



the Duntroon DIGGER

Established 2005

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With Mike Gray resigning from the production of the Duntroon Digger Gill, Allan and Anne have agreed to team up to keep the ball rolling. We all felt it would be sad to see the demise of this little publication and feel Duntroon has much to offer in the way of news and history, however we have decided to continue it as a bi-monthly publication.

Mike, mover and shaker that he is, has been the publisher since the inception of the Duntroon Digger and editor between three others over the last 20 years. We are very grateful for the time and energy he has invested to keep it going for so long. We are also grateful for his assistance and advice to the new team with the handover process. We are hoping we can do it justice and provide an interesting read for our local community.

To Our Readers:

The Digger team invites you to contribute letters and articles. We also seek feedback on our articles and suggestions on topics that you are interested to learn more about, in regard to Duntroon and district.

Please send your contributions to us at duntroondigger@gmail.com by Monday 26th August.

We hope to have the next issue ready for publication on Tuesday 3rd September. In the meantime, happy reading.



Come join us to
Celebrate our
locals

Pop the balloon
and win a prize!!

10 free entries PP

- Food Vouchers
- Accommodation and meal vouchers
- Restaurant Vouchers
- Takeaway Vouchers
- Non alc drink Vouchers

Saturday 27th July @5pm

LIVE
MUSIC
Free Entry



Next DDDA Committee Meeting is at 7 pm at
Vanished World Centre on Monday, 12th August 2024

Rockfall Roadblock



The rockfall on the Livingstone/Dansey's Pass route remains an issue for residents. On Thursday 27th of June the Waitaki District Council issued its 7th update on the situation.

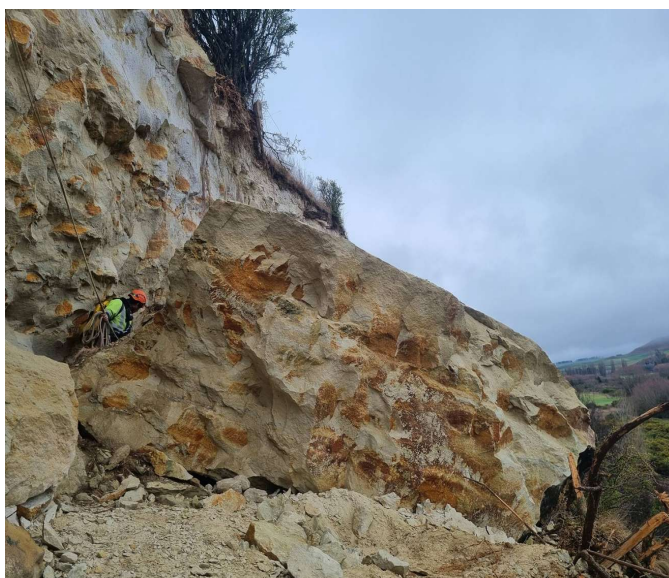
Livingstone-Duntroon Road Update #7

Following receipt of the geotechnical report, and an on-site assessment during a weather break this week, Waitaki District Council and contractors aim to reopen the Livingstone-Duntroon Road to single-lane traffic for the school holidays.

There is currently a 75 cubic metre boulder which has fallen onto a sloped ledge, estimated at weighing 190 tons. A portion of this boulder is unsupported, hanging over the edge of the ledge.

Work is underway to organise the formation of a significant rock bund at the base of the cliff, to allow the safe passage of single-lane traffic. The council's contractors have also regraded Settlement Road since it became clear the Livingstone-Duntroon Road would not be open in time for the Matariki weekend.

Karan Lawrence



Wetlands Working Bee

Saturday 22nd June

It was a cold start to the day, but the hardy souls who turned up to the Duntroon Wetlands working bee soon warmed up as they swung weed eaters and shovels.

We really appreciate those people who were able to give us a hand. Thank you, Geoff and Jan Keeling, Lloyd Grafton, Sarah White, Daniel Moffat and Owen King.

Owen got such a surprise when he walked down the Campbell Street entrance and found the timber edging along the trail had already been installed the previous weekend by Geoff and Lloyd!

The timber was kindly donated by Steve and Jeanette Fielding. Many thanks to them.

So, we will have a spell now and regroup in September.

Karan Lawrence



Lloyd Grafton installing the timber edging



Pruning Workshop Sat 6th

A cold but sunny day was had for the pruning workshop on Saturday with eight enthusiastic participants gathered at the Duntroon school garden and also the community gardens.

Donal Ferguson, from the Coastal Otago branch of the New Zealand Treetops Association, led us through the fundamentals of pruning and answered our burning questions.

With Donal's expertise and pruning demonstrations we gained knowledge on how to prune to benefit fruit production. We look forward to another workshop in the near future on the subject of grafting.

Gill Gee

Ph/text 0212301452 re future grafting workshop.

Historic Duntroon: St Martin's Anglican Church & Emma Josephine Campbell

by Anne Phillips-Vira

This will be the first in a series of articles that focus on the early history of Duntroon.

In the past several weeks I have spent many hours volunteering at St Martin's Anglican Church. In that time, I have found myself immersed in the history of Duntroon's Gothic centrepiece. I've done quite a bit of 'digging' at the Waitaki archives, on the internet and most importantly in time spent with Alison Simpson.

A person who really captured my attention when researching the church's history is Emma Josephine Campbell. The following is a snapshot of her life and legacy.

Emma Josephine Hawdon was born on January 21st, 1843, in Melbourne. Her father, Joseph Hawdon originally from County Durham, England, migrated from Australia to the South Island in 1863 and established Grassmere and Craigieburn Stations in Canterbury (Gatehouse, 2022). Emma's mother died in 1853. Fifteen years later, on the 2nd of December 1868, Emma married



The Campbell's resting place Block 138, Plot 12, Northern Cemetery, Dunedin.

Robert Campbell at St Luke's Church, Christchurch. In 1869, the couple went on a honeymoon to Buscot Park, Robert's family home in Berkshire. Then in 1876 Robert reportedly "shipped a workforce of Scottish craftsmen and materials" (Steenhart, 2017) to Otekaieke and sent Emma back to England while the construction of Campbell Park went ahead. Otekaieke limestone was the main building material quarried from their station. A newspaper article provided by Alison Simpson, describes the Campbell residence as "a mansion resembling a Scottish castle of baronial proportions". It would seem a fitting reminder of Robert's ancestral home in Duntrune, Argyll, Scotland which is the namesake of Duntroon, Waitaki. Emma and Robert were apparently "well known for their

hospitality” (Steenhart, 2017). Apart from this snippet it is difficult to find evidence of Emma’s life at the castle. I have been able to find only one very vague photo of her. She died on April 17th, 1890, in Dunedin at the age of 47, less than five months after her husband. Both Emma and Robert were interred at the Northern Cemetery in Dunedin. Emma’s bequest of the grand sum of £ 6000 (over \$1 000 000) went towards the construction of Duntroon’s little Gothic architectural gem.

There has been a surprising number of visitors to the church while I have been there and many lovely comments about its peacefulness and beauty. Thank you to Alison Simpson for granting me permission to clean the church and for the depth of knowledge that she has shared on its history ... there is more ‘digging’ to come. I would love to share any further stories that anyone may have about Emma Campbell and/or St Martin’s Anglican Church.

Gatehouse, T. (2022). Banyule: one of Melbourne’s earliest homesteads. *Journal of the C. J. La Trobe Society Inc.* 21(1), 37-43.

<https://www.latrobesociety.org.au/LaTrobeana/LaTrobeanaV21n1.pdf#page=37>

Steenhart, J. (2017, January 3). Offbeat New Zealand: history and mystery at Campbell Park Estate, North Otago. *Stuff*

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/travel/destinations/nz/dunedin/87190167/offbeat-new-zealand-history-and-mystery-at-campbell-park-estate-north-otago>



From left to right: Robert Campbell, unknown identities (x2), Emma Campbell.

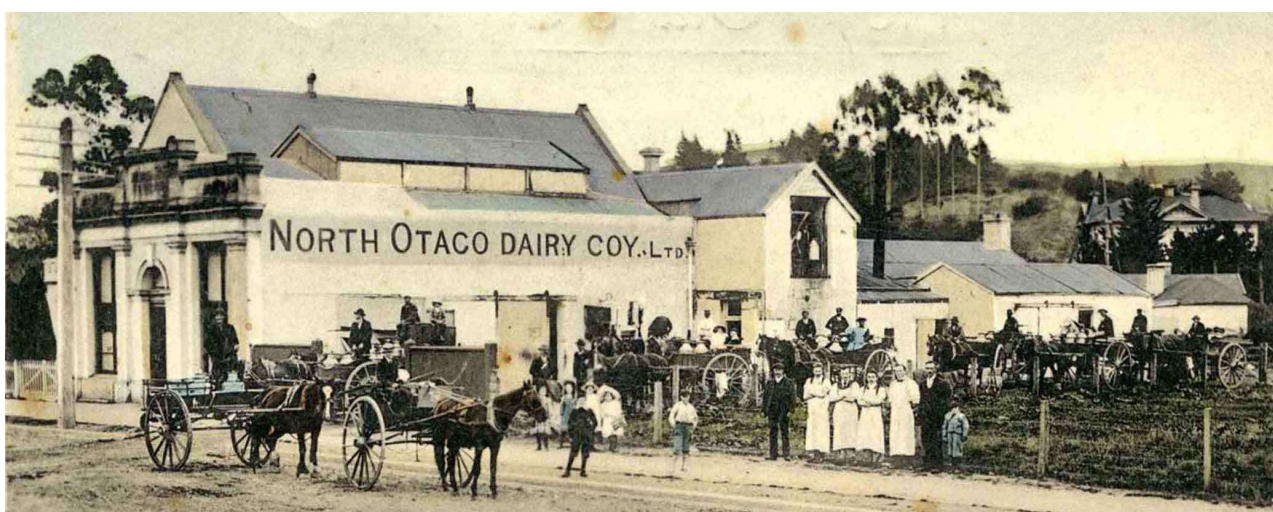
Source: Collection of Waitaki Archive ID 103145

The Case of the 'Lagoon at the Duntroon Creamery'

by Allan Kynaston

The establishment of the Duntroon Creamery was part of an ambitious expansion plan initiated by the Pukeuri Dairy Factory Company (P.D.F.C) in 1900.

Opening for business in 1895, the P.D.F.C. had, during the first five years of its existence, profitably produced butter and cheese, in what was described as a compact little Oamaru stone premises. Then, in 1900, the Company decided to embark on a plan to serve the whole of North Otago. This involved fitting out a new butter factory, (in an existing building) on Severn Street, Oamaru and establishing a network of contributing creameries in the surrounding district. As such, the company decided to change its name to the North Otago Dairy Company (N.O.D.C.). The factory was officially opened on 2 April 1901 and the Duntroon Creamery began receiving milk on the same day.



The North Otago Dairy Company's butter factory on Severn Street. The photo was most likely taken shortly after it opened. Collection of Waitaki Archive ID 169511

The function of creameries (or skimming stations) was to skim cream from whole milk supplied by farmers in the immediate district (there was a limit to how far a can of milk could be transported by horse and cart before it spoiled). The cream was then railed to a centralised butter factory. Normally skim milk was returned to the suppliers, who could use it to feed their pigs and calves, but, as we will see, this may not have always been the case at Duntroon. Initially, the N.O.D.C. established creameries at Duntroon, Enfield and Awamoko, the latter two being housed in the former premises of short lived dairy companies. Once the new Oamaru butter factory was operational additional creameries were built at Ngapara, Windsor, Kurow and Awamo.

The location of the Duntroon creamery is revealed in a report detailing N.O.D.C.'s annual meeting, held on 30 Oct. 1900. During the meeting shareholders were informed that "both at Enfield and Duntroon a sufficient number of shares has been applied for to warrant the action taken [establishing creameries] and your directors hope very soon to have a creamery at Duntroon in operation, having only been hindered by the delay of the Railways Department in answering our application for a site on the old Maerewhenua siding". The siding, which had been the terminal of the Waitaki Valley railway, prior to the opening of the first Maerewhenua bridge in July 1881, was located more or less opposite the present junction of S.H. 83 and the Livingstone-Duntroon Road.

And so to an amusing exchange which took place in the pages of the Oamaru Mail in regard to 'the Lagoon at the Duntroon Creamery'

Oamaru Mail 13 Dec. 1902:

THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

To the Editor. Sir, - I would like to recommend to the directors of the N. O. D. C, [North Otago Dairy Company] a plan by which they would be able to pay a dividend. If they were to bottle the perfume that floats about the lagoon they keep at creamery at Maerewhenua they could do a large retail trade. For people they would die, If they sniff when passing by the lagoon they keep at the Duntroon-oo creamery. I am, etc., SOUR MILK

Oamaru Mail 16 Dec. 1902:

SOUR MILK

To the Editor. Sir, - In reference to "Sour Milk's" letter of the 13th re lagoon at Maerewhenua creamery, I am not aware that such a thing exists, and if he wishes he can meet me at the creamery to show us the lagoon, and the perfume will be bottled if he finds the bottles and will bottle it himself. He can sell the perfume and keep the whole of the divvy himself. - I am, etc., STRAIGHT-UP, Duntroon, 15th December, 1902.

Oamaru Mail 18 Dec 1902:

THE LAGOON AT DUNTROON CREAMERY

To the Editor. Sir: - In reply to "Straight Edge", or "Straight Up" who pretends he does not know the Lagoon at Maerewhenua creamery and wishes me to show it to him, I may say that, being busy, I will appoint a substitute to meet him: to wit, the Inspector of Nuisances. Why did he not say that he suffered from chronic cold in the head, all smells being alike to him. Also notice he does not care to go into the retail trade in perfume, feeling better, I suppose, since reading Mr M'Ewan's letter to his company guaranteeing monetary assistance. In conclusion, I would advise all visitors to the Boxing Day sports at Duntroon to bring plenty of disinfectants with them. As the plague is very nigh, they may get it passing by The lagoon they keep at the creamery at Duntroon-oo. I am, etc., SOUR MILK

With that the Editor of the Oamaru Mail got in on the act:

Oamaru Mail 19 Dec. 1902:

It was more than indulgent of us to insert in our yesterday's issue, the letter signed "Sour Milk". If our correspondent really knows of any nuisance which has escaped the observation of the health authorities, his clear duty, in the public interest, is to make them acquainted with the existence of the evil. The charge is very serious, because it imports the purity and safety of the product of one of our most important industries. We cannot, however, believe that our correspondent is in earnest. The tone of his letter is so flippant that it can hardly be the outcome of a sense of serious responsibility. The reference to the Duntroon Boxing Day sports, which is dragged in to justify a flight of poetic fancy, discounts the whole of the production of "Sour Milk," and the genuineness of its author. The nuisance at the creamery would be of the most deadly noxious character if it were capable of contaminating the atmosphere for miles around. We fear that "Sour Milk" is disaffected-that his frame of mind is not quite Christmassy. Perhaps the happy holiday atmosphere will, by the sweetening influences of its perfume, prove antidotal to the less desirable ethereum which has-merely temporarily, let us hope--assailed the region of our correspondent's mentality.

That, it seems, was the end of the published correspondence. While it appears that 'Sour Milk' was a disgruntled N.O.D.C. shareholder, his lagoon was more than likely to have been a very real issue. Any sign of a cure, however, had to wait until 1904. On Feb. 18, The Oamaru Mail reported that "at a meeting of the Otago Land Board yesterday, a letter was received from the lessee of Section 44 Maerewhenua Estate, stating that he was willing to allow the North Otago Dairy Company to lay a pipe through his section to the river on certain conditions". The Land Board advised the Company accordingly. It must be said that, if, indeed, this was a drain pipe, any effluent or waste skim milk it carried to the river would have made little difference to the water quality. At the time the Maerewhenua was regarded as the dirtiest river in the district, due to gold sluicing and dredging activity along its middle reaches.



A likely image of the Duntroon Creamery, titled "Duntroon-Dairy-Factory" 1901. Photo courtesy of the Flying Pig Café.

Right from the start the N.O.D.C. was up against the well established, Dunedin based, Taieri and Peninsula Dairy Supply Company (T & P), which, at the time, had its sights set on expanding across North Otago from its initial foothold in the Hampden and Herbert districts. T & P had been founded in 1883 to process fresh milk and cream for distribution around Dunedin. Later it diversified into butter and cheese manufacture and built a network of creameries throughout the dairying districts of Otago. A giant of its time, T & P was able to offer better prices than the N.O.D.C. and suppliers increasingly voted with their feet. The N.O.D.C. was on a road to nowhere and, on 18 Oct. 1904, the shareholders accepted an offer from T & P to buy the company's factory and creameries. It was subsequently revealed that the N.O.D.C. had made losses during every year of its existence.

T & P took possession of the creamery at the Maerewhenua site on 1 Nov. 1904 and continued to operate it until February 1908, when tenders were called for "the removal of the building now used as a creamery". During October 1907 it had been reported that T & P intended to rebuild the Duntroon Creamery and, on 25th March 1908, the Otago Witness's Duntroon correspondent reported that "the new creamery commenced operation about a month ago on the Duntroon side of the river, nearer to the [then new] Otekaieke [farming] settlement". As yet I have not discovered where the new creamery was located or when it finally closed.

I would be pleased to hear from any of you out there who can provide photos and/or additional information. Ph: 211763185