

Duntroon Digest January 2025.

Once again members of the Duntroon and District Development Association supported the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee of Environment Canterbury with a display at this year's Strawberry Fare at Waimate on the 14th of December. While promoting the Duntroon Wetlands was the intention, it turned out to be a great way to connect with past residents of Duntroon and meet people who had cycled through the wetlands on their A2O journey.

Before the end of 2024 there was a flurry of activity at the Duntroon Domain and Camping Ground in preparation for the influx of campers. A new entrance and road were developed and Geoff Keeling kindly used his vehicle to sow new grass on the new area. The caretaker Steve Smith repainted the showers and Owen King used his carpentry skills to good effect when installing a new cooktop in the kitchen. This last task was completed on Christmas Eve just as more campers were arriving.

In fact, December has been a busy month at the camp with unprecedented numbers choosing to stay. Apparently, the word is out, that Duntroon has a quiet and relaxing place to stay at minimal cost and within walking distance of a variety of activities.

The visitor's book is full of glowing reviews.

This time of the year is also very busy for our public toilets and the cleaning thereof. Daniel and Katrina Moffat are the "A" team, with Richard and Janice White filling in when required. The town is very fortunate to have such dedicated people, as these generous souls donate a portion of their payment to the Duntroon and District Development Association so it can in turn, fund projects within the town.

Which brings me to the subject of Nicol's Forge. It has been 10 years already since the Forge was restored and the Nicol's Blacksmith Trust is planning to give New Zealand's only Heritage category listed village blacksmith some timely maintenance. This work will inevitably cost money and so the trust has set up a Givealittle page to raise funds to serve as seed money for funding applications.

This is such a worthy cause. Those wishing to help can follow the link to learn more.

[Help us maintain our precious part of history- Nicol's Blacksmith - NZ's only heritage NZ category 1 listed Village blacksmith - Givealittle](#)

Before the end of January, the 29th to be precise, the Duntroon Photography Group will be heading to Mount Cook with their cameras. It should be a great day out. Anyone wishing to join in is welcome. Feel free to contact Richard White for more details. 022 071 1081.

