

❧ Pavitt Cottage Press ❧

Winter 2021

A note from the trustees



Firstly we hope you are all well and have so far avoided any brushes with Covid. Living in New Zealand has been a huge bonus! However we know from personal experience that life will never be the same again globally and that we will all have to adapt to a 'new normal'.

Our apologies for missing a year with this newsletter! It has been a strange year with all the lockdowns, social distancing and coughing into one's elbow. The Cottage has obviously been affected—occupancy being well down. Our Winter 2019 newsletter was headed "Crisis time at the cottage" and this was pre-Covid! This situation still prevails but perhaps we now realise some crises are more serious than others?

It was true to say we were in a dire position financially... As mentioned in that newsletter one option was to engage the services of Bachcare. Fortunately we had this up and running before the dreaded virus arrived. Whilst we are not out of the woods yet, we had enough initial bookings and income to give us a buffer against insolvency! Our bank account as of today stands at around \$4,000—as opposed to the 2019 balance of \$1,482! As our treasurer regularly warns us, we need a better result than this but at least we have been in a position to pay our major overheads this year. Accompanying this newsletter is the Pavitt Family Trust Performance Report 2019/20.

Essentially Bachcare have saved the day despite the Cottage being closed for many months over the lockdowns. Already we are starting to get new Bachcare bookings. It has meant a new way of looking at things—Bachcare for example handle all their own linen and cleaning etc. So we have to keep our own linen in rodent-proof boxes in the shed and family have to make their own beds on arrival. A small price to pay we think. Lorraine still collects the used linen after a family stay plus cleans and tidies up. We always build in an extra day on a family booking to allow her time to do this. On this note we'd like to record how grateful we are for Lorraine's service to the Cottage—she and Geoff have a business which involves a lot of time and work.

Family members are still able to book in at the cottage at a very favourable rate. View family rates at: www.pavitt.co.nz/tandc.html

All you have to do is check on the website to see what dates are available:

www.pavitt.co.nz/Bookings/JASO21.htm

Book through **Andrew Bax:** andrew@pavitt.co.nz
or **Bryan Tichborne:** tichborne@xtra.co.nz

As Bachcare bookings come in out of the blue, we need to action family ones speedily. Remember we now have a minimum two night stay—as does Bachcare. Single night stays used to cost us money! Please note that we close for winter each year—1st May to 31st August...



Akaroa Wastewater Blues...

As some of you will be aware this controversial debate ran on for four years, the council (Christchurch City Council) proposed several options, one of which was that all of Akaroa township's wastewater (after solids had been removed and the water treated) was to be piped to ponds in Robinsons Bay. It soon became obvious that this was the council's preferred choice despite the estimated \$63 million price tag. Another option was creating a "Purple Pipe" system to supply non-potable water to the village and public areas. Akaroa often suffers water shortages and restrictions. Or doing what is done elsewhere

in New Zealand (including Christchurch)—piping treated water to the harbour heads and releasing it into the open sea, on an outgoing tide. In all options the water would be treated to the highest standard available in NZ—almost potable in fact. It was soon apparent that Akaroa and Christchurch ratepayers were not interested in the debate and that the residents of Robinsons Bay and to a lesser extent Takamatua (another pond site) would have to fight their own battle over the land-based proposal. The Pavitt Family Trust joined with two other groups—the Friends of Banks Peninsula and the Robinsons Bay Residents Association. To form a small but vocal action group.

The local iwi came out against these choices, regardless of how well the water was treated and supported the land-based idea only. For decades Akaroa's wastewater was released 100m from the shore—close to the historic Ngai Tahu settlement of Onuku. We fully understand the injustice of this. But felt that, with an outfall well away from their land and the water being highly treated, this idea would be the best one all round. For four years the council held meetings on the subject (Nancy & Bryan Tichborne attended 15 of them) with hundreds of submissions being presented. Our combined group retained a QC and a leading engineering company to assist in the later hearings. The Pavitt Family Trust had two



First Cottage Open Day February 2020

open days where we (and other locals) took visitors round the Cottage and explained how important the building was heritage-wise. The council's plans for the Robinsons Bay valley include large ponds close to the cottage which will irrigate a native tree plantation. Thanks to the generosity of a Pavitt Friend (who wishes to remain anonymous) the Pavitt Family Trust commissioned an extensive archaeological report to back our heritage claims. This report will be emailed along with this newsletter and makes interesting reading—we urge you to read it in full. The expense incurred was worthwhile if only for the information gathered! But also for the heritage values it has proved. A special mention here to Justin Maxwell & Jennifer Huebert—the archaeologists who produced the comprehensive report and charged a lot less than they normally do! Also Brent George who put a lot of work into submissions etc. And to our treasurer Dick Fernyhough who flew down especially for an open day—his presence gave the occasion a lot more impact. Suky Thompson, Sue Church and the many Robinsons Bay residents did a huge amount of work trying to change the council's mind or at least mitigate the effect the project will have on the valley. More than once they acknowledged the Cottage as the major heritage building in the valley and thanked us for becoming involved.

Continued...



Eventually sadly it was all to no avail—the council had made their minds up! A small panel of councillors held the final round of hearings—not taking much note of any of the evidence we’d presented. In December last year a full meeting of council ratified the decision. The project is estimated to take up to eight years to complete and will sadly change the look of the valley for ever. As with all such projects we imagine final costs will far exceed the original estimate and our hope is that a new council might make changes along the way. Such as having more and smaller ponds further up the valley—this option is already being discussed.

But the Cottage will still be there and will still be a pleasant place to stay in and visit. It now has official heritage listings which will should protect it from any adverse council activities. And the fact that it is owned by the same family whose pioneer ancestors built it all those years ago still makes it unique. John Fernyhough’s dream lives on! And with your help and interest will do so for many years to come we hope.



Suky Thompson (Friends of Banks Peninsula) talking to visitors

Subscriptions & donations...

More than ever we need your help—deferred maintenance issues are piling up and it’ll need more than Bachcare income to get onto these. Subscriptions (\$20 per family) and donations were well down this past 18 months—without a Pavitt Cottage Press to encourage you our Friends income really took a dive. We guess Covid-brain didn’t help either. But PLEASE renew your subs this year and if you are able to—PLEASE add a donation.

To check your Friends status go to:

www.pavitt.co.nz/Friends15.html

The totals for Years 2018/19 & 2019/20 are telling!

Payment...

All has to be online this year—cheques having been relegated to history! Added to which our much loved BNZ Akaroa branch has gone the way of the cheques —having served Akaroa since 1863. Our nearest bank is an hour and a half away! We do have an ATM but it doesn’t smile and talk to you!

Please pay subs and donations to:

02 0832 0002076 083

...include your name and indicate if a sub/donation in the Particulars and Reference sections.

The last word...

Another way of supporting the Cottage is for Friends and family to come and stay. Please promote this idea to your family—it especially important that our younger generations take an interest. We have a loyal cohort of Pavitt descendants regularly staying and coming back. With overseas travel still very limited it is a good time for family outside Canterbury to stay in the Cottage plus enjoy all that Akaroa and Banks Peninsula has to offer.

