



Nicol's Blacksmith Historic Trust

NEWSLETTER

October 2017

Report on the Nicol's Blacksmith Planning Workshop.

On Saturday June 24th a group of 15 people gathered in the Duntroon Hall to share their thoughts about how successful the "Live Blacksmith Days" were during the last 12 months. The Live Days were over 32 weekends, with a blacksmith working every Sunday and many of the Saturdays as well.

There was much to celebrate, including the recent award at the 2017 Waitaki District Trustpower Awards. We were declared winners of the Arts and Culture Section. And that is primarily due to the willingness of the volunteer blacksmiths to give up their time and make it happen. There was a special vote of thanks to Judy Waterston, the Workshop Manager, for her tireless support in so many ways.

The Sessions then turned to look at any issues that could be improved, and brainstorm possible solutions. There was no shortage of ideas. I guess the vision of those present was to turn it into a hub of blacksmith activities for the region. The activities would allow visitors to see a blacksmith at work on the Live Days, the blacksmiths would get a chance to upskill through planned workshops and in turn would hopefully offer workshops to others within the region. The possibilities are endless – organising and funding them is the challenge!

So watch this space!

Thanks to.....

Thanks to Lloyd Harrison, Harry Petherick and Judy Waterston have been working away at covering the drive belts that transfer power from the electric motor to the three automotive machines (drill press, hack saw and grinder).

Thanks to Daniel Moffat, who has offered to install wiring, light and power throughout the blacksmith complex. This is currently underway.

Thanks to Network Waitaki for their financial support (\$600) to purchase various pieces of equipment.

Thanks to WDC Community Fund for their financial support of \$1,800 towards the cost of removing the old plum trees above the Brewery Hole, at the rear of the Blacksmith Shop.

Currently we have an application into Meridian Energy Waitaki Community Fund for assistance in purchasing a Sea Container to be placed on site. This will be used to store the "dray" and surplus artefacts so that we have the full use of the work spaces in the automotive engineer and wheelwright sections.

We also have an application into the local Creative Communities Fund for assistance in running a number of small courses throughout the year. More of that when we are assured of funding and determine a timetable for these courses.

Mike is contacting volunteers, and asking them to reply asap to the survey of intentions for the coming year. He will then be able to create a Roster for the next few months. We are of the opinion that the level of support may mean we can be open regularly for both Saturdays and Sundays from Labour Weekend (October) to Queen's Birthday Weekend. (June)