

Crown Pastoral Land Other Crown Land

Lease name: MT IDA

Lease number: 00 090

Public Submissions - Part 5

These submissions were received as a result of the public advertising of the Preliminary Proposal.

July

07

(79)

Kim Vowles
7 Thomas Street
Ranfurly

Phone: 03 444 9016

7th November 2006

The Commissioner of Crown Lands
C/- DTZ New Zealand Ltd
Land Resources Division
P O Box 27
Alexandra

Submission: Mt Ida Syndicate Review of other Crown Land

I am writing this submission in support of the Mt Ida Syndicate Holders.

I personally use the ground for recreational hunting and tramping, but would not be able to do so without the huts and tracks maintenance currently provided by the run holders.

I recognize that if this country does not have regular grazing, the Hieracium will eventually choke native grass and other alpine plants out. Also the tussock will become a huge fire risk to all surrounding areas.

If the run holders lose this grazing, it will have a huge impact on stock numbers which, in turn will reflect on budgets, shearers, fencers, dipping contractors, stock and station agents, local stores, garages and the whole Maniototo community. I and many others feel that this country should be left in the hands of the current run holders.

Yours faithfully



Kim Vowles

MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSIONI/WE A N BuickADDRESS R.D. 21 Geraldine

SUBMIT AN OBJECTION TO YOUR PROPOSAL FOR FULL CROWN OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF THIS LAND. IT SHOULD BE DISPOSED OF (PREFERABLY AS FEE SIMPLE) IN FAVOUR OF THE PRESENT HOLDERS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE GRAZING CAN BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE AS BEFORE. FURTHERMORE THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE CONSIDERED:

(Legal Description of land concerned: Part Run 362B and Run 362C Mount Buster Survey District comprising 8401.2739ha.

General description of proposal: 8401ha (approximately) to be designated as land to be retained as land in full Crown ownership and control as a conservation area pursuant to Section 86(5)(a)(i) Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998.)

I am 80 years old lived in back country most of my life owned and managed a 80,000 acre high country Run for 55 years. The old saying still stands. Sheep make the country Rabbits ruin it. I seen Doc work for some years a very hopeless body.

Retire land and let Broom climb up Shingle Stades. Put fences in wrong places. Cut off access for most people.

Doc should pay some people to run these areas they would look after them and bring in Revenue for NZ. Doc does just the opposite.

Doc destroys many families young boys Run on mustering and high country have to go a great loss of special labour.

Thousands of sheep have been taken off tussock land through Doc system and ~~land~~ pressures.

If people are willing to run and make a living in the back country I'm all for it.

I'm very much in favour of Mt Ida Syndicate carrying on good work.

Do not destroy a good setup.

MT IDA SYNDICATE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBMISSION

XIWE DC + RM GUNN

ADDRESS 4205 LAKE SUMNER ROAD HAWARDEN

SUBMIT AN OBJECTION TO YOUR PROPOSAL FOR FULL CROWN OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF THIS LAND. IT SHOULD BE DISPOSED OF (PREFERABLY AS FEE SIMPLE) IN FAVOUR OF THE PRESENT HOLDERS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE GRAZING CAN BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE AS BEFORE. FURTHERMORE THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE CONSIDERED:

(Legal Description of land concerned: Part Run 362B and Run 362C Mount Buster Survey District comprising 8401.2739ha.

General description of proposal: 8401ha (approximately) to be designated as land to be retained as land in full Crown ownership and control as a conservation area pursuant to Section 86(5)(a)(i) Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998.)

We believe the system under which the above run land is managed is a very good example of how private enterprise and multiple use land can be effectively managed, ie public access for recreation at no cost to the taxpayer.

The fact that DoC are interested in the significant indigenous vegetation proves that grazing and conservation can be managed in this area and most of the mid-altitude tussock grasslands of the South Island High Country.

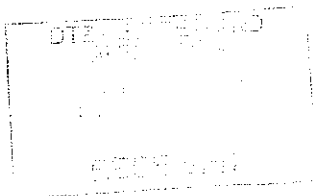
The crown has stated it wishes to end management of farm land. We agree, so let the run holders freehold the land and get on with grazing it.

The Syndicate should be used as an example of how land can be used in private enterprise for the good of the local community and the whole Country.

The whole Tenure Review Process seems to have been hijacked by a few politically vocal organisation with an axe to grind. The Focus should be returned to a more common sense approach where areas of truly significant inherent values are returned to the crown and land suitable for farming be freeholded for that purpose.

82

DTZ NEW ZEALAND
43 Tarbett street
Po Box 27
Alexandra




7 November 2116

Dear sirs

Plase find attached my submission of obejection to the proposed review
of Crown Land re

MT Ida Syndicate
Part Run 362b and Run 362c Mount Buster survey District

Yours Sincerly


Neil Thorpe
Danseys Pass Road
12 CRD
Oamaru

Time has proved that with out light grazing of the High Country of Otago will become a weed infested area with a High fire risk

Without light grazing the imported weeds like Hieracium and wilding pines will take over

Research has shown 40 years of grazing has not damaged the range of tussock species,nor did it reduce natural bio diversity,yet removing grazing leeds to the increse in invaisive species.

Tenure review imparting more land to DOC will only exacentuate the situation,the 9 species of Hieracium will ploliferate and extend seeding to other areas.

The Lindis pass Scenic reserve has shut up and is now dying as fast as it can

Birchwood station shows already rapid deterioration and the imprint of funneled access

Mount Aurum 20 years with DOC ,it is now overrun with wilding pines and is turning into a rubbish tip.

Shotover catchment Dissapearing under a forest of Wilding Pines.

The UK's Yorkshire Dales National Park had the bright idea of reducing the commons grazing rights in the 1980's to encourage the higher Dales landscape to return.

Stint sheep grazing numbers where drastically reduced for three years before the cry went out to the Hill farmers to increase stock numbers back to the origanal Stints..the reason the hills had turned into a weed infested eyesore and the very plants they where trying to encourage along with the heathers where dying back due in the main to infestation which had previouslt been controled for hundreds of years by grazing.

We cannot return things to there former glory,this is only a fools idea in reality we have to contiue and manage this land as we have or it will turn to sour waste only though a long period of time and very effective management control can it ever be as such consered,but it cannot be returned to as it was two Hundred years ago.This has been proven time and time again the world over.

THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION'S management is led not by the demands of thoughtful conservation, but by the DEMANDS OF TOURISM.

The High Country of the South Island "Should be cherished for its landscape not exploited and raped for it", by a misguided philosophy, or fashionable "countryside Disease.

Living Cultural History will be lost forever with the loss of the infamous "Buster Muster" and the High Country Muster in general

We need to look no further than Scotland in the mid 60's the then Forestry Commission in its wisdom decided to do exactly the same to the Mountains of the Highlands, lock em up, allow only Trampers in, give them nice signs to follow....and then the Lemming syndrome took over, its public land and easy access "Lets Go" 10 years later vague tracks had become 3m wide scars dug deep into the very mountain landscape. Despite millions of pounds being spent to try and reverse the damage it is no better today.

DOC say it won't happen here, it already is Omaraama Search and Rescue have already seen a dramatic rise in call outs due to the popularity of Ahuriri, Ruataniwha, Birchwood Ohau Ben Omar increasing 10 fold in the last year so what is the actual increase 400/500% or greater in actual access numbers to these now so called Conservation parks.

The D.o.C. report into the Mt Ida Syndicate land admits there are no effects visible to the landscape except for a few areas in the Muster holding areas ie "only localised impacts With negotiation these can be addressed.

D.O.C say it will be ideal for Tramping and Mountain Sking...for half the year this area is inaccessible, and mountain sking can only be carried out along the outer periphery or by helicopter, so is that the true reason so DOC can issue permits for \$\$\$\$ for helicopter access only.?

Access to the general public will be unavailable very soon, as the adjacent only access from the West on the Hawke's Bay goes over to DOC in March, from the South the access from Buster road no doubt the local landowner's who are about to lose MT Ida grazing will be all too keen to let you in from there direction, from the East presently the only access is through Awkino area a long and tiring route, other access from the east is blocked by landowners, and again from the North access is through Syndicate Land and they will restrict any access, Nature will soon recover the few tracks that are there now leaving a weed infested wilderness only accessible via helicopter costing millions of \$\$\$ to maintain in that state.

I therefore totally object to this preliminary proposal it is a fools mission on a fools errand.

Neil Thorpe



83

Launceston
RD 3
Ranfurly 9397



7-11-2006

Re: Mt Ida Syndicate Review of Other Crown Land.

Commissioner of Crown Lands

Dear Sir ,

Enclosed please find my submission re the advertised proposal.

I trust that after the assessment of the public submissions we will be given the opportunity to meet and discuss them with you and the LINZ team members .

We look forward to formulating a system where everyone can enjoy the beauty and grandeur of The Mt Ida Syndicate.

Yours faithfully

C L J Inder
Chairman of the Mt Ida Syndicate

Mt Ida Syndicate Review Of Other Crown Land

I would submit that the Preliminary Proposal has made a number of assumptions that are not supported by factual evidence.

Section 83. Objects of Pt 3 - (a) To promote the management off Crown Land in a way that is ecologically sustainable

The fact that there are many plants found on this property that are considered worthy of protection is in fact a credit to the present lessees and their management

(b) To enable the protection of significant inherent values of Crown Land

In addition to the rather general definition of "significant inherent values," there is a definition under the Act for "inherent values" which includes "a value arising from a historical attribute or characteristic of a natural resource in, on, forming part of, or existing by virtue of the conformation of the land;"

This property is unique in that the same families have worked together for 110 years and the present condition of the block is such that its condition was described by Mr Ken Taylor of DTZ as one of continuous improvement for the last 20 years that he has been involved with this area.

It is one of the last camp out musters in New Zealand and as such is an icon that all New Zealand were able to relate to with the Country Calender program which was judged the "Best Information Programme" at the Qantas Media Awards.

(c) Subject to paragraphs (a) and (b), to make easier -

(i) The securing of public access to and enjoyment of Crown land

We would submit that our record in this respect is equal to or better than any other property (private or public) as we welcome sharing the enjoyment of the Syndicate. I have enclosed a sample of the appreciation from the public at large. We have never refused access to the land but ask that anyone wishing to enjoy this unique part of New Zealand accept responsibility for their actions and ring us when they exit.

It is noted that the current vehicle access enjoyed by the public is a result of tracking which we provided and maintained but as stated in the Summary Preliminary Proposal, "are now deteriorating from lack of maintenance." This statement is at odds with an enclosed letter from the Southern Trail Blazers 4WD Club from Gore who went through on the 27-3-2005 and I quote "funnily enough the tracks were like a Sunday country drive, there were no mechanical or trouble spots to be winched out of." We have spent \$2000 on track maintenance just prior to the muster this year.

(ii) The freehold disposal of Crown land capable of economic use

As noted in the DTZ Summary of Preliminary Proposal "the area has a sustained history of economic use and contributes significantly to the down land properties with which it is associated." We note that both paragraphs (c) (i) and (c) (ii) are subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) namely, ecological sustainability and protection of significant inherent values.

Mt Ida Syndicate Review Of Other Crown Land**(a) Ecological Sustainability**

We refer to our initial comment above and in addition note the following:

- In section 4 of the Summary of Preliminary Proposal you allude to forms of ecological disturbances which may be detrimental the only one of these that is occurring is sheep grazing but you go on to say there is no indication that continued grazing would be unsustainable with which we concur, in fact we believe that the stocking and regular shepherding is one of the major reasons for the pristine condition of the area. If grazing is discontinued and if as you state it may be required as a management option in the future, where will you find the necessary stock?
- It is admitted that the effect of removing grazing animals on these ecosystems is uncertain.
- It is concluded that both options (retention by Crown of entire area or disposal of land by special lease or fee simple) could potentially meet the requirements of object (a) of ecological sustainability.

(b) Protection of Significant Inherent Values

As noted above we consider the historical significance of the use of this land should also be taken into account as a historic "inherent value" under the definition of the Act and in addition comment on matters raised in the Summary of Preliminary Proposal as follows:

- Although DOC teams have searched on 3 separate occasions for the Category B threatened species the scree skink it has not been found in the area.
- The New Zealand falcon is reasonably common and a pleasure to see out there.
- I enclose a report done by FO PJ Curry 4-3-1976 which highlights the progress made with deletion of winter and spring grazing and every report since has in fact been a testimony of our management particularly the statement by Ken Taylor that in the 20 years that he has known the property it has been well managed and shown continued improvement.

Should freehold disposal of the land not be granted we respectfully suggest that a Pastoral Lease or a special lease (86 (5) (b) (i)) be considered taking into account that all the proposed recreational proposals mentioned in part 3 of the Summary Preliminary Proposal (Description of proposed designations) are now happening.

Mt Ida Syndicate Review Of Other Crown Land

Rod Paterson did a very comprehensive study of the Lands Department files regarding the tenure of the Mt Ida Syndicate and reading through them it appears that the present problems stem from one adverse report done in 1960. This resulted in the winter grazing being discontinued with the issue of a 10 year Licence being issued in 1968. With the advent of tracking in 1969 assisting in better access and stock management, a 21 year Licence was issued in 1978 despite a Pastoral Lease being the recommendation. The Pastoral Lease was not actioned and as we had a good relationship with the Lands Department Field Officers we saw no reason to question it at that time.

It is unfortunate that the recommendation (as set out in the exert of the report enclosed) "that a long-term lease" rather than a POL (which was considered inappropriate as it was a terminating licence which was not the case in respect to this area) was not implemented.

We now have the opportunity to right that position and work together so that the area known as the Mt Ida Syndicate can be enjoyed by all as we have endeavoured to do and not restricted as has been the case in other areas .

With respect we request that our proven record of stewardship be taken into account and that if disposal in fee simple is not granted that, as provided for under section (86 (5) b (i) a special lease with suitable covenants as required (Section 86(6)) be issued to the current shareholders in the Mt Ida Syndicate, in their current proportions.

Yours faithfully

C L J Inder
Chairman of the Mt Ida Syndicate

In a report on "Mt Ida Syndicate : Inspection" dated 04/03/1976 FO PJ Curry, (see appendix I23), it is stated that - "Present Condition: *Inspection after the above stocking suggests that the block was not seriously affected by the treatment. Heavy grazing has occurred along the edges of the tracks which provides ready stock access to much of the block - this would have occurred as the stock spread out when put into the block and again during the re-muster - and adjacent to the huts and holding yards at Tailings Creek, where the stock were held overnight prior to the drive out to the various shareholders home properties. This heavy grazing is expected and is not having any serious detrimental effect. Other than this, there was little noticeable effect on the stock. The block is generally well covered with snow, hard and blue tussock, and inter-tussock cover being fair. Largely because of its easy contour and gentle easterly aspect, there is little evident erosion.*

Conclusions:

- 1) *The present syndicate arrangement is working very well and the country is being well cared for.*
- 2) *The present use of the country is satisfactory and would be difficult to improve.*
- 3) *It is doubtful if any other leases could make better use of the area than the existing Syndicate members.*
- 4) *The area has limited potential for other uses other than grazing.*
- 5) *Renewal of the boundary fence with Aviemore Station is necessary if both sheep and cattle are to be adequately confined to the respective properties.*
- 6) *While the area is held by a syndicate, permanent alienation is not considered desirable".*

In a report on "Pastoral Land for Renewal" with a hand written comment some of which are typed up dated 06/07/1977 (see appendix I4), it is stated that - "12.RECOMMENDATIONS:

Although relatively high and cold the present policy of summer grazing of breeding ewes on this pastoral land is making wise use of the grazing potential without undue detriment to the land. FO believes this area of land is well suited to this type of grazing and that a long-term lease retaining stocking control is warranted. FO believes a POL is not the right type of lease because it is regarded as a terminating licence by the Board, which is not the case in respect of this area. ... that a POL be granted for a term of 21 years..."

In a report on "LSB Pastoral Land Variation of Decision" dated 13/09/1978 (see appendix I24), it is stated that - "*Term: Expired 30 June 1978: Term set upon reissue of licence - 21 years from 1 July 1978.*

In a report dated 03/06/1967 (see appendix I5), "*Report on Renewal of POL. Generally speaking the block is high, cold and wet and coupled with its location and difficult access the present method of utilisation is satisfactory and would be difficult to improve. With removal of wethers the attendant winter/early spring grazing has also been removed and cured the greatest risk of cover deterioration".*

WAITAKI LAND ROVER OWNERS & ENTHUSIASTS CLUB

"Following the policy of Tread lightly off road"

P.O. BOX 168

OAMARU

Mr Laurie Inder
"Mt Ida Syndicate"
24 Geddes Rd
Ranfurly

14 March 2006

Dear Laurie

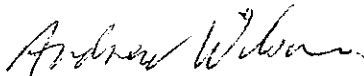
On behalf of our club and trip organiser Vern Hayes, I wish to extend our thanks for permission to use the tracks on your property and then onto your neighbours for our March Land Rover run to Falls Dam. We had nine vehicles on the trip doing just exactly what they were designed for.

Those of our members who participated, thoroughly enjoyed the experience, the terrain and the views during our trip with many remarking on the variety of country, the vistas and the huge area of land in those hills. All enjoyed the spectacle and appreciated the efforts of land owners and dozer drivers work in putting tracks through this vast area of our region. We appreciated the chance to see the old huts, Sgt Garvie's cairn and the sources of the Otematata River as well as the wild life. To find the Ida Valley Railway Station out there really set it off with much speculation as to when the next train was coming through. What an undertaking you must have had to get it up there! Our trip over took us ten hours and coming back through Dansy's Pass, just two.

I enclose a small token of our appreciation for your allowing us the use of your tracks and a chance to share in your piece of paradise. Even our dairy farming president was impressed with the beef and sheep country that we encountered.

With thanks for your part in making ours a great weekend away.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Wilson
Secretary

SOUTHERN TRAIL BLAZERS 4WD CLUB
PO BOX 336
GORE



19th April 2005

Mr Laurie Inder
Mt Ida Station
RD 3
RANFURLY

Dear Mr Inder

On behalf of the Southern Trail Blazers 4WD Club, I would like to thank you for allowing us to have access to your property on the recent trip to the Otematata/Naseby area.

Unfortunately I was unable to be on the trip myself, but everyone that I have spoken to thoroughly enjoyed themselves and appreciated the opportunity to see the fantastic scenery that the area offers.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Club's latest newsletter for your information. Should you have any queries about the Club or its activities then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Barry Wells'.

Barry Wells
Secretary

Woke up to a beautiful day in our "Hilton Hotel" tent. As usual when we go on any 4WD trips with the club, Lindsay packs the usual "toots and whistle comforts", like the new double camp bed on foldaway legs, portaloos, and his invention of a shower, and toastie pies for breakfast on the gas cooker, and they are cooked in just a few minutes....scrumptious.

Easter Bunny paid a visit, and there was a round of easter eggs after breakfast, enjoyed by all including the host bunnies themselves. After a sweet injection of the marshmallow confection, it was packing up camp and ready for the next stage of our 4WD expedition. The day before we had a flat tyre, and Lindsay complained of a slipping clutch (I mean the truck of course)

Today Chris is taking us on tiki tours, leaving Otematata Station, we drove following the Otematata River, around some very winding and narrow tracks of canyon rocks and scrub-like vegetation, and acres of rosehip bushes, laden with green-red berries. (Apparently they are full of Vitamin C, and babies were fed the Rosehip syrup, if needing more nourishment many years ago).

As we were ascending higher up the rocky terrain, we took in some amazing views.... morning tea stop among cicada's, grass hoppers and lizards and weathered sculptured rocks, you could see Mount Cook in the distance.... just simply breath-taking, while the Milburn children were catching various types of cicada's for fishing later on ... having great fun.

We moved on through Mount Ida Station stopping for lunch down by the Otematata River (it just goes on and on), where there was the remains of an old stock bridge. The day was getting warmer, enough for Elizabeth Milburn to be dared to have a lucky dip, with the promise of an easter egg, of which we all had another round by another easter bunny.

After lunch, we were still moving on through Mount Ida Station, finally through the tracks were like a Sunday country drive, there were no

mechanical or trouble spots to be winched out of, just driving through some most breath taking back-country side of North Otago, that I have only seen in magazines and published books, and here we are amongst the real thing.

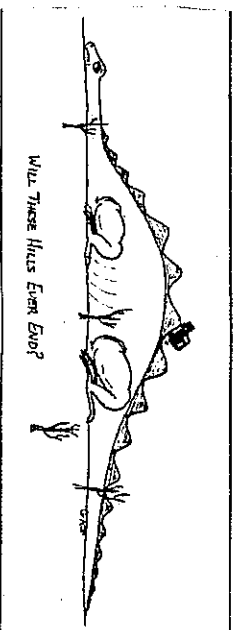
Further on we drove towards the Mount Buster Gold Diggings, not the sort of dredgings we imagined, but piles of creamy white gravel remains. Imagine trying to extract gold from such a colouring of gravel.

After an afternoon cuppa, we moved on and took a side road to Mount Buster (how did it get it's name, were people busting to get there or what?) The track was muddy and wet, but good travelling, after climbing over a fence, we walked over lime-green mossy rocks and ascend up a rocky formation, as the peak of Mount Buster, where you can see a perimeter of thousands of hectares around....now this is simply breath taking.

As time was moving on, we unanimously decided that we were all heading to Alexandra through the Maniototo Plains for fish and chips. Yes, here we are in the centre plots of Alexandra, having our fast food, cups of coffee and all, and whilst we were waiting, Lindsay decided to point out a few stars in the sky, like he saw the Southern Cross, and below it was a cluster of stars, of which he asked Glen what they were, so the answer is in Glen's court? Thanks for a great weekend.

Suzanne & Lindsay Frew

(The answer was the clock on the hill at Alexandra and the "Southern Cross" was the Easter Cross - Good try Lindsay, but I'm not sure NASA will take you on as navigator!)



Will These Hills Ever End?

185 Queen Street

Waimate

4 March 2002

Mr Laurie Joder
Mount Ida Syndicate
Ranfurly.

Dear Laurie,

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$150.00 being payment for the disc "Beyond the Buster" books also enclosed find the comments etc from a group.

As you can see by the comments made it was a great day the history added to the enthusiasm. It was much appreciated being allowed access and arranging for the gate key worked well. I will look you up when the Golf Club trip takes place in April.
Thank for everything

Kind Regards
John Keene.

4WD TRIP - OTEMATATA to MOUNT BUSTER

DATE: 02/02/03

START: SH 83/Back Yards Road FINISH: Danseys Pass Hotel
Via - Back Yards, Clear Stream, Chimney Gully and Tailings Hut

DISTANCE TRAVELLED: Approx 65 kms

TIME(Including numerous Stops) 7 Hours (approx)

NO of VEHICLES: 5 (4 x Terrano's 1x Range Rover)

NUMBER in GROUP: 12

GROUP & COMMENTS ;

Phil Marsh & family - Christchurch

Excellent views, history and a thoroughly interesting track with a bit of everything for the off - roader. Really enjoyable - even for the passengers. Pretty cool.

Hayden Marsh - Christchurch

Very enjoyable trip. Entertaining even for the passengers

Dave & Lesley Roche - Rangiora

Truly amazing scenery - one of the best 4WD trips

Brian & Sue Bligh - Christchurch

Wonderful land, amazing history, wonderful day.

Bryan & Leigh Briggs - Waimate

*Great variety, spectacular gorges mountain valleys and tussock plateau.
Thank you (run holders) for the wonderful opportunity.*

Neville Mason - Christchurch

The best 4WD trip so far. On this we covered it all

John Kerse - Waimate

I endorse all of the above comments and thanks to the run holders for allowing us access and making it possible, especially Laurie & Hugh. The book on the Mt Ida syndicate added to the interest, which were kindly left at the pub for us.

COUNTRY CALENDAR

27 May 2002

Laurie Inder
R D 3
RANFURLY

PERCY CAMERON ST

LOWER HUTT

NEW ZEALAND

PO BOX 31 048

PH 0-4-214 5600

FAX 0-4-214 5613

EMAIL frank.torley@tvnz.co.nz

Dear Laurie

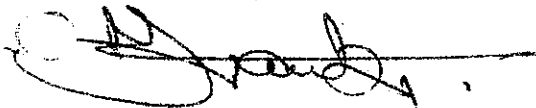
Since our programme on Mt Ida went to air, we have had enormous feed back from viewers. I readily acknowledge the contribution made by Jerome, Julian, Peter and Nigel in making the story work and Peter was awarded "Best Camera" in last year's television awards.

But the programme wouldn't have worked without you and all the team who were on the muster and willingly cooperated with the crew.

Well, the latest news is that our story won the "Best Information Programme" award at the Qantas Media Awards last Friday evening. Julian and Jerome weren't available to travel to Auckland, so I had the privilege of picking the award up myself.

So, once again, can you pass on my personal thanks to all the team in making the story such a success.

Kind regards



Frank Torley
Producer

Mount Ida run stock musters — this is your life

By Dianne King

Ranfury: In a high country hut in the Maniototo, far from the trappings of civilisation, a team of musters will tonight gather to watch a television set flicker into life.

Twelve months earlier, in the same hut on the 8400ha Mount Ida run, the musters were playing host to a television camera crew filming an episode of *Country Calendar*.

In an unfortunate coincidence, the programme is scheduled to screen on TV1 at 7pm today, when the musters are again working in the back blocks.

However, farmer Laurie Inder decided the men should not miss their television debuts and has gone to unusual lengths to arrange a special surprise screening at the historic hut 1200m above sea level tonight. The building is now known as Inder's Castle but began life as the Ida Valley railway station.

He contacted film unit reporter/director Jerome Cvitanovich, who sent a videotape of the programme south.

Today, he will load a generator, television set and video player on his farm ute and drive about 40km, most of it up a rugged farm track, to allow the musters to watch the programme at the same time as other New Zealanders.

Mr Inder, who gave up mustering about two years ago, said the mustering team of 10, which went out earlier this week, would be at the run for another six days, mustering



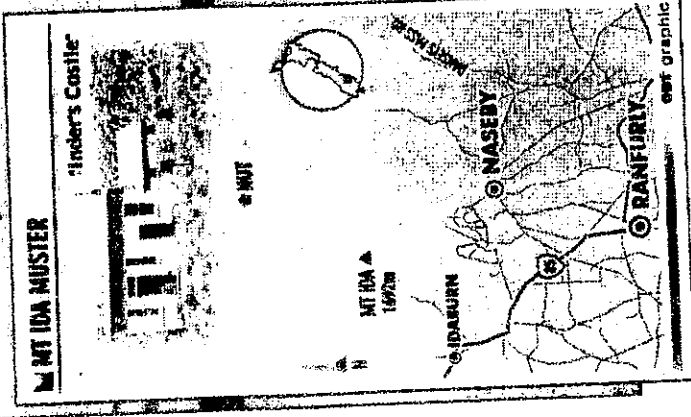
PHOTO: JANE DAWBER

Time for TV... Laurie Inder prepares for today's special *Country Calendar* screening high on Mount Ida run.

farmers to find additional grazing. The land that year was uncultivated... the farmers took over the lease, put together a tight agreement, and it's continued ever since," he said.

The Scott, Hore, Inder, Dow and Paterson families were joined in the early 1970s by farmer Grant Geddes. This year, three grandsons and three great-grandsons of the original syndicate musters are in the team. Mr Cvitanovich said yesterday he had happy memories of the *Country Calendar* team's trip to

Mount Ida and was happy to provide a copy of the video. "They found room in the hut for us. We got up with the sparrows, ate food cooked on the coal range... the scenery was the most spectacular I've seen in my seven years with *Country Calendar*."



stock for the Mount Ida Syndicate. The syndicate is a group of Maniototo farmers who lease a high country block on the Waitaki side of the Ida Range. Mr Inder said it was formed in 1897, when a dry spell, "almost like we have now", forced

Enduring images in Maniototo round-

FRANK Torley has woven a special kind of magic for longer than I care to remember. His *Country Calendar* productions bring us a personal and highly individual view of this country and its people.

They are generally quirky, always interesting, occasionally memorable and sometimes beautiful. I would place last Saturday's opening programme for the season in the beautiful category (TV1, 7pm).

Camera work, script writing, cutting and sequencing came together to make one of the most stunning visual images of rural New Zealand that I have seen. The subject sounded prosaic. The advance publicity told us that: "for the last 100 years, a horde of locals have teamed up for the week-long annual muster at Mount Ida Station, North Otago".

Apart from the fact that the expedition seemed to have more of a Maniototo base, the programme recorded the teamwork among the Scott, Inder and Hore families, who set out annually to round up the giant herd of some 10,000 sheep, let loose for the summer grazing in the hinterland beyond Mount Buster.

For the uninitiated, the Buster is

northeast of Naseby, the site of an early gold mining settlement and sited at the beginning of various cross-country trails which lead from the Northern Maniototo into North Otago. As the muster gathered shape with 11 musters, their horses and a support group in cross-country vehicles, the film brought us something of the excitement. This ancient army of men and their dogs setting out across mountain terrain to bring in the sheep, caught something of the battle of wits the team has with mountain-hardened sheep as the hardy and sure-footed half-breeds hurtled down impossible slopes. It was a delight to see the team at work, with the mutual respect and understanding born of experience in the high country and to see the pride taken by farmers like Laurie Inder in the conservation and care of the land they use.

The film was a reminder to viewers of the fact that, for farmers such as these, the conservation and care of the high country is vital to their wellbeing and that, in the end, the land is safest in their hands.

★ ★ ★

On Saturday night, at 8.05pm, also from TV1, there was a BBC film about a farm in Devon, part of the

tive units has meant the destruction of all the places where the creatures of the countryside shelter and breed. Even the old barns, with their narrow ventilation slits provide a home for the owls, who in turn find mice in the buildings to sustain the cycle of life and death.

The film was a vivid illustration of the fear that the rush to turn farms into efficient economic units may be a factor in the spread of disease and that the loss of ancient fields and plots is a real threat to wildlife.

★ ★ ★

Saturday night was and will be once more, Nixon's night. The mid-evening opened with the first of a two-part BBC documentary, *The Secret World of Richard Nixon*. The first half captured the contradictions of his personality and brought us a vivid portrait of a man who fell short of being able to handle the complex demands of the presidency.

With his tendency to use force first and an occasionally itchy finger near the nuclear button, it was fortunate for the United States and the rest of the world that the men around him were cautious realists. The first half of Oliver Stone's movie version of Nixon's life



TV WEEK

KEITH HARRISON

Our World series, called *The Farm That Time Forgot*. Nothing could have been further away from the vast empty spaces of the Maniototo and the great open country behind the Buster.

The film focused on a valley where the fields surrounding the farm had survived pretty much in the form they had for hundreds of years. The transformation of farms, full of livestock, wildflowers and hedgerows which offer shelter to all kinds of wild creatures and birds, into giant stock units, has transformed the countryside.

All the creatures of the wild wood in classic tales such as *The Wind in the Willows*, living under the hedgerows or on the edge of a ploughed field or in a river bank, have no place in these giant, modern, cost-effective, producers of grain and animals. The merging of farms into large economically effec-

followed, featuring performance by Arthur (who) the title role.

Not a Nixon look-alike caught the manager's false smile, the patient the public perform dangerous mood swing cure personality. Each gramme was extreme each, promises much viewing.

If viewers have Sunday's No 8 *Wired* (TV3), then make an effort. Lively reports on farming around the country land — simple, punchy features, in depth, country life.

It was a particular catch the programme in which the team ga shot of two vineyard burn. The interest in the unique nature of the vines which give the of the American West offered a fascinating Central Otago to the Zealand.

Mandeville Country Club
Mandeville
RD 6
Gore

9th March 2004

Mr Laurie Inder
Channel Road
RD
Ranfurly

Dear Laurie

On behalf of the Mandeville Country Club, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for providing access to your property during our recent 4WD trip.

The chance to see that type of country was very much appreciated, and considering the conditions that prevailed at the time of the trip, access was very much appreciated.

All participants in the trip thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it will be a highlight to be discussed for a long time.

If you are ever down our way, please do not hesitate to call in to our club, you will be most welcome.

Thank you once again for you very generous hospitality.

Yours faithfully

Kathy Perry
Secretary/Manager

Laurie Inder
Mt. Ida Syndicate
24 Geddes Road
Ranfurly

SG Graham
535 Bannockburn Rd.
RD 2, Cromwell
Ph 03 445 4416
0274 500 490
sam.g@ihug.co.nz
09/03/2006

Dear Laurie & Nick & Co.

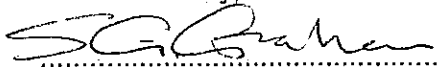
**Cavalcade 2006 - Sowburn Swaggers Walking Trail
Syndicate and Kyeburn Station Country**

Thank you for the access through these properties and the use of the huts.
The group enjoyed the unique landscapes and the hut facilities commenting that each hut had
it's own special character.

A special thanks for the beers and beetroot at 'Tailings' and the water, chocolates and bed
covers at 'Kokonga' you folks are 'too much'. To show our appreciation we had a 'whip-around'
so please enjoy a drink on us. Catherine Brown of Bannock Brae Estate was on the trail and
provided the wine.

Some time when in Naseby I will contact you about the spade left at Kokonga, there in no panic
to get it back.

Yours faithfully,



.....
Sam G Graham
Trail Boss
& Committee Member of
The Goldfields Heritage Trust
(Cavalcade Administrators)

1 Belvedere Street
Epsom
AUCKLAND 1003

21 April 2004

Mr. & Mrs. L. Inder,
Mt. Ida Station,
Naseby,
CENTRAL OTAGO.

Dear Pat & Laurie & the Wonderful Inder Syndicate!!

I don't think I will be able to express just how incredibly happy I am & will be – forever – always remembering the enchanting high country days that I spent with you all!

I was in the second lot to climb aloft & what rapture to be in the Hawkdun; your superb organization, companionship & family camaraderie, plus the weather of course, the stalwart & dazzling flock, the agility & lung capacity of Uncle Bill, the negotiation of mountainside tracks in the 4 wheel drives, idyllic Mt. Ida & Kokonga railstations (wait till the Railway Enthusiasts' in Auckland see my photos), pure water, mouth-watering food, the Last Dinner, great accommodation in Naseby, Taieri Rail comfort (when I was on the Rail last year it was raining & misty), the amazing welcome from Jude at St. Bathans (I had stayed with her last year in an effort to meet the ghostly lady), puff, puff – I could sing forever.

Like many others, I have always loved Central so this was such a special time to be able to join with you as a Family & share some of the lifestyle & vicissitudes that have been enjoyed & endured over the many years residing in the Maniototo.

My eldest daughter lives in Sydney & prior to coming down to Central I had been touring round Tasmania with her – we had driven down to Melbourne, taken the ferry across & then on the way back to Sydney had driven round the coast of Victoria. She came across to Auckland last weekend & was anxious to see those photos plus my adventure with you; her heart ached for the mountains of the South when she sat nostalgically viewing these pictures.

Laurie – I came home & burrowed into my bookcase for some more information re the Masons & have been having a wonderful read to do with the Knights Templar. My Great Uncle George Savory was an avid Mason here

in Auckland & my Father too, Reginald Charles Savory. In fact, the Savory's originally came from Montpelier – they were Huguonets plus, strangely, on my Mother's side, the Vaile's – also came from the same region in the south of France.

I have enclosed some photos for you to either keep or discard – I know you have some superb ones from one of the other Group's; I hope that you are feeling better Pat; it was stalwart of you to drive all the way over to pick us up from the train that day. I have just LOVED every second of my time with you all – tremendous thankyou's!

I expect that you have friends or relations that you might possibly stay with if ever you are in Auckland but if not, please remember me for we have lots of accommodation, are close to the motorway & central city (not that you'd want to hear those words 'motorway' & 'central city' tucked away in magnificent Central!) plus 20 minutes to the Airport – you never know, there might be young students who require an overnight?

Obviously, this missive does not require an answer – I have wandered on but I did want you to understand what a superb idea & visit it is that you are able to give to your fellow humans!!

Cheerio for now, a million thanks,

Very sincerely,



Ola M. Burt. (Mrs.)

Encs.



PJ Smythe
33 Ngapuhi Road
Remuera
AUCKLAND 1005

6 March 2002

CLJ Inder
Launceston
RD 3
RANFURLY 9071 ph: (03) 444 9300
 fx: (03) 444 9725

Re: Mt Ida Syndicate Land

Hello Laurie,

On behalf of the team, I wish to thank you for access over the Syndicate land last January.

We were so impressed by the grandeur of the vast open nature of the country that we would like to do again say in a couple of years. Next time we will be more familiar with the lie of the land and shouldn't get lost. At one stage we found we were going in a circle up the Blue Duck Creek ridge back towards the old Buster Mine but soon figured things out from a compass, map and GPS. We had managed to think that the first zigzag, out of Guffies Creek, was the main one out of the Otematata River, and missed the little drop-off to the right in between.

And in the murk up on the top we missed Inder's Castle and the Stone Man. A strong wind and light snowfall during lunch at the T intersection served as a chilly reminder that the weather can change very rapidly! It must have snowed quite heavily there the following day.

We eventually got down Chimney Creek in worsening weather and out through Hugh's without further incident and saw both lakes from the top just before the weather closed in.

I have now read the book 'Beyond the Buster' and been thoroughly impressed by it and the articles. It has given me a better understanding and knowledge of the people and the area, and next time will appreciate it all the more. What a struggle it was for the Syndicate at times. Blue Jean's poetry adds a nice touch too.

Trust this autumn's muster will go well and that the weather is kind to you.

Very best wishes to all,

Regards,

Peter
Peter Smythe
33 Ngapuhi Rd, Remuera, Auckland 1005
night ph: (09) 524 7307
day ph: (09) 300 9731
mob ph: 025 601 8712
e-mail: psmytho@beca.co.nz
fax: (09) 300 9701

Ray Stone

18 Craig Road
Maraetai Beach
Manukau 1705

Tel/Fax 09 536 6222
backroads@xtra.co.nz

1 May 2003

C L J Inder
24 Geddes Road
Ranfurly

Dear Laurie,

When I typed the date for this letter, I realised that it is over three months since we drove through Mt Kyeburn and the Syndicate block on that still, clear 23rd of January morning. Clearly I must offer my apologies for the long delay in writing.

In defence I can only say that a month away creates more than a month's work catching up on returning home, and as always I underestimate the amount of time it takes to collate diary notes, catalogue photos etc.

I recall that when we first met at your yards (you were dipping at the time) a few days earlier, you advised that we should take two days to do the drive through to Otematata, kindly suggesting that we could stay overnight in 'Inders Castle'.

In fact that was excellent advice that sadly we did not follow. While the drive through was most enjoyable, I felt it was all rather rushed, and in fact we did not find either the hut or Sergeant Garvies Grave. Too many vehicles and insufficient time is not a good combination if, as I do, you want to study the area and absorb its unique character.

Consequently, my selection of photos is rather limited, but I enclose one that I feel captures some special characteristics that I shall remember.

As you may recall, I have a real interest in early NZ history, as well as a great deal of respect for the understanding and empathy that most high country run holders have applied over many years in managing and developing the land. I am most concerned that this view does not seem to be shared by many Govt departments – particularly DoC. The stewardship of the syndicate block is but one example of many well managed runs that I see in my travels exploring the backcountry. I would be interested to know if there is anything that I can do to help change this mindset. For example please feel free to use my name in reference to public access – I will support that publicly in needed.

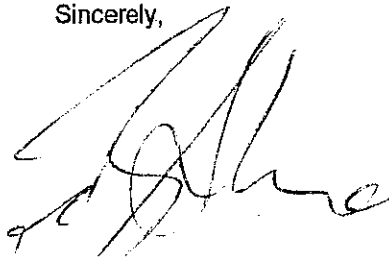
● Page 2

May 1, 2003

I thoroughly enjoyed the book "Beyond the Buster". It will prove a valuable source of reference for me. I may wish to use some of Blue Jeans writings, and would really appreciate it if you could provide contact details for Ross McMillan. On a similar vein, the Bibliography refers to a publication "Gateway to the Maniatoto" by N S Mackenzie. Can you provide any further information? (I have two specialist second-hand bookshops looking out for it, but neither knows of its existence – I do have a couple of Robert Pinney's books)

Thank you again Laurie for making access possible. I hope I get the opportunity to return with more time to really begin to understand the area and its unique history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Stone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "S".

Ray Stone

Christchurch
16 March 01

Dear haurie,

Thank you giving me the opportunity to go in the Moke last week. I enjoyed every minute of it (in spite of the weather - only complaint - it wasn't long enough so I hope to come back in the future if you'll have me.

Please thank your partner Neustreis + Pat for all they did to make us so welcome + not regarding us just as inquisitive tourists.

I hope the Syndicate's lease is renewed in June.

Thank you again

Ilean McCallion

PS Please don't upgrade facilities in for the sake of tourism - the present huts are part of the experience.

Mount Teviot Station,
RD2, Roxburgh.

To whom it may concern.

Re The Mount Buster Syndicate - Kyebrum -.

Natural justice is the cornerstone of a successful democratic society and should never be compromised. We as a nation "spilt blood" in two world wars to preserve justice and democracy.

During January this year (2004), a very dry year, I visited the above area as a guest of Mr. Laurie Inder.

The Buster run is without doubt in remarkably good condition - maybe pristine. I did not observe any degradation consistent with over-burning, over-grazing, rabbits or hiaracium invasion. Nor did I observe any noxious plants.

This condition is in stark contrast to the adjacent mid-altitude tussocklands of the Maniototo and the North Otago area.

It is obvious to me the run-holders involved in this syndicate have not abused their grazing licence; to the contrary they have exhibited exceptional management skills balancing the pastoral requirements to the preservation of the inherent conservation values.

A terrible injustice will have occurred the day these farmers lose their lease. Had the block been abused and the biological values compromised then a case for non-renewal could be argued.

This is clearly not the case. Non-renewal of the lease because of the exceptional condition of the land will be seen as a serious miscarriage of natural justice and common sense.

Where else in this world are people disadvantaged due to their superior performance!

J. C. F. ROWLEY

RUN-HOLDER TEVIOT - 40 yrs.
 OTAGO FED. FARMERS PAST PRESIDENT
 DISTRICT COUNCILOR 9 yrs.

Glenledi,
RD 2,
Milton.
30/3/03.

Dear Lawrie,

Enclosed \$50 in appreciation of you allowing us to camp at Tailings Creek Hut.

We didn't call in on the way home because I had to be in Dunedin at 2.30 for our daughter's graduation from Polytech. She did Travel and Tourism. There's little call for someone with that qualification in Dunedin just at the moment so she's working at New World. She would doubtless get a job somewhere around NZ or Oz at a travel agency but wants to stick close to town so that she can ride her horse - she's a keen show jumper and eventer. I suggested she try looking for a job as a musterer.

Her Grandfather, Johnny Sadler, worked as a musterer from the late thirties until 1950, when he bought the farm we are now on. He spent most of the war at Beaumont Station but his final job was to muster Tara Hills when the Government took it over. He met my Mother-in-law when he was working at Otematata Station in 1948 or '49. She had been down from Te Kuiti visiting her cousins, the Wardells.

As usual, we had an interesting and enjoyable time fishing in the Clear and Otematata. Despite the dry, there was a surprising amount of water in both streams. Trout were hard to catch, as they always are at this time of the season but we caught enough to please our friend from Scotland. His wife, Margaret, got rather spooked by the terrain when we tramped downstream from the wrecked bridge and we had to spend quite a lot of time cajoling her up and down awkward bits. Therefore, we got late and only

dropped in at the pinnacle of rock (which I presume has a local name, I have always called it Cleopatra's Needle after the column removed from Egypt to London). Normally we go for a few kilometres further downstream before fishing our way back. We got caught by the dark (no torch) coming back up the river from the confluence with Tailings Creek but since we were shuffling along towards the West we had a glimmer of light to aim for. It all added to the adventure, apparently. Anyway, I took the lesson on board.

Anyway, thanks again.

Regards,
Keith Mitchell.

10 March 2003

9 Thicket Close
Redwood
Christchurch

Mr L Inder
Launceston
RD
Ranfurly

Dear Laurie,

I have been very remiss in not getting back to you sooner as promised and I apologise for that oversight.

I would like to formally thank you for allowing myself and friends (22 in total in 8 vehicles) to pass through the Soldiers and Mt Ida Syndicate properties on Saturday 8 February.

We were blessed with excellent weather although somewhat hazy to the north and west so the long distance views were not as good as I had hoped for. I also made great use of the information provided for the High Country Field Day two years ago and of course also had available to me information on the geology, flora and fauna, other historical information and similar from the DOC conservation resources report on these two properties so I was able to impart to the group a considerable amount of information at the many stops we had throughout the day. This made the trip so much more interesting for all and of course with this amount of information everyone was able to feel so much more part of this part of the back country and to gain greater appreciation of the land and this was quite an experience as most of those present are 'townies'. The tracks were in great condition and I noted some areas of relatively recent maintenance so thanks to those concerned, it makes the journey so much more enjoyable when you don't have to worry about track conditions.

I took advantage of the opportunity you gave me to open up the "Ida Valley Railway Station" for all to see the inside of and we also had lunch at the Tailings Creek hut to the accompaniment of our piper (not many would have heard the bagpipes at this location I'm sure). Both buildings were secured prior to departure. Thanks for the use of both of those buildings.

Our route followed the same as that of the field day and was without incident except for a punctured and ruined tyre from parking on a sharp rock on the ridge overlooking Clear Stream. Richard Smith (Philips brother) next day solved the problem of a functional spare tyre.

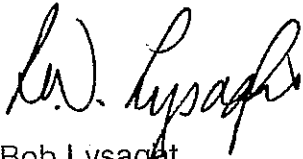
Laurie, I was impressed yet again with the appearance of the country and to my untrained eye it looked great. We didn't have the time to too often walk

into the tussocks so my observations were mainly from the tracks. You mentioned that a significant portion of the stock were already on the properties but these were not very visible at all and in fact we probably only saw about 100 in total and these in small groups. Of course there is those areas of depleted tussock cover particularly along parts of Long Spur and the very visible hieracium on the far side of Guffies Creek near Tailings Creek hut but overall we were all impressed with the naturalness of the place and that upland plateau is really something with its huge vista and tussock for miles (I have a photo looking across the plateau towards Kohurau with Wire Yards hut in the foreground, Graeme Sidney would be proud of it, it even looks like one of his paintings).

Thanks again Laurie for the opportunity to pass through these properties it has provided all of us with great memories of a beautiful corner of the South Island high country and the townies now know a lot more about the high country.

I will endeavour to call in to see you when next in the Maniototo.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Lysaght', written in a cursive style.

Bob Lysaght.

17th June 2002

Mr C L J Inder
24 Geddes Road
RANFURLY

Dear Mr Inder

SOUTH CANTERBURY 4 WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

On behalf of the South Canterbury 4WD Club I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for opening up your property on Saturday 18th May 2002 and allowing us to leisurely drive over your magnificent acreage and telling us a little about the history of the land. I would also like to thank you for the opportunity of gaining further knowledge of the area which was portrayed in the book.

As some of the members had not been in this area before, myself included, we were all amazed at the sheer beauty of the vista and the vastness of your land.

Once again I would like to thank you very much for opening up your property which was appreciated by all members and friends who took part.

I am enclosing with this letter a Certificate of Appreciation and our monthly newsletter.

Yours faithfully



Pat Foley
S.C. Four Wheel Drive Club

Michael Cresswell
19 Arun Street
Oamaru

3rd May 2002

to C L Inder
Launceston
R D 3
Ranfurly

Dear Laurie

Thank you very much for taking the time to send me a copy of Beyond the Buster. As I promised I enclose a cheque for 25 dollars.

I have found the book most instresting reading indeed, it is very good of so many people have taken the time to record their views of the history concerning the MT Ida Syndicate. I feel that it is very important that these views should not be lost for all time, but make to the written history, so that people like my self will be able read and understand more fully what life is like on these stations.

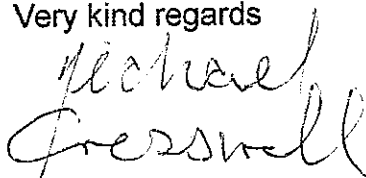
I would like to convey to you my most sincere thanks for giving me the opportunity of seeing a very interesting part of New Zealand station life. I have dreamed and waited nearly 20 years to visit farming station, due to your kindness that dream as come to reality. I have always had great interest farming and would have made a career in farming when I was a very much younger, but that was not to be.

It was a great day for me even if the weather was not at its best for all of us. But if I may so bold and mention it did show how keen I was not to miss such a wonderful event

To conclude would you be so kind and convey to all the musterers who answered all my endless questions with such kindness, my most and very sincere thanks.

I do hope that we may meet again some day so that I may learn more about station life

Very kind regards



Michael Cresswell



Name	Address	Comment
P. Moynihan	Loch Lomond 10K RD DAMARU.	Appreciated the opportunity to see the country.
Maeme Blanchard	19 CRD Densey Pass Damaru	Thanks for the opportunity to see this Beautiful Country -
Enia Russell	Smith Rd 11 CRD Damaru	Lovely country great views. Thanks - definitely something to remember
Michelle Russell	2 KR D Papakaoia Damaru	Excellent Experience of the NZ outdoor.
Stella Blanchard	19 CRD Damaru	Wonderful experience - wouldn't have missed it for the world
Eilidh and David + James R		
Kelli Johnson	43 Tutu Hill Rd 10 RD Damaru.	Great opportunity to see an amazing part of our country - Thank you.
Graham Johnson	Tutu Hill Rd. Damaru	Great drive thru some wonderful country.
Karen Sutherland.	Duntroon 5.1 KR D Damaru	Best Sunday Drive ever!
Louise Chapman	Road Valley Station, Glenorchy	Stunning Views, great trip
Roger Sutherland	Duntroon 5 KR D DAMARU.	Great Trip Great country

Jaron Farmer

10 P.R.D Oamaru

Great 2 days

Rogan Barrie

2. K.R.D Oamaru

Good day out

Alan Chilton

Dome Hills 12 CRD
Oamaru

Good look around

Di McKenzie

"Avonka" 10 K.R.D
Oamaru

Feel very privileged
to have participated
in this adventure!

Norman McKenzie

10 K.R.D Dunstons
Oamaru

Great to be able
to have time on this
part of NZ.

Sandra Gibson

Waikawa 6. K.R.D.
Oamaru

Wonderful to be able
to see this part of NZ.

Alistair Gibson

Waikawa 6 K.R.D
Oamaru

Joyce Bill Bradfield

Parson's Road
Oamaru.

JAN ANDERSON

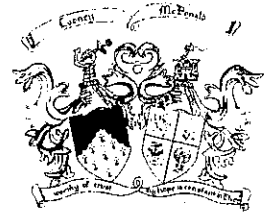
BEN LODI 19 CRD
OAMARU

A most memorable 2
days that we will now
be able to revisit via
video. marvellous scenes
VERY ENJOYABLE
EXPERIENCE

M. J. Mayhew

10 K.R.D Oamaru

Great improvement
in ground cover
from when I mustered
there 35 years ago



15 April 03

Dear Laurie

My most grateful appreciation for the wonderful few days we enjoyed in your company, along with that of Mark, John, Bill and David.

Thank you all for giving us the opportunity to see such an unique part of the country, and hear the tales gathered from your experiences over the years. I brought home many memories and something very special to me was the quiet peace of the landscape. The transport and company were a bonus and of course the great meals you served up to us. We did appreciate the spoiling from the ladies with freshly baked morning teas (raspberry muffins which John had picked earlier!) - certainly not expected but it did not go unnoticed.

I am confident if you run a similar group another time there will be a queue waiting to book in - those I have spoken with in this area, and shown them my photos, have been genuinely interested. Anyone who sees the photos of the rock formations at the Diggings are surprised it is a NZ scene. I am going to enter one of those in a photographic competition next month.

I delayed writing as had not used up my last film, and thought there could be one or two worth sharing with you. I am enjoying looking at them and relating stories from your book to some of these scenes.

When I came home I only part unpacked as will be needing the long Johns, etc to have ready when I go to Queenstown for a week before joining a painting class at Lake Hayes for another week - beginning of May.

The drive back through the Pig Route was new for me and I recorded some of the stories of the locals which you told us as we passed the properties. They have been good to listen back on also.

Thanks sound inadequate but it is sincere - it was just a wonderful experience and made possible by the generosity of you and the other men of your time and knowledge.

Kindest Regards

Noelie

Noelie Looney, 311 East Rd, R.D.2, Pukekohe, Ph. 09-238 6759

25/2/02

Dear Laurie

Below is a list of the names and addresses of the guys who had the privilege of going into the Buster, 19th, 20th + 21st February, 2002.

All agreed that it was a wonderful experience. We thank you for the opportunity of being able to go there.

Keith Duncan
6 Ednam Street
Roxburgh

Danny Rae
28 Kerry Crescent
Cromwell

Ray Dillon
3 Kehu Place
Cashmere
Christchurch

Alfie Dacre
Roxburgh East
R. A.
Roxburgh

Des Johnston
30 Bransholm Street
Roxburgh

Regards
& many thanks
Keith D.



Lodge Manuherikia Kilwinning No. 109

ALEXANDRA - FORMED 1896

24.03.02.

Chestermain Rd
R.D. 1
Omakau

Messrs J.Scott,J.Mulholland,C.L.J. Inder and Other Members of the Syndicates

Dear All,

Just a letter of appreciation and compliments to you all: First our sincere thanks for your co-operation in permitting our party of nine vehicles and the 32 interested persons to travel through the land farmed by you all. Laurie for organising and suggesting how we should attack our the idea. To Jock and John for going to the trouble of obtaining the communication system and especially for the commentary while escorting us from Naseby up to Mt Buster and beyond to Hills Creek. (The Mt Buster diggings, comfot stops, a place for lunch at the hut and all)

In the party were people from all walks of life and not once did you hear any adverse comments. Myself having been involved with land developement most of my life, especially during the 1960's and 70's can appreciate the time, difficulties, and the expense involved in providing access to the area. It is amazing that after more than one hundred years under the stewardship of the syndicates that every thing seemed to be in balance; ground cover was what it should be throughout the various altitudes (two members in our vehicle commented on a wide range of native plants flowering in places where you would expect sheep camps to be). The stock were well spread out and in good condition

May your unique syndicates continue in the same manner that they have for at least four generations. It is a credit to all those who have been involved. We admire you for it.

On behalf of those present I thank you.

Yours sincerely

L.W. Brensell, Secretary

123 Puriri Park Road
Maunu
Whangarei
Northland

28 June 2005

Dear Laurie,

We thought you may like to have a copy of the latest edition of Northtalk, the Northland District newsletter, in which there is an article about the Square Wheelers' stopover in Naseby. This was definitely a much enjoyed interlude in our itinerary and was almost certainly the highlight amongst many happy occasions on the tour. The report was the final one of a series that I wrote covering our trip.

Although we have written a letter of appreciation to the Brethren of Mt Ida Lodge for the parts they played in making our stay enjoyable, we have been remiss for not thanking you personally. Please then, accept our belated thanks for, firstly, putting the idea of a South Island Safari in our minds (in Gisborne) and particularly, for arranging the 4-wheel-drive expedition over your spectacular High Country. Please also convey our thanks to Pat for her help in providing a welcome meal at the end of that unforgettable day.

I have included a copy of the photo that features in the article, showing the happy bunch outside Inders Castle, which you might like to add to your file. I hope to soon get around to editing a video of our Safari and will send a copy down to John, asking him to lend it to anyone else who may be interested.

Once again Laurie, thank you and we look forward to meeting you again in the not-too-distant future.

Kind regards,

Fraternally,



Peter G Faber

Donnerstag
11. / 14 / 08

Dear Pat,
Many thanks for a wonderful
! Margaret & I could not have asked for a
in way to appreciate the high towards country.
a combination of fabulous weather, great
young, and your knowledge of the area,
we, gave us an experience second to none.
at importantly, we felt 100% confidence in
th our dinner, although the track was at
was quite him-raising, looking back, we
is better understood your problems and
is you overcome them with good old
with ingenuity! - like selecting the stadium
stadium station!
These hats were all that one
need desire at the end of a days
watering, and the meals produced by
improved efforts were superb! After a well
man "you would've call the Queen your
man. (An old Scottish expression). That's when
the best game we told!

To see the meadows on the railway
towards Killarney with Bill, Geck, Mark and
The dogs were just great. Nor can we
forget the ladies, responsible for such
month-retaining goodies!

Having read an article in this
month's North & South about the devastating
drought in the Northwest, we can see
the other side of what you have to cope
with. Let's hope you get decent rain soon.
Since we came back we had almost 5"
in about 24 hours.

The dinner on our last night was
great, and made perfect by the out-
standing company. With my background
I was "fair blown-away" by Geck's
piping, - as you can imagine, and also
by Melinda's most generous glass of Scotch!
What a grand finale!
Please convey our thanks to all responsible
for such a great experience, Yours sincerely,
Pat

