

DD & DF Heads Charitable Trust

Established 2007



Daphne & the late Doug Heads

Disability, Determination and a Dream to help Others

“Success comes in cans, not cannots”. This could well be the motto of Douglas and Daphne Heads, the founders of the Heads Charitable Trust.

Douglas Heads was born during the depression years. Those were tough years, but not as tough as what was to come. Doug went into partnership with his brother, contracting with a dragline and took the contracting business over after his marriage to Daphne in 1948.

In 1956 Doug was working in a forestry block repairing the matt made up of 8 x 2s which the dragline was sitting on. Doug lifted up the matt to repair broken timber and while undoing a nut, the brake holding the bucket gave way and the matt and bucket fell on Doug. This happened at 5pm one evening. Fortunately, his neighbour, who only checked on his cattle every three weeks, happened to be checking his cattle that evening. While standing on the dragline matt he saw Doug’s hand move from underneath the matt. The neighbour propped up the matt and Doug crawled his way out. The neighbour put Doug in his vehicle and took him to Kew. That was the beginning of many months in and out of various hospitals over the years. Because of the accident Doug was now a paraplegic for life.

Not to be deterred, Doug and Daphne purchased property at Woodlands and developed it into a town supply dairy farm. With sheer determination, Doug got around the farm with calipers and walking sticks. When Doug had stints in hospital Daphne looked after the children, one son and three daughters, and managed the farm.

In 1973 they bought 400 acres at Hokonui and their son came into partnership with them. Then in 1979 it was the Lake Hayes area which drew them to buy land and build a home for themselves.

Over the years Doug has had a gradual loss of mobility and in his latter years had a battery operated wheel chair and three-wheeler farm trike as a means of transport. He was also diagnosed with Parkinsons. It was because of his disability and a dream to help others which led Doug and Daphne to form the Heads Charitable Trust. Doug died on August 7th, 2006. His legacy lives on in the Trust.