



Sparking interest in heritage

Greeting to our heritage supporters,

We live in very unsettling times for heritage. On one hand we have the wonderful Hakatere Heritage Buildings, as below, nearing their restoration. I was privileged to be part of the original working party to find a way forward for these iconic buildings, and spent many hours fundraising as a member of the inaugural committee. They are such a great bunch of people who just never give up—and look what they have achieved. This project is very dear to my heart and full of warm fuzzes.

On the other hand, the Methodist Church and former Country Council buildings have been indicated by consultants Opus as their preferred site of the new civic centre which, in their opinion, would involve demolishing both!

I was shocked by a recent press release in which Ashburton District Councils Business Support Manager Paul Brake said quote, “Heritage New Zealand do not recognise any heritage or cultural value in the buildings.”

If Mr Brake and others at council cannot recognise that these buildings have huge heritage, cultural and social value, then Ashburton’s few remaining heritage buildings need us! My letter to the editor is copied over the page!

Look forward to catching up with you soon, Cheers Julie.



It's hard to be grumpy when I'm used to smiling, but the Opus suggestion of demolishing this church did not make me happy.

Bus trip up to Hakatere!

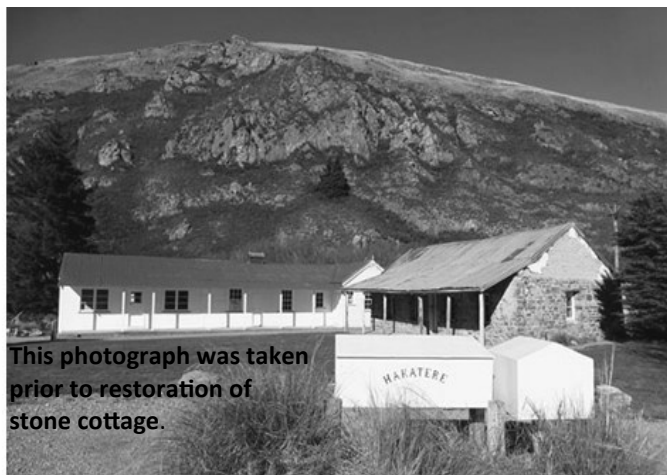
The Hakatere Heritage Buildings are set in the magic of our backcountry, 20 minutes beyond Mount Somers, up the Ashburton Gorge.

They are a great restoration success story for heritage.

DOC, who manage the site, secured some monies for restoration. Driven by an enthusiastic group of locals, who have put in many hundreds of hours of voluntary work and fundraised money, the icon buildings are nearing restoration.

But don't just visit the buildings, hear the many great stories associated with them and the restoration directly from the main driver of the project, David Howden. We will tap into David Howden's head full of history to glean new and interesting facts about these icon buildings. Hear about the projects being undertaken, ie the tin boat and shed, view the killing and skinning shed, and we might even hear about the old stables! Afternoon tea will be served in the old cook-shop, followed by a short AGM.

We should have you back in Ashburton around 5.30pm.



This photograph was taken prior to restoration of stone cottage.

Saturday October 15

Bus leaves at 12.30pm from outside the Ashburton District Council buildings.

Cost \$15 per person

Non members are welcome \$20 per person

A simple form is enclosed—fill it in and return with cheque or you may make your payment online and email the details.

Please indicate your intentions early to help our planning.

There have been many great letters to the editor over the past three weeks. I include a copy of one I wrote because it gives you some information about our involvement with heritage listings and how the two buildings in question were missed/excluded.

And while it is significant to have a Heritage NZ listing, it is our own district plan heritage schedule that gives listed buildings some protection. But, of course, even owners of listed buildings can apply for permission to demolish, as in the case of Peter Cates Grain Store on West Street. We have opposed this and members have met and spoken with the owners. I think it is far from over. Watch this spot!



Letter to the editor

Baring Square Church and County Building

I take exception to Ashburton District Council's Paul Brake saying in his recent Press Release that "Heritage New Zealand do not recognise any heritage or cultural value in the buildings". He was talking about the Baring Square Methodist Church and former County Council buildings.

Has Mr Brake actually asked Heritage New Zealand?

I believe he has carefully worded this out of context. Heritage New Zealand would never say that these buildings have no heritage or cultural value. The heritage, social and culture value in these buildings is huge. If people that work at council are unable to see this, then we in Ashburton have a serious problem!

If he had said that neither building appeared on Heritage New Zealand's listing, he would be right. They don't, as many of our heritage buildings don't. If he had said they failed to appear on the ADC heritage schedule he would also be right, they don't. In July 2009 I and others from our group worked with consultants Boffa Miskell, NZHPT and council to revise the heritage section of the district plan. By the time we realised we had completely missed the Baring Square Church the schedule had already gone out for consultation. As for the Country Council Building, my notes from the time tell me our group members ticked it to be added. But at this time it was being considered by ADC as a sale to the Licencing Trust who planned to make it a boutique hotel! Perhaps this was why it never made it to the list!

Also I ask, why is Ashburton District Council defending the Your Council, Your Library, Your Voice discussion paper produced by its consultants Opus? After all was it not created to stimulate public debate and gather opinion?

My last point is that the Your Council, Your Library, Your Voice discussion paper is very heavy reading for the average person to digest. I feel it is a shame our organisation, and others, have had to point out the consequences of some options. This included the use of our own limited funds for paid advertisements to do so!

Please, don't just think about filling in the feedback form – do it! They close next Monday September 18th.

Julie Luxton,

Chairperson, Historic Places Mid Canterbury

Chairperson: Julie Luxton—phone 308-3866 or email [jules\(dot\)glassart\(at\)xtra\(dot\)co\(dot\)nz](mailto:jules(dot)glassart(at)xtra(dot)co(dot)nz)

Secretary: Marian Martin—phone 308-8342 or email [mart\(dot\)ash\(at\)xtra\(dot\)co\(dot\)nz](mailto:mart(dot)ash(at)xtra(dot)co(dot)nz)

Treasurer: Maxine Watson –

Committee members— Kathleen Stringer, Mark Gerard, Diane Scott and Nigel Gilkison.

Like to be more involved, or want to contact a committee member?

Aeroview visit enjoyed by all

A big thanks to Pete and Lorraine at Aeroview who made us feel very much at home during our visit in early July.

Also to committee member Maxine Watson who managed to transfer some of her fathers early movies clips onto DVD so we could view them.

Pete and Lorraine have an amazing collection at their venue and provide a lovely warm environment on a cold day.

To top off the afternoon, Lorraine made us with a truly tempting assortment of nibbles to have with our cuppa.

We can't recommend them enough as a venue if you have a special event coming up!

