

THE SIREN



NEWSLETTER OF
THE ASHBURTON FIRE MUSEUM

ISSUE TWO

December 2015



From Chairman Dave

Welcome to The Siren,

In the background the team have been working away at various projects and some of these will be mentioned elsewhere in this edition.

We have been awaiting responses from a couple of major funding sources and I'm very pleased to announce we have secured \$100,000 from them, . . or in relative terms - one third of our overall target of \$300,000.



When you consider that halfway through the year our funds were zero, then this is an achievement we should all pause to reflect on and celebrate. It is confirmation that the community sees the value of what we are setting out to achieve with The Ashburton Fire Museum. Thomo (Alistair Thomson) has been out canvassing for funds through his network of contacts and to date has raised a considerable amount with pledges still to come in. Great effort so far Thomo !

Assistant Area Commander Steve Butler has done an audit of plant etc at the AFM and is now on the trail of the various items of plant and equipment we require to outfit our trucks and add to the display.

Ferrymead have donated an AJAX ladder to us for the ERF and have located a missing seat squab for the rear of the appliance. We sincerely appreciate the kindred spirit of this organisation and their willingness to work with us.

Peter Mac has been on the case also and details of his successful approach to a local auto restoration company are detailed elsewhere this issue.

I'd like to acknowledge the willingness of the AVFB in funding the new boiler ticket for the Steamer following a recent inspection. As we know, the Pride of Ashburton needs to see more regular action to warrant the expense and effort of obtaining a "ticket" and this actually helps keep everything freed up and in good order. We have a conservative operating policy of this machine to ensure its longevity and conservation well into the future. Bruce Hill has been appointed as mechanical custodian of this machine. Everything concerning its operation in every instance will be channelled through Bruce.

So far this season, in addition to regular operating days at The Plains, we have opened specially for several groups. These include the South Canterbury Jaguar Drivers Club, the Tinwald School (in conjunction with the railways crew), Fulton Hogan Social Club and Winchester School. Special thanks to Alan Mac, Bill Clark, Ken Peck, Karl Peterson and Andy Rattray who made this possible.

I'd like to say a special hello to our Secretary Craig, along with wife Joanne and daughter Hannah Wakelin who are at this time in the USA. Craig has been very keen to keep apace with developments at home whilst he's been on his extended USA adventure and he has penned a snapshot of his experiences to share with us. Thanks Craig and we sure look forward to having you back home with us in the New Year.

It's now that time of year when we all need a break. The festive season has arrived. Please take the time to kick back and enjoy it with your family - they're what it's all about after all, and let's all come together in the New Year, refreshed and invigorated to drive this project home !

To my committee I thank you for your efforts during the year and look forward to 2016 when we can all reflect on our efforts after reaching our goal and erecting our new building.

A very Merry Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year to you all.

Warm Regards
David Eddington
Chairman – Ashburton Fire Museum.

Caps and Polo Shirts Available

For the keen supporter of the AFM we now have available Caps and Polo Shirts bearing the museums crest. If you are keen to obtain one of these, let us know and we will get it sorted for you.

Caps \$15.00

Polos \$48.00



Front Cover: The 1889 Shand Mason Steamer “The Pride Of Ashburton”, is put through its paces for the certifying engineer on the afternoon of Thursday December 10, 2015 - passing with flying colours.

The SIREN is compiled and edited for the Ashburton Fire Museum by Peter McQuarters.
Suggestions, articles, photos, views and comment for future editions welcomed.
Email: aeromedia@xtra.co.nz

We are over a third of the way there already !

Well done - and lets nail this home in 2016.



**Community
TRUST**
Mid & South Canterbury

Major Funder: \$25,000



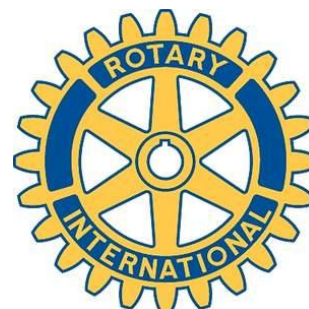
ASHBURTON
T R U S T

Major Funder \$75,000

GOLD Supporters: \$5,000 Brendon and Michelle Price

GOLD Supporters: \$5,000 Phillip Kenny Real Estate

Grateful Thanks to all the smaller donors also – it ALL HELPS



Ashburton Rotary Club: GOLD SUPPORTERS - \$5,000

Thank You for your contribution

What we need now is to expand our network of contributors.

If you have friends or family who you think might like to support our project, please encourage them to become a member to keep up with what we are doing or direct them to where a contribution can be made. Details in this issue.

If we all do our bit collectively, the task will be shared and a lot more easily achievable.

Just like fire fighting – our new development is all about teamwork !

Local business steps up . . .

Panelcraft Ltd to restore the ERF

An approach to Duncan and Debra Ross, owners of Ashburton specialist panel shop “PANELCRAFT” has resulted in a commitment to restore the Ashburton Fire Museums ERF appliance to its original early 70’s glory

Peter Mac approached the couple knowing that they were not only a highly reputable restoration company, but that they more than most know the value of the fire service following a disastrous fire at an earlier premises several years ago.

Says Debra, “We talked about this project with our team and most were enthusiastic to take the project on.”

Debra and Duncan will provide premises, expertise and access paint through their suppliers, whilst the team who have put their hands up will donate their time. It will be a great collaborative effort and an opportunity for the team to leave their mark on the community in a really positive tangible way.

Concurrently, the AFM plans to source a full suite of kit to fit-out the appliance and it is intended that on completion of the restoration, the Panelcraft team will arrive and present the finished product to the Brigade and Fire Museum crew on a Wednesday night.

The ERF is scheduled to go into the workshop in the New Year.

Pictured below: Jim Reed (driving) and Mark Dickson (thumbs up) as the old appliance nears home after the delivery trip from Ferrymead.



Special report: **Firefighting - a Universal Brotherhood**



Local firefighter and Secretary of the Ashburton Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Ashburton Fire Museum CRAIG WAKELIN is on an extended sojourn in the USA. In much the same way as Craig became a firefighter – by approaching and meeting crews, he has used the same technique to gain an insight into the operation of the fire service in a small USA town.

He filed this report for The Siren.



I have been fortunate enough to be staying in a small town called Idyllwild in California, USA with my daughter whom is attending a Performing Arts High School here. As a current member of the Ashburton Volunteer Fire Brigade I was very keen to make contact with the Idyllwild Fire Brigade and the result of this was they invited me to spend a day with them as a "Ridealong" which I was really keen to do.

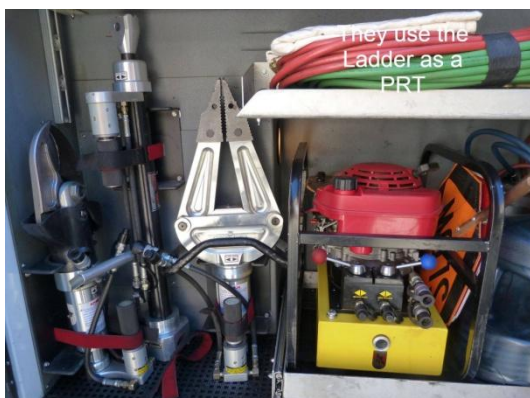
On Friday 11th December I arranged to spend the day with them which coincided with a significant snow weather event.

I arrived at 8am which is the shift change-over time. A shift consists of 4 career crew members of which at least 2 are Paramedics, and they work 2 days and nights on and then 4 off. The first job was breakfast and they discussed anything coming up for the day. Next was to check all the trucks over and so that was a great opportunity to look at the gear and the appliances. (Nothing too different to ours really). First call came in as a medical at my daughter's school! The captain was first out the door in his own ute with the ambulance next with 2 paramedics and then an appliance turned out with a driver and I. This is a normal turnout to all calls. It was decided to transport the patient to hospital. This is a 75 minute drive 1 way. I went along for the ride, so that meant there were two firefighters left in town to attend calls. If necessary, they will then look to trained volunteers to help out if required. On the way back we were stopped at a very small town that is maybe 10 mins from Idyllwild as a cover move. We sat there for maybe 25 minutes and watched the heavy snow start to fall. We then got turned out to a Rollover MVA which resulted in a mother and daughter being transported to a different hospital which was also about 75 minutes away. By then Idyllwild had about 4 inches of snow so the Captain got me to go back to town with him as they still only had the 2 staff back in town. On the way back to the station we had to stop numerous times to assist motorists who had slid off the road. We got back just as the snow stopped and the calls seemed to stop with it.

Idyllwild Fire attend about 800 emergency calls per year of which 84% are medicals, but because they all go to the calls they are busier than they look. They did say due to being a small Brigade they tend to operate slightly different to other Brigades in the USA.

The Station is full of vehicles with the main front line ones but they have also been able to keep two older ambulances and also a Pierce Fire Appliance that the volunteers can use if required. They did have a 1937 Ford Fire Appliance out in another shed that was locked up but as it was a busy day we didn't have time to unlock the shed and have a look at it.

I had a great day. The crew all were happy to, and wanted to, talk about their roles within the Brigade and they were also very interested to hear how the NZFS and also Ashburton Volunteer Fire Brigade works. It was great to feel the comradeship of a Brigade while I was a long way from home and to know that if I or my family have any issues the Fire Brothers will be more than happy to help out.





Funding progress for new museum extension

Applications to both the major community funding agencies have had a successful outcome recently with a grant of **\$75,000 from the Ashburton Trust Charitable Foundation (Lion Foundation)** and **\$25,000 from the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury**.

Along with further financial support from the Ashburton Rotary Club \$5000 and Gold contributions (5k) from Phillip Kenny Real Estate and Brendon & Michelle Price, along with other valuable individual contributions, the total is now standing around \$120,000 – more than a third of the way to our overall target and more than halfway to getting our new extension to lock-up.

Boost for fire museum growth

The Ashburton Fire Brigade's bid to extend its fire museum at The Plains, Tinwald, has received a \$25,000 boost from the Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury.

The brigade collection has been in existence for 142 years and its collection of memorabilia is expanding. The extension will better house the memorabilia and vintage fire fighting equipment.

The Ashburton Youth Cafe Charitable Trust gets \$7500 for operational costs and the Ashburton Railway and Preservation Society (new sleepers), Ashburton Golf Club (new mower) and Ashburton Mackenzie Community Group (operational costs) each get \$5000 and the Hinds Playcentre gets \$1000 towards its operational costs.

minor damage to one of the wheel's on the truck.

MUSEUM EXTENSION

The Ashburton Volunteer Fire Brigade proposes to extend its Ashburton Fire Museum based at the Plains Museum complex.

The brigade's collection is expanding and the extension will better house and display Ashburton's rich fire brigade memorabilia and vintage fire-fighting appliances. It has received \$25,000 funding for the project from the Mid and South Canterbury community trusts.

FALL FROM ROOF

A Rakaia man punctured his lung after falling off his roof while

Our Opening Hours for This Season:

DECEMBER 27 2015

11:00am 'til 4:00pm

DECEMBER 28 2015

11:00am 'til 4:00pm

JANUARY 3 2016

11:00am 'til 4:00pm

JANUARY 10 2016

11:00am 'til 4:00pm

FEBRUARY 7 2016

11:00am 'til 4:00pm

FEBRUARY 21 2016

11:00am 'til 4:00pm

MARCH 26 2016

11:00am 'til 4:00pm

11:00am 'til 4:00pm



We are on Facebook. Ashburton Fire Museum

Building Project Managers Report

Our man Jim Reed has secured the services of Chilton & Mayne to furnish all the required drawings and specs to permit stage embracing the main structure, the link with the existing building and the specialised frontage including shop facades.

Jim took advantage of an opportunistic meeting with Dave Chilton and set up a meeting to outline what we have planned.

Dave Chilton has agreed to come on board and it is estimated his companys contribution will amount to about 5-6k's worth of work.

This will place Chilton & Mayne fairly and squarely as GOLD supporters of the Ashburton Fire Museum.

Well done Jim ! Thanks a bundle Dave Chilton !

Wainui to rise again ?

Local funeral director Roger Paterson has a new undertaking.

In fact – it's more of a resurrection.

Roger is dead keen, along with former brigadesman John Newlands, and retired engineer Graeme McElroy to work on a new project to fill an important and long absent gap in the AVFB history – the replication of the Shand Mason, 22-man manual, Horse-drawn pump.

There is no doubt the trio have the skills to make this happen. Roger, as a relative youngster, made a beautiful job of building a horse-drawn hearse which many said could never be done. He did do it – and it has resided in the Vintage Car Museum at Tinwald for decades. John Newlands gifts as an engineer are well-known to anyone who has seen his incredible working scale model of the brigades Steamer, The Pride of Ashburton. And Graham McElroy retired from Christchurch to Ashburton where among his many accomplishments is a beautiful and faithful reproduction of a Stanley Steamer car.

So we've put these people together and hopefully the end result will be a handsome Shand Mason Manual for the Ashburton Fire Museum Collection.

John Newlands set the ball rolling by visiting a working wheelwright at Sovereign Hill, Ballarat, Australia where he confirmed new wheels could be manufactured – but they come at a fairly hefty price. These items will no-doubt be the priciest part of the project but it's just possible someone locally might step up to fund that part of the project if they are excited at what this will result in. The wheels, after all are the foundation of the whole machine and need to be great to enable the machine to take part in parades and the like.

Alistair Stevens of Barhill who has helped the brigade with the supply of Clydesdales for the Steamer in the past, is also enthusiastic about this project and has offered anything from his vast collection of horse-drawn vehicle spare parts that might be useful.

Photographs and dimensions of a similar machine housed at MOTAT in Auckland will be obtained over the holiday break and used by the team to create a new "Wainui" – the name borne by Ashburtons original manual pump.

One vital piece is already on hand – what we believe is the original makers plate from the Wainui – which was removed and attached to an old tool box that kicked around the station for years. The Siren believes it was referred to as Lionels Toolbox – in reference to long-serving AVFB motorman Lionel Solway.



A couple of illustrations of a similar Shand Mason Manual to our proposed subject "Wainui."

The example below is housed at MOTAT in Auckland and will be a source of data to aid the Ashburton project. It is intended that the replica will be fully operational.

If we can bring this idea to a successful conclusion, a significant missing piece of the AVFB's history will be replaced. Exciting times.



Pledge Card

To be retained by AVFB for record keeping.

No.....

Company Name.....

Contact Person.....

Address.....

.....

Phone- Business.....Mobile.....

Email.....

In support of the Ashburton Volunteer Fire Brigade for the Ashburton Fire Museum Project, please accept this pledge of \$.....

Direct Credit

Cheque

Cash

Product/Services

Signed by.....For Donor

Signed by.....For AVFB

Date.....

Ashburton Volunteer Fire Brigade Bank Details 03 0835 0190308 00

AVFB Contact name:..... Postal: PO Box 300

Phone Number: Ashburton

Thank you for your support



ASHBURTON FIRE MUSEUM

THE VINTAGE COLLECTION OF THE ASHBURTON VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

HISTORICAL AND EDUCATIONAL CENTRE WWW.ASHBURTONFIREMUSEUM.NZ

ASHBURTON FIRE MUSEUM SPONSORS

Donations/ Sponsorship could be Cash, Products and Services

Major	\$25000 PLUS	Community Fund Trusts
Platinum	\$10000	Lump Sum or 24 monthly payments
Gold	\$5000	Lump Sum or 12 monthly payments
Silver	\$2500	Lump Sum or 6 monthly payments
Bronze	\$1000	Lump Sum or 2 monthly payments

The above sponsors/Donors will be promoted and acknowledged on the Ashburton Fire Museum website www.ashburtonfiremuseum.nz

You will also be acknowledged in the printed media of The Ashburton Guardian, The Courier and the Mid Canterbury Herald.

You will be named in our news updates and also your name will go on the Sponsors Board that will be displayed in the Ashburton Fire Museum.

You will be invited to a Pre-opening Function to recognise your support.

You will also receive a permanent memento for you to display as you see fit.

Life Members \$500 single or \$600 for family (1 payment)

Supporters \$100 - \$999

You will be acknowledged on the Ashburton Fire Museum website at

www.Ashburtonfiremuseum.nz

You will also be invited to a Fire Fighting Display/ Open Day to recognise your support.

Annual Membership \$30 single or \$40 for family per year

Your contribution will assist funding for news updates, website costs, Open days etc and you will be able to purchase branded Ashburton Fire Museum products at cost price ie. Caps, shirts etc.

Motorman report:

Ken Peck has turned into a real asset for the Ashburton Fire Museum, taking on the responsibility of ensuring all our appliances are progressively brought up to full operating condition.



With the Ford V8 and Dennis running sweetly and reasonably regularly, Ken recently turned his attention to the Model T. He replaced the manifold gasket and everything is sweet in that department now and the T runs smoothly. Ken has also been taking a keen interest in the Steamer and assisting Bruce Hill with the recent boiler inspection.

In fact he takes the job so seriously that he's got himself a set of overalls with our logo emblazoned on the front. Thanks a lot Ken, we really appreciate your efforts.

Bruce Hill - Steamer Specialist

Bruce Hill competently wears a number of hats. A seasoned musician and regular performer around the traps with wife Lanae, Bruce is the head engineer at Ashburton Hospital. He knows steam boilers inside out and is the man we have charged with the operational care of our cherished Pride Of Ashburton. Now that the "Pride" is freshly ticketed, we are firming up plans for a series of 2016 operational appearances.

Marcus Stocks, an Engineer Surveyor with SGS, recently visited for a live steam and test of functions for the Shand Mason. Marcus now in his 70's, has been working with steam since age 16. He holds a special C Endorsement for his work certifying heritage steam equipment.

From all the team at the

ASHBURTON FIRE MUSEUM

*A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Have a safe and Happy Holiday – See you in 2016*

AFM to participate in huge local vintage rally

Agreement has been reached for a large display of **vintage and classic fire engines** to feature in their own special area at the huge Wheat & Wheels Rally, 2 – 3 April 2016. The Ashburton Fire Museum will be the host group with an invitation extended to other brigades and collectors to display their machines. The Shand Mason Steamer will give working demos and we are investigating ways to use this opportunity to both engage with the wider community, enhance our profile and raise further funds towards our museum extension project. Any of the rural brigades who may have gear to exhibit are invited to get in touch via the editor.

We are negotiating with organisers for Dan Lysaght of All Fed Up to be on site with us selling Hot Roast Sandwiches etc with a portion of proceeds going to the Ashburton Fire Museum.

We are rebranding him as All F**I**RED UP for this event. Should be a heap of fun and a money spinner to boot.



Wheat & Wheels Rally
2-3 APRIL 2016
MID CANTERBURY VINTAGE MACHINERY CLUB INC

Featuring a large display of
Tracks & Trucks

The banner features a yellow tracked vehicle on the left and a green vintage truck on the right, set against a green background with yellow and black text.



Daily parades
Food and Craft Stalls
Stationary Engines
Vintage & Classic Tractors, Cars & Trucks
Traction Engines
Harvesting wheat with old machines

PETER BUTTERICK'S FARM
580 CHRISTYS RD,
WAKANUI,
ASHBURTON

ENQUIRIES:
Email
mcvintagemachinery@hotmail.com

Phone
John 03 308 9720
or 021 689 480

Entries close
Saturday 12th March
March 2016

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
Farmlands
co-operative

We are proud to support Ronald McDonald House with profits from this event

Ronald McDonald House

The bottom section includes a map showing the location of Peter Butterick's Farm near Ashburton Airport, and logos for the event's sponsors and partners.