

Vale: John Angus 1948 – 2015
In Memory of John H Angus,
HPCO Committee, Rotarian, social
worker, historian, advocate for children

John Angus would say to folk who asked what he did, that he was a historian by academic training, a social worker by craft and a policy advisor by inclination. He was a highly articulate, clever and focused individual with a terrific wit who worked tirelessly in all aspects of his career and brought vast knowledge and skills to all aspects of his life, not least to his two years as a committee member for Historic Places Central Otago.

John grew up in Palmerston and Dunedin and with his parents spent many years holidaying around Central Otago. He developed a lifelong passion for the region and always planned to move here with his wife Sally at some stage.



After many years in Dunedin and 20 years in Wellington John retired in 2006 aged 58 and moved to Lowburn to build his home high on the river terraces with stunning views across the valley to Sugarloaf and the Upper Clutha landscape. Even before the house was finished he had been invited out of retirement for some contract work in Wellington that included chairing a panel for complaints involving Child, Youth and Family as well as policy development on artificial reproductive technology. He was appointed the Children's Commissioner 2009-2011.

John's early training as a historian led to him researching and writing a number of books for various organisations including: The Ironmasters - the first 100 years of H E Shacklock Ltd (1973); Aspiring settlers - European Settlement in the Hawea and Wanaka region to 1914 (1981); Papermaking pioneers – a history of NZ Paper Mills Ltd and its predecessors 1876-1976 (1976); One Hundred Years of Vincent County 1877-1977 (1977) and A History of the Otago Hospital Board and its predecessors (1984).

His contribution to HPCO included representing Central Otago at the AGM of Historic Places Aotearoa, producing two informative newsletters, working on the



Dunstan 4WD trip in 2013 and the Tree Tour in 2014.

He was involved in groups across the region including the Rotary Club of Cromwell and Goldfields 150 celebrations. His extensive historic knowledge of this region will be sorely missed.

John has left us a fine legacy with his writing and his very considerable contribution to the social fabric of New Zealand.

Sally Angus and Margaret West

**Historic Places Central
Otago AGM**

- **Saturday 15th August**
- **2 pm - Central Stories
Museum and Art Gallery**
- **See pg 10 for details**

Central Stories Museum & Art Gallery News contributed by Rachael Welfare, Manager

The Alpine Reef Waterwheel, which has been an iconic part of Central Stories Museum & Art Gallery for several decades, recently saw the addition of some new interpretation panels. The wheel forms the major part of the current museum logo and its history is without parallel. Now the wheel and its history are fully explained.

The project was completed as part of the Rotary Centenary who received support from Central Lakes Trust and Otago Community Trust. Together with Central Stories, they have been helping to preserve and interpret the Waterwheel since it was brought down off the Alpine Reef. As the highest and one of the earliest and largest wheels to be constructed in Central Otago, it took a total of eight men and 500kgs worth of gear to bring the Waterwheel down in the 1970s. It took up residence outside the previous museum on Thompson St. and was moved in 2005 to its current location.

The panels are the final stage in this larger project and help to tell the story of the wheel and explain how it was used. Written by John Breen, the panels are an invaluable addition that enable visitors to understand and get up close and personal with our local history. The panels and the project's successful completion were celebrated on 1st July with a gathering of locals, a few words by Malcolm Macpherson (CSMAG Board President) and Rob Roy (Rotary President), and a few nibbles.

The panels can be viewed at any time on the Wheel itself which sits in pride of place just outside of Central Stories Museum & Art Gallery.



SUPPORT FOR 'ROVING' HERITAGE WORKER

On the 12th May Rachael Welfare organised representatives from local heritage groups in Central Otago to meet and talk about the idea of appointing a roving 'Heritage' worker to cover the Central Otago region. The meeting was held at Johnny Chapman's Como Villa, Earnsclough Road, Alexandra.

Attending were Rachael Welfare, CSMAG & COHT, Martin Anderson, Cromwell Museum, Goldfields & COHT, Edith McKay, Cromwell and COHT, Graye, COHT chair, & Wendy Shattky Carol Haig and John Henning, Clyde Museum, Johnny Chapman, Como Villa, Wendy Browne, HPCO, Judith Taylor, NSTP and Paula Penno, CODC, who joined us briefly.

Rachael had been in touch with people in Invercargill from Venture Southland who support the idea of a roving heritage worker who can link us all together and give support and advice. Rachael had also talked to other museums and CLT with positive initial responses.

The afternoon commenced with a tour of Johnny Chapman's Como Villa which holds an eclectic array of pieces both from NZ and the United States of America. Johnny has been excavating an old cellar behind Como Villa which has unearthed a bottle store, paved flooring and Chinese artefacts. It is cold, muddy work and has to be tackled very carefully.

We then moved into Como Villa itself to discuss the idea of supporting a roving 'Heritage' worker. We were all in favour. Submissions to the CODC were seen as a first step forward to ask if they would give financial support to such a position. (I believe Martin Anderson has since submitted a submission and though there was interest from the CODC as yet no other support.)

The afternoon finished with a delicious afternoon tea provided by Rachael.

STOP PRESS

It is with regret that we report that Rachael Welfare is off to Christchurch to work for Gap Filler as their operations director. This organisation is run by a Trust and aims to fill vacant sites in Christchurch with creative projects to add to the city's vibrancy. I am sure Rachael will do well in the position and we would like to wish her all the best for this new move in her career. I would also like to thank her for her work with Central Stories. Rachael has quietly and efficiently initiated and moved projects forward in her work for CSMAG.

Wendy Browne

Letters (read emails) to the Editor re December 2014 newsletter

Further information re the patterns being sorted and categorised at Central Stories

Murray Kokich wrote to say that the patterns came from a Dunedin engineering firm. Murray thinks that it may have been McGregor's. Murray suggested we track down Bruce Mason who was in Matakanui but now may be in Ranfurly. He was the first Park ranger for the Gold Fields Park. Murray was aware that Bruce Mason had some of the patterns given to him from the engineering business that made the patterns.

Murray makes the point that there are people around that would be able to identify what the patterns are for.

Editor's Note: Unfortunately we haven't followed through with Murray's suggestion but are keeping it in mind. Any volunteers?

Correction from December 2014 newsletter from Louise Joyce, Secretary, Promote Dunstan

Just one point which Promote Dunstan would like corrected – the schist stone cairn in the Clyde cemetery was NOT erected by the Chinese. It was a project conceived and funded by Promote Dunstan as part of its year-long programme in 2012 to celebrate 150 years since the Dunstan gold rush. The monument commemorates not only Chinese miners but also those of other nations who came here during the rush.

It was designed and built by stone mason students at the Cromwell branch of the Otago Polytechnic. The text on the bronze plaque was referred to Chinese historian Leslie Wong of Dunedin because the group wanted Chinese involvement. He was advised by an elder in the Chinese community as to the wording in Cantonese because that was the language spoken by the Chinese miners. The translation is roughly – 'New gold mountain (Dunstan Hills) Commemorating the seekers of gold by the Cantonese Chinese people'.

Members of the Dunedin Chinese community attended the official opening in December 2012 and for them it was an emotional moment. Leslie later told me the cairn was the only monument in Otago acknowledging and paying tribute to the Chinese gold miners.

Louise Joyce

History of St Michael's All Angels Church Clyde.

Jenny Morris, one of the congregation, has compiled this history of the church and its members for the records and kindly given it to us for publication.

The early settlers arrived here in the Dunstan in the 1850s having travelled from Dunedin. Many had strong Scottish roots and were experienced farmers. With the discovery in 1862 of alluvial gold in the gullies and rivers by Hartley and Reilly the gold rush began. Hundreds and then thousands poured into the area. The newcomers also brought their faiths with them. Administrators at this time were Vincent Pyke, the commissioner to the goldfields, Lt Henry Stratford Royal Navy gold receiver and Major Jackson Keddell, police representative and coroner. All were committed members of the Church of England. Stratford held a Lay reader's licence from the Bishop of Christchurch whose diocese covered all what is now the Diocese of Dunedin. Prayer services started in the calico and scantling courthouse in November 1862 and they were well attended

The next step was to fund a church building and within a year a corrugated shed was purchased for the purpose of worship and the first service was held on 4 October 1863 where Henry Stratford reminded the congregation of their duties as members of the Church of England. Social activities were organised and tea meetings began. This brought out the ladies who usually kept in the background. Ordained clergy from Dunedin and Invercargill and the Bishop visited on occasion, also visiting the large sheep stations often as friends of the owners who provided services to their workers but also to baptise and perform marriage services.

In 1865 a wooden church was erected on this site (the porch of which is the garden shed at the rear of the hall). Known as a Union church it had a short life in Clyde as the name was changed to Church of England and the Presbyterians had to negotiate for service times.

By 1866 when the Bishop visited finances were stable, the Sunday school flourished and there was an excellent choir. It was still very difficult to arrange visiting clergy and Mr Vincent Pyke was asked to take a weekly services from 1868. The reserve on which the church sat had been set aside in 1862 and in 1868 the church committee decided to appoint three trustees of the Church of England, Clyde. They immediately forwarded to the Waste Lands Board a draft for two pounds a section (three sections) for the church reserve with a request that the necessary title be in the name of the trustees.

The first vicar, Joshua Jones, was appointed in 1871. A parish was to be formed with Alexandra and Becks contributing, a parsonage was found and so on 12 January 1872, Clyde was constituted a parish. The stone wall along the road was erected with two wires running along the top with a picket gate at a cost of 24 pounds 5 shillings. The remaining walls around the property were of cob which later were absorbed into the ground. In January 1875 the Rev Jones left. The Rev John Dewe from Roxburgh was appointed vicar in 1876 and the district continued under his care.



In view of good church attendances it came to pass that a new church was built which is the one standing today. The foundation stone was laid by the Bishop in late January 1877 and completed 8 months later due to the excellent work of Messrs Rees, Holloway and MacManus using local stone. The skill of the Shetlanders was very evident. The interior woodwork is by Charles Huston and the church is built in the English style. The building of the church was organised by the vicar and is very similar to St James Church in Roxburgh. The building was consecrated

and dedicated under the name of St Michael and All Angels on 7 October 1877 by Bishop Samuel Tarrant Neville and recorded in the parish minute book and the Diocesan registry. Pews were allocated at 5 shillings per head to be paid in advance and this practice continued until about 1900. A new vicarage was occupied in 1906. The Hall was opened in 1962.

That's enough about buildings – what about the people who are the Church and have served in so many ways ?

Lay readers carried a big responsibility and women's groups have always been to the fore in fundraising as well as caring for others in need especially during the times of two world wars and the depression. The men have carried out maintenance and repairs and all have had a continual headache trying to balance the books. Organists, choirs, sidesmen including women servers and now worship leaders have all played their part in services.

Parishioners have always had high expectations of their vicars - an example from 1889 when the vicar asked by a church committee member for a resume of his work replied that in one year he paid 817 pastoral visits, held 280 services, 400 acts of communion, 26 baptisms, 9 burials and 2 marriages. To do this he travelled 4,942 miles on horseback in a parish 90 miles long and 30 miles wide, which included 3 churches in Clyde, Cromwell and Roxburgh. He also visited 6 other places where services were held and he travelled to Blacks (Ophir), Tinkers (Matakanui), Ida Valley, Little Valley, Mt Pisa, Tarras, Hawea Flat and Wanaka for baptisms and burials as requested. 20 services were each held at Clyde and Cromwell while 12 were held at Roxburgh.

The laity had a very strong voice and this meant that the clergy had to toe the line at times. In 1892 when the vicar placed candles on the altar these were promptly snuffed out by the organist who was also the warden and a lay reader. The next Sunday the candles were allowed to stay but after the service the church doors were locked and the vicar left – there was to be no popery! However another vicar

refused to allow an offertory to be taken up if the Church officers were not in attendance at the service

A new idea for a Garden memorial under the West window, now the columbarium, was implemented and a bronze cross placed on the wall above the area. This would be available for the imposition of ashes of all who were members of the parish, those who had been in past years, now living away and for clergy and families of clergy who had served the parish. This area was desecrated at Halloween 1994 when the cross was stolen from the wall. The whole area was tidied with a nib wall and river washed stones, a wrought iron cross placed on the wall and rededicated and blessed by the Rev Boyd Wilson in 1995.

In more recent times we have celebrated the 100th and 125th anniversaries of St Michael's, the 150th anniversary of that 1st service in the courthouse, been on a television programme “Praise be” and lit up the church at midnight of the Millennium. Above all we have tried to serve our Lord in the community and be people of God in this place.

In conclusion I use these words written by Bishop Peter in 1977 and which are as relevant today as then:

“Every so often we become homesick for days that are past and values that have faded. Courage, adventure, risk and discovery appear to belong to an earlier generation and our opportunity to find treasure has been denied. We have a need to have confidence in our own era, and in our own person, knowing that in any age there is always an opportunity for discovery. We are people of Resurrection, constantly being called to move towards new frontiers and cross unexplored thresholds.”

The church finished serving the Clyde Community this year. It is being converted from a parish church to a Retreat Centre.

Jenny Morris
St Michael & All Angels Church
Clyde
07 06 2015

An Interesting Past: Idaburn Hotel

Thought to be one of Oturehua's oldest buildings, the exact construction date is not known but an advertisement in The Otago Almanac (1871) describes it as thus: "The Idaburn Hotel (distance from Dunedin 105 miles) a stopover for Cobb & Co Royal Mail Coaches. Accommodation 1st Class quality.

James Kermode was the then proprietor, but following the death of his wife Margaret, who was thrown from her horse drawn trap in April 1871, the hotel was advertised for sale. There was no mention of the hotel until in 1873 when a C.F. Roberts resided there and was Idaburn's first Postmaster.

Ten years later Charles & Margaret Beck with the first of their 18 children came to live there. It was a home coming for Margaret as prior to her marriage she lived at the Idaburn with her parents David & Mary Drysdale.

Mrs Drysdale had become the Idaburn's Postmistress in May 1878 a position she retained for 23 years. The fact that she was also a midwife must have been some relief to her daughter who gave birth to 17 more children.

The hotel fittings stayed for many years, some children slept in the bar room having to go around the counter to reach their beds. Iron bars were still across the windows in many places.

More recently the building was opened as a cafe "Whiskery Bills" though this was sadly only in operation for a few years.

Standing on State Highway 85 before the turn off to Oturehua, this is a small building with a great history and so many memories.

Kay Dundass, Naseby reporter

Heritage Alive Queenstown and District Historical Society 1965 -2015

This book commemorates fifty years of the Queenstown and District Historical Society. From the 1st chapter 'Large Oaks from Little Acorns Grow' to the 18th chapter 'Fifty Years in Reflection 1965 -2015' one can follow this society and its work in Queenstown and the surrounding district. Danny Knudson has done a remarkable job compiling the history and I quote from the back cover

'In 1965 a group of feisty citizens joined forces to oppose threats to historic buildings in the Wakatipu district. Over the following fifty years the Queenstown & District Historical Society has protected, promoted and celebrated our rich past keeping heritage alive for the future. This lively history of a vibrant society commemorates the voluntary efforts of the Society's many members through successes and setbacks, always sustained by activities, trips and events which explored and shared our local history.'

Congratulations to the Queenstown and District Historical Society!

Visit their web-page
www.queenstownhistoricalsociety.org.nz
for more information.

It certainly gives HPCO inspiration to achieve similar successes in the Central Otago district in years to come.

Wendy Browne

Bannockburn Inlet and Heritage Stations Tour Sunday 17 May 2015

I was holding my breath for good weather for our tour day as the previous week there had been heavy rain and the outlook wasn't rosy. In fact we had been encouraged to postpone the tour for another week owing to the muddy conditions on the hill sides. Just as well we didn't because we had a perfect day weather-wise on the 17 May.

Everyone was punctual at the enrolment corner and after registrations were completed we all drove down the hill and across the Bannockburn Bridge to rendezvous with Gordon Stewart on the other side. Gordon gathered us beneath the 'Welcome to Bannockburn Heart of the Desert' sign which were designed to represent the old bridge piers.



Gordon talked to us about the history of Bannockburn and his family's long connections with it before taking us on a walk up the hill towards the Bannockburn Inlet. The walk was not strenuous and Gordon pointed out the site of the original hotel, the coal mine and the antimony smelter, none of which you would have picked out if you were just driving past. He told us that as a kid he and his friends loved playing in the tunnel in the hill-side uninhibited by OSH restrictions. Muldoon was a horse who plummeted into the poorly covered mine and had to be hoisted out with a great deal of trouble. The antimony smelter was never a great

success so did not make the enterprising company rich or famous.



Remains of tunnel

We drove to the Bannockburn Inlet where Gordon enlightened us about the geology of the area. As we had two geologists on the trip they enjoyed the talk particularly. Gordon also told us the tragic tale of the mother left to raise her large family alone and who believing that they would do better without her drowned herself in the river.



Gordon Stewart and Wendy Browne

Everyone either settled down for the lunch break or wandered up the short walk opposite the rest area to look at the gold digging sites which had been favoured by the Chinese. There were obvious signs of the coal in the ground too.

After lunch we drove through Bannockburn to Kawarau Station, home of the Anderson family for generations. Richard Anderson was a most delightful speaker telling us some of the history of the farm. He regaled us with stories of the workers who treated themselves on pay day to Cromwell to enjoy the delights of 'the big smoke' and came back loaded with goods, sore heads and no money left. The mail man delivered the mail whatever the weather which meant in winter through deep drifts of snow over the Duffer's Saddle and did not rest till the job was done. We looked through the wool-shed built from schist which must have seen thousands of sheep pass through its pens and is still in great condition and being used to the present day. Kawarau Station covered an enormous area and not only farmed the area but was a stopping point for travellers to restock after crossing the Carrick Range.



Richard Anderson

The best story was of the Chinese cook instructed to look after the new batch of puppies. They were made into a very tasty stew.



Kawarau Station woolshed

We left somewhat reluctantly as Richard was a mine of information to drive to Don Clark's woolshed on Carrick Station. Don had three thousand sheep penned up in the yards and told us they were just a third of his stock. Carrick Station had been subdivided from Kawarau but still covered an enormous area going up and over the Duffer's Saddle into the Nevis Valley. Don's bible was J.C. Parcell's 'Heart of the Desert' published in 1951 which gives wonderful descriptions of how this area was opened up and includes excellent photos. Although the wool shed was not as enormous as Kawarau Stations, the stone work was a mason's delight and when you saw the size of some of the rocks that made up the walls you wondered how they had managed to lift them without today's modern equipment.



Don Clark of Carrick Station



Carrick Station woolshed



Michael Rooney and Duncan Henderson



Original building on Carrick Station



Rae Henderson of Happy Valley Station

From there it was a short drive to Happy Valley Station, home of Duncan and Rae Henderson. Both Duncan and Rae chatted to us about Happy Valley which has a wonderful outlook looking back to Cromwell and the Pisa Range. Rae came from Scotland and developed the beautiful heritage rose garden around the home. As many of our members are also keen gardeners much information was exchanged about the roses that Rae has planted here.

At this point we split into two parties, those going back to Cromwell and those attempting the 4-wheel drive track across the Cairnmuirs to Clyde. Happily the conditions were quite good and the trip went speedily rounding out a very enjoyable tour.

I would like to thank the following for their help with this tour.

- Gordon Stewart who gave up his time to take us around the Bannockburn Inlet and is a mine of information on the area
- Richard Anderson of Kawarau Station
- Don Clark of Carrick Station
- Duncan and Rae Henderson of Happy Valley Station
- Michael Rooney who contacted all the speakers to ask them to take part and took me on the 'recce' of the area.
- Helena Heydelaar who initiated the idea for the tour talking with David White in his sick bed at Dunstan Hospital.
- Roger Browne for 4-wheel drive recce and overall support.

Wendy Browne, Secretary, Historic Places Central Otago

HPCO Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday 15 August 2015

Time: 2pm

Venue: SBS Room, Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery

Speaker: Lex McLean on the Nevis

Afternoon tea will be served at the end of the proceedings.

We look forward to your attendance and support. There are vacancies on the Committee and we encourage you to volunteer. Duties are not onerous. Meetings are usually held on the 3rd Wednesday night of each month 7 – 9pm in summer and 6 – 7.30pm in winter as needed.

If you have a love of 'Heritage' and would like to become involved please consider this opportunity. We need ideas for tours, projects to become involved in and research on submissions to write. A person to organise Subscriptions and Member Renewal procedures would be a great asset to the group.

You can volunteer at the meeting or contact us beforehand to let us know you would like to come on the Committee.

Historic Places Central Otago Committee 2015

Wendy Browne - *Secretary*

Kay Dundass – Committee member

Mike Floate – Committee member

Keith Hinds - Committee member

Jeni Steele - Archivist

Nick Taylor - *Treasurer*

Margaret West - Committee member

David White - Chair



Looking down to the site of the original hotel on the Kawarau



Carrick Station woolshed