



SHANTYTOWN CHRONICLE

The new Shantytown experience update - January/February 2008

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Welcome to the first Shantytown Chronicle for 2008 - the eighth edition since its inception.

In this issue we look at progress with the **new sawmill experience** as transformation of the Infants Creek Sawmill proceeds toward the official opening later in the year; and also at some of the activity taking place at Shantytown's Marsden Valley School.



From left: Builder Damon O'Donoghue, Shantytowns Engineering Manager "Mr Tibbs" (Ian Tibbles), James McLean from Story! Inc, and Shantytown curator Julia Bradshaw who is the researcher for the redevelopment.

Excitement builds amongst Shantytown staff as work on the sawmill brings the reality of the redevelopment alive...

The first visible signs of the redevelopment project became evident in November as construction of the Infants Creek Sawmill Experience began. Builders have been busy converting the mill to enable visitors to walk through, view how it operated, watch footage and engage in interactive displays that tell the story of the sawmilling industry on the West Coast.

Shantytown staff restarted the mill to enable film company Memory Line and New Zealand filmmaker Alun Bollinger to capture footage of logs being milled. The footage will be incorporated into other early clips of the milling industry for the display. During the filming Shantytown took the opportunity to invite the current mill owners and some older industry identities and project supporters along to watch. "It was great to listen to the buzz of conversations about milling that this gathering created" Project Manager Jackie Gurden reported. "What really became evident is that, while the Shantytown experience tells the story in one way to visitors, the mill will enable a large number of West Coasters who were involved in milling to bring their families and visitors and tell their own stories."

Another feature of the display is two large indigenous beech logs which will sit on the saw bench and in the skids. "We thought obtaining logs of the size that used to be milled would be a real challenge but local farmers and contractors found and relocated some excellent examples to Shantytown in a short period of time."

The mill, which began operation at Brown's Creek was relocated to Shantytown and operated on site as a working mill in 1987 and operated for a short time before the economics of the industry meant it was not financially viable for Shantytown to continue the milling.

The project is currently working to timeframe and the official launch date of the Infants Creek sawmill experience will be announced in the next edition of the Chronicle.

Below: Construction of the platform at the Sawmill



We liked these photos of the logs arriving at Shantytown.....



Shantytown staff member Paul Maciulis demonstrates the sheer size of the beech log.

Funding boost for the sawmill project



In December Shantytown received a grant of \$49,586 toward the redevelopment of the sawmill. This was very welcome news pushing the total funds raised to over three-quarters of the amount required for completion of the project.



Pupils from a local primary school sing Christmas carols in Shantytown's church, under the watchful eye of Marsden Valley School principal, Lorna Lay-Flurrie.

School at Shantytown - the Marsden Valley Education Centre

'A Victorian Christmas' was the theme for programmes running at the Marsden Valley School during December. The school is registered, has its own Board of Trustees and is supported by the Ministry of Education through its Learning Outside the Classroom (L.E.T.O.C.) programme. Our teachers have developed a wide range of learning programmes that meet curriculum requirements in an innovative way. Bookings during the 2007 year exceeded those of previous years, and 2008 begins with 'A Chinese New Year' as the theme for learning programmes running in February. [Click here](#) for further information about the Marsden Valley Education Centre.

If you'd like more information or to get involved in **the new Shantytown experience** contact either:

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Thank You

Shantytown would like to thank the many advisors, supporters and stakeholders that have contributed to the project to date, including the **West Coast Community Trust** and the West Coast Community for their support.



Gold



Pounamu



Glacier