

NEWSLETTER (January 2017)

Currently we have 14 blacksmiths on our roster. It is as if we have provided a “home base” for like minded people interested in learning / practising the blacksmiths’ craft.

A new roster covering February to June has been drawn up and placed on the website.

Judy Waterston has worked hard to keep the shop and surrounds tidy. She has filled in at short notice and attends each weekend because “she loves to see the place working”. She has bought coal from Timaru and helped “dig out” some local coke supplies. So it should be no surprise that the Trust has asked her to be our “site manager” – responsible for maintaining supplies and keeping things in order. Feel free to discuss any practical issues with her.



We are now the proud owners of a “double burner gas forge”, thanks to the generous support of the **Meridian Energy Waitaki Community Fund**. Their continued funding support over many years has been significant in getting the Blacksmith Shop restored and now in helping it get up and working once again.

David Hamer, our local master blacksmith, has had a training session of our novice blacksmiths. Thanks to support from **Creative NZ Waitaki** will continue to share his experience several more training sessions.

Having two working blacksmiths on Sunday (from Labour Day to Queen’s is a result of the financial assistance **Waitaki District Council Community** cover costs associated with providing attraction to visitors over approx 30

and numerous Saturdays as well. Hopefully we will become more sustainable as we develop sources of income from selling hand forged products and tool sharpening days.

Tool sharpening got off to a slow start. We ran a couple of fundraising barbeques in conjunction with our two Tool Sharpening Sundays, so that visitors had a chance to eat lunch while they waited. We claimed that our burgers were “tenderised on the anvil and smoked by the forge”.

Recent Event:

A “Girls Forge Day” was held on Saturday Jan 14th. Judy Waterston, who is keen to share her blacksmithing experience with other interested women, said “It was a great day – we had a lot of fun!”

Mike visited the folks at Hayes Engineering Works in Oturehua and offered help in getting their forge up and working.



with each financial **Fund**, he with

duty each Birthday) from the **Grant** to this live Sundays

Upcoming Events:

Sunday February 19th: Lindsay and his son Will (William) plan to demonstrate “Knife Making” on this day. This is a real opportunity for smiths to “upskill”. Bring your lunch and have a great day. (Visitors will have a chance to view from a distance.)

Sunday April 23rd : Dugal Armour, a very creative coppersmith will demonstrate his craft on this day. This is another opportunity for smiths to “upskill”. Bring your lunch and have a great day. (Visitors will have a chance to view from a distance.)

In Mid May (date to be confirmed) we hope to have Malcolm Oakes demonstrate his horse shoeing skills. This day will most likely be open to public viewing. And again this is a learning opportunity for all smiths.



We are starting to make items for sale. We are keen to get any second hand flat metal fence standards. They can be “up-cycled” to make some really nice objects. Fell free to drop them off at the forge or phone Mike 03 434 2565 if they need to be collected.

Long term I can see an opportunity to run Knife Making Workshops for the public. But we will need a couple of blacksmiths skilled enough to offer such a workshop.

Remember to promote our web site www.blacksmith.net.nz to friends and family. Mike keeps it updated at regular intervals.

Finally, a word of thanks to all our volunteer blacksmiths, who have been so enthusiastic and reliable in keeping this venture going. If we are able to continue this enthusiasm into the future we will have a great asset for Duntroon and the Waitaki District.

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**Nicol’s
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Duntroon**

