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Ben Rudd's Management Trust

P.O. Box 1440, Dunedin



Benjamin Rudd

Friends of Ben Rudd's Newsletter, No 19

(Stamp)

23 October 2015

Email recipient

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

This issue lets you know about our upcoming picnic and the recent work on the OTMC's lovely property.

Hello Friends! It's been over a year since you had a newsletter. This is because we have been extra busy.

- *First, a reminder about who the Trust is: Sam Patrick 4731156; Alan Thomson 4557878; Richard Pettinger 4879488; Jim Sime 4891067; Teresa Wasilewska 4774987; Kathy Woodrow 4554673; David McArthur 4811478. The Trust is reappointed every 5 years at the OTMC AGM. The next election will be in August 2016.*
- *We have seen many names of keen folk recorded in the visitors' book at the Shelter and so think there could be many more Friends of Ben Rudd's out there than on our mailing list. If you know of anyone who might be keen to join the mailing list for these newsletters, please contact us with email addresses, let them 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 in 2014, from: Bob & Evelyn Entwistle *Thanks!*

Friends are invited to make donations direct to the Trust, through PO Box 1440, Dunedin.

Last summer and recent efforts

Picnic tables: Paul Cunliffe built us two sturdy macrocarpa tables for the Shelter site. They are not easy to shift or therefore steal. In fact they needed complete dismantling to carry them in. We do hope you enjoy using them, as they were paid for out of Friends' donations. Thanks again to all the lovely people making donations over recent years.

Paul also finished off the control of wilding trees for now. He targeted rowans mainly. The work was paid for by the Dunedin City Council's Biodiversity Fund matching the hours of voluntary work done by Trust & OTMC members, and aspiring members. Thanks, Paul, and the DCC! Task Force Green will be contracted to carry out more broom control work, along the Firebreak and especially at the skidsite. There has been some extensive bulldozing on the Firebreak, completely unauthorised by the Trust and landholder OTMC. This is a bit of a concern, as it is likely to facilitate the spread of gorse and broom in the exposed soil. We need to keep monitoring this potential invasion and deal to it.

In contrast, the land below the Firebreak is looking after itself rather nicely. Work there is confined mainly to the tracks and the area around the Shelter. The only places gorse and broom are spreading are where ground is exposed.

Working Bee on 4 October: Twelve keen folk worked several hours in gusty wind on Flagstaff and took care of many broom seedlings that are threatening to pop up through our tussock cover. Our objective is to retain the land above the Firebreak in a manner that is compatible with the adjacent Flagstaff Scenic Reserve. It needs a bit of work often.

The OTMC's real estate needs more maintenance! Sunday 28 February 2016

Work on the property has been done by an enthusiastic team. Join us and have some fun looking after the place and keeping broom seedlings down in among the tussocks. We would especially love to see anyone helping us with backpack spraying. Please phone Sam, Richard or Alan on the numbers given on the front page if you can help.

Ben Rudd's Friends Picnic

The 2015 picnic will be held at the Ben Rudd's Shelter on **Sunday 8 November**. An OTMC day trip will arrive via Spiers Road and will descend by the Davies Track to Glenleith. You are welcome to join the Club for this option. Meet at the OTMC rooms, 3 Young St, South Dunedin; by 9am. If you want to attend the picnic only, people will be leaving from the Bullring from 10.30 onwards. Things to do while there include lying about in the sun, chatting, checking out the new picnic tables(!), reading the visitors' book, & visiting Bruce Campbell's Rhododendron Dell via the Jim Freeman Track.

LET US KNOW IF YOU WISH TO CARRY OUT ANY WORK

We do have to ask if any group is doing work on our land, that the Trust be advised. This could save us arranging to get work done and sending a team up only to find the work was already finished! Also, when it comes to broom and gorse, it is very important that it not be simply pruned, but stump-killed as well so we don't end up with a denser regrowth.

Any expenses such as stump treatment, are potentially recoverable from the DCC Biodiversity fund, (on the sole condition that we have done sufficient voluntary work ourselves!).

Animal control: The Trust needs to find a keen hunter to work on eradicating pigs and hopefully possums. We have noticed a lot of pig damage lately, especially near the shelter and are currently in discussions with various people.

Dogs: Apart from formally-appointed hunters, we ask please to not take dogs onto the property. They are welcome, if under control, on the Firebreak, in line with the policy on the Flagstaff Walkway.

OTMC Website: Soon, it is hoped that the OTMC will find space to reveal secrets about Ben Rudd and our relationship with him and what was once his land. Members saw the property at its best when we held the OTMC's 90th anniversary picnic in 2013. The Trust hopes that a presence on the web will enhance use of the land as we head to celebrating the OTMC's 100th Anniversary, which will likely have an event on its land. Up till now, the Taieri Recreational Tramping Club has been posting our newsletters and other material. We are grateful to them for giving us a presence on-line.

Obituary – Beth Larkins

This last year has seen the passing of Beth, once an enthusiastic Otago trumper. I remember Beth on Silver Peaks walks and at Ben Rudd's with Family Group outings in the 1960s. My mother and father (Jean & Sid Pettinger) were good friends with her. Beth later enrolled as a Friend of Ben Rudd's to support the work the management trust has been doing on our land. She was always encouraging, and was one of several who "advised" me as a 13/14 year old to join the OTC/OTMC - something I have never regretted.

Many of her photos were at the OTMC's 90th celebration, and club members found them most interesting. - RP

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.