
Friends of Ben Rudd's Newsletter, No 16

26 October 2011

Welcome to the sixteenth Friends of Ben Rudd's Newsletter.

This issue lets you know about the upcoming 2011 picnic day

Friends Newsletter going digital; donations of money, time or expertise

Hello Friends! It's been a while since you had a newsletter. But, this could be your last one if you don't act!

- *We wish to eliminate or at least reduce the paper copies of newsletters, so in future we will send copies electronically, and only make paper copies for those who do not receive emailed copies.*
- *Please email me (Richard) at pettal@clear.net.nz to provide me your email address.*
- *Phone me on 03 487 9488 if you wish to receive paper copies, or drop me a line at Richard, 89 Riselaw Rd, Dunedin. **If we don't hear from you, you won't get the next newsletter!***
- *If you wish to rejoin at any time, or if you know of anyone who might be keen to join the "Friends of Ben Rudd's", please contact us with email addresses. Please let others know about us, what we do, and how we can be supported. -- Read on to see how you could contribute.*

Donations: We are very grateful to have received significant donations this past year, from Friends and OTMC stalwarts Beth Larkins and Hillary Mitchell. This was highly appreciated, given the work we are hoping to do.

The Trust has decided to merge its 2 bank accounts: the Trust one which originated from the 1988/89 sale of plantation trees, plus the account for the Friends of Ben Rudd's. **Individual Friends are invited to make donations direct to the Trust, but we are no longer actively seeking Friends' membership subscriptions.**

The Trust farewells Lyall Campbell

The Trust was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Lyall this year, and wishes to record her and the Campbell Family's immense contribution to both the OTMC and Ben Rudd's. Lyall and her late husband Bruce, who was also a Life Member of the Club, were very important in initiating and supporting work on the property for which we are now reaping the benefits and owe a debt of gratitude. Trustee Henriette Rawlings attended Lyall's memorial service in Hawea and spoke of the founding of the Family Tramping Group within the Club, by Lyall and fellow Life Member Marie McDonald in the 1960s, with a core group of families who went on monthly day trips and spent Easter and Christmas holidays, camping and tramping together. As Henriette reminded us, the annual trip to Ben Rudd's for a picnic lunch was a firm favourite and Lyall and Marie could be relied upon to boil the billy, over a welcoming fire for a cup of billy tea.

Lyall and son Gregor attended the Ben Rudd's annual picnic in 2009 to celebrate the 10th year of the founding of the Ben Rudd's Management Trust. After speeches and the cutting of the cake, we took a leisurely walk down together to wander through the Rhododendron Dell that Bruce had planted on the property.

Lyall's ashes were recently placed by her family along with some stones from the shores of Lake Hawea where she lived in recent years, at the base of the magnificent beech trees behind the shelter, which Bruce had planted so many years ago and where his ashes also lie. These trees look out across the surrounding hills and the lush

bush on the property to the ever-changing sky beyond. It is here and in the unique outdoor places that Lyall and Marie introduced successive Club families and members to, across the years, that her OTMC legacy remains.

PICNIC!!

The Trustees are holding another picnic with the OTMC at the Ben Rudd's hut site.

Sunday 13 November, lunchtime.

If anyone wants help getting there, please contact Teresa at (03) 477 4987.

*The OTMC day trip, Spiers Road – Ben Rudd's – Rhododendron Dell – Davies Track, will be held in conjunction with this. If anyone would like to tramp to the picnic, join Richard Pettinger (phone 487 9488) by meeting at the OTMC rooms (3 Young St) at **9am**.*

Please support our picnic.

*You'll get to see the results of the weed control work done by the DCC, Task Force Green and volunteers from the Trust and Friends. You'll see some of Bruce Campbell's Rhodo Dell trees in flower. **It's always a nice day.***

Work on the property

Trust member Teresa & husband Arthur Blondell have been busy marking out areas and doing on-site supervision of Task Force Green workers. The workers have been doing follow-up treatment of gorse and broom above the firebreak, following the DCC-funded spray programme. This work aims to retain the tussocks in a manner that is compatible with the nearby Flagstaff Scenic Reserve.

The Trust is engaging OTMC's Paul Cunliffe to carry out wilding tree control below the firebreak. The Trust will be paying for half of this, with the balance from the DCC Biodiversity Fund, which the Trust was glad to receive recently. It is the second time in 3 years that we have been successful in getting this funding, and last time it was matched by the generosity of engineering firm Montgomery Watson Harza.

During the year, the QEII Trust, which organised the property's covenant, put photopoint markers at strategic locations on the property. This will help in monitoring the success of our native forest establishment as well as exotic tree and weed control work. The Trust will also engage Paul, from our own funds, to carry out repair work on the shelter, as well as tidying up around the hut site.

Trust members have noted that one substantial trunk of those fine beech trees Bruce Campbell planted has suffered major wind damage. It was well away from the shelter, but may need chopping up, as it could roll down when it rots. It is considered that its splintered base poses little problem to the integrity of the rest of the cluster of trunks.

We hope there may be occasional voluntary assistance from Friends and other OTMC members to accompany Paul (for safety reasons) and possibly keep photographic records of work done, as well as GPS fixing of the location of trees ring-barked (if felling is not an option). There will need to be gravel and cement carted down from the skid site.

The Trust would like to find out what the level of visitation is to the property. The more people we know who visit the land, the easier it is to obtain public funds to assist us in our work. Please let us know if you were up there, how many went and when. Thanks!

Please contact me if you have any contributions, advice, suggestions, money etc, for these newsletters. I can be emailed at pettal@clear.net.nz, or phoned at home at (03) 487 9488.

- Richard Pettinger.