

Duntroon Digest December 2024

Another AGM of the Duntroon and District Development Assn was undertaken on the 18th of November.

The meeting was significant in that the Duntroon and District Development committee got to thank Mike Gray for his years of hard work and dedication.

Mike had announced his retirement back in March of this year. He will now have time to concentrate on other matters. But he will still have his hand in community projects somewhere.

He was presented with a beautiful painting by his friend and local legend Burns Pollock. There was also a magnificent sketch by Burns depicting the many facets of Mike's involvement in the community.

Also, in attendance were John Hore and Alison Simpson. These two individuals have also gone down in local history as contributors of the highest order.

Mike, John and Alison have all had their work acknowledged with Waitaki Citizens Awards. They are a remarkable trio.

It was at the AGM that Sarah White, manager of Vanished World Centre and DDDA treasurer, presented the newly produced map of Duntroon to the members present. This map has been very kindly designed by Allan Kynaston our Duntroon Digger publisher and graphics guru.

The intention is to give away copies of the map to visitors to Duntroon township. A map of the Waitaki Valley will be on the back for reference.

Another local with an artist's eye, is Bernardo Manangkil. Bernardo works on a dairy farm for his occupation, but it is his photography that has brought him notoriety. On the 16th of November Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga announced the winners of the Waitaki Documenting Our Heritage Photo Competition for 2024.

The inaugural winner was Bernardo Manangkil with an "expansive photo of the Ōamaru Historic Area". Using over 20 shots Bernardo had blended them seamlessly into one panorama. It impressed the judge immensely.

The "Think Safe Brain" Farming Day campaign took over the Duntroon domain on the 20th of November. Duntroon and Waitaki Valley School pupils were taught many aspects of safety on the farm with live demonstrations and talks.

A well-organized event, and the children got to take home two books designed to educate while entertaining them with the exploits of Gurt and Pops. The author, Harriet Bremner was also the originator of the campaign.

The Duntroon patrons of the Duntroon Hotel welcomed Pat Martin back to the kitchen. Pat is a splendid chef. Her native Thai cooking is very popular with everyone and her return is timed for the holiday season. Call in sometime and treat yourself to a beautiful meal.