCUITS.

T. H. BELL,

HIGHEST AWARD FOR CONFECTIONERY.

BISCUIT MANUFACTURER AND CONFECTIONER, CLYDE.

Highest Award for Biscuits and Confectionery.

I am now prepared to Supply the Trade with BISCUITS AND CONFECTIONERY AT PRICES TO DEFY COMPETITION.

Ask your Grocer for T. H. BELL'S Biscuits and Confectionery.

T. H. BELL.

Dunstan Times, *13 June 1890*
Source: Papers Past

Throughout the 1890s, the factory continually supplied the goldfields with bread, biscuits, and confectionery of the highest standard, as well as an increasing number of fancy and complex wedding cakes.

In 1898, Thomas Bell acted as a pallbearer following the death, in Clyde, of Frances Elizabeth Renwick, the widow of Vincent Pyke.

Thomas fell seriously ill from a burst blood vessel in February 1900, and he died a few days later. He was 56.

Rachel Bell continued to run the business after her husband's death. She purchased the recipe for Mr J. Montgomerie's digestive brown bread, which was celebrated not only because it was "recommended by the medical faculty" but also because "it will keep for weeks".

The Alexandra branch of the business was sold in 1903 to Kilgour and Son. In 1905, Rachel Bell sold the Clyde business to Ernest Naylor when her health began to fail. Naylor set up his business on Sunderland Street, immediately next door to the current Night and Day. Rachel died a few months later of consumption and pleurisy, aged 62, just 5 days before the death of her brother, Benjamin Naylor, who also died in Clyde.

So, like most tales of history, there are a few loose threads in the story of Bell's bakery business. The thriving business was sold to Ernest Naylor, but what happened to all this innovative machinery? Was it shifted to the new premises? Where is it now? And what was next for the building so lovingly renovated at a huge cost? It became a hotel, but who did that? Perhaps a Part Two?



Bell's Clyde Biscuit Factory

Russell Garbutt – COHT Trustee

PROTECTING & PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

CROMWELL CHINESE SETTLEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Work on the Cromwell Chinese Settlement project continues, with the focus shifting from construction to historical authenticity. The replica miners' hut has now begun its transformation into a structure that reflects the appearance, atmosphere, and cultural significance of the original dwellings.

The hut was initially constructed to meet modern standards for safety, stability, and longevity. The project is now about carefully disguising those modern elements and recreating the character of the homes built by the Chinese gold miners who lived and worked in Cromwell.

Project advisor Lu Zhihong says recent work to wash and distress the schist stone was an important first step. Attention is now turning to reshaping the chimney and its surrounding area to more closely reflect traditional Chinese building practices.

"The chimney was much more than a practical feature," she explains. "It was deeply connected to Chinese cultural beliefs. Often positioned near the entrance door, it symbolically purified the home and represented the family and ancestors the miners hoped to return to one day."

River stones will soon be added around the base of the chimney and built up to the top, softening its modern appearance and creating a more historically and culturally accurate shape.

The landscape surrounding the hut will also help tell the story. Cuttings taken from the original goji berry plants (*gouqizi*), planted by the Chinese miners, are growing well, and they will be planted on the site once they are strong enough.



Bag Washing Cottage

Chen Huigang, another project advisor, says the goji berries were far more than a familiar food. Widely used in Traditional Chinese Medicine, they provided a portable source of nutrition and were believed to restore energy, nourish the body, and relieve the aches and fatigue of long days spent working in the goldfields. The berries could be dried, brewed into tea, or added to simple soups.

The next stage will involve construction of hut footings that reflect the locations of other former buildings. These will help visitors understand how the miners arranged their homes and created a close-knit community, rather than living in a collection of isolated huts.

As each stage is completed, the project moves closer to creating not simply a replica building, but a place that honours the history, culture, and lived experiences of the Chinese miners who once called Cromwell home.



Cromwell's Historical Chinese Settlement
Source: RW Murray Slide Collection

AN INTERNATIONAL "GOLDRUSH" COMES TO CROMWELL

Between Friday, 26 September and Saturday, 3 October 2026, Central Otago became the centre of the international gold panning community when the 49th World Gold Panning Championships were held at the Cromwell Racecourse.

This is the first time the championships have been held in New Zealand, and the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust was proud to host some of the world's most skilled and fastest gold panners, together with supporters and visitors from around the globe. Countries represented included Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Slovakia, South Africa, and Sweden.

New Zealand has a proud history at the World Gold Panning Championships. In 2017, the national contingent travelled to Scotland and won a gold medal in the three-person team event – this country's only gold medal to date. With the 2026 championships being held in Central Otago, the national team will have an opportunity to return to the medal podium.

(More information to come in the Summer Newsletter.)

ONE YEAR ON: RESTORING A PIECE OF HYDE'S HISTORY

As spring settles across Central Otago, Craig and Liz Alderson are marking an important milestone – their first year as custodians of the historic Hyde Hotel, now operating as Central Otago Hydeaway.

After international careers that took them from New Zealand to Kuala Lumpur, Dubai, and beyond, the couple made the unexpected decision to leave corporate life behind and take on the challenge of preserving one of Hyde's best-known heritage buildings.

From the beginning, the move was never simply about running accommodation and a café. Their vision was to create a sustainable business that supports visitors to the Otago Central Rail Trail while ensuring this significant local landmark continues to serve the community for generations to come.

The past year has been one of restoration, learning, and collaboration. A major focus has been the careful conservation of the nearly 100-year-old building.



Replacing the ageing roof became a three-stage project carried out over several months to work around Central Otago's weather conditions.

Restoration of the original timber windows is also nearing completion, with sympathetic double and triple glazing being incorporated to improve comfort while preserving the building's historic character.

The work has been supported by the Dunedin Heritage Fund, alongside the expertise and dedication of local contractors.

"Our goal has always been to respect the building's history while ensuring it remains viable well into the future," Craig says.

The Aldersons are quick to acknowledge that the project's progress has depended on the support of the wider community. They have been warmly welcomed by fellow tourism operators and cycle businesses along the Otago Central Rail Trail, whose encouragement and advice helped them navigate through their first season.

Many individuals have contributed their time and skills, including Bruce Todd, who assisted with numerous practical restoration tasks, and Cynthia Flanagan, whose work in the gardens has created a welcoming entrance that complements the heritage setting.

Family has played an important role, with university-aged children Liam and Mia, and Liz's mother Jenny helping whenever they can. They have also been supported by staff Kylie Hannah, Emma Kinney, Daniela Rodriguez, and Laura Saleh.

Future work includes repainting the exterior, reinstating traditional heritage signwriting, and installing solar power to improve the building's long-term environmental sustainability.



The Hydeaway also aims to further develop the property as a venue for local events, community gatherings, and visitors wishing to experience the history and hospitality of Hyde.

"There have certainly been challenges," Liz says, "but the support we've received from local businesses, visitors, and the community has made the journey incredibly rewarding."

As they begin their second year, Craig and Liz remain committed to preserving this important piece of Hyde's heritage while ensuring it continues to be a living part of the community for many years to come.



PRESERVING CENTRAL OTAGO'S TEXTILE COLLECTIONS

In July, staff and volunteers at Clyde Historical Museum, Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery, and Teviot District Museum were fortunate to work alongside Dr Jane Malthus and gain valuable advice on caring for their textile collections. The visit offered an opportunity for local museum teams to look closely at the stories stitched into the garments, hats, lace, and accessories held in their care.



Jane is a dress historian and honorary curator of the dress collection at Tūhura Otago Museum. She has extensive knowledge of New Zealand clothing, textiles, and fashion history, from everyday garments to nationally significant designer collections. Her long-standing connection with Central Otago's fashion heritage comes through her work with the Eden Hore Collection. Since the 1980s, she has helped research and document this significant fashion archive, preserving the story of one of New Zealand's notable fashion collectors and his remarkable collection of New Zealand designer garments.

At the Clyde Historical Museum, Jane helped the team identify and assess garments with strong local stories. She also provided guidance on preventative conservation and improved storage. The museum is now fitting vapour barriers to its wooden plan drawers to help protect the pieces.

At Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery, Jane worked with Joanna Leigh and Paula Stephenson to explore the museum's hat collection and consider suitable storage options for garments and textile artefacts held in the archives. Her specialist knowledge helped the team plan how these fragile and important pieces can be cared for, while also being more accessible to view.

Joanna, Central Stories Collections Team Coordinator, said, "Having Jane here has been wonderful. Her expert knowledge about our hats and other accessories has enabled us to catalogue them with detailed descriptions, and I've learned so much about how to store these items so that they are preserved for years to come."

At the Teviot District Museum, Jane met with Barbara Fraser and Marrion Clark to assess their textile clothing and accessories and identify lace styles. She also demonstrated suitable archival storage methods.

Barbara said, "Jane's visit was a great opportunity for us. Because of her hands-on demonstrations and helpful expert advice, we feel more confident handling and cataloguing the delicate and varied fabrics in our collection. Her comments about several garments reminded us how treasured many of these items have been for their wearers, and how vital it is that we continue to protect them."

Jane's visit has provided the local museum teams with new knowledge and practical ideas for caring for their collections. This behind-the-scenes work helps ensure these important objects, and the stories they hold, can be enjoyed and understood by future generations.

Reflecting on her time in Central Otago, Jane said, "I was so impressed with the work local people do to care for and display their museum collections, using artefacts to expand stories of their region. Local provenance (connection to place) is an important aspect of any artefact being collected, but especially so for textiles and dress items, which these days are often widespread in use. These museums are gems in their communities and deserve support."



Wedding Dress
Source: Cromwell Museum eHive



Baby Gown
Source: Teviot District Museum eHive

DIGITISATION OF CENTRAL OTAGO CEMETERIES

Headstone photography, digital maps, and searchable online records bring the stories of 1860s gold miners, early pioneers, and the people who came before into the digital age.

A quiet transformation has been taking place among the headstones of our local cemeteries. The Central Otago District Council cemetery digitisation project's goal is to create a permanent online sanctuary for generations of history that might otherwise be lost to time or disaster.

By combining high-resolution photography, geographic mapping, and meticulous archival cross-referencing, the project captures every legible inscription, plot map, and historical record across the district's burial grounds. The result will be a fully searchable public database accessible to anyone, anytime, anywhere in the world.

Our district's story began in the dust and riverbeds of the 1860s gold rush. Thousands of hopefuls journeyed across rugged terrain seeking their fortunes, laying down the roots of the vibrant communities we inhabit today. Tucked away in local cemeteries are the final resting places of those tough early miners, resilient pioneer families, and entrepreneurial township founders.

Many of the original wooden markers decayed long ago, and the old stone headstones are slowly smoothing under the elements. Because paper was the standard of the era, the original burial and cemetery registers have spent well over a century facing the inevitable wear of handling and storage. These unique handwritten books are at risk from disaster (fire and flood), misplacement, or just a simple accident. A single mishap could easily damage their condition or ruin their validity, risking the loss of those irreplaceable local records forever.



Every headstone represents a life that helped build this district. By digitising these records, we aren't just logging names and dates – we are protecting the foundation of our community story and ensuring the legacy of the early prospectors and founding families remains accessible to great-grandchildren yet to be born.

The digitisation of Council-managed cemeteries has now been completed. Cemetery records, digital maps, and headstone photos are now available online.

Trust cemeteries have been carefully maintained by volunteers for generations, but many rely on unique, aging paper registers. Digitising these cemeteries is currently underway to assist in the preservation of our local history.

We encourage local residents, present and past, to visit Council's website, www.codc.govt.nz, or scan this QR code to search for their ancestors.

Jocelyn Ryan – Central Otago District Council

BLACKS CEMETERY

This Omakau cemetery is named after the nearby Blacks gold diggings, which were on the property of Charles Black, an early run holder near Ophir. Inscriptions on the memorials indicate that the cemetery has been in use since the 1870s. Sadly, as with some other Central Otago cemeteries, early burial records have been lost to fire, and in this case, a house fire in 1948.

Blacks Cemetery is a large, monumental-style cemetery with a variety of elaborate gravestones. The cemetery is well worth a visit to gain some insight into the Irish history of this area.

Located on Deaker Street, Blacks Cemetery was administered by the Blacks Cemetery Trust and was maintained by volunteers up until 2012, when it came under Council management.



Blacks Cemetery, Omakau
Source: CODC Website

PODCAST UPDATE

The podcast group already has 3 episodes online: *Rabbits, Rabbits, Rabbits*; *Fatal Curve – Rail Disaster at Hyde*; and *Murder, Mayhem, and Malcontent – Part One*. The reaction to these has been very positive.

Behind the scenes, a lot has been happening. We are planning an official launch of the initiative very soon; just a few loose ends need to come together before we can announce a date and venue. What we do know is that it will be an evening of entertainment along with guidance on how to access these episodes and those still to come, including *Part Two* of *Murder, Mayhem and Malcontents*. We also have a fascinating story of Central Otago's only cold-case murder and another on the coal mine fire in Alexandra, which occurred 120 years ago.

We are also in the throes of research into telling the story of the Clyde Dam. This will include not just the many stories of those who worked on the project and those who had to shift their orchards, but also the vast number of memories from people who were affected, whose stories are now held in our Oral History repository. This will be a major undertaking, but we feel it is important to be able to produce such a resource in a form that is readily accessible for everyone.

Other subjects are in the pipeline – there are just so many amazing stories to be told, but we are always open to suggestions – particularly those quirky little tales.

Russell Garbutt and Kate Goodfellow – COHT Trustees

If you have a suggestion for podcasts, Heritage Talks, or can recommend the name of someone whose story we haven't yet captured in the Oral History Project, but absolutely should, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Tania Partridge, Central Otago Heritage Trust Coordinator, at tania@heritagecentralotago.org.nz



To nominate yourself or someone else for the ***Oral History Project***
Please visit our website
www.heritagecentralotago.org.nz
or follow this QR code to access the form.

TAKE THREE WITH TRUSTEE KATE GOODFELLOW

What connections do you have to Central Otago?

I spent my early childhood in Alexandra before moving to Christchurch when I was five. Returning six years ago has given me the opportunity to reconnect with the place, its stories, and its history. My husband, Nathan, grew up here, and now our two boys, Gus and Louie, are developing their own connection to Central Otago, growing up surrounded by its landscape, biking, skiing, and enjoying the outdoors.

What specifically interests you in Central Otago heritage?

I have always had a real love of history. I even spent much of my OE visiting castles and historic places! Over 16 years of teaching, that interest has grown into a real passion for place-based education. I love using the people, stories, buildings, and landscape around us to help children understand the past and develop their own connection to where they live.

Teaching in Clyde is pretty special because we have so much history right on our doorstep. I love partnering with the Clyde Museum, taking children out to explore the town and involving passionate local people who can share their knowledge and stories. This term, my class has been researching influential people from our area, and next term we will take their ideas to the Council to see if some of these people could be recognised in the street names of the new Clydebrae subdivision. It gives the children a real purpose for their learning and shows them that our local stories are worth knowing and sharing.



Kate with her students

For the past two years, I've been involved with the Central Otago Heritage Trust, bringing an education perspective and looking at ways to connect our heritage with the next generation. I've been part of the podcast group, exploring the amazing collection of oral histories from around Central Otago. I love hearing history told through the voices and memories of people who experienced it, and I love thinking about how to make those stories accessible and interesting for children.

What makes Central Otago heritage so exciting for me is that there is so much to discover in the people, places, and stories around us, and so many knowledgeable people in our community who are willing to share it.

What is your favourite place in Central Otago?

I love running out on all the trails, especially the rail trail. My favourite place is home, out on McArthur Road, looking across to Haehaeata/the Old Man Range. I love watching it change through the seasons, from snow-covered in winter to the different colours and light throughout the year. It's a view that always reminds me how special Central Otago is.

Clyde Students Showcase Heritage in WoolOn Competition

Our WoolOn journey and the competition were wonderful examples of place-based education and of what happens when you bring young people and passionate community members together.

At the beginning of the year, Kim Priest and I started with a large group of excited girls aged 9–13. Rather than beginning with the garments, we began with our place. We walked through Clyde looking at the buildings, landscape, colours, and stories around us, and thought about how these could inspire a piece of wearable art.



One of the fantastic volunteers helping the children with their creations

The girls then developed their own ideas. Some garments were inspired by the heritage roses brought to Clyde by early miners and settlers, while others drew on the Earnscleugh hills, local cherry orchards, and the colours and landscape of Central Otago. I loved seeing how differently each girl interpreted the place they live in and turned that inspiration into something uniquely their own.



On the catwalk at WoolOn – modelling their amazing creations

We were incredibly fortunate to receive a $4,500 grant from the Puna Rangatahi Youth Trust, which helped us make the project possible. Next, we reached out to people in our community who had skills they were willing to share. Members of the local Spinners and Weavers group and other talented volunteers came in and taught us how to wet felt, needle felt, knit, and sew. In many cases, the girls were learning skills that have been practised in this area for generations.

I love how WoolOn celebrates and showcases wool in such a creative way. Wool has such a strong connection to Central Otago, with generations of farming families and communities built around the industry. WoolOn gives young people the chance to appreciate this amazing natural material while doing something completely modern and creative with it. I especially loved seeing the girls learn traditional skills from people in our community and use those skills to bring their own ideas to life.

The commitment from the girls was amazing. We met twice a week during lunch breaks and also ran workshops during the school holidays. Some of the garments had more than 100 hours of work put into them. There was plenty of trial and error, unpicking, changing ideas, and starting again!

The highlight was seeing it all come together at the WoolOn Fashion Show. After six months of work, the girls had the chance to see their creations come to life on the runway. We had 24 designers from Clyde School. It was truly special watching their excitement and pride as their garments were showcased, knowing just how many hours, ideas, and helping hands had gone into each one.

For me, that was what the whole project was about. The girls learnt new skills, worked alongside some wonderful people from our community, and created something they were genuinely proud of. It was a huge commitment, but also a lot of fun, and seeing the girls up on that stage made every lunchtime session, holiday workshop, and bit of unpicking completely worth it.



Leanne Kamota – Heritage Roses
Under-13 Winner

Kate Goodfellow – COHT Trustee

HERITAGE TALK REVIEW

The Alexandra Coal Pit Fire Heritage Talk was held in Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery on 14 July and was presented by Russell Garbutt. This talk was timed to coincide with the exact 120th anniversary of the fire. The talk was so popular that a second talk was held a few days later.

More than 100 people came to learn about the fire that broke out early in the morning at the bottom of the only shaft, trapping four men who had been working some distance away. By the end of the day, thanks to the strenuous efforts of the whole town, the Fire Brigade, and workers on the nearby dredges, the fire was put out, and the men were rescued.

HERITAGE TALKS COMING UP

AGM & HERITAGE TALKS

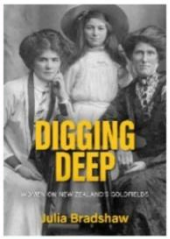
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, 13 November 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Clyde Masonic Lodge on Sunderland Street

All members and the public are welcome

RSVP for AGM to: tania@centralotagoheritage.co.nz

HERITAGE TALK AFTER THE AGM



"Women of the Goldfields" with Julia Bradshaw
Friday, 13 November 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Clyde Masonic Lodge, Sunderland Street

New Zealand's goldfields are remembered as rough, male-dominated places. In her new book ***Digging Deep***, Julia highlights the lives of the women who worked, mined, built businesses, and survived in those harsh environments. "All goldfields communities depended on the work of women," Julia says.

"Poetry In Patearoa"

Thursday, 26 November 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Patearoa Bowling Club, 1627 Ranfurly–Patearoa Road

Hosts Jim Sullivan, Russell Garbutt, and Jillian Sullivan, along with special guest David Wallace of Alexandra, celebrate the poetry and music of the poets and songsmiths who resided in the Maniototo and surrounding districts.

BOOK NOW FOR THE HERITAGE TALKS!

www.heritagecentralotago.org.nz

or use the QR code

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PROMOTE DUNSTAN CENTRAL OTAGO



"You Can Keep Your Hat On"

Preserving Central Otago's Textile Collections *(See page 13)*
Source: Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery

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