



# the Duntroon DIGGER

Established 2005

November/December 2024 Edition

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**Next issue:** Tuesday 4th February. Please send your contributions to us at [duntroondigger@gmail.com](mailto:duntroondigger@gmail.com) by Wednesday 29th January. We will endeavour to provide a calendar of 'Digger dates' for the year in the February issue.

**A Note from the Editor:** Gill, Allan and I would like to thank our readers for the lovely and welcome feedback that we have been receiving over recent weeks. We are enjoying the opportunity to provide an avenue for disseminating information and stories, both past and present, from the Duntroon District. We would like to wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas and we look forward to publishing the next edition in the new year.

## Duntroon Toilet Mural



We are reaching out to assess community feeling regarding the transfer of the iconic Burns Pollock artwork onto the new toilet block. We have approached Burns with the proposal, and he has generously given his permission and provided input.

This proposal is being made in light of the fact that the now defunct toilet block is on private land and therefore may not always be there. This image has been part of the Duntroon landscape since 2015 and continues to bring a smile to passers-by. The cost for the wrap will be approximately \$8,000. Please note that the cost will not be drawn from rates.

As it will be part of the Duntroon village scene, we are seeking feedback and /or input from the community. Please respond to the DDDA secretary prior to the AGM which is scheduled for Monday 18th November.

Email as follows: [secretaryddda@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryddda@gmail.com)

With regards from the DDDA committee.

## Date to remember:

### Duntroon District Development Association AGM

**When:** Monday 18th November, 7pm

**Where:** Duntroon Hall

**What:** DDDA Progress and achievements for 2024

Finances

Intentions for 2025 (may include signage, public toilet block artwork, sesquicentennial ideas, care of heritage building sites)

Other Business

Supper will be provided.

### Nassella tussock

#### Not just a northern issue

The invasive grass nassella tussock has predominantly been classed as a North Canterbury issue, but recent significant finds around Duntroon and Kurow mean South Canterbury communities should be on the lookout too.

Nassella grows to around 1 metre tall with drooping purplish flowerheads and shallot-like stem bases. It is unpalatable to livestock and displaces valuable grasses. Nassella can be tricky to identify and is often confused with native tussocks. Our team are here to help. If you think you have nassella tussock or have seen it in South Canterbury, get in touch on **0800 324 363** or email [biosecurity@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:biosecurity@ecan.govt.nz) [ecan.govt.nz/nassella](https://ecan.govt.nz/nassella)



Environment  
Canterbury  
Regional Council  
Kaitiaki Te Aitanga

## Rural Women's Wellness Evening

The Tokarahi Rural Women's Group recently held a Women's Wellness evening at the Ngapara Rugby Clubrooms.

The evening was made possible with Marja Captjin, a registered nurse, gynaecologist, and obstetrician talking about women's changes during their lives with peri-menopause and menopause. She also spoke about the importance of a well balanced diet, and exercise.

Maya talked about her own journey, and offered information on how to get support. The power in sharing with those that you trust was recommended as very helpful. Maya is also a trained movement coach, and a yoga teacher.

If anyone is wanting to contact Marja, you can do so by email: [m.captjin@gmail.com](mailto:m.captjin@gmail.com)

Marja is happy to hold evenings anywhere that people want to listen to her. Some of the women attending were keen for her to hold an evening in Oamaru in the near future.

Thank you to all those that helped with the organisation, and preparation of the evening.

Kind Regards, Liz Hutton, President of Tokarahi Rural Women's Group



## Duntroon Wetlands Report

As most of you have probably seen in Facebook we had a very successful - and busy - afternoon with the senior class at the wetlands on Friday 20th September.



Nearly all the 200 plants were planted, guarded and mulched. Two trailer loads and virtually all the existing pile of mulch were spread.

Lloyd (and I – not so much) had done quite a bit of weedeating prep earlier in the week and then spent most of Friday morning there drilling holes and marking out where the plants were to go.

Sarah and Jan came and helped supervise the chaos with the kids and we had teacher Kate Borrie and two parent helpers Emily and Gemma Hamilton.

I've attached a photo for those of you not on Facebook. Make sure you take a walk down there when you get a chance.

Geoff Keeling

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## Installation of Bollards

by Karan Lawrence

Local residents will have noticed the installation of bollards at three locations within the township. These bollards have been installed by the Waitaki District Council as part of the plan to protect the area from motorists. There are signs to indicate that cars are not allowed.

The Duntroon and District Development Assn have been actively advocating on behalf of pedestrians and cyclists whose safety has been compromised by vehicles travelling through the green spaces.

Stage two of the plan will see power poles placed along the edge of the green, thereby deterring motorists from parking on the green. Time will tell.



## CPR Refresher Course

3 Steps for Life Programme.

Awamoko Domain, Monday 18th November 5:30pm

This is a free one-hour training session that will give you lifesaving skills and confidence to help if someone has a cardiac arrest in your community. You will learn how to take action by calling 111, how to start CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and how to use an AED (Automated External Defibrillator).

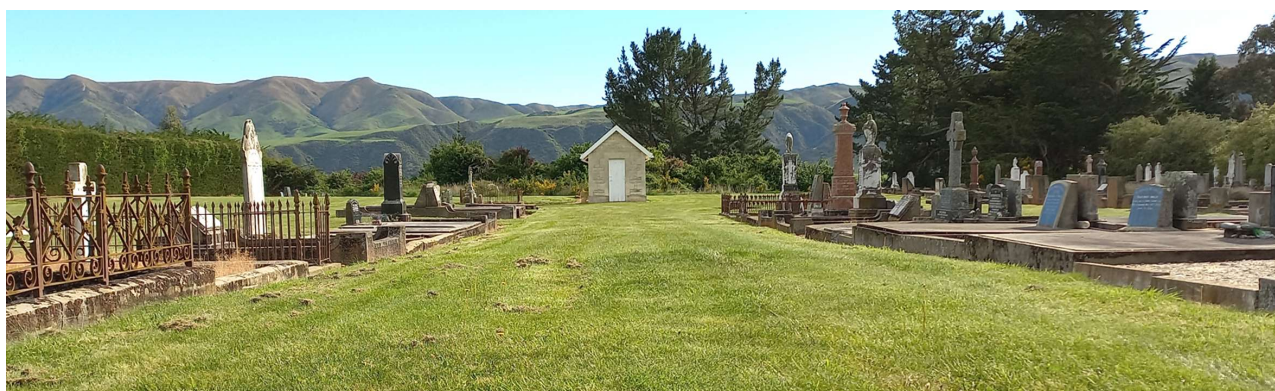
Mark this date in your diary and go support this community initiative.

To register contact Clair 0212341937 or John 0272037970

**Date to remember:**

**Nicol's Blacksmith Historic Trust AGM**

9:30am, Saturday 9th November, Duntroon Hall.



## Review: Duntroon Cemetery a book by Shona Paton

Recently published, this book is a valuable asset to the Duntroon district. Written by Shona Paton with the support of Mrs Helen Laney and Waitaki Museum and Archive staff, it provides an interesting insight into the history of the Duntroon Cemetery and to the many families who have been connected with Duntroon from 1881 until the present day.

The book includes transcripts of each headstone with additional information underneath (where available) and some photographs. I found it fascinating to learn about settler origins, occupations, places of residence in the Duntroon District and the high mortality rate of babies and children in early Duntroon. The second section of the book is devoted to photographs and memorial tributes to those residents of Duntroon and district who sacrificed their lives in the two world wars. Following that is a section on obituaries, reports, and inquests, extracted from Papers Past and various other sources. The book concludes with some information on Duntroon place names.

This book is a worthwhile keepsake for those of us who have ancestry in Duntroon and/or an interest in the people of Duntroon's past. Copies can be obtained from Shona Paton at a cost of \$30 each. Email: shonapaton16@gmail.com

Thank you Shona and the archive team for your valuable work. - Anne Phillips-Vira



## St Martin's Patronal Festival Service



A service will be held at St Martin's Anglican Church on Sunday 17th November at 10.30am to commemorate the Patron Saint after whom the Duntroon Anglican Church is named.

Archdeacon Sue McCafferty of Dunedin will be conducting the service.

Visitors and locals are all welcome to attend.

Notice from Alison Simpson.

## Historic Duntroon: St Martin's Church – the People of the Parish

by Anne Phillips-Vira

In this final article on St Martin's, the focus turns to the people of the church and their stories. While it isn't possible in our small publication to write about the myriad of people who have built, managed, married into and formed the congregation of the church, it seems timely with the upcoming Heritage Week and next year's Sesquicentennial to mention some anecdotal stories from the church's past.

I have already touched upon the Campbells in previous articles; their names will come up again in future. However, it would seem neglectful to write about the people of St Martin's Church without first including the Campbells. I recently spent some time at the Kurow Museum Archives and thanks to Dorothy Duffy and Jon Brocas, I was able to access photos of Emma (Hawdon) Campbell as a young woman. In a previous article I mentioned that it was a bequest in her will that funded the building of the church in Duntroon. Bishop Nevill of Dunedin recalled her husband's



Left: Emma Campbell, (n.d.).



Right: Robert Campbell, (n.d.).

"wish to assist in the erection of places of worship" (St Martin's Church, Duntroon, 1901, p.3) in the district during his sermon at the consecration of St Martin's. He also stated that on Robert Campbell's deathbed he "expressed his profound regret" that churches had not yet been built and "urged his wife to repair his omissions" (St Martin's Church, 1901, p.3). Nevill's address provides evidence that Emma Campbell was, as expressed by Choy (1989), "carrying out the wishes of her late husband" (p.32).

In 1891, more than a year after Emma's death, the Reverend Hugh Corrie Frere was appointed to take charge of the newly formed Waitaki Parochial District (Sutton, 1990). I was curious to learn more about Rev. Frere and discovered that he had a very interesting life. He was born in Cape Town, South Africa in 1857 of English parents, educated at Westminster and arrived in New Zealand in 1879 (WikiTree, 2024). Initially he lived in the Old Buscot Homestead on Waitangi Station (probably named after Buscot Park, the Campbell family estate in Berkshire, England). The station owner was Mr John Sutton who, along with his neighbour Mr Turnbull Miller of Te Akatarawa Station were described as, "staunch churchmen" (Sutton, 1901, p.3). Early Waitangi Station diaries note that Rev. Frere was a keen participant in "every rabbit and hare drive on the station" (Sutton, 1901, p.3). He travelled long and arduous distances along the Old Slip Road from Waitangi Station to Kurow, then onto Duntroon and beyond to reach his parishioners. Reverend Frere later lived at the Kurow Homestead (located at the foot of Kurow Hill off Manse Road) and then moved to the Kurow Vicarage when it was completed in 1892. After leaving NZ in 1897, he returned to England and five years later took up the position of Archdeacon of Syria. In 1905 his wife tragically died in Lebanon, and he again returned to England eventually becoming a chaplain of the British Army during the first world war. He died in 1938 and is buried in Hertfordshire (Luders, n.d.).



*Left: Rev. Hugh Corrie Frere, (n.d.)*



*Rev. Fynes-Clinton outside St Martin's Church, Duntroon, (n.d.)*

In 1896 the Rev. Geoffrey Fynes-Clinton was appointed to the district. He held the first services in the livery stables (Choy, 1989), once located near the old Duntroon Railway Bridge. A photograph passed onto Alison Simpson by the late Hannah Tallentire (see next page), shows the stables. Notably, the weathervane on the gable is now to be seen on the Duntroon Hall.



*Duntroon Livery Stables, once located near the old Duntroon Railway Bridge, (n.d.).*

During his time in the Waitaki District, Rev. Fynes-Clinton travelled incredibly long distances to carry out services. Alison Simpson (personal communication, October 16, 2024) retold a story from correspondence with his daughter several years ago. She explained that he would leave Kurow on horseback then stop at Duntroon en route to the Maerewhenua and Livingstone Goldfields. He would then return to Kurow, sometimes riding into a howling nor'wester and covered in dust and grit, to conduct the service for Evensong.

Another story retold by Heather Sutton (1990) captures a glimpse of one of Rev. Fynes-Clinton's parish visit experiences. The Reverend made occasional visits to the Jeffris family of Otekaieke.

Mrs Jeffris was Presbyterian, and her husband was Anglican. According to her daughter, she had no time for his "popish ways" (Sutton, 1990, p.8). She refused to attend the Anglican services or participate in the family blessings after his visits. However, she insisted upon loading up his gig with flowers, fruit, vegetables and baking before he left!

In 1911 we see the arrival of the Rev. Sholto Bishop. In 1914 he reported that he had covered approximately 1560 miles in the previous year by horse and gig in his travels around the district. According to his grandson, Mr. Owen Morris, soon after the Reverend's arrival to the district, he asked a local how he might contact his parishioners. He was told that "all would be revealed once the horse was harnessed to the gig" (Sutton, 1990, p.10). His first trip was apparently quite an adventure as the horse drove him up many "long drives and sideroads" (p.10) each ending in an Anglican homestead. Another little anecdote involves the Reverend's travels to Duntroon where he would regularly meet with the cleric from the Catholic Church at the Duntroon Hotel. On one occasion after a change of staff, the pair reportedly chose eggs and leant over the meal to say grace. The waitress took offence stating that if they didn't think the eggs were fresh, they could go to the back of the hotel and watch some new eggs being laid! Reverend Bishop eventually left the Parish in 1918 for Dunedin where he died in 1938.

I recently spoke with Alison Simpson about her life in the Waitaki Parish from the 1950s to the present day. Her parents, Jim and Hilda Archer, became members of St Martin's in the early 1950s when they moved from Invercargill to Island Cliff. Her father was soon to be nominated as one of the Duntroon vestrymen. She mentioned that in 1954 when the Reverend Raymond Wallace was appointed as Vicar, transport was still an issue as he did not own a car. To solve the problem, the vestrymen canvassed the parish to raise £800 for the purchase of a new Volkswagen. According to Sutton (1990) Mr Wallace was a big man who travelled in his small car with a large pet dog called Caesar perched in the passenger seat. This must have been quite an entertaining sight for the locals.

After her parents retired to Oamaru in the 1960s, Alison took on their roles as vestryperson in Duntroon and chauffeur for the lady parishioners who wished to attend the Mother's Union Group in Kurow. She recalled the regular attendance of 25-30 Campbell Park boys on Sundays from the 1950s to the mid 1980s and her role with the ladies of the church in providing morning tea for the

men at the sale yards on sale days. At the time there was a small building on the church corner where water was boiled in a copper to make the tea and delectable goodies were made ready for the auctioneers and local farmers to enjoy.

She remarked that travel to the various churches in the district became burdensome for later Vicars and eventually St Martin's was reduced to a lone church with lay readers bringing reserved sacrament to the church in recent years. Despite this downturn, the church holds a very special place in the hearts of Alison and her family. Personally, I treasure it as a beautiful, peaceful early settler legacy from the Campbells to the people of Duntroon and district who have worshipped, married, been baptised and farewelled there. I hold hope that it will continue to be used as an occasional place of worship, ceremony and quiet contemplation for locals and travellers alike.

Thanks once again to Alison Simpson for providing valuable information for this article. We invite the contribution of other stories from the people of St Martin's Church that may be of interest to our readers.

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## The 150th Anniversary for Duntroon in 2025

Community members who are keen to be part of a sub committee involved in helping to organise the 150th anniversary for Duntroon in 2025 please be in contact via The Digger. Email: [duntroondigger@gmail.com](mailto:duntroondigger@gmail.com)



## Wellness Matters - A regular health column from the Kurow Medical/Mackenzie Health Centre Team October 2024

### Kurow Medical Centre and Mackenzie Health Centre's Commitment to Quality

This month takes a slight detour from our usual column as we present an article from Dr Tim Gardner on how we are taking a closer look at how we do things by applying quality improvement methods, reviewing and refining, with the goal that we can make a real difference to the quality of care we provide. Being open and transparent and sharing this quality work with our community, is part of the process.

Running a medical centre is a full-time job. Running a medical centre successfully requires more than adequate levels of competent dedicated staff, contracts with funders, a modern fit-for-purpose practice management software system and rooms from which to practice, and the ability to stay afloat financially. There must be the overarching commitment of service to the community served – it's about the people: He tangata he tangata, he tangata!

As part of our journey, there is a need to strive for a high-quality service. The RNZCGP (Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners) has through its Cornerstone 'Aiming for Excellence' process a pilot programme addressing quality in primary care. We were invited earlier this year to participate, providing an opportunity to dust off two of our clinical audits under the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) module. Part of the pilot's new approach is to frame the audits under three headings:

**SCALE:** The deliberate effort to increase the impact of a CQI initiative to benefit more people

**SPREAD:** This refers to the spread of initiatives to others outside our practice. It may act as inspiration of colleagues in other practices to pick up the learnings and help narrow the gap between best practice and common practice. Sharing of quality improvement to others can help us collectively 'lift our game'.

**SUSTAINABILITY:** This term means making sure that improvements in quality initiatives last over time and keep benefitting patients in the long term.

Part of these processes we believe, involves the sharing of information beyond our practice and our colleagues elsewhere to the community also. If we share our process and learnings from the audits, we can also create the expectation from our patients of the standard of care to be provided. Yes, we are very busy health professionals, trying to shepherd and advocate for our patients through a poorly funded and resourced health system (waiting lists anyone?). But we can strive to provide the best quality service we can. The following two audits demonstrate small but important steps in this process. Both topics were chosen after discussion at our fortnightly practice meetings. It is not enough to simply work hard, but also to check our systems are robust and work to a high standard through audit.

### 1: Pre-diabetes: Monitoring of advice, measuring HbA1c and recalls.

Pre-diabetes is defined as an HbA1c (a blood test) between 41 and 49 mmol/mol.

Prediabetes is significant AND adds to the health burden in NZ affecting 26% of NZ adults.

Proactive management from the primary healthcare team can help the patient prevent or delay the progression to T2DM (through diet, exercise, weight loss and medication (offered if the hbA1c >45))

Disproportionately affects Maori, Pacific and Indo-Asian people

About 2% each year go on to develop diabetes.

This audit identifies patients with pre-diabetes and records the frequency of provision of lifestyle advice, whether the HbA1c has been recorded in the last 1year, the presence of recalls in the system for HbA1c, and whether medication for pre-diabetes has been instituted.

We found over two audit cycles (2020 and 2024) that we were doing well in lifestyle advice ( 97% to 100%)/ we improved in annual HbA1c testing (83% to 93%), improved in recalls (from a dismal 40% to 93%) and improved in starting medication in those indicated (from nil to 24%). These improvements came about through open discussions at our Practice Meetings, and instituting a range of measures designed to succeed. It is our conclusion that audit makes a difference in the quality of care these people can expect and receive.

## **2: Minor surgery: Consents and excision margin adequacy for skin lesion removals.**

Over 90,000 new cases on non-melanoma skin cancers occur in NZ each year accounting for 175 deaths.

Over 6000 new cases of melanoma occur, accounting for over 65% of skin cancer deaths.

While prevention is much better than cure, having dedicated, competent people and systems in place to remove skin cancers saves lives.

General Practitioners with Special interest (GPSIs) and training in lesion removals reduce the workload of hospital specialists, get lesions removed earlier, cost a fraction of similar services in secondary care, and save lives!

Dr Tim Gardner is a GPSI, funded by WellSouth to provide this service to registered and referred patients. He also provides the usual private service for mole removals.

This audit identifies patients who have undergone an excision biopsy of a skin lesion over a 1 year period and records the frequency that documented consent was obtained, and lesions were removed completely according to histology (whether benign or malignant).

Our goal is to have 100% of our patients providing written consent for procedures. We found over the two audit cycles (2020 and 2024) a marked improvement in consents obtained from patients. The initial written consent level of 33%, verbal 50%, and nil documented at 17% was woefully short of our expectations. Again, practice meetings discussions and instituting more robust consent processes led to an improvement in the second audit cycle to 93% consents obtained and recorded. Whilst still short of our 100% goal this again demonstrates that audit does improve the quality of care our patients deserve. Further measures have been put in place to maximise our consent processes for this procedure and several other services including cryotherapy, diathermy, contraceptive implants, IUCDs - including Mirena, ring pessaries, steroid injections, infusions of iron and for osteoporosis, and alternative therapies.

Our adequacy of skin lesion margins for removals was a pass at 97% and 100% respectively. This statistic is pleasing and an aspect of the high standard we strive for.

In summary, we have a practice culture of openness and readiness to audit the services we provide with the aim of improving even the small things in the package of care to the patients we serve.