

This submission is in **support** of the **St Bathans Area Community Association's**
Funding and Resource Application for the St Bathans Post Office
to operate as a museum, information centre and community hub.

I would be very happy to see the St Bathans Post Office building regain its place as a focal point in the community. It makes no sense to have a landmark building such as this effectively standing idle.

Considerable care and expense went into its restoration in the early 1980's. Some years later, Sharon Hinds operated a paper-themed business on the ground floor. This was a sensitive use of the building, celebrating its previous function.

DoC 'renovations' in the early 2000's were not so welcome. Many in the community were appalled by the removal of authentic and original fittings and the installation of stick-on carpet squares, all in order to turn the ground floor into a generic souvenir shop.

Cambrian Village has shown how an unused building can become a focal point for visitors and locals alike: the old Cambrian School houses an impressive store of historical information as well as a community book exchange and also serves as a venue for community events.

I wholeheartedly support this application as a way of returning the St Bathans Post Office to a useful role in the community.

Leanne Harley

75 Cambrian Road

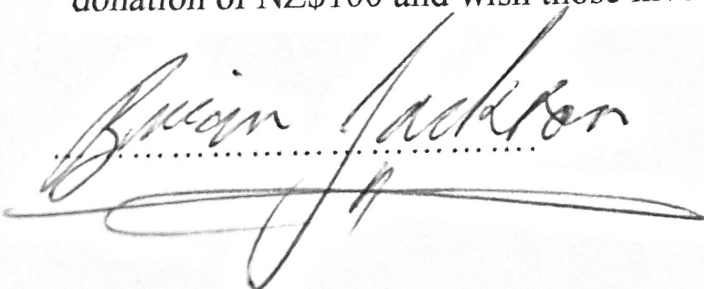
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Submission In Support of the Proposal by the St. Bathans Area
Community Association for Funding and Consent to use The Old Post
Office as a Community Hub.

1. The post office was built in 1912 as a renewal of an earlier building on the same site. It included living quarters upstairs for the Postmaster, wife and family.
2. With the fall off in the need for Post Office services following the gradual closedown of mining operations and population depletion, postal services were maintained at Oturehua and the St. Bathans office closed after WW2. The building was sold, and used as a holiday crib until purchased by the Department of Conservation in 1989.
3. The downstairs was used as a shop until patronage dropped to be uneconomic.
4. The above proposal provides an opportunity for the use of an otherwise redundant item that is of significant local importance.
5. In addition to the uses planned by the Community Association, the Post Office is sufficiently centrally situated to be an Information Centre for the convenience of visitors and passers-by, where such a service is lacking during the all-important visitor season of December – January. A staff of one would be needed 10.30 – 4.30 pm. A map of the town with annotated historic sites, can be handed out for pedestrian visitation. A full time staff person is required, uniformed & preferably female. A continuous video presentation can be run in the Hall.
6. This service introduction provides a stepping stone for the interpretation of the historic significance of St. Bathans to be portrayed on an altogether higher level, that would mark more widespread appreciation and result in an increase of visitor numbers year by year, attracting more service providers.
7. St. Bathans & district is an Historic Shrine in the industrial and economic history of New Zealand. It produced 74.4 Troy Tons of gold worth NZ\$8,000,000 Pounds Sterling, substantially setting up the rest of the Country between 1870 and 1890 and removing the hard edges of the economic depression during that time.
8. When this background becomes known; the innocence of the quaint cottages, churches, graveyards, mining relics and sometimes just bare walls, becomes sacrosanct, inviolable; appreciated, and humbling.
9. The visitor experience at St Bathans then achieves a connection for a very large number of visitors who in earlier family will relate to such history; in a manner that spans nationality, age-group, gender, wealth, race and religion. A spiritual belonging.
10. To assist the Community Association funding of their proposals, I attach a donation of NZ\$100 and wish those involved every success in their endeavours.



Mining Engineer. July, 2019.

Keith Hinds

1684 Loop Rd

St Bathans

19th August 2019

To The St Bathans Area Association

Hi Helena

I cannot make it to the meeting of the association this coming weekend. My apologies.

I understand there is going to be discussion about using the PO as a museum and community centre. I think this is an appropriate use for the PO and think it is a very good idea and do want to be involved when this happens. I think the association is the right group to deal with this, because of their ability to be able to apply for funding, if necessary. I, along with others in the community, have a decent amount of history that could be displayed. Some of this is already on display at the billiard rooms. The community centre is also a good idea. All meetings could be held there and it could also become an information centre with possibly a paid part-time position. There has been discussion about selling stuff to help with the funding. This would work on a small scale. Keep everything simple. Just for your information, a survey was done about 15yrs ago which said about 10,000 people come to St Bathans each year.

Discussion concerning Council guidelines for building in St Bathans. I think, at the moment, it is a complete disaster. Because St Bathans is a special place, a national treasure and the most original goldfields town in NZ, I think it must be reasonably easy for the CODC and Heritage NZ to get onto it as soon as possible. I have a few documents (some going back to Lands and Survey, Maniototo Council days) that I hope to have available at the next meeting. At the moment I cannot find them.

Have a good meeting.

Regards

Keith Hinds

03 4473997

Cottage Hospital
St. Bathans,
(Town)

Helen.

I'm not quite sure what your ideas for the P.O. actually run too, on the conditions DOC sets on using the P.O. or any costs involved.

But certainly I could be of value in the undertaking of workshops, rag rug, art, spinning, spiritual, including workshops in auragraphs, colour therapy, meditation & healing. I also have ~~but~~ knowledge in quilt making & sewing & can pass these abilities on to others.

I have paintings, rag rugs, quilts, ovencloths, chutney, cards for sale. I would suggest that people showcasing artworks, could have a 1 month "exhibition" window.

I am prepared to help look after any venture, taken on in the P.O., as I am full time in St. Bathans.

I suggest 20% commission on items sold through the P.O. & 10% for those who help look after it.

I could take a weekly meditation/healing, sewing, or arts/craft group.

I hold a Bachelor of arts degree & have diplomas in other areas.

cheers Helen. MMANF
384A (col)
BUA.

Community meeting.
I will be away on 20th for 3 weeks

qtb

I could write my suggestions
fears, worries, ideas.

There are currently no trees in St Boken
protected. - Keith says there are?