

Heritage MATTERS

Canterbury-West Coast



New Zealand
Historic Places Trust *Pouhere Taonga*

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www.historic.org.nz
[www.historic.org.nz/about us/
CantyBranch/canty-west-coast_index.html](http://www.historic.org.nz/about-us/CantyBranch/canty-west-coast_index.html)

Unveiling of Wallsend winding monument



Former Wallsend coal mine workers from left: Vern Martin, Brian Creagh, Alan McPhie, Johnny Johnson, Bill Munden and Harold Newby.

The West Coast Branch Chair, Robert Smithem, together with other committee members and Southern Regional Manager, Malcolm Duff, were among the 90 or so people who gathered on 26 September to unveil the Wallsend winding wheel monument at this former mine between Dobson and Stillwater in Grey District.

Wallsend Colliery opened in 1876 and closed in 1890 as a consequence of industrial action coinciding with a depression. The mine reopened under new management in 1927 and then was taken over by the State in 1943. It continued producing high quality bituminous coal until February 1960, when it closed for the final time. A total of 1,782,871 tons of coal was produced from Wallsend.

The monument has been created from one of the two wheels that carried the winding ropes of the poppet

head (the framework carrying the winding mechanism) situated above the main shaft. It was jointly unveiled by Bill Munden, the last union secretary at the mine and Grey District Mayor, Tony Kokshoorn.

Bill Munden spoke of the contribution mining and the Miner's Union had made to the Coast, economically and socially. He described mining communities as characterised by a willingness to stand together and to care for one another. The Union played a prominent role in promoting the welfare of workers and their families. They sponsored the building of halls and libraries, the formation of brass bands and clubs for working men, as well as education for miners. He considered that the tradition of hospitality and a willingness to flout authority should the occasion demand were two of the continuing legacies of mining on the Coast.

Lynne Lochhead

>> Heritage advocate steps aside



Alan at the unveiling of the Spadeline Boundary

Alan Talbot stepped down as Chair of the South Canterbury Branch of NZHT at September's meeting and handed over the reins to Jimmy Wallace. Alan first joined NZHT in 1975 and six years later was welcomed onto the Board of NZHT, on which he served for 15 years. He was also a founding member of the Timaru Civic Trust which was formed with the intent to prevent the demolition of notable buildings. Alan has had a long-standing history of community service – in 1977 he received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal as Chairman of the Strathallan County Council and in 1978 was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his services to Local Government.

Having recently celebrated his 92nd birthday Alan has no intention of giving up his dedication and passion for heritage. He will continue to be actively involved in the branch committee; in fact he now has the role of 'assistant to the chairman'.

Alan has been integral in helping to save many historic places both nationally and locally. A real success story was the 1870s Landing Service Building in Timaru. The impressive bluestone building was going to be demolished to make way for a car park, however, thanks to the Civic Trust's involvement, and in particular Alan's skill and dedication, the building was saved and 'adaptively reused'. More than twenty years later the building is not only a heritage success story but it is also an extremely viable commercial venture which is cherished by the people of Timaru.

Alan received a special Heritage Award from NZHT in 2004 for his exceptional service to heritage in New Zealand.

Addington Rural Section T2

Jimmy Wallace, the current chair, is a lawyer in Geraldine who has 40 years of experience in general practice. He sits on a number of Boards, including the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board and has recently been appointed as a member of the Arts Council. Jimmy has an established background in heritage issues (he has in fact been chair of the committee in years past) and brings with him a sound business mind.

Kristina Pickford

■ Addington historical study

Addington's nineteenth century built heritage was the subject of a recent study by Monash University student Kate Fleming. As a requirement of her Masters in Public History, Kate completed a voluntary work placement with NZHT's Southern Regional Office. For this she conducted a visual survey of the eastern part of Addington to identify sites of historical and archaeological interest.

She compiled a history of Addington's social, industrial and infrastructural development, supported by thorough documentary research. Her study related this history to the material remains of Addington's early residential development and its commercial and infrastructural progress, identifying properties occupied prior to 1900 where archaeological sites and material may remain intact. Kate's report confirmed that a number of pre-1900 structures remain in the suburb including workers' cottages, larger dwellings, commercial premises and institutions that supported the Addington community.

Archaeologist Bridget Mosley is extremely impressed with the quality and depth of Kate's research which will provide an invaluable record of historical information in the assessment of sites for future development in this rapidly changing suburb. We wish Kate all the very best for her next project – motherhood!

Christine Whybrow



>> Immigrant cottages in Geraldine



From 1840 to 1876 almost 61,000 immigrants settled in Canterbury. A large proportion of them were encouraged by the Provincial Government to come to Canterbury to provide labour for the region's growing farming industry and public works programmes. Many were offered either free or assisted passages and arrived in New Zealand with extremely limited financial means – they relied on being provided with temporary lodgings until they were gainfully employed and able to pay for their own accommodation.

The Canterbury Government undertook an extensive building programme in the 1870s to meet the demand for temporary accommodation for the influx of immigrants during this period. Many of the 37 Canterbury Road Boards, under approval from Government, set about building cottages for immigrants. Cottages were just one solution to temporarily house immigrants – tents, barracks and huts were also used.

The immigrants who tenanted the cottages worked for the Road Board for a few shillings a day and in return received accommodation at humble weekly rental. The rental periods were generally restricted to one month by which time it was expected that the occupant(s) would have found permanent employment.

There were a total of 129 immigrant cottages known to have been built in the Canterbury region, 17 of which were 'four-roomed' and the remainder were 'two-roomed' dwellings. The vast majority of these cottages fell into disuse when the immigration 'boom' ceased and rapidly became dilapidated and eventually were demolished. Two of the 'four-roomed' cottages still grace Talbot Street in Geraldine, however.

They are believed to be the last remaining in the Canterbury region. The cottages, built in 1874, are still spatially intact and are excellent representative examples of colonial cottages. Their appeal is enhanced by the fact that they stand side-by-side on a stretch of Talbot Street, which is graced by several turn-of-the-century buildings.

In 2000, both properties came up for sale. The Timaru District Council, recognising the historic value of the buildings, purchased the cottages in order to prevent development of the underlying land or insensitive

renovation. At the time of purchase the houses had already been altered. Some of the original windows had been replaced with aluminium joinery and a couple of interior walls had been removed.

The Council prepared a condition report and a preliminary heritage assessment and then set about doing some running repairs and restoration work. Number 136 Talbot Street, a single-gable cottage with a lean-to at the rear, had its aluminium windows replaced with timber double-hung sash windows in the original style of the house. The Council repaired the roof and replaced weatherboards, as well as undertaking general maintenance and painting.

The other cottage at 138 Talbot Street, was generally 'tidied up' and had general running repairs done. One of the properties is currently rented and the other is available for rent. The Council is presently in the process of covenanting the properties and looking into listing them in the District Plan which should protect them in perpetuity. The council will then place the cottages on the market for sale.

Kristina Pickford

■ Fire protection meeting

Owners of NZHPT registered rural homes (Category I and Category II) in the Canterbury region had the opportunity to learn about the threat fire poses to heritage homes and how to mitigate the risk. The afternoon was held at Terrace Station Homestead, Hororata (Cat. I Historic Place) and was hosted by Richard and Kate Foster (owners of Terrace Station), the NZHPT, the New Zealand Fire Service and the Canterbury branch of the NZHPT.

Terrace Station was a recent recipient of funding from the National Heritage Preservation Incentive Fund, administered by the NZHPT, to help with the installation of a sprinkler system.

Terrace Station was built in stages over the last half of the nineteenth century; the earliest portion dates back to the early 1850s. It was home to the politician Sir John Hall, who was premier of New Zealand from 1879-1882 and whose most notable achievement was his leadership of the campaign in the General Assembly which won all women in New Zealand the parliamentary vote in 1893.

Those who attended the fire safety afternoon were treated to an afternoon tea served in the glorious gardens and were then offered a tour of the house. The function also provided the opportunity for registered property owners to network and to exchange notes on various aspects of owning and maintaining a heritage home.

Kristina Pickford

**138 Talbot Street
Geraldine**

>> Burkes Pass Heritage Trust



Installing the church sign

Burkes Pass Township is currently a small community of about 14 households centred on a curve in the road along SH8 as it starts to rise over the pass to Lake Tekapo. It is surrounded by large pastoral runs and has its foundations in the discovery of the Mackenzie basin in 1856 and the 'land-rush' to occupy and stock these runs. The town grew up around the hotel and was the last outpost before heading into wilderness areas. It reputedly had a lawless 'frontier' reputation. The centre of Mackenzie local government was based here until 1891.

The challenges in more recent times have not only been the harsh climate, as in those early days, but also by its being physically bisected by a major traffic route to the prime tourist areas of Tekapo, Mt Cook and Wanaka. Amenities have been lost such as the school, shop and hotel, and the community has evolved from those who serviced the surrounding farms to people commuting at weekends and holiday residents.

The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust was formed in 2000 when we were jogged out of our complacency by the proposed removal of St Patrick's Union Church, built in 1872. This brought home the realisation to a few residents that this township would literally be dismantled physically by its removal. This was 'the line in the sand' that we needed to address this and many other issues in the village. Despite divided opinion marking the initial decision to retain the church, we have achieved many small successes.

Our aim became broader than just retaining the church building. The church needed a multifunctional use and a flourishing township to survive long term. We commissioned a plan to look at the wider picture and this resulted in the formation of a heritage walk through the village with the permission of Transit NZ. We prepared information panels and pamphlets based at the church and created a safe walking track for residents to visit neighbours on foot and to enable visitors to have a look around safely away from hazardous high speed traffic. We

The remodelled musterer's hut

Trust members at the township entrance

are developing further information resources for some of the old buildings and will place interpretation panels at strategic points.

The Trust has added other amenities such as landscaping on the roadside and private land with local native plantings, such as the re-creation of 'Cabbage Tree Flat', an old name for the village area. We have also created a town entrance and exit with an avenue of trees and converted a disused bus shelter into a 'Musterer's Hut' complete with historical displays and stories in the Hut Book.

The Trust has recorded oral histories from local identities using a professional interviewer and created archives for use by us and the South Canterbury Museum. Cob buildings are a feature of the valley and while nine are recorded, only one farm building and four cottages remain relatively intact. A fifth example, Annis Cottage, is having major work done to protect and stabilize it. The cottage has had the roof put back over its old walls 94 years after it had been removed by the owners when they shifted to a larger balloted run.

Mature exotic trees are a hallmark of Burkes Pass now but when the settlement was being established, the vegetation was largely tussock, Spaniard and matagouri. This lack of trees explains the use of clay by the settlers,



>> Bridle Path website

who were often of Scottish Highland or Irish extraction, using techniques they brought from 'Home' to create the solid cob cottages that remain.

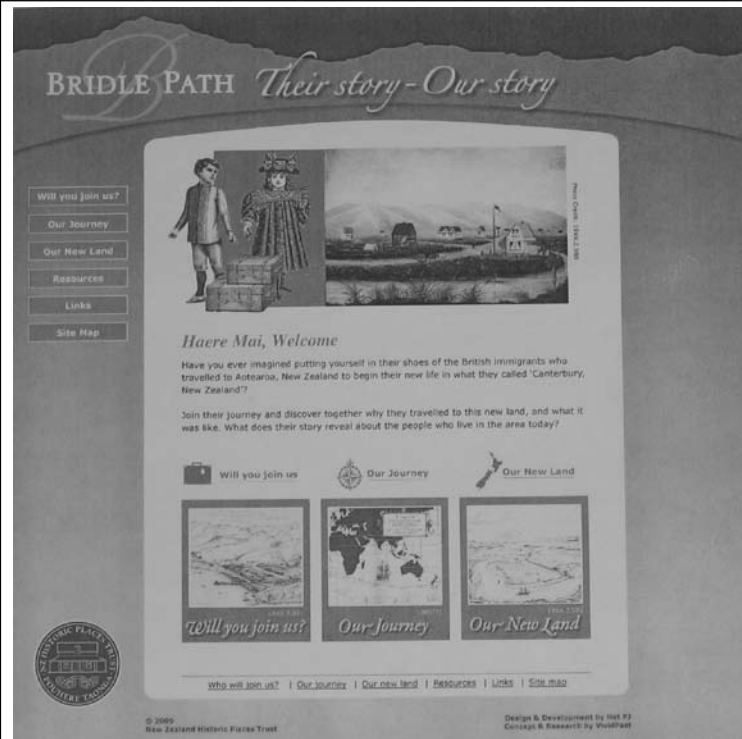
The tiny but picturesque neo-gothic timber church's exterior has been repainted in its original colours. The original organs have been refurbished and additional pews made to match the old. It patiently awaits restoration of its interior and lead-light windows. Old photos attest to its original bleak surroundings with the short tussocks providing no shelter from the blasting winds. Buttresses shored up its walls to keep it upright. Now the pines which were planted to give shelter, though disfigured and pruned, provide a massive contrast to the fragile structure. Research indicates that the church is likely to be unique in having its origins with a committee of three different religious denominations. It does seem to be the oldest church with such an origin still remaining in working order and on its original site in New Zealand.

Back in 1928 a writer in The Timaru Herald paid homage to this little building: 'Her day is done, but it is hoped, that she will not be allowed to fall into decay...If ever the Church authorities cannot use her, she should be a charge on the Dominion, like some valuable oil painting. Like Nelson's "Victory," she spells freedom.' A covenant registered on the title now protects it from further threat.

Funding for our projects has been largely by application to various organisations. We scrounge materials and expertise where we can, using any unwitting visitor to supplement a small labour force and by spreading the word about our activities as far as we can via newsletter and web site <http://www.burkesspass.org.nz>.

We have received support in the form of information, photos and donations from all over New Zealand and further. Burkes Pass is a place that is registered in the mind of many who have had family connections, worked there or visited and for most it brings a light to the eye to mention the place. We hope that our efforts mean the place will continue to have this effect. **Jane Batchelor**

■ Salmond House fire



Canterbury Branch Committee's long-awaited Bridle Path website is finally online. Please take the opportunity to look at it and also encourage children or grandchildren to visit the site. We hope that after viewing the site families will be encouraged to walk the path together and experience it with a greater understanding of what life must have been like for early settlers to the region.

The Branch is indebted to Fiona Clayton, who carried out the research and adapted it to create a resource suitable for young people. We are also indebted to Wendy Riley-Biddle of Hot Pyjama Productions Ltd, who so has so effectively turned Fiona's ideas into a very user-friendly and well-designed website. Although it is primarily aimed at young people, we believe that anyone who takes an interest in the history of emigration to Canterbury and the early months of settlement will find something of value here. The site has been designed in such a way that the Branch can keep adding to it easily, so remember to revisit it from time to time.

The website can be viewed at www.heritagecanterbury.org.

Salmond House at Craighead Diocesan School in Timaru, featured in the Spring Issue of *Heritage Matters*, was gutted by fire in September. The building has since been demolished. The Fire Service has confirmed that the fire was deliberately lit. This heritage loss is tragic as future pupils will be denied the opportunity to appreciate this fine Arts and Crafts building.

Image source: The Timaru Herald (John Bissett)



>> Conserving suburban Christchurch's built heritage

A city should recognise and value its history, and this acknowledgement of the past should be a key component of any planning regime. One would think that our history would be even more keenly appreciated for the fact that our built heritage only dates back some 150 years, and yet, in the city of Christchurch, 100-year-old houses can be torn down at will, even within the so-called Special Amenity Areas (SAMs).

Christchurch is losing evidence of its past with the loss of so many timber houses in the inner city and suburbs. I understand there are pressures on the city's green belt and that there is a need for higher density housing in the city, but there must be some thought given to the overall shape of the city and that must include adequate protection for historic heritage. Unchecked development has been permitted to occur throughout the city with no regard for isolating areas of importance and making them sacrosanct from demolition and removal. The end result of this unfettered development will be that we will have a city of totally mixed housing. It is the lack of rules protecting heritage that is allowing this situation to continue. My complaint is not with the developers but with the lack of rules regulating development of the city's heritage.

We should learn from the lessons of other cities. One has only to visit Sydney to see the unattractiveness of heritage housing that has been significantly compromised through inappropriate development, and the glory of those parts of the city where the heritage values are intact. It is hard to believe now that the Arts Centre was once under threat of demolition. I believe that in the near future we will look back to this period when so much of the city's heritage was lost with astonishment that such a situation was tolerated.

What is needed is protection for heritage housing precincts. Christchurch may have 200 heritage houses listed on the City Plan, but in comparison with other New Zealand cities that number is pitiful. Auckland has a figure approaching 17,000 within its Residential 1 and Residential 2 zones.

The New Zealand cottage and villa style housing were built en masse for the working and middle classes and need to be seen in context to be fully appreciated. An isolated example or two will not suffice to capture the period. They need to be seen together in significant groupings so that the subtle variations of style can be compared and the differing examples of bays and trims, verandahs and decoration of coloured glass, corbels, and fretwork can be appreciated for their wonderful variety and individuality. When restored and well maintained these humble dwellings are as appealing as the attractive weatherboard houses of cities such as San Francisco.

The protection of historic heritage was elevated to a matter of national importance under the amendment to The Resource Management Act in 2003. The Act is clear and Parliament has used the imperative tense. It is not "may" or "might", but that the local authority "shall provide protection...for historic heritage... from inappropriate

subdivision, use and development." This provision has been in place for six years now and the Christchurch City Council (CCC) has yet to action this change in status and to give effect to the priority that should be accorded to protection of the city's residential historic heritage.

One would have thought that the obvious starting point for identifying the heritage areas worthy of protection would have been the previously identified SAMs. A sensible priority would have been to have given interim protection for these areas whilst further assessment was made. Instead nothing has been done and the heritage values of the SAMs have been eroded as keenly as anywhere else in the city.

Whilst at first glance it appears that the CCC has been vigilant in identifying and protecting residential areas of special character with the creation of the SAMs in the late 1990s, a closer study of the rules relating to the SAMs reveals the reality to be very different from perception. The SAMs do little other than to identify the character areas of the city, as they were when the SAMs were set up. They do not have adequate protective rules accompanying them to ensure the SAMs survival.

CCC literature states: 'A SAM is a Special Amenity Area. These are areas within the living zones of Christchurch City that are in some way distinctive from the surrounding neighbourhoods and are considered to have a character worth retaining.' But take as an example SAM 40 in Hawkesbury Ave, an area considered notable for its consistency of the scale, form and style of its dwellings, which date from 1900-1920. The area is acknowledged as 'having special qualities that should be retained'. Here the only rule applying to the SAM is a road setback rule. No-one would suggest that a 6-metre road setback rule could achieve protection for the character of this neighbourhood.

There is a ridiculousness to a situation which prevents the building of a sympathetically designed garage on the front of a property where one of five neighbours withholds his or her consent, and yet permits the total removal of a character house and its replacement with something wholly at odds with the street's character or without reference to any neighbour. Such perverse inconsistencies abound in the SAMs.

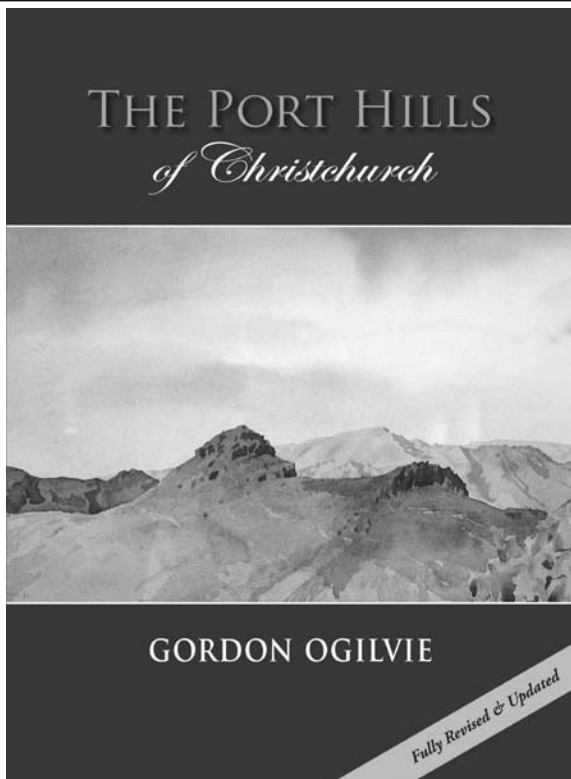
CCC's response to criticism of the SAMs is that they have been misunderstood and are not about heritage protection or retention of character. If so, the Council should look at amending their misleading literature relating to the SAMs. I suggest that unless the CCC acts immediately the only function the SAMs will fulfil will be as a yardstick to measure the heritage values the city has lost in the last decade.

I believe that by failing to provide protection for heritage housing precincts the CCC is in breach of s6(f) of the RMA and this situation cannot be permitted to continue. Having unsuccessfully petitioned the CCC to remedy this failure I am now taking my complaint to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.

Catherine McClean



>> Book review



Phillips & King Publishers have published a fully revised and updated edition of Gordon Ogilvie's classic Canterbury *The Port Hills of Christchurch*. ISBN: 978-0-9583315-6-2
Format: Hardback with dustjacket. 344 pages. 287 x 210mm. Numerous b/w illustrations. Endpaper Maps.

In the 30 years since *The Port Hills of Christchurch* was first published it has become a collector's item. Gordon Ogilvie, himself a child of Horotane Valley, has proved a deeply knowledgeable, approachable and articulate guide to the history, people and topography of this endlessly interesting area, which stretches from Godley Head to Gebbies Pass. Now, after a great deal of new and meticulous research, this award-winning historian has updated and greatly extended the book and added many fascinating photographs. This area already had a long and vivid Maori history before Europeans arrived. Since then it has attracted some of the province's most talented and influential citizens, who have played a key role in the development of the Canterbury Settlement. The Port Hills are justly renowned for their social, scenic and scientific importance, and the visionary endeavours of pioneer conservationist, Harry Eil, form an important part of the story. Now also part of a new political electorate, the Port Hills are of greater importance than ever as a residential and recreational locality.

This new edition is certain to prove as popular as its predecessor, a treasured source for all who live, walk and work within sight of these picturesque and historic hills.

The book is available from University Bookshop Canterbury [www.ubscan.co.nz] and other leading Canterbury booksellers. The RRP is \$65.00.

>> Tiptree Cottage

Tiptree Cottage (Category I on the NZHPT register) was built in the 1860s by William Savill. It an excellent example of the type of dwelling built on the Canterbury plains by the early settlers. The construction of the cottage is somewhat unusual because it has three stories while most cob buildings had only one storey. Tiptree's two lower storeys are constructed of cob and the third storey is a timber attic. Tiptree is now owned by the Gregg family who are very heritage sensitive and dedicated to the preservation of the cottage. In the 1960s, when the Gregg family purchased the property, they undertook a lot of restoration work because the cottage had been left to deteriorate since it was last inhabited in the 1920s. A collection of period items, some of which have been generously donated, add a further dimension to the visitor's experience. The family welcome those interested to visit the property which is open to the public once a month.

Open to the public every 2nd Sunday of the month

63 Savills Road (Off Pound Road, south of the airport)

1:30 - 4:00pm

Admission \$5.00 (Children - free)

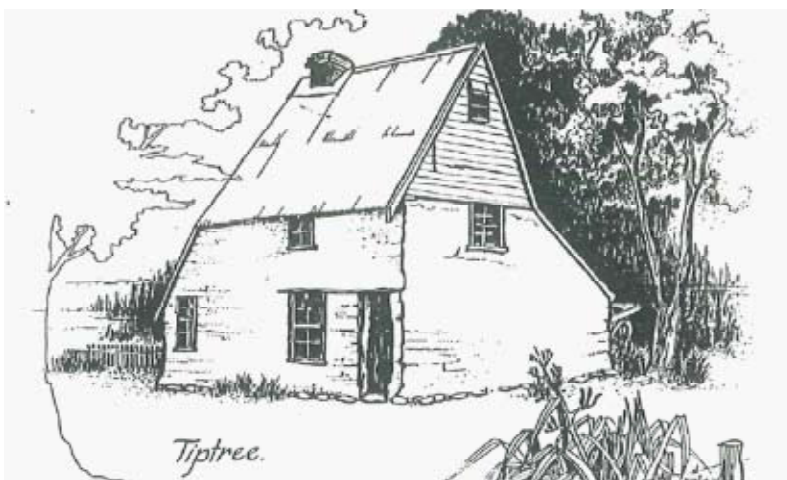
Groups by Arrangement

Volunteers

The family would be most appreciative of some occasional volunteer assistance to help guide those visiting the cottage. Additional help would most often be required on week days to help with groups visiting outside normal hours. There may be the odd Sunday when additional help would also be required. You would be part of a 3-4 person team dedicated to ensuring visitors have an enjoyable, educational and safe tour of Tiptree.

For more information please contact Arlene Wright:

ph. 342 9175 or 021 0275 3686



Field Trip: little-known churches of Banks Peninsula



Le Bons Bay Church interior

Sunday 21 February 2010
Cost \$25

Departing from Dovedale St (by the College of Education) at 9.30am, returning between 4.30 and 5pm.

Post cheque to NZHPT 7 Stratford St, Christchurch 8014 by February 7

Dr Ian Lochhead, architectural historian, will guide us around some of the less well-known churches of the Peninsula. These will include the delightful Arts and Crafts' church at Little Akaloa, the Mountfort church at Duvauchelles and the inter-denominational church at Le Bons Bay.

Because of the nature of the roads on the Peninsula we are unable to take a large bus so we will need to carpool for this trip. When booking, please indicate whether you are willing to take a car or whether you require transport. Those taking cars will be reimbursed for petrol. Please include contact details (phone number or email) so that I can arrange transport in advance.

As usual, you will need good walking shoes, and a picnic lunch.

Lynne Lochhead

This newsletter is published jointly by the Canterbury, Ashburton, South Canterbury and West Coast Branches of the NZ Historic Places Trust. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Branch Committees or the NZ Historic Places Trust.

Contacting the Trust

Southern Regional Office

Gough House, 90 Hereford St,
PO Box 4403 Christchurch
Phone: (03) 365 2897 Fax: (03) 374 2433
General Manager Southern: Malcolm Duff
Canty/West Coast Co-ordinator: Kristina Pickford
Email: infosouthern@historic.org.nz

Canterbury Branch Committee

PO Box 4403 Christchurch
Chair: Lynne Lochhead
Phone: (03) 3515-928
Email: heritagecanterbury@gmail.com

South Canterbury Branch Committee

Contact: Alan Talbot
Phone: (03) 688 4511

Ashburton Branch Committee

Chair: Julie Luxton
Phone: (03) 308 3866

West Coast Branch Committee

Chair: Bob Smithem
Phone: (03) 738 0049

Southern Region Board Representative NZHPT

Anna Crighton
Phone: (03) 3662 557 / 021 1844 689
Email: anna.crighton@extra.co.nz

Membership

Email: membership@historic.org.nz
Phone Toll free: 0800 80 20 10

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in the subject line.

Editor Claire Le Couteur Phone (03) 351 8297
Email: claire.lecouteur@extra.co.nz