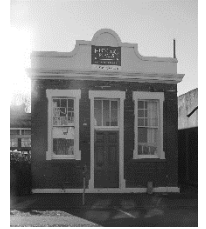


# Newsletter

September 2015



## Upcoming Events –

**Thursday September 17 - AGM – Guest Speaker Katharine Watson, Archaeologist – begins at 7pm in our rooms on Havelock Street. All Welcome.**

**October** -- (date to confirm) Two heritage homes will be open for viewing to mark Heritage Week

**Saturday November 7** – Historic Places Mid Canterbury hosts AGM of Historic Places Aotearoa.

**Sunday November 8 – Bus Trip** – more details on page 3

## Archaeologist guest speaker

*Please support this wonderful speaker by coming on the night.*

Historic Places Mid Canterbury is thrilled to have archaeologist Katharine Watson speak at their AGM on Thursday September 17. All members and anyone interested is encouraged to join us at 7pm.

Katharine, who grew up in Mid Canterbury, says she is fascinated by people, our past, and the lives of those who went before us. This passion led her to work as an archaeologist after she graduated from Otago University with MA (First Class Hons in 2000.) She set up her own company in Christchurch, Underground Overground Archaeology Limited, in 2006.



Since the earthquakes of 2011, the volume of archaeological work in the city has increased dramatically. Katharine's business has grown hugely, from employing 1-2 part timers to twelve or more. Full time in the Red Zone from almost immediately after the 22<sup>nd</sup> February Quake, initially involved in monitoring the deconstruction/demolition of earthquake damaged heritage buildings, they are now exploring those sites for archaeological findings.

"To me, the artefacts we find provide us with a direct connection to the people who made Christchurch. I can hold the fragments of a china bowl in my hand that was someone's treasured possession, brought with them all the way from England. And when I hold that bowl, it makes me stop and think about how brave they were to start a new life in a new settlement, knowing that they might never see the rest of their family again. And that whenever they used that bowl, they thought of their family back home, of all they had left behind, and all that they had gained since arriving in Christchurch," says Katharine.

Mark this night on your calendar now as Katharine will be a great speaker and this is a rare opportunity to hear about her fascinating discoveries post- earthquake Christchurch. All welcome, supper will follow. Meeting starts at 7pm, rooms, Havelock Street.

Apologies or queries to Julie on 308-3866 or email  
jules(dot)glassart(at)xtra(dot)co(dot)nz

## Photographs from May Bus Trip to Christchurch



The magnificent Heritage Hotel was first stop of the day for a tour and lovely warm scones with jam and cream.



Dr Anna Crighton, who until recently chaired Historic Places Aotearoa, was very much involved in the restoration/rebuild of the Isaac Theatre Royal and stands on the stairway to give a very interesting and informative talk. Below, the beautifully restored dome.

Thanks to Anna and Mark Gerrard for giving us such an interesting day.



The Trinity Church restoration will use new stone restoration methods. This amazing project is one we hope to revisit when completed.



## Updates



*The historic Cates Grain and Seed store building on West Street had an application for demolition made to the Ashburton District Council earlier this year*

*This building is listed as a Cat II with Heritage NZ and as a Group 1 listing on the Ashburton District Council Historic Heritage Schedule.*

*We notified Heritage NZ who very quickly visited the building and were very impressed with both the structure and the strong links the building has to our agricultural past.*

*They made a strong submission against demolition. Also several submissions against demolition were made from our group and other individuals.*

*Just this week we have been notified and supplied with a new structural report completed for the owners. This indicates a low building strength with much strengthening and associated costs required to bring it up to requirements.*

*The owners' solicitor and consultant are asking, at this point, to meet with those who submitted against demolition to discuss any concerns regarding the demolition application.*

*We shall update you in the next communication!*

**Mark this date on your calendar for the next exciting**



## Bus Trip

**To be organised by  
Historic Places Mid Canterbury**

**Sunday November 8, 2015**

**The itinerary is still being worked upon...**

**But we can tell you that we will be visiting places in Mid Canterbury to celebrate local heritage. It will be a full day.**

**There will be many interesting snippets and stops as we travel along. This includes an up-date on the work done on the Hakatere Station Buildings and information about the restoration to come.**

**The Staveley Historical and Geological Centre has been revamped. It reopened earlier this year and is a great place to visit. Afternoon tea at Corwar and Barrhill sprinkled with the history of the area and then onto the lovely St. Ita's at Rakaia for a wander in the beautiful gardens and a peak in the gracious home, a former nunnery.**

**A brochure with more details and registration on both these events will be mailed out to all members and supporters in the near future.**

## Celebrating Heritage Week

*Heritage week is in October and we thought we would celebrate by opening two beautiful heritage homes in Ashburton for our members and supporters to visit. This event **will not** be open to the general public.*

*We are fortunate to have a wonderful Victorian villa (featured this year in Living Heritage) to view. Our second home is still to be confirmed. The times and dates will be sent out to you in the near future.*



## Local society to play host for HPA

Our local society is this year hosting the Annual General Meeting of Historic Places Aotearoa. This will take place on Saturday November 7. Chairs and committee members from around New Zealand will descend on Ashburton for the one day meeting. We hope to find time to give them a viewing of a few of our historic buildings.

*With a visit up to the wonderful historic Hakatere buildings on the agenda for November, it seems appropriate to include in this newsletter the story below.*



## A true story from 1862...

Here is an account of a case of frostbite in 1862, showing what hardships the early pioneers had to contend with. In that winter – one of the most severe winters ever experienced in Canterbury – a man named Jesson Davis started early in the morning from Mesopotamia, carrying his swag, to walk to Hakatere. The Rangitata being low, he had no difficulty in crossing the river, and there being very little snow at Mesopotamia, Davis thought that the further he got down country the snow would be less.

But the case was the very reverse. When Davis got on top of the hill at the Potts he saw the whole country was under snow, and the further he travelled the deeper the snow became; but, of course, he considered he could get through to Hakatere, there being no house or hut or shelter of any kind between Mesopotamia and Hakatere.

When Davis had travelled some distance he threw away his swag. The swag was never found. It was supposed that Davis left his swag on Lake Clearwater, because he told the men at Hakatere that when he scraped away the snow he found nothing but ice. If such was the case, when the snow and ice thawed, the swag would sink into the lake.

Davis travelled on through the snow, and arrived at Hakatere during the night. The first thing the poor fellow came to that he would get his feet out to the snow was a large stockyard, and he told the men at Hakatere that he crawled along the rails and eventually got to the hut, more dead than alive. There were several men in the hut, and it is not necessary to say they did their best for the poor fellow.

Two of the men who rubbed Davis's legs to try and get back circulation were W. Allen and Jim Bradford. Bradford was then building the stone hut that now stands at Hakatere. When the boots and socks were cut of Davis's feet, the flesh came away with the socks, showing the bones. After a deal of rubbing with snow the blood began to run. Then the poor fellow's pain began. Until then there had been no feeling in his feet.

In the morning a man started to ride for a doctor. There was a man at the time, supposed to be a doctor, residing at Hall's, Greenstreet, named Enderby. When Enderby got to Hakatere and examined Davis, he (Enderby) wanted to cut off Davis's legs below the knee with a carving knife. The men would not allow him to do anything of the sort, but rolled Davis in blankets, put him in a bullock dray, and took him to Christchurch, where Dr. Prins and another doctor amputated both of Davis's legs below the knee.

One can only imagine what Davis had to contend with when travelling for four or five days in a bullock dray. But Davis survived it all, and the last time I saw him was in 1866. He was then on a farm at Yorktown (now Kirwee). Davis had two pockets for his legs as stirrups on his saddle, and he could ride about the farm. He was not particular about gates. David had pieces of bullock hide over his knees, and it was really wonderful how he walked about.

*An account from the book 'Early Days in the Ashburton County' by A Hewson.*