

## Geology/Botany Group's 17<sup>th</sup> August outing to the Kate Valley and Smarts Museum



Kate Valley is an amazing place; nothing like the old smelly rubbish dumps with thousands of scavenging seagulls. All non-recycleable material is compacted at the transfer stations in town and then transported in huge blue lorries to this site. All rubbish is then put in completely contained areas lined with plastic and covered with soil at the end of each day. As it rots down the methane gas is collected and drives 4 generators which feed enough electricity for 4,000 households onto the national grid. Every process is done with maximum efficiency and their methods and technology are being copied by a new plant being created in Auckland.



Our stop on the way back was at Smarts Museum in Rangiora. It is a treasure trove of material that has been, and still is being collected by Richard Smart. So many memories of childhood items, from every chocolate box ever, to a washing line of bloomers and an alcove of vintage sewing machines. It was a bit alarming to recognize things still in use in our own homes!



(Report contributed by Pat Whitman)