

**Wakatipu Heritage Trust
Chairman's Report
1st Annual General Meeting
Friday, 20th September 2013 in Council Chambers**

It has been a productive first year and a bit for the Trust. This report will focus on our major accomplishments.

First, a fair amount of time and effort was directed toward formally establishing the Trust and putting an administrative structure in place. The Trust formally accepted the resignations of Bill Dolan and Jackie Gillies who were ably replaced by Angela English and Vicki Jones both of whom hit the ground running.

We appreciate the ongoing support of Mary-Anne Cameron (DOC), our presence on the QLDC website until the Trust develops a dedicated website, the \$5,000 contribution from QLDC to get us up and running, and the \$20,000 contribution from DOC in support of our efforts to look after the district's heritage.

We are particularly proud of our work to develop a strong and focused mission, vision and strategy. After reviewing our accomplishments and experience in year 1, we revised our priorities and they are now even more tightly focussed.

We assigned top priority to our Inventory project in order to reflect its overarching importance in looking after our heritage as per the first object of our Trust Deed. The partnership that we established between the Trust, DOC, QLDC, University of Otago and NZ Historic Places Trust (NZ HPT) is working effectively. We assessed 213 sites in the QLDC Heritage Inventory of Protected Features, which currently have little or no information to rationalise their protection, to identify 72 High Priority (90 Medium and 51 Low Priority) sites. We are now working collaboratively to coordinate student research assistance to fill those information gaps, beginning with the high priority sites.

Specifically, we jointly developed a portion of the curriculum and assessment of the HIST 353 Practising History course and will be selecting, supervising and training five interns who we hope can complete 15 records each by February 2014.

If the project is successful, we envision completing the 90 medium priority sites next year. The anticipated increase in the number of records is driven by our expectation that more students would register for the course and the University would contribute to the students' stipends, which would allow us to recruit an additional student intern/s.

Relative to the second object of our Deed, the Trust developed and utilised a ranking process to select our first two 'bricks and mortar' projects, i.e. the Arrowtown Gaol and (Bullendale) Dynamo. Since they are site specific projects, they were reassigned second and third priority. Our goal is to complete restoration of the Gaol and make significant process toward restoring the Dynamo in Year 2.

The selection process that we developed involved an objective rating and ranking of nominated projects against 7 heritage and 8 feasibility criteria followed by a discussion of the objective analysis and final project selection. We agreed that it was appropriate in our first year to take nominees from QLDC and DOC as we attempted to establish a robust process for identifying and ranking projects. Now that we've established a successful process, in future years, we'd anticipate accepting nominees from other sources, as well.

We held our first two fundraising events for the Gaol in March and raised \$1,355. We were also awarded a \$4,000 Heritage Incentive Grant toward a Conservation Plan, which was completed in August. Our thanks also to the Arrowtown Gold 150th committee for their \$5,000 contribution toward the Gaol restoration project.

DOC is leading the Dynamo project with funding support from the Trust. Thus far, we successfully applied for a \$4,000 QLDC Heritage Incentive Grant and a \$3,750 grant from NZ HPT toward a Conservation Plan.

In July, the Trust held a meeting to propose establishing a 'think tank' comprising representatives of successful private trusts who have undertaken heritage projects in the District. If the group proceeds, we proposed that it be convened on a regular basis primarily to share and record case studies and develop recommendations for best practice in heritage conservation for the District and secondarily to identify future project nominees for consideration by the WHT for heritage conservation and identify candidates (people, projects, businesses, etc) who deserve recognition for outstanding achievements in heritage conservation. This is a first step toward the sixth object of our Trust Deed.

On a personal note, I am very proud of what the Trust has accomplished and my part in delivering the above outcomes. Since my resignation was accepted effective this month, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chairman and wish you all the best in the coming years.

Susan Stevens, QSM
Chairman Wakatipu Heritage Trust