



SHANTYTOWN CHRONICLE

News from the new Shantytown experience / August 2007

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Welcome to the fifth edition of the Shantytown Chronicle. In this edition we profile the grant from the New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT) which will be used to support the construction of the **Infants Creek Sawmill project**, the first of the new Shantytown experiences.



NZCT Gets in Behind the Sawmill Project

Another grant, this time \$50,000 from NZCT, has been received for Shantytown's new sawmill experience. NZCT's generous support has given Shantytown the confidence to get the sawmill project underway and general site works began last month. The grant from NZCT has been earmarked for construction costs.

NZCT Canterbury regional advisory committee member, Todd Heller, visited Shantytown on 23 July 2007 to look at the site and plans in more detail. The Canterbury advisory committee was very impressed by the redevelopment plans for Shantytown. Speaking on behalf of the committee, Todd Heller said: 'the income generated in the region should go back to the community. We had no hesitation in advising NZCT to support the sawmill proposal'.

The initial planning and concept development work for the sawmill, which contributed to the successful outcome of the grant application, is the result of funding received as part of the West Coast Development Trust's MRI (Major Regional Initiative) funding, secured from the Government in 2006. Regional Development Manager, Warren Gilbertson, said that 'one of the strengths of the MRI is that it provides organisations like Shantytown with key funding to develop concepts and robust business plans, which then enables partnerships to be developed with a range of organisations to achieve the desired outcome. The sawmill project is a great example of the public and private sector working together.'

Shantytown Deputy Chairman, Matt Lysaght, said that 'support like this from the New Zealand Community Trust, takes us one step closer to achieving the redevelopment of Shantytown, bringing the stories of Coasters to life and preserving the region's rich history.' Shantytown plans to have its new sawmill visitor experience open to the public within 12 months.

Memory Line Productions - Re-presenting a Living Sawmill

Shantytown is delighted that Memory Line Productions is part of the team and will create an audio-visual experience - an integral part of the sawmill interpretation. In 1992 Memory Line recorded the last of the fully operational steam driven sawmills. The sights and sounds of the sawmills in action were captured and it is this kind of unique material which Shantytown is privileged to have access to, which will be used to enhance the sawmill experience. Images of working steam sawmills, including the mill at Shantytown, will be projected onto a large screen and the use of surround sound will see the Infants Creek sawmill become a 'theatre', recreating the atmosphere of working in a 1930s steam sawmill - the grit, the noise and the danger.

Memory Line Productions is made up of a close knit team of writers-producers-directors Hugh Macdonald and David Sims, and sound designer, Kit Rollings. This award winning team has received an Oscar nomination and have won almost 100 film and television awards in New Zealand and internationally .

Memory Line Productions has produced many documentaries about New Zealand's social and technological history, such as *Rimutaka Incline - The World's Last Fell Engine Railway*, the best seller *Rails in the Wilderness - Indigenous Logging and Bush Tramways in New Zealand*, and *Rimutaka 1949*. Extensive experience, a strong network of contacts and access to visual resources that have not been previously seen by the public, means that Memory Line Productions are well placed to support the enhancement of the sawmill.

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



Thank You

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