
Friends of Ben Rudd's Newsletter, No 17

30 October 2012

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

This issue lets you know about the upcoming 2012 picnic day on the 11th of the 11th.

Hello Friends! It's been a while since you had a newsletter.

- *We still wish to eliminate or 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. Several of you are now getting this electronically. If you are reading this on paper, it's because we are giving you another chance to tell me (Richard) at pettal@clear.net.nz your email address. Or, phone me on 03 487 9488 if you still wish to receive paper copies, or drop me a line at Richard Pettinger, 89 Riselaw Rd, Dunedin.*
- *If you wish to rejoin at any time, or if you know of anyone who might be keen to join the mailing list for 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 or participate.*

Donations: We are very grateful to have received donations this past year, from the following Friends or OTMC folk: Albie Green, Bruce Collier and Marie McDonald. **Friends are invited to make donations direct to the Trust, but we are no longer actively seeking Friends' membership subscriptions.**

Celebrate our NEW TRUSTEES!

At the OTMC AGM in August, the Club elected four new Trustees onto the Trust. Alan, Teresa and Richard welcome the new, giving us a full team of seven, while saying farewell and thanks to retiring Trustees.

Newcomers:

- *Jim Sime 489 1067: Ian's younger brother continues a Sime family tradition of interest in the land (as well as OTMC membership). Jim is enthusiastic about putting something back into the land and the Club.*
- *Kathy Woodrow 455 4673: OTMC member from "way back", she and husband Chris have just made their way back from USA. She is keen to renew her contact with Ben Rudd's and look after the place with us.*
- *David McArthur, 481 1478: Long-time leader of the Family Group activities, David and his wife Penny know the property well and have strong links with the Campbell and McDonald families.*
- *Sam Patrick, 487 6066: An active tramper and committee member of the OTMC, Sam is getting to know the property and looks forward to helping us tackle the management of volunteers and weeds!*

Retiring Trustees:

Ian Sime and Henri Rawlings. Both have made their experience and wisdom available over many years as OTMC stalwarts with long association with the property. Thanks! We do hope we'll stay close Friends.

PICNIC!!

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

Sunday 11 November, lunchtime.

If anyone wants help getting there, please contact Teresa at (03) 477 4987 or Alan at 455 7878.

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.

New Trustee, Kathy Woodrow, writes:

“Join us for a pleasant wander over Flagstaff, with a picnic lunch on the lawn by the shelter at Ben Rudd's hut site, followed maybe by a visit to see Bruce Campbell's famous rhododendron dell. Our approach will be from Halfway Bush along Spiers Rd, much of which is unformed. Spiers Road is the start of the Flagstaff Bullock Track and Snowy Mountain Track, used by Johnny Jones to carry provisions from Waikouaiti to Dunedin when the city was first settled. In 1850 flagstuffs to mark the route were erected and traces of ruts can still be seen. Ben Rudd used to own land along Spiers Rd and a stone wall that he erected still stands. He retired to town aged about 67 but soon bought a property on the north side of Flagstaff where he lived until his death in 1930 aged 76. The OTMC owns this latter property where we will have the picnic. There is a pleasant shelter with a nearby toilet. We will come out via the Davies Track which drops off the upper reaches of the Flagstaff Walkway, just south of the Pineapple Track junction, coming out at Booth Rd near Ross Creek Reservoir.”

Please support our picnic.

See the results of the weeding work done by Task Force Green, OTMC's Paul Cunliffe and family, 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

The Trust needs to manage and supervise Task Force Green workers, who will be asked to do some follow-up treatment of gorse and broom along the firebreak. We also need to put in some effort above the firebreak, to work to retain the tussocks in a manner that is compatible with the adjacent Flagstaff Scenic Reserve. The Trust is seeking further funds for this work which follows the DCC-funded spraying programme of a few years ago. Trust members can do this but do help if you can. Contact us! All the Trustees' phone numbers are to be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thanks to the DCC's 2011 Biodiversity Fund, the Trust engaged OTMC's Paul Cunliffe to carry out wilding tree control below the firebreak. This work was carried out last summer to the Trust's satisfaction. Also, timely repair work on the shelter was done by Paul with Alan's help. Some more work could be carried out on block work and opening up views.

The large trunk of a beech tree Bruce Campbell planted was sorted by new Trustee Jim Sime. So, now there are seats to sit on in the shelter! Thanks, Jim. We noticed a lot of seedling beeches are coming away around the Linda Mercier seat.

The property was inspected by the Trust on 29 October. Everything is in great shape, apart from the broom and a little gorse along the firebreak and the track down to the shelter, and the frequent rowan tree sapling clusters that need addressing (any advice or help appreciated). OTMC member John Monahan has agreed to help the Trust with some more tree management in March, to carry on the work Paul did last year. Some volunteer assistance would be welcome at the time. Please let us know if you can help, and I'll keep you informed of the likely dates.

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.