

## NEWSLETTER (June 2017)

The work of Nicol's Blacksmiths has been entered into the 2017 Trustpower Waitaki District Community



Awards. Two representatives will attend the Presentation of Awards on the evening of Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June at the Oamaru Opera House. Keep an eye on the newspapers on the following Friday or Saturday to see how we went. I will ensure the results are published on our website as well.

Judy Waterston has been busy helping to introduce some young enthusiastic young men to the art of blacksmithing. Here are two young beginners at work, under Judy's watchful eye.

Once again we are grateful to the **Meridian Energy Waitaki Community Fund** which has come to our assistance by funding the creation of a sculpture by Matt King. The sculpture will be a very large metal sculpture of a "Haast's Eagle". It will be created in the summer of 2018.

This giant endemic eagle was the largest predator among New Zealand's prehistoric fauna. It is the largest, heaviest eagle species yet described, weighing up to 17.8 kg and had a wingspan up to 3 metres. Near-complete skeleton finds show that it had the body and wings of a giant eagle, legs and bill larger and stronger than the largest living vulture species, and feet and claws as big as a modern day tiger's.



On Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup> Lindsay Murray and his son Will (William) demonstrated "Knife Making". This is a real opportunity for smiths to see just what skills are required to be a good knife maker. I must admit the spark test was a real learning experience for me. (Will is photographed opposite.)

On Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup> Dugal Armour, demonstrated his craft. The creative way Dugal work with copper was an inspiration to the few people who attended.

David Hamer, Judy and Mike made an excursion to Kuriheka Homestead to "dig" some more coke.

Tool Sharpening Days have attracted a few people each time. I am sure this source of income will grow as word spreads. Objects created in the forge are selling slowly as well. I am sure these sales will grow as we gain more skills.

# An Invitation to all Nicol's Blacksmith Supporters



Twelve months ago Nicol's Blacksmith Historic Trust held a workshop to explore how it might go about bringing the building back to life and growing its tourist potential.

The smell of smoke from the forge and the ring of the anvil has occurred every Sunday from Labour Day Weekend 2016 to Queen's Birthday Weekend, and many Saturdays as well.

It is time to reflect on the achievements of the last 7 months, to thank the many volunteer blacksmiths who made it happen and to plan a way forward for the next year.

We wish to invite you to attend our Reflection / Planning Workshop

**Duntroun Hall from 9.30 am  
on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017.**

( Lunch will be provided )

The purpose of the workshop is to bring together as many interested people as possible, who are prepared to explore and share their ideas on how to ensure the future success of the Blacksmith Shop.

## We need people power:

- Forward thinking Trustees,
- Blacksmiths and trainee blacksmiths
- Volunteers to help with maintenance, tours etc

## We need creative ideas to find ways to:

- Keep the doors open to visitors
- Raise funds to cover running cost expenses
- Stage practical skill based weekend workshops
- Tell the village blacksmith story

## We really do need community help to solve these challenges.

- Do you want to see it succeed?
- Can you help?
- Do you know others who may be interested?
- Are you prepared to attend the Workshop Day and share your ideas?

If you answer YES to any of the above, please let us know by contacting

**Mike Gray:** Phone: 03 434 2565 or Email: [nbht@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nbht@xtra.co.nz) before Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

A copy of the June 24<sup>th</sup> programme is on the website. Contact me if you want a paper copy.

**Please check out our website: [www.blacksmith.net.nz](http://www.blacksmith.net.nz) and share it with others.**

Nicol's Blacksmith Historic Trust  
C/- Mike Gray,  
17 Perth Street, Oamaru.9400  
Web: [www.blacksmith.net.nz](http://www.blacksmith.net.nz)

Sec: Mike Gray Ph: 03 434 2565  
Chair: John Hore Ph: 03 431 2508  
Email: [nbht@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nbht@xtra.co.nz)

**Nicol's  
Blacksmith  
Duntroun**

