



SHANTYTOWN CHRONICLE

News from the new Shantytown experience / September 2007

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Shantytown Chronicle. In this edition we profile the donation from Pub Charity which will be used to support the construction of the **Steam Section**, a key part of the **new Shantytown experience**.



(holding cheque) (left) Martin Cheer, CEO Pub Charity; (right) Winston Monk, Publican. (second row: left-right) Paul Wilson, CEO, Tai Poutini Polytechnic; David Carruthers, Development West Coast Trustee; Ian Tibbles, Shantytown's Engineering Manager. (back row) John Sturgeon, Patron; Peter Reedy, Chairman; Matt Lysaght, Deputy Chair; Cr. Wayne Moen, Shantytown Board Member.

Shantytown Receives Major Funding Boost for Steam Experience

In August, Pub Charity gave its largest ever donation to the West Coast - \$500,000 towards the construction of Shantytown's new *Steam Experience*. Pub Charity CEO, Martin Cheer, said that the Net Proceeds Committee members were particularly impressed by Shantytown's future vision. 'Pub Charity and its partners on the West Coast, the Union Hotel, the Paroa Hotel and Kells Hotel could not be happier to be involved. Shantytown is a great fit for Pub Charity providing employment, education and tourism dollars for the people on the Coast. As a heritage project of the highest order Shantytown provides a very important connection to and celebration of our

past. It's very pleasing for Pub Charity and everybody to be involved that this contribution will be felt for generations to come' says Martin Cheer.

Pub Charity is one of the oldest Gaming Trusts and focuses on redistributing funds to local communities across New Zealand.

The *Steam Experience* is a major component of Shantytown's \$13.4 million redevelopment plans. The *Steam Experience* combines history; science; technology; education; and entertainment in an interactive experience where visitors can immerse themselves in the world of steam machinery and locomotives. Leading-edge New Zealand experience design team, Story! Inc, has been appointed to develop the new interpretive experiences.

The *Steam School* is a key element of the new *Steam Experience* and has been developed in partnership with Tai Poutini Polytechnic. Apprentices will learn the skills to restore, maintain and operate steam heritage machinery, while utilising modern engineering equipment and practices. It is anticipated that the programme will be marketed throughout Australasia. Visitors will be able to watch the engineers at work while learning about steam power and invention, including extraordinary West Coast innovations. Shantytown believes this will be a world first.

Tai Poutini Polytechnic CEO, Paul Wilson, says that the grant is great news for the wider community on the Coast, and beyond. 'The economy of the West Coast is in great shape, but it has created a gap between the needs of the industry and the availability of trained people coming through to fill positions. We are working closely with Shantytown to develop a certified, entry level programme to the engineering trades so that we can actively assist the wider industry on the Coast. The opportunity to learn these skills while working on steam heritage machinery will give this programme a point of difference.'

The initial planning and concept development work for the *Steam Experience* is the result of funding received as part of Development West Coast's MRI (Major Regional Initiative) funding, secured from the Government in 2006. In addition Development West Coast has contributed \$1 million towards the *Steam Experience*. Development West Coast Trustee, David Carruthers, says that 'this is an exciting initiative that involves the whole community and it's great to see the Coast working together to deliver a unique project that benefits all New Zealanders.'

Shantytown's Chairman, Peter Reedy, says that 'we are absolutely delighted with Pub Charity's generous support for the *Steam Experience*. Without organisations like theirs taking an active involvement, our vision could never be realised.' Lottery Environment & Heritage and the Grey District Council are also key funders of the *Steam Experience*.



Iona is Just the Ticket!

Shantytown is pleased to announce that Iona Littlejohn has recently received her steam ticket, enabling her to qualify as a steam train driver. Iona has worked at Shantytown since 2004. When Iona arrived at Shantytown, she was initially interested in engineering, however the steam trains caught her imagination, and ever since she has focussed on achieving her steam ticket.

To complete the NZQA approved qualification has taken Iona three years. These years of hard work included written assessments as well as 500 hours of practical work - an impressive amount of time! Once all the course requirements were completed, Iona was examined by an independent assessor. The qualification was completed entirely on-site at Shantytown.

Iona Littlejohn in her element!

Throughout her journey, Iona received much support from the team at Shantytown, particularly from her fellow train enthusiasts, and this has meant a lot to her. Iona spent many hours riding the train with the other drivers. During this time they passed on their own extensive knowledge about the art of steam train driving and were always happy to answer any questions.

What intrigues Iona about steam trains is that essentially they have a 'human nature' making them 'different to other machines'. Iona comments 'It's not just the skill of making them (the steam train) stop and start, but you actually have to work at keeping the train alive'. As a fully qualified steam train driver, Iona is looking forward to many more hours on the tracks at Shantytown.

Visit Shantytown on a Free Day and Enjoy the Kokatahi Band! (Next page)



The Kokatahi Band entertaining visitors during a free day at Shantytown.

visitors complimentary entry to Shantytown from 1:00pm to 4:00 pm, and West Coasters can also pick up a VIP card free of charge. The VIP cards provide visitors with free entry to Shantytown for two years alongside many other benefits including steam train rides; a 10% discount on all purchases from the Gift Shop; a free ice-cream per child or per visit; a 5% discount on family functions and \$5.00 off the purchase price of an Old Time Photo.

The 'free days' have been a great success with approximately 400 visitors recorded on each of the afternoons. It is hoped that this number will increase for the third and final concert.

To obtain your new VIP card please contact Shantytown. Enjoy all the benefits of holding a VIP card while being kept informed about the progress of the redevelopment project, interesting events, and from time to time special deals only available to card holders. Please don't delay - contact Shantytown today! (Please note: the VIP card is available to West Coast residents only).

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

Ian Johnson
Project Director
Shantytown
Shantytown Post Office
Rutherglen Road
Paroa
Greymouth
West Coast
Telephone +64 3 762 6634
Facsimile +64 3 762 6649
Email ianj@shantytown.co.nz

Fiona Read
Partnership Development
Fiona Read & Associates Ltd
PO Box 14539
Level 2
19 Blair Street
Wellington
Telephone +64 4 384 7533
Facsimile +64 4 384 7534
Email fiona@fionareadassociates.co.nz

Shantytown is to host the third and final concert of the Kokatahi Band. This is the last in the series of three very popular afternoons where West Coasters have enjoyed free entry to Shantytown. 'World famous' on the West Coast and beyond for their eclectic range of music and distinctive red and white uniforms, the Kokatahi Band will be playing at Shantytown from 1:00pm to 4:00pm on Sunday, 30 September.

With the centenary of the Band approaching, and the desire to keep their lively musical tradition alive, the Band approached Shantytown earlier this year to help with publicity. Shantytown was delighted to assist and coincided the concerts with the launch of Shantytown's VIP card.

The third 'free day' on Sunday, 30 September offers all



Gold



Pounamu



Glacier



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.

