



SHANTYTOWN CHRONICLE

The new Shantytown experience update - October 2008

Welcome to the tenth issue of the Shantytown Chronicle.

In this issue we show the official opening of the **new sawmill experience** on June 14th and introduce our Steam Experience which is now in development. We also provide an update on our Curio Shop which is undergoing refurbishment and will feature a new range of products.

The new Shantytown Sawmill experience opens

Shantytown proudly launched its latest attraction the new Shantytown Sawmill experience on 14th June. The Sawmill was officially opened by the Minister of Tourism Damien O'Connor in front of a very large crowd of dignitaries, stakeholders, sponsors and several hundred members of West Coast sawmilling families.



Hon. Damien O'Connor Minister for Tourism officially opening the new Shantytown Sawmill experience



Sawblades in action

A 'Rutherglen Country Fair' set the theme for the day. Features included speeches by those who have led the project and the West Coast Timber Association along with a sawing competition between descendants of around a dozen families from the early mills.

Sir Tim Wallis, whose family owned a number of mills in the region, and Tourism Minister Damien O'Connor put up the first challenge.



One of the original project founders Jim Staton addresses the large crowd.



The new Shantytown Sawmill experience begins with the steam train journey. At the southern end the story takes shape with, what is now, the 'falling and hauling' area at the train stop at the end of the line. Here the story of the forest harvest is presented - the cutting of the trees, their removal and the story of regeneration on a site where this all took place. Visitors experience the sounds of the bush ... and is that the sound of a logging gang working not too far away? The train journey then moves back up the track to the sawmill. Here visitors can see, hear and feel what it was like to work in a sawmill. The 250 year old beech logs are ready to be milled, the saw blades are screaming as the logs go through, and the milling operation is portrayed on a seven metre screen. Moving through the mill the human story behind this industry

emerges – the lives of the mill owner, the wife, the workers, the whistle boy and the unpopular ranger are all told with real life stories.



Interpretation Room



The Bench

Full credit must go to Julia Bradshaw for the impressive interpretation of the story, to Great Leap Forward, Alun Bollinger, Memory Line Productions, Story Inc., Pablo Kelly, Sign Link Graphics, Ian Tibbles and the team of dedicated staff at Shantytown and the many others who contributed to one of New Zealand's latest impressive cultural attractions.

The Steam experience now underway

Shantytown's redevelopment has now moved to the steam experience. Working with Tai Poutini Polytechnic, plans are on track for the steam school to be operational for the first intake of students at the beginning of the 2009 academic year. Detailed design planning is underway for what will be a steam and technology interpretative area. Plans also include a colonial cottage with a theme appropriate to the style of working conditions at the time.

Other Enhancements

Visible operational changes are also evident. Shantytown's retail outlet - the Curio Shop, now supports the Global Culture branding of clothing and a number of enhancements have been made to the 'tucker' at Everybody's tearooms. Devonshire Tea's are a hit along with the recently introduced range of 'leaf' tea's.



Shantytown welcomes Global Culture to the Curio Shop

If you are on the West Coast please drop in to Shantytown and especially have a look at the new sawmill experience.

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

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