

RESTORATION OF TOMAHAWK BATTERY (ST KILDA BATTERY)

General

Dunedin City has a rich military history and although much of it has been lost over time, there are still elements present that should be restored and maintained for both historical and educational purposes. From the Russian Scare of 1885 to the end of World War II, coastal defences were built and maintained. These coastal defences consisted of batteries and emplacements and were manned as threat levels increased. The attached map from Dr Peter Cook's book "Defending NZ" shows the extent of these coastal defences around Dunedin and the Otago Peninsula.

Tomahawk Battery

Of the Dunedin coastal defences, the last battery emplacement physically remaining is at Tomahawk. The Lawyer's Head, Ocean Beach (Central Battery), Forbury and St Clair emplacements are long gone. The original Tomahawk Battery emplacement dated back to 1885 but real construction in terms of what is left today began in Jun 1942 and the gun(s) were not mounted until Oct 1942. The attached photograph on the NZ Coastal Defences website from 1942 shows what the Tomahawk Battery emplacement actually looked like and shows one of the two guns actually firing. However the guns were removed in Jul 1945 and the emplacements and associated buildings sealed shortly thereafter.

Site Assessment

DCC has undertaken an assessment of the site and concluded that the No1 emplacement has the potential to be restored. As a result, there is significant community interest in restoring one of the two emplacements and then providing access and associated "story boards" recounting the history of the site. A list of the contacted stakeholders is contained as an attachment and they have all been supportive.

Community Support

There is strong community support for this project and volunteers have already undertaken significant research on the site. It is envisaged that the physical "tidy up" of the site, the painting of the emplacement and the preparation of the "story boards" all be undertaken by volunteers.

Request

It is requested that the Dunedin City Council:

- a. Agree to the restoration of the Tomahawk Battery (No 1 Emplacement only).
- b. Provide funding of \$10K for the structural engineering work, fencing and access to the site.
- c. Provide funding of \$5K for the "story boards".

Attachments:

1. Excerpt from "Defending NZ" by Dr Peter Cook (Hard Copy provided) .
2. Photograph of Tomahawk Battery firing in 1942 from "NZ Coastal Defences Website" (Hard copy provided).

3. List of Stakeholders

List of Stakeholders

Dunedin City Council
Otago Peninsula Community Board
ODT
The Star
“Hawk Talk”

NZ Army
NZCF
Otago Southland RSA
Dunedin RSA
Otago Officers Club

Southern Heritage Trust
Otago Military Historical Group

Harbour Rotary Club
Blokies’ Shed