

Welcome to Golden Gossip: the newsletter that will keep you up to date with the progress of the planning for Gabriel's Gully Goldrush 150th, a four-day golden celebration 18-21 March 2011, with drama, music, historical tours, walks and displays.

The full programme of events is now available online at [www.celebrategold.co.nz](http://www.celebrategold.co.nz).

It includes a welcome from Clutha Mayor Bryan Cadogan, background information on the Lawrence-Tuapeka goldrush and Lawrence Chinese Camp, full details on all the celebrations weekend events, as well as a map of Lawrence and Gabriel's Gully area.

On March 2nd the official programme will be included in that day's issue of the Otago Daily Times. The programme includes all events for both the Gabriel's Gully Goldrush 150th Celebrations and for the Dunedin's Heritage Festival- 'Layers of Gold' - which is also being held Otago Anniversary weekend 18-21 March 2011. Programmes will also be available from i-SITES.

A reminder too that tickets are still available to the Swaggers Dance on Saturday March 19 and to the Sesquicentennial Ball on Sunday 20 March. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.ticketdirect.co.nz](http://www.ticketdirect.co.nz), 0800 4 TICKET (08004842538) or at TICKETDIRECT venues including the Regent Theatre in Dunedin (03 477 8597) and the Lawrence Service Centre (03 485 9909). A booking fee applies.

## INSIDE

THIS ISSUE

**Full Programme  
available online**

**Tickets still available  
for Swaggers Dance &  
Sesquicentennial Ball**

**Beard growing  
competition**

**[www.celebrategold.co.nz](http://www.celebrategold.co.nz)**

## Historical Image of the Beard Fails To Impress

The Tuapeka County Council's portrait gallery in Lawrence is a veritable eyeful of many hirsute men whose contribution to the local community down through the years has earned them an inscription on the council's roll of honour.

Taking a leaf out of the old timers' book, the local men of Lawrence are helping their community to promote the Gabriel's Gully 150th Celebrations by attempting to match some of their forefathers' distinguished facial features however they are discovering that the beard appears to no longer retain the same appeal it once had.

Ernie McCraw, Eddie Fitzgerald, Rodger Anderson and Hamish Dalziel have been growing their beards since November last year and have four weeks more growth to go before they line up with others in the town to find out who is the winner of the Beard Growing Competition during the Lawrence celebrations over Otago Anniversary weekend.

Ernie says new age women definitely don't like beards. "My sister called me scruffy, my wife has given me the cold shoulder and someone

else told me I looked ten years sillier"! Eddie is in complete agreement he says, "Beards may have been a mark of distinction, today they act as an extinguisher- they put out any flames of romance. I mean you can't look very sexy with weetbix stuck on your face."

Rodger is also copping flack as the beard he has sprouted has definite red hues casting aspersions on his parentage and attracting 'ginga' discrimination.

Hamish's biggest beef is that he has had to give up eating ice creams. "They drip into the beard, and you don't really notice until the cream starts to curdle in the heat and then you start looking around to see where the bad smell is coming from."

150 years ago beards may have been popular with statesmen but they were also a common trait of the swagger so the men will be able to feel more comfortable when they rock up to the Swaggers Dance in Gabriel's Gully during the festival. Organisers of the 150th Gabriel's Gully Celebrations say weetbix and ice cream will definitely not be served!



**Competitors in the beard-growing competition holding Tupakea County Council portraits, From left to right: Rodger Anderson (Portrait David Dickson 1902), Ernie McCraw (Portrait R Wood 1908-1914), Hamish Dalziel (Portrait G. Cockburn 1908-1911), Eddie Fitzgerald (Portrait J.K. Cameron 1884-1887).**