

Bulls & Districts Historical Society (Inc)



81 High Street, Bulls. 4818. New Zealand.

RECEIVED

11 SEP 2018

To: CR
File: 3-GF-8-2
Doc: 11 0408

Governance Administrator
Rangitikei District Council
Private Bag
Marton 4741

TABLED DOCUMENT

Tabled at:
on:

11th September 2018

Dear Linda,

**Re: Community Initiatives Grant
Accountability Return**

We attach herewith a completed return for the grant of \$2000-00 received 31st July 2017 towards the restoration costs of the Scotts ferry.

In the main this project has just been completed in early July 2018 so we are providing this return at this time.

The Income and Expenditure Statement presently shows a surplus of \$1622-99. However, we do anticipate further costs in the coming months which will consume much of this balance.

This will include further landscaping, signage and seats and tables.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Simms
Treasurer

A community owned and run museum

Operates daily between 10am-3pm or by arrangement

Secretary: Helen Cooper Ph: 021 105 1327

www.bullsmuseum.co.nz

bulls.museum@gmail.com

PROJECT REPORT FORM – COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND 2017/18

Please return to: Grants Administrator
By mail: Rangitikei District Council, Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741
Or hand deliver to: Rangitikei District Council Office, 46 High Street, Marton; or
Taihape Service Centre, Hautapu Street, Taihape
Or by email to: nardia.gower@rangitikei.govt.nz

**NO LATER THAN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT, TO BE
ACCOMPANIED BY AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT (ATTACHED)**

If you do not complete and return this form this will affect your eligibility for future funding.

- 1 Name of applicant: Bulls & Districts Historical Society Inc
- 2 Name of project: Scotts ferry restoration
- 3 Date and location of project: _____
- 4 Amount received from the Community Initiatives Fund: \$ 2000 - 00.

Please answer the following questions and use additional sheets if necessary

How many people benefited from your project/programme? Hundreds - could be thousands

Was this number:

- ☐ More than you expected?
☒ What you expected?
☐ Less than you expected?

Describe the main findings in your evaluation of the project and how it benefited the community:

The ferry has been restored to its original standard for future generations to enjoy.

What worked really well?

The coming together of the Scotts Ferry Village community to provide labour and equipment use.

What didn't work so well/could be improved?

The weather wasn't always kind.

Please report on your success at achieving the three targets you identified in your application (attach another sheet if necessary)

Target 1: Materials & signage suppliers (mainly timber and steel) were very generous and either donated or heavily discounted their goods.

Target 2: We went to residents of Parewanui Road and descendants of Thomas Scott for cash donations. All were very generous.

Target 3: The group of workers, led by Kevin Ellery (Engineer) and Allan Giles (Builder) have restored the ferry to its original state. Their labour has been donated.

Please describe how you promoted the support of the Rangitikei District Council for your project/programme (attach examples of leaflets or publicity if appropriate)

- * Newspaper articles (3) attached
- * Bulls Museum Display - acknowledgement Notice
- * Souvenir Booklet will be given away to all on the opening Day 29/9/18

Please describe how you implemented the Healthy Families principles, and describe any further support or information that would have been helpful for you.

N/A.

Please complete the attached income and expenditure statement for your project (following page), showing all income and expenditure associated with the project.

Surplus/(deficit) \$ 1622 - 99

Income and expenditure statement

(Please list all income and expenditure associated with the project)

Income	Amount	
Donated material	\$	
Cash in hand towards project	\$	
Actual fundraising amount received	\$	3880-00
Ticket sales	\$	
Other sponsorship/grants (please specify source/s below)		
R.D.C. - Initiatives Fund	\$	2000-00.
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
Total income (GST inclusive / exclusive. Please delete one)	\$	5880-00
Expenditure	Amount	
	\$	
Bunnings - Timber, etc	\$	3552-99
	\$	
Goldpine Sanitary - posts	\$	304-02
	\$	
Stationery, Postage, etc.	\$	400-00.
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
Total expenditure (GST inclusive / exclusive. Please delete one)	\$	4257-01
Surplus / (deficit) (GST inclusive / exclusive. Please delete one)	\$	1622-99

Signature

Tony Simms

Date

10/9/18

PRINT NAME

Tony Simms

Feilding-Rangitikei HERALD

Thursday, August 2, 2018

SPECIAL TAIHAPE EDITION INSIDE



**SAVING
KŌKAKO**
Page 5



**RUGBY
VICTORY**
Pages 16, 32

From left, builder Allan Giles, Bulls Museum member Tony Simms and project co-ordinator Kevin Ellery who led the restoration of Scott's ferry. Below right, an artist's impression of the ferry at work.

WARWICK SMITH/STUFF

Scotts Ferry all shipshape



PAUL MITCHELL

A barge that once took settlers over the Rangitikei River has been restored to shipshape 168 years later.

From 1850, Thomas Scott used the flat-bottomed barge to ferry travellers, stock and freight across the river, between Tangimoana and Parewanui, before bridges were constructed.

Scott's ferry operated until 1987, when the port was destroyed in a flood, and lent its name to the village that sprung up nearby.

Bulls Museum member Tony

Simms said the barge's original totara and matai deck rotted and began crumbling, so the community rallied to save this small, but important part of New Zealand history.

Only two other barges from its era have been restored, Simms said. He was working with the Rangitikei District Council to install signage in Bulls to lure motorists off state highways 1 and 3 to Scotts Ferry.

An official unveiling will be held in spring, when the weather was more consistent and comfortable for attendees, Simms said.

Retired engineer Kevin Ellery has fronted the restoration project, heading up a team of volunteers including builder Allan Giles.

"Their expertise was very important, especially to Heritage New Zealand, which required restoration work to be in keeping with the ferry's original [construction]," Simms said.

Ellery said his team put in 500 man-hours to restore the ferry and estimated it would have cost \$60,000 to hire a contractor for the work.

The team kept as close as possible to the ferry's original

construction, although much of it was now made of treated pine.

"Unfortunately, we would never have got the donations to get native timber.

"The deck was coated in tar and sand, which was what was done then – so the restoration was all as it would've been done [168 years ago]."

Ellery salvaged the old totara planks for the site's decorative fence and used an original beam to make a bench.

He hoped to put a memorial plaque on the bench, dedicating it to Frank Nitchke, but was still

seeking the family's permission. Nitchke was the first to do repair and preservation work on the deteriorating barge in 1989, Ellery said.

"If it wasn't for him ... [the ferry] would've been gone years ago."

The community raised \$7000 towards the project, the council contributed \$2000, the Rural Women's Group landscaped the display site and local businesses donated materials.

Historic Scotts Ferry barge restored

SAM KILMISTER

A barge that provided settlers passage over the Rangitikei River 168 years ago is to get a makeover.

The flat-bottomed barge, used to ferry travellers, stock and freight across the river before bridges were constructed, lies rotting on the side of the road, less than 50 metres from where it first operated in 1850.

The service, started by Thomas Scott, operated between Tangimoana and Parewanui, now known as Scotts Ferry.

The ferry operated until 1987, when the port was destroyed in a flood.

The barge was left exposed to elements and its once impenetrable totara and matai deck is now rotted and crumbling. It's so fragile an unsuspecting woman fell through its deck while walking along it a few years ago.

What was once the region's most crucial asset has rested, exposed to the elements, for several years. Now, the ferry's guardians have come together to revive the decaying boat for future generations.

The community has funded the \$7000 project and will provide free labour and equipment. Fletcher Easysteel, Bunnings and Mirage Signs are discounting or donating materials, and the Rangitikei District Council has contributed \$2000.

The Rural Women's Group will also replant and landscape the area around the barge.

The Heritage New Zealand category one structure is a reminder of the importance ferries had in New Zealand's history when there were no bridges, Heritage New Zealand co-ordinator David Watt said.

The barge was a significant memorial to a form of transport that operated in New Zealand exclusively in the 19th century, Watt said.

Prior to the introduction of a coach service in the 1870s, the



Scotts Ferry restoration project co-ordinator Kevin Ellery, left, with Bulls Museum member Tony Simms.

PHOTO: WARWICK SMITH/STUFF

main route from Wellington to Whanganui, and beyond, was up the coastline.

When Scott established the service, he also set up a trading post and accommodation house at Parewanui. Naturally, the ferry took his name, as did the settlement.

"It's quite an important asset of national importance," Bulls Museum member Tony Simms said.

"It's important for us to recognise how people travelled before bridges were around... when settlers were around."

Only two other barges in New Zealand have been restored, Simms said. He was working with the council to install signage in Bulls to lure motorists off State

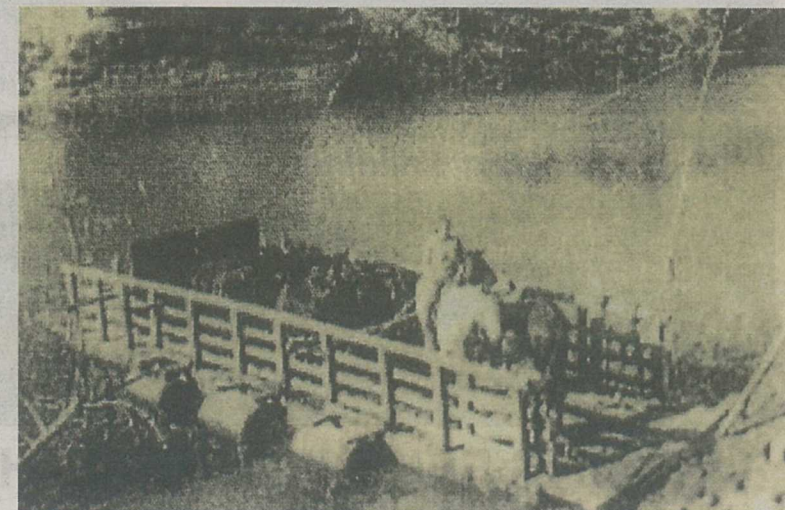
Highways 1 and 3.

Despite the barge's deteriorated deck, it still floats, Simms said. In the 2004 flood, it floated around a paddock 200 metres down the road after water lifted it 2m over a nearby fence.

A local farmer used his tractor to drag it back, while the area was still flooded, otherwise it would have come to rest in the paddock forever.

Retired engineer Kevin Ellery is fronting the restoration project. His team of volunteers will replace the deck, side brackets and steel, and ensure the barge retains its original and authentic look.

The bottom frame will be all that remains from the day it was constructed.

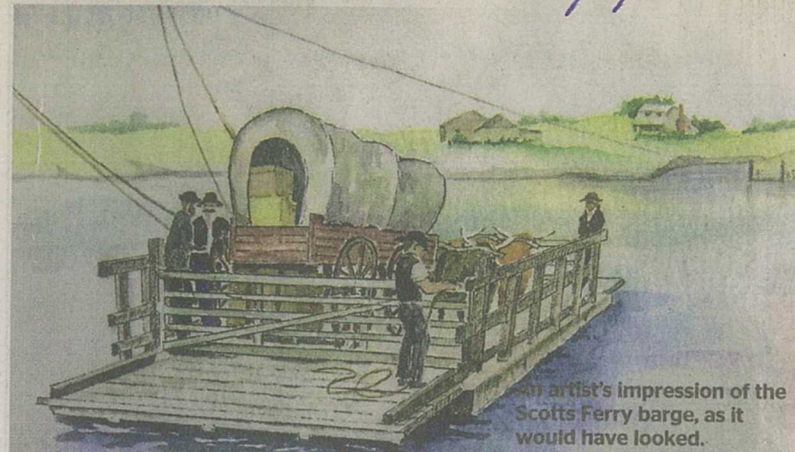


The Scotts Ferry barge in use in the late 1800s.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Historic barge to be restored

Manawatu Standard 20/1/18



An artist's impression of the Scotts Ferry barge, as it would have looked.

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The barge was a significant memorial to a form of transport that operated in New Zealand exclusively



Bulls Museum member Tony Simms, left, and Scotts Ferry restoration project co-ordinator Kevin Ellery on the remains of the barge.

in the 19th century, Watt said.

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PHOTOS: WARWICK SMITH/STUFF.

Scott's Ferry

Parewanui Road, Bulls

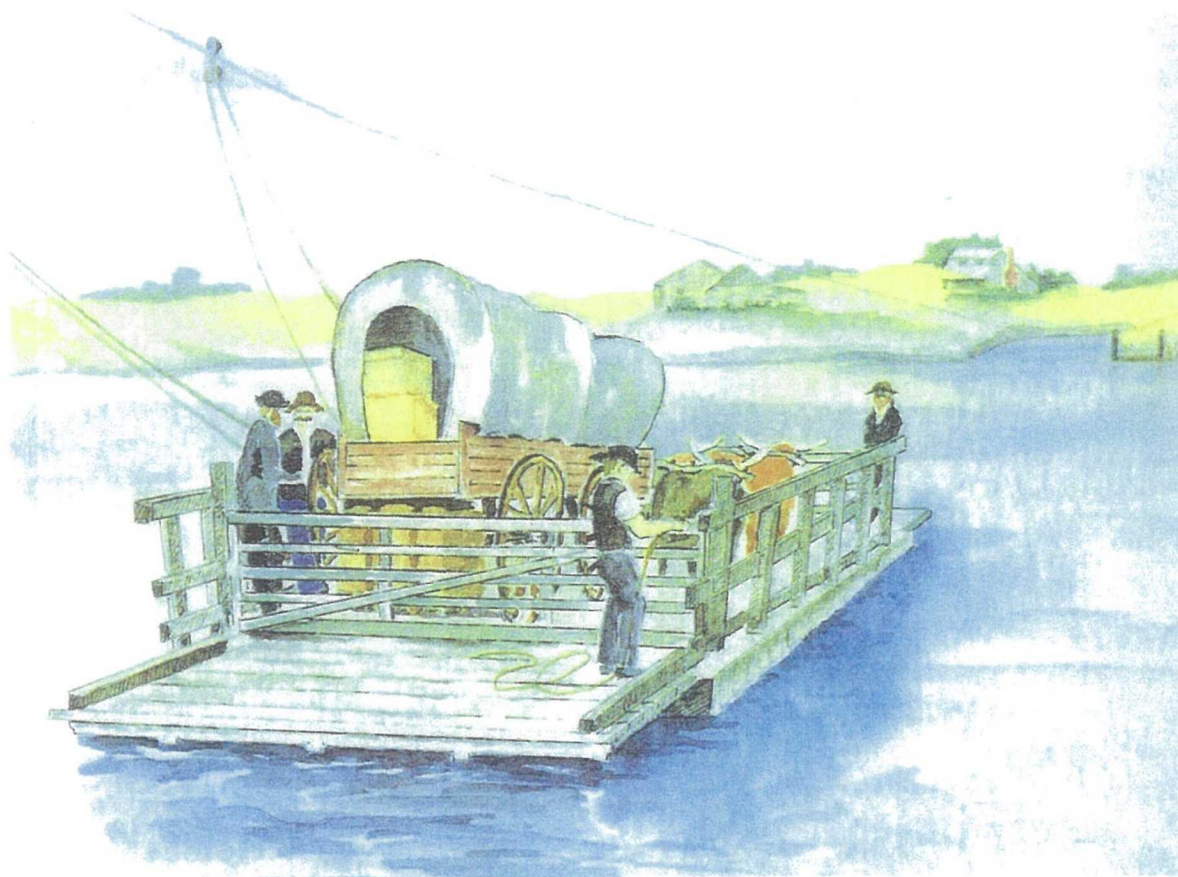
New Zealand

Latitude 40°.279'S Longitude 175°.238'E



Souvenir of the Restoration

Sat. 29th September 2018



An artist's impression of how the ferry operated
1850-1908

This booklet has been prepared by Bulls & Districts Historical Society (Inc)
Bulls Museum
81 High Street, Bulls

www.bulls.museum.co.nz
Email: bulls.museum@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook

The Day's Procedure

11am Assemble at the Scott's ferry site Parewanui Road and view the restoration and landscaping work

Brief welcome and introduction by Kevin Ellery, Bulls Museum, Chairman and Restoration Project Leader

Dawn Nitschke, to bless the ferry

Ian McKelvie MP, and Bulls Museum Patron to say a few words

Andy Watson, Rangitikei District Council Mayor to say a few words

David Watt, Heritage New Zealand to say a few words

Colin Scott, a descendant to say a few words

Proceed into Bulls to view the display at the Museum

Please join us for a light lunch in the Town Hall Supper Room
1.30 onwards

Scott's Ferry history

Prior to the introduction of a coach service in the 1870s, the main route from Wellington north to Wanganui and beyond was around the coastline. By 1843 a ferry service had been established at Parewanui to take people across the mouth of the Rangitikei River. In 1850, Thomas Scott took on the duties of ferryman. Scott also established a trading post and an accommodation house at Parewanui. He entered into agreements with local Maori, trading wheat, Indian corn and pigs.

The popularity of Parewanui increased as more Pakeha arrived with their stock to take up land in the Wanganui region and beyond. Between 1850 and 1897 the nearby Port of Rangitikei (at the mouth of the river) became an important conduit for the regions produce.

Scott's Ferry is a tribute to Thomas and Ann Scott, pioneers of the area on the Rangitikei River. The ferry serviced the district from 1850 until 1908 transporting horses, cattle, sheep, coaches, produce and people. It was purchased by the Featherstons in 1908 at Parakino on the Wanganui River where it continued to be used until 1975. It lay derelict on the riverbank by Moutoa Gardens in Wanganui until 1989.

In 1990, the ferry was salvaged and returned to where it first operated 140 years earlier. The return of the ferry was a dream realised for Frank Nitschke, a Scott's Ferry farmer. Frank, with the help of the local community and regional committee members of the then New Zealand Historic Places Trust, now Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, put hours of effort into the restoration of the ferry barge.

Norm Hubbard, Frank Nitschke, Randall Springer, Trevor Hammond and Geoff Nicholls worked on the restoration and were all part of the 1990 Ferry Project committee.

Since then exposure of the barge to weather over the years has resulted in the deterioration of its wooden deck and to some steelwork.

Early in 2017 the Bulls Museum undertook to raise funds for the refurbishment of the ferry barge. Materials suppliers have been very generous, as has the local community with donations. The community of Scotts Ferry have also donated their time to carry out this work led by Engineer, Kevin Ellery and Builder Allan Giles. The restoration work has been completed in July 2018. As well, the protected site has been landscaped with coastal native plants by the Scotts Ferry Rural Women.

The Bulls Museum is very grateful to the many people/suppliers who have generously supported this project.

CENTRAL REGION



Scott's Ferry. (CREDIT: BULLS MUSEUM)

A ferry's path for all to see

Visitors to Bulls in the Rangitikei District should take the opportunity to drive down Parewanui Road to the Category 1 listed Scott's Ferry Site with its historic barge. This site is a rare reminder of the importance ferries played in New Zealand before bridges were common.

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The late Norm Hubbard, who for many years chaired the Wanganui Branch Committee of NZHPT, had told Heritage New Zealand's Central Region Area Coordinator, David Watt, it was a "great labour of love" working to restore the barge alongside Frank Nitschke, Randall Springer, Trevor Hammond and Geoff Nicholls who were all part of the 1990 Ferry Project committee.

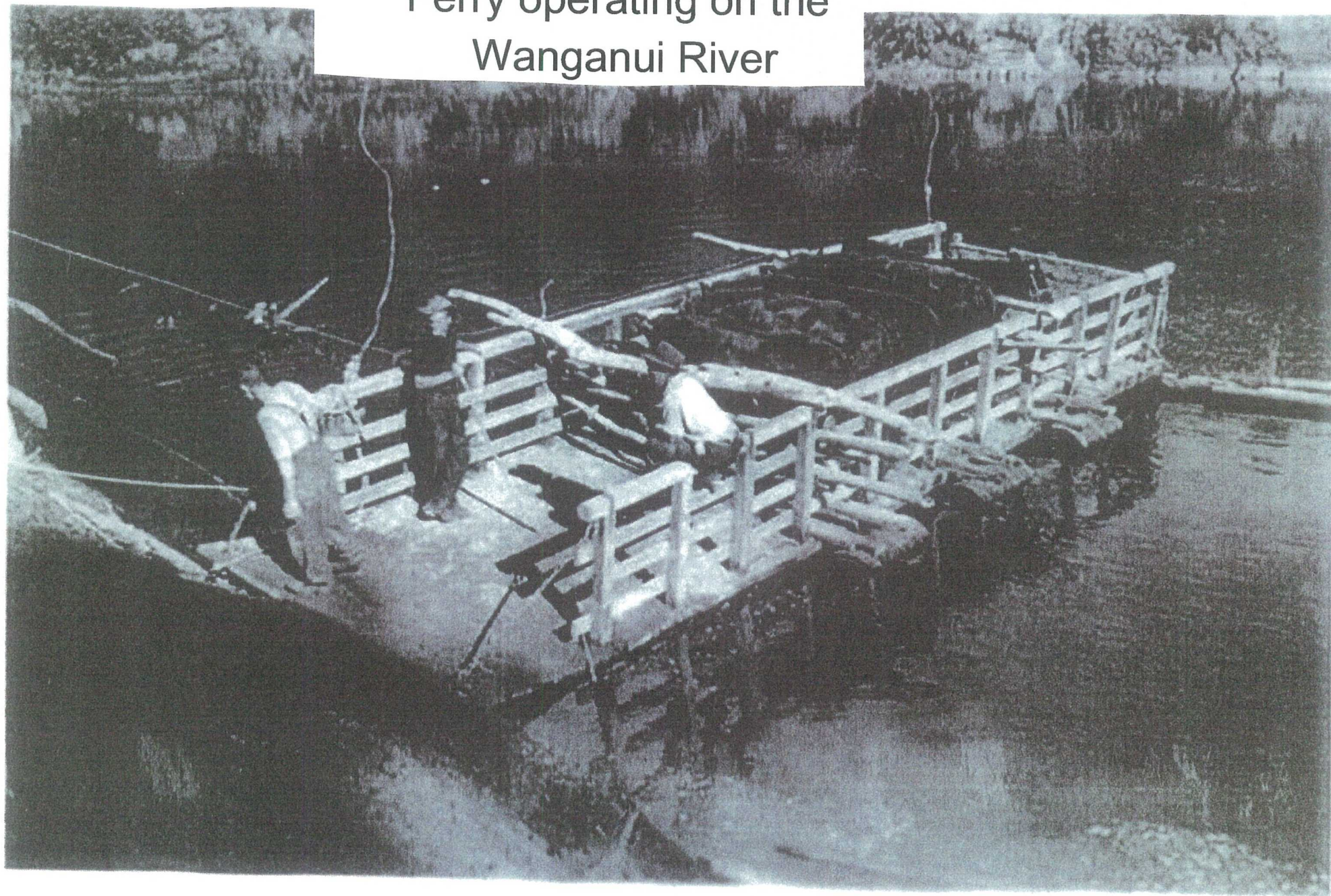
The exposure of the barge to weather over the years has resulted in the deterioration of its wooden deck and to some steelwork. Tony Simms, and fellow members of the Bulls Museum, will carry out further restoration work with community and council funding.

"We are working with Heritage New Zealand staff and the Rangitikei District Council on this objective to ensure we keep this special taonga in our area for future generations to respect," says Tony.

It is intended over the next two to three years to raise sufficient funds to place a three-sided shelter over the ferry to protect it from the weather and to slow its rate of deterioration. ■



Ferry operating on the
Wanganui River

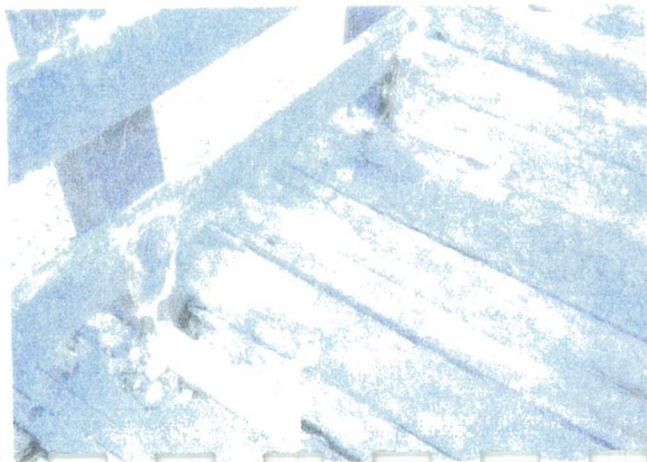
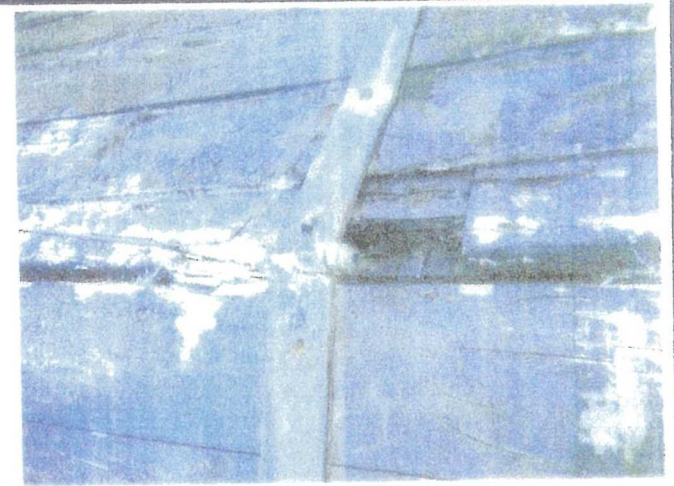




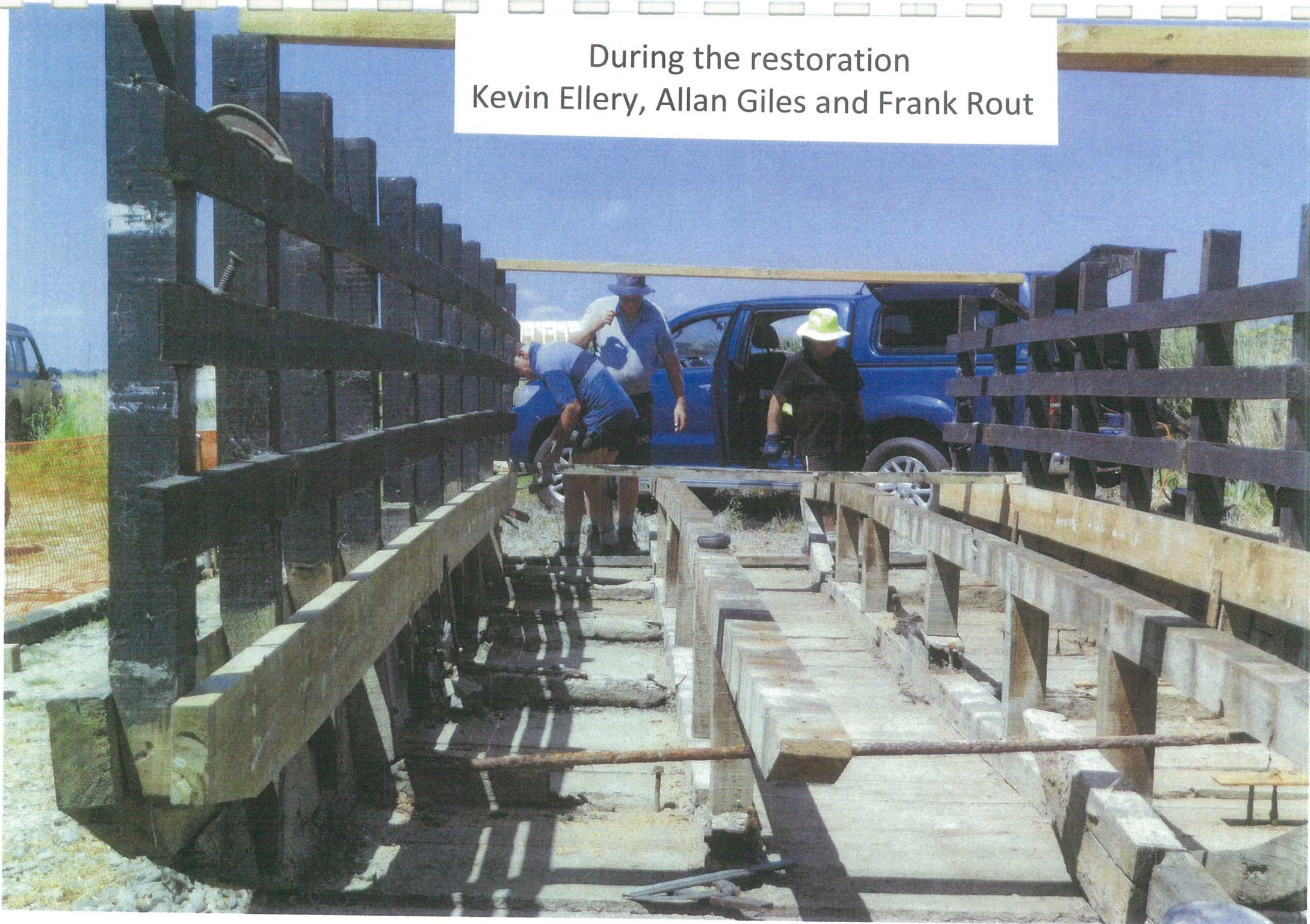
Trevor Hammond at left
Frank Nitschke right 1990 Restoration



Before 2018 restoration



During the restoration
Kevin Ellery, Allan Giles and Frank Rout



SCOTT'S FERRY

A tribute to Thomas and Anne Scott, early pioneers of the area on the Rangitikei River. The ferry serviced the district from 1850 until 1908 transporting horses, cattle, sheep, coaches, produce and people.

It was purchased by the Featherstons in 1908 at Parakino on the Whanganui River where it carried stock and produce until 1975, then lay derelict on the River Bank by Moutoa Gardens at Wanganui City until 1989.

The ferry was salvaged and returned near the area where it first operated 140 years ago. Restored to its former glory in honour of all the early pioneers in 1990 and refurbished in 2018.

Heritage New Zealand. Category 1, Listing 7421.

Mirage Sign Company Limited are honoured to assist this great community

THE PORT OF RANGITIKEI

From 1850 until 1897 the Port of Rangitikei served the district from this vicinity. The first of the small ships to serve the port was the *Emma Jane* which tied up in the Awamate Stream whose rechanneled course is crossed by the culvert nearby. The first steamship to use the port was the *Waipara* which arrived on 26 July 1867. A wharf was built in 1872, its location being about 200 metres downstream from this notice.

The port had a signal station and a pilot. The last ship to leave the port was the 120 ton steamer *Queen of the South* which left on 16 February 1897, carrying out the largest known cargo - 350 bales of wool. A few weeks later, in April 1897, disastrous floods inundated this whole area, washing away all the bridges over the Rangitikei River, and silting up the port, closing it forever.

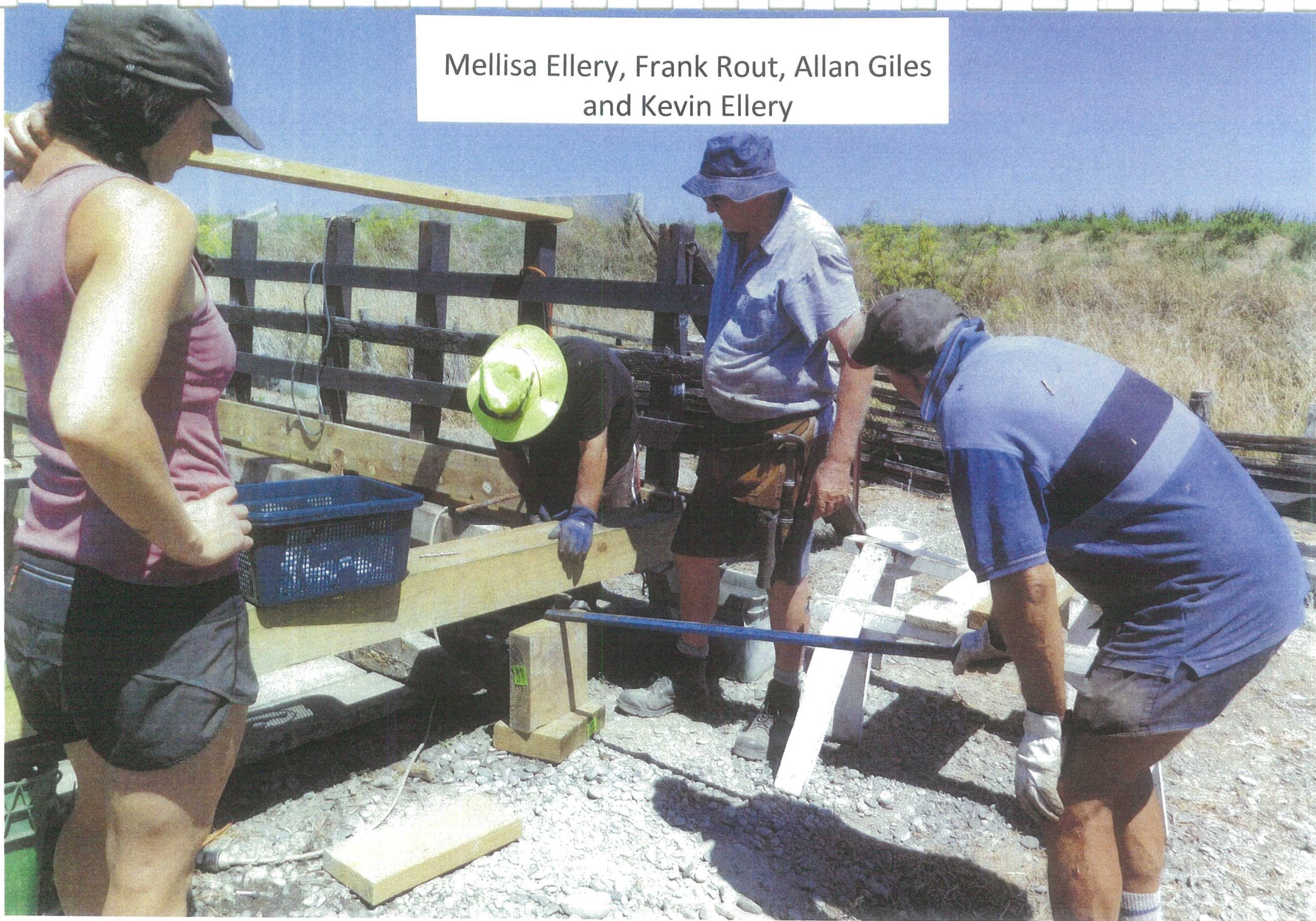
Heritage New Zealand. Category 1, Listing 7421.

Mirage Sign Company Limited are honoured to assist this great community

Above – new signs on the restored ferry



Mellisa Ellery, Frank Rout, Allan Giles
and Kevin Ellery





After





Bell from the site at the Tangimoana
side of the Rangitikei River.
The bell was rung to summon
passengers when the ferry was
about to leave.
This bell is now at Sanson School.

The Bulls Museum and the Scotts Ferry Group Acknowledge

Sponsors

Bullocks Sand & Gravel
Bunnings, Feilding
Fletcher Easy Steel
Mirage Signs
Resene (Paint)
J.J. Walters (Tar)
Matt Hines (Rope)
P. & K. Burke (Tractor)
Doug Gale (Tractor)
All Tree Services Ltd (Planting)
Rangitikei Dist Council “
Rural Women (Planting)

Workers

Kevin Ellery
John Gibbs
Allan Giles
Barry Howe
John Ransom
Frank Rout
Melissa Ellery
Marilyn Ellery

List of Donations – Scotts Ferry Project

Cash Donations

		Nigel Bowen & Jane Russell Bowen
"	"	Vera & Robin Hunt
"	"	Ian McKelvie MP
"	"	Meads Family
"	"	H. & D. Moore
"	"	Ruth Moss
"	"	Dawn & Graeme Nitschke
"	"	John Ransom
"	"	Alistair & Margo Robertson
"	"	Colin Scott
"	"	Ian Scott
"	"	D. & A. Sidey
"	"	Kate Smith
"	"	Bulls Community Committee
Grant	–	Rangitikei District Council
		Initiatives Fund
Landscaping -		Scotts Ferry Branch of Rural Women NZ
Magazine article -		Heritage New Zealand