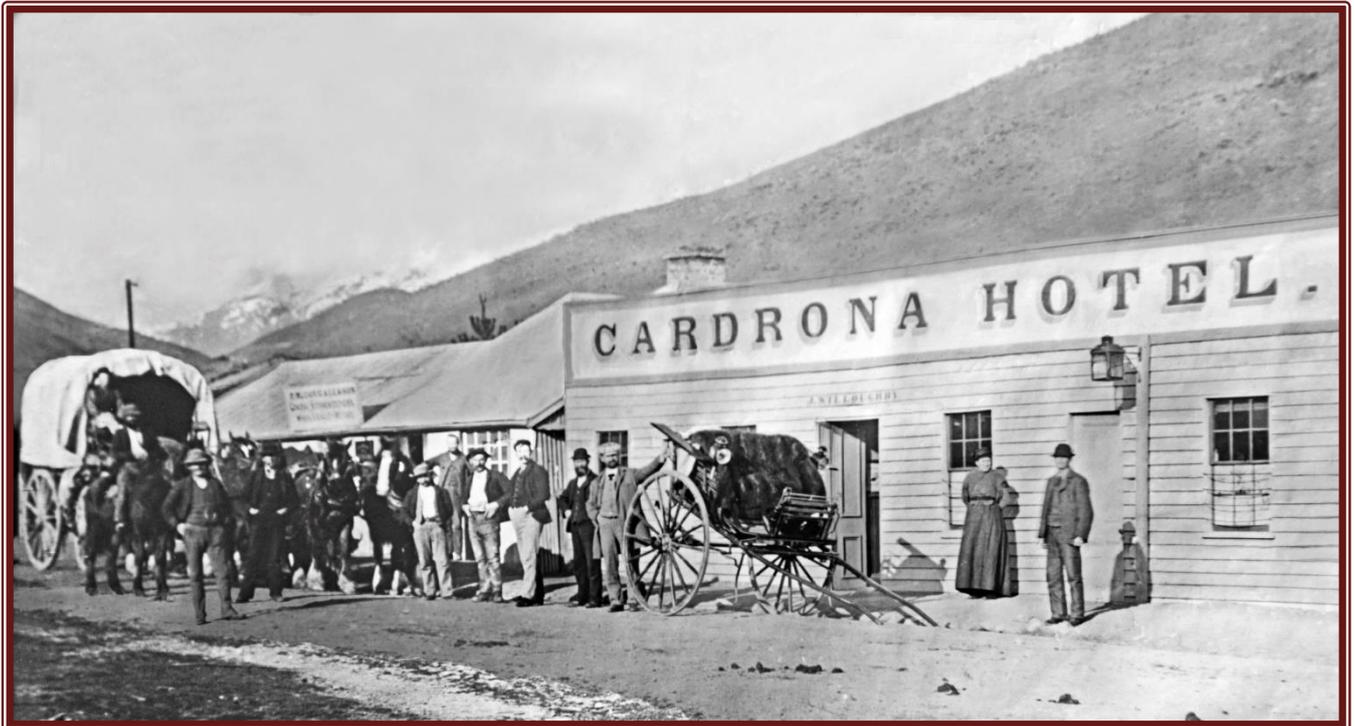


# THE QUEENSTOWN COURIER

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Issue No.104



**Cardrona Hotel – J. Willoughby, Proprietor, 1890s**

*Hocken Collections, Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago*

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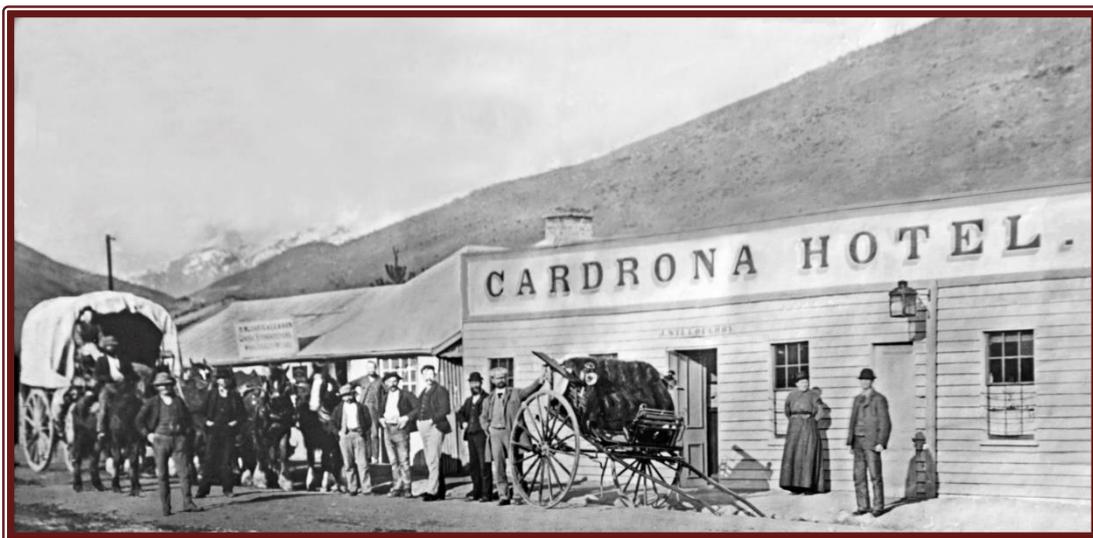
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### Cover Photo

#### Cardrona Hotel – J. Willoughby, Proprietor, 1890s

The Willoughby family owned the hotel from 1889 until 1926.



J. Tracey on the wagon, J. Northfield on the horse,  
Mr McDougall at the back in dark hat,  
J. Willoughby with his hand on the cart,  
Mrs Willoughby and J. Willoughby Junior

*Hocken Collections, Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago  
S20-581a Slide of Cardrona Hotel 1890s, in Ron Murray papers,  
MS-3980/001*

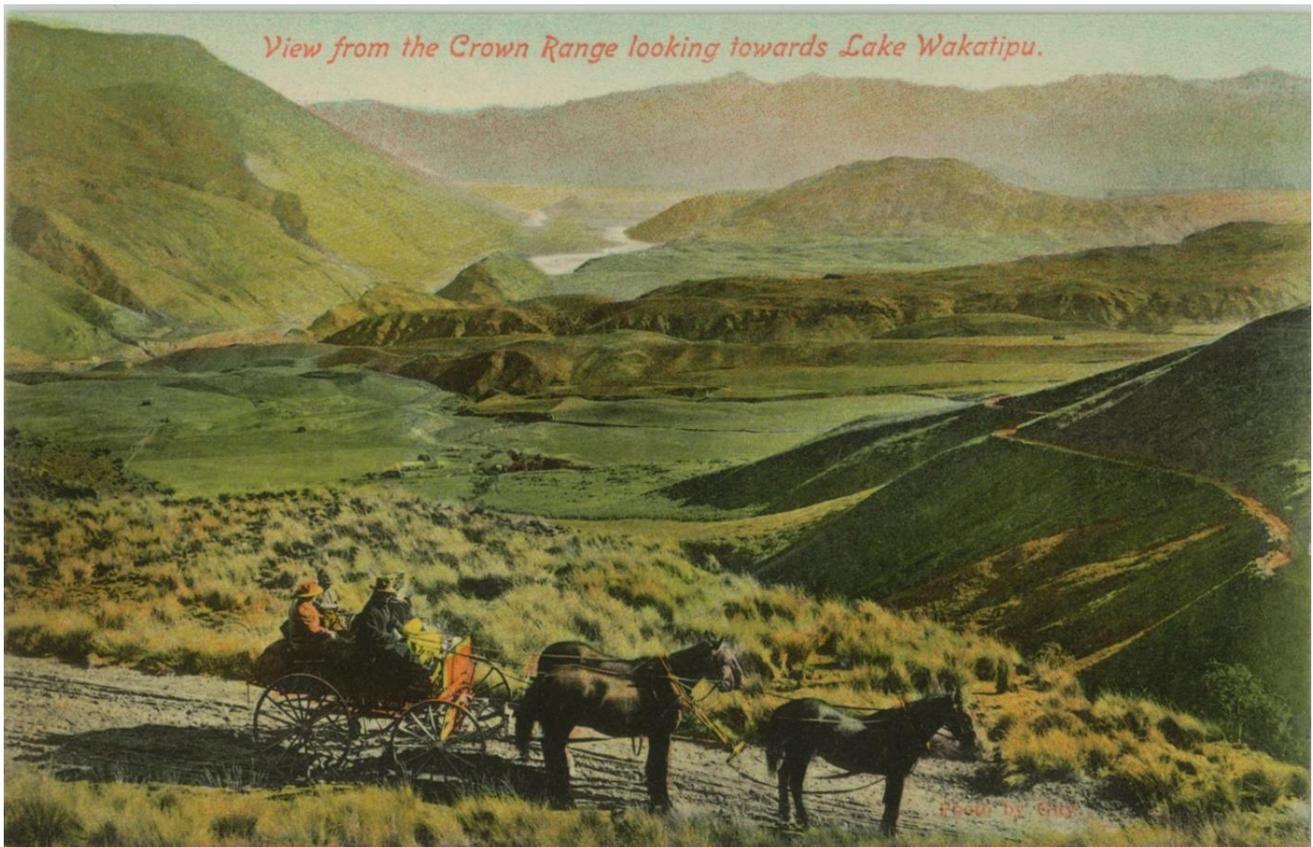
*Photo-enhancement by Bob Cranfield*

## Cardrona and Arrowtown - Historical Connections

By Ray O'Callaghan

Cardrona is not part of the Kawarau River Catchment, and residents of the Wakatipu now think of Cardrona being firmly ensconced in the Upper Clutha District. However, this was not always the case. At the start of F.W.G Miller's *The Wakatipu Centennial Story* (1962-3), there is a map showing the inclusion of Cardrona in the Wakatipu District.

This article explains the shared history particularly with Arrowtown from earliest European settlement.



Descending the Crown Range road en route for Arrowtown, early 1900s (Lakes District Museum)

### First Access Route

Historically Cardrona had a strong connection with the Wakatipu side of the Hill. This was a direct result of the 1862 gold discoveries. The initial surface alluvial gold found in Cardrona was soon eclipsed by the richer deposits of the Arrow and Shotover rivers.

At first, access to these new goldfields was most easily achieved via the Cardrona Valley. John McGregor and Thomas Low had made the Arrow River discovery via the Cardrona Valley then down Brackens Creek to the river. A ferry was set up on Wanaka Station to facilitate this route. The alternative from Dunstan via the Kawarau Gorge was initially very difficult for horses to traverse, and the Crown Range route was always favoured by those driving stock to the Wakatipu.

The suppliers of meat (other than William Rees) drove animals in via the Cardrona, and any goods being supplied from the Oamaru port would likely arrive through the Cardrona Valley. W. Reid's Transport of Macetown and Arrowtown did so much business with their wagons across the Crown Range that they opened up a branch at Luggate.

As the roading improved regular coach traffic passed over the Crown Range and when Mt Cook Company placed the first passenger motor transport on their route via the Lindis Pass from Canterbury, vehicles travelled via Cardrona. So, from the start of settlement there was a regular communication link between Cardrona and the Arrow.

### Administrative Arrangements

The auriferous area of what was to become Lake County was divided into two administrative divisions, one centred on Queenstown and the other on Fox's, later called Arrowtown. The Arrow division had its eastern boundary at the Roaring Meg and encompassed Cardrona.

The administration of these goldfields required goldfield wardens and police, both employed by the Otago Provincial Council. The administrative centres were where the monthly gold deposits were tallied and escorted to Dunedin. This gold provided an essential revenue source for the Provincial Government and the allocation of spending to the regions was calculated on the value of gold they provided.

### Cardrona's Deep Gold Lead

In 1863, the discovery of the deep lead in Cardrona changed the importance of this area to the Arrow Division as it was now a major contributor to the gold escort leaving Arrowtown. After Cardrona miners agitated for officials to be stationed locally, the Arrowtown Goldfields Warden appointed a deputy and also provided a stationed police presence for a time.

Cardrona had two banks plus storekeepers and hoteliers who were gold buyers. These purchases were supposed to be sent to Arrowtown, which posed a problem as some of the businesses had active interests in Cromwell. This meant significant quantities of gold found their way into the Cromwell escort's total.

The Arrowtown wardens were worried about the loss of revenue that would be diverted from Lake County into Vincent County coffers. It would lead to a downgrading of their operations and less money to be spent on publicly funded projects in the area, particularly bridges and roading. The people with Cromwell interests lobbied to get Cardrona removed from Lake County and to become part of Vincent County, however, this move lacked local support, and Cardrona remained tied to Arrowtown.

### Agricultural Land

Cardrona lacked land that was suitable for agricultural lease, and miners always opposed any auriferous areas being made available for agriculture. Residents in 1875 petitioned to have the Crown Terrace removed from pastoral lease and be opened up for agricultural leasehold. Unfortunately for them, none of the Cardrona applicants were able to gain a small-holding on the Terrace. They got better rewards for their efforts to have agricultural land made available at Mt Barker near Wanaka.

### Wardens and Courts

The wardens from Arrowtown not only administered mining matters but adjudicated on civil and minor criminal cases of law. They also performed marriage ceremonies, issued business licences and licences for dog ownership. Both of these licences were important revenue sources for the wardens. The wardens tried to hold regular courts in Cardrona to alleviate some of the expense for Cardrona people of travelling to Arrowtown for minor matters. Cardrona miners were well known for being litigious and they created many problems for the wardens to adjudicate. This provided plenty of work for the lawyers operating on the Arrowtown side of the hill. Because of the importance of the Wardens Court, Arrowtown was the recipient of much Cardrona spending.

### Church Connections

Another important connection to Arrowtown were the churches in early times. The Presbyterian and Roman Catholic clergy were active in regularly making visits to Cardrona, however, the Anglican clergy were often complained about for not being so proactive.

The Arrowtown Convent was well regarded as providing religious education, and Cardrona lay people ran Sunday schools in conjunction with the clergy based over the hill. One Cardrona family had 13 children, of which 12 were brought to Arrowtown to be baptised, the final child being the only one not to make the journey. In 1901, the Presbyterians created a new parish called the Arrowtown Cardrona Macetown parish, which lasted until the 1940s.

### Schools

In 1870 a school was established at Cardrona. Although the public schools of Cardrona and Arrowtown were both under the control of the Southland Education Board, there was no interaction between the schools or their committees. However, when the Arrowtown District High School operated from 1906 to 1913, Cardrona pupils could billet and attend there.

For a short time in the 1880s Cardrona Catholic families had a private school and engaged an elderly man, Michael O'Callaghan, who had previously taught in the Upper Shotover and operated a private school at Arrowtown. Unfortunately, he drowned in the river and the school closed.

A Cardrona contribution to education on the Arrowtown side of the Range was Joseph Needham. He had been mining in Cardrona when the 1878 flood demolished his operation. Macetown was advertising for a teacher so he applied, was appointed and held the job for the next decade despite having no previous teaching experience.

### Post Office

One public service in Cardrona that was dependent on Arrowtown was the Post Office. All mail in the early times came via Arrowtown and the residents often bemoaned the irregularity of the connection. It was claimed the poor service left letters and documents posted for action in Arrowtown or Queenstown languishing in the Cardrona office. However, one wonders how bad this really was, because Cardrona correspondents and letter writers were regular features in the newspapers of the day.

## Local Militia and Lodge

Militia became a feature of New Zealand life in the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Arrowtown had its own, in which Cardrona men participated. They had a journey of 27 kilometres each way to attend regular parades.

In the days before government-based welfare, lodges were important. The Lodge in Arrowtown had Cardrona members who were renowned for riding over for their meetings regardless of weather.

## Health Services



(Photo: Lakes District Museum EL5589)

The Arrow District Hospital, built in 1879, was funded by subscriptions, and Cardrona residents were keen subscribers. Unfortunately for them, the doctor was stationed on the wrong side of the Crown Range. The installation of the telegraph improved communication, but the doctor still had a slow horseback ride to see a patient, and patients had a long journey in order to reach the hospital.

In Cardrona there were women who were respected as having skills as midwives, however those women who were having a difficult pregnancy came over to Arrowtown to have medical assistance at hand during birth. On occasion after childbirth some women would have to move to the hospital for recuperation. The stay could be months, while the welfare of existing children was met by the extended family and neighbours.

Time spent in the hospital was much longer than is thought necessary today. Cardrona people in hospital relied on having Arrowtown acquaintances or relations for visits or maybe a day out whilst convalescing.

There was always a population of old bachelors in mining areas and Cardrona was no exception. Those who attempted to live out their lives in the area often found as they declined that they were admitted to hospital at Arrowtown or Frankton. They often died in these facilities, and a number of these fellows are interred in the Arrowtown cemetery with unmarked graves. This loyalty to a hospital that they had subscribed to was shown

when one former Cardrona resident who was farming at Hawea Flat took ill. He opted to go to Arrowtown hospital rather than Cromwell which was somewhat easier to reach.

### Sporting Ties

Cardrona had a race track and formed part of the circuit with Frankton and Arrowtown tracks. Although quality horses were in short supply, punters were not. These race meetings were often the highlight of the year and received support from both sides of the Range. The Chinese community were active in their support of these events.



The Cardrona Cricket ground above the All Nations Hotel site

The other major sport of the Victorian era was cricket. Cardrona miners provided the basis for a strong team that competed on a regular basis with teams from this side of the hill and Pembroke (Wanaka). These matches always were associated with a well-patronised social event, visitors being billeted in the community. Games were played over two days, irrespective of the weather, with heavy overcoats being worn if necessary.

On one occasion in October 1906 the Arrowtown team travelled home in such atrocious weather conditions with strong southerly winds and torrential rain that they were chilled and soaked to the skin. They reached Arrowtown at 9pm, and counted themselves lucky to have not succumbed to exposure on the top of the Crown Range.

### Social Events

In the 1870s a practice developed for many Cardrona residents to travel to Arrowtown for the organised festivities over the Christmas period, leaving their own town deserted. The popular Arrowtown Gymkhana on New Year's Day always attracted a cavalcade of horses from Cardrona until its demise in the early 1960s.

Social events always were well attended, with weddings especially popular. A glance at the guest lists always showed people travelling across the Crown Range to attend. Individuals who were talented singers or musicians were sure to be invited, and there was no going home early from these occasions.

In the reverse direction, Arrowtown people were eager visitors and contributors to Cardrona events – see report opposite.

### The Chinese

The Chinese community in Cardrona was large and had considerable social and business interaction with Arrowtown. They also provided vegetables which they carted over the Crown Range and sold to their countrymen.

## Cardrona Cricket Club Annual Concert & Ball, March 1898

This report in the *Lake County Press* published in Arrowtown demonstrates the close relationships between Cardrona and both Arrowtown and Wanaka (Pembroke). Accessed through [paperspast.natlib.govt.nz](http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz).

The Cardrona Cricket Club held their annual concert and ball last Friday the 11 inst., in the Cardrona Hall, which was kindly lent for the occasion. The majority of the local people attended, while there was also a considerable number of visitors from the Wanaka and the Arrow districts.

The programme consisted of 20 items, all well selected and varied. The concert opened with a pianoforte selection, "La caprere," by Miss Lafranchi, who performed in her usual excellent manner. The school children gave three items, all action songs, during the evening: "When Johnnie takes his walks abroad"; the duet, "Sweet jingle bells," by Misses C. and M. Scurr; and "Tramp, tramp, the boys are marching". The performance of the children reflected great credit on their teacher, Miss Healey.

Miss Russell, of Pembroke, sang "The gates of the west," and "Ora pro nobis," and won well deserved applause. "Out of the deep" and "A tar of the Queen's" were well rendered by Mr G. White, of Arrow. Mr P. White, brother of the former and well known in this town [Arrowtown] as a first-rate comic singer, gave "Limerick races" and "The girl with the golden hair".

[And so on with each song.]

Before the close of the programme Mr T. Russell, president of the Cardrona Cricket Club, delivered a most eloquent address, in which he spoke in the most glowing terms of the highly creditable performances of the club of which he had the honour to be president. He also added a few scathing remarks about the failure of the boys over the hill [Arrowtown] to meet the fixtures of the Association. He wound up by thanking the people present for their attendance, and the visitors for their kindly assistance in making the evening's entertainment one of the most successful of the season.

After the concert was over, refreshments were handed round, and the hall was cleared for dancing, which was kept up with great zest till half-past four in the morning.

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## Business Connections

Many of the entrepreneurs who founded businesses in the early mining boom days operated on both sides of the Crown Range. They needed to be dextrous in their business decisions. Timing was important: when an area went into decline, they needed to be ahead of the game otherwise bankruptcy loomed. They had to have the ability to cut their losses and move on. Often businesses were only around for a few weeks.

Two families stayed for the long haul in Cardrona businesses - the McDougalls and the Lafranchis. Robert McDougall Senior owned stores in Arrowtown and Macetown prior to his Cardrona operations begun in 1871. He then served for 37 years as the Cardrona Riding representative on the Lake County, travelling to Queenstown for the monthly meetings by horseback, a distance of over forty kilometres each way from Cardrona, and more from Wanaka. He opened another store in Pembroke (Wanaka), leaving his son Robert Junior to run the Cardrona operation from 1883.



Robert McDougall Jr and his wife Christina outside the tearooms

Robert Junior made changes over the years to counteract the effects of diminishing population, reducing the large store and post office, and offering accommodation and a tearoom. After his death in 1946, his son Jack took on the business with his mother, Christina, until it closed in the late 1950s.

One of the McDougall businesses was the Cardrona coal mine situated near the summit of the Crown Range Road. It was able to compete in the Arrowtown market against the Gibbston mine because it was mostly a downhill run for the wagons.

Gioachimo Lafranchi had opened the first hotel in Macetown where he also had mining interests. In 1871 he brought his business skills to Cardrona and opened the All Nations Hotel, which was named after the All Nations hard rock mining venture in Sylvia Creek beyond Macetown. He died at Arrowtown in 1889 after a fall from his

horse on Tobin's Track following a Warden's Court hearing. His family carried on the Cardrona businesses of mining, butchery, blacksmithing and farming until 1943.

Prior to the 1878 flood, Cardrona sustained butchers, bakers, storekeepers, blacksmiths, hoteliers and carriers. The flood ruined much of the mine workings and these businesses too. The road up the Valley and across the Crown range was completely devastated. As a result, in 1883 the County Council opened tenders for a new road extending as far as Glendhu Bay on Lake Wanaka. This new road included a new stretch which became known as the Zig Zag, replacing Tobins Track as the main road. This piece of road caused consternation among Cardrona and Arrowtown residents because it added an extra four kilometres to the 27-kilometre journey between Cardrona and Arrowtown. They blamed Queenstown business interests for its construction.

Over the following 30 years, Cardrona had further mining investment, but the business community never returned. Of interest is the room register for the Cardrona Hotel between about 1900 to 1926 when under the Willoughby family who owned it from 1889-1926. There are steady regular bookings by Arrowtown businessmen who must have achieved sufficient local transactions to warrant the journey.

Once the pastoral lease land was made available for family farms, Pembroke (Wanaka) developed as a service centre and quickly supplanted the need for Cardrona people to travel over the Crown Range for the necessities of life.

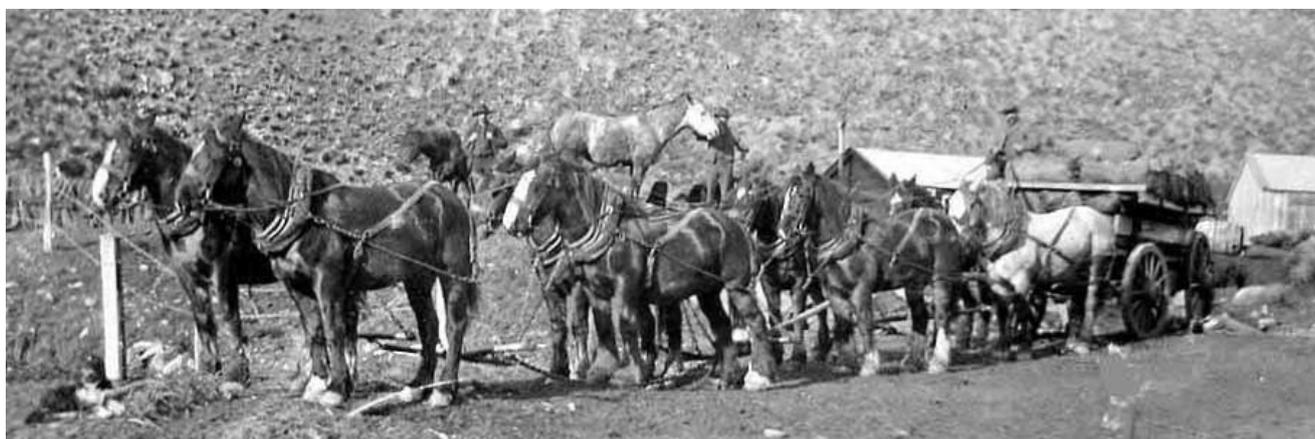
Families that I can recall having a connection with both Cardrona and Arrowtown are: Bowler, Baker, Dudley, Edwards, Jansen, Buckham, Scurr, Austin, Little, Walsh, Waters, Callaghan, Galvin, Anderson, Enright, Miller, Bond, Braden and Kerin. There will be lots of others, however there are few of the old families left who relate to those times.

#### Sources

Ray O'Callaghan is the author of *Cardrona: 150 years in the Valley of Gold*, published by Cardrona Heritage Trust, 2012, which contains a wide-ranging bibliography.

*Society members visited Cardrona in both 2018 and 2020, guided by Ray and his cousin Tim Scurr who are experts in the history and on the committee of the Cardrona Heritage Trust. Ray is also on our Society's Board. These trips have kindled interest in Cardrona.*

*Long may this sense of connection continue.*



## Mount Beetham

By Rita Littlewood Teele, Simon Beale, Pat Rainey\*



Mount Beetham, photographed from Feehly Hill, 2019

Sitting on the Crown Terrace and visible from all parts of Arrowtown, is an upside-down, asymmetric cone of schist, known as Mount Beetham. Its southeastern slope glows as the sun rises; the furrowed, steeper northwestern slope lights up with the setting sun.

For miners travelling to the gold rush in the Wakatipu, this isolated cone was the signpost to the Arrow. On 4 July 4 1863, the *Otago Witness* reported on a new water race:

*One of these races is worth noticing for the spirit of enterprise which has prompted and carried its projectors over the difficulties of its construction. It commences from the western end of the Crown Range, where there are two or more creeks at a high elevation, and passes over the left spur of **Mount Beetham** towards a point situated one mile above the Township on the Arrow River. (PapersPast)*

Who was Beetham? All evidence points to Richmond Beetham, who, at 27 years of age was warden, then magistrate, of the Arrow in the early days of the gold rush. His career in Arrowtown and, subsequently in Queenstown has been presented in prior issues of the *Courier* (Issues 53, 62 & 98, available on our website). Some added details of his time in the Wakatipu are recorded herein, but his family background, and his life after leaving the area are the main subjects of this article.



Painting of Richmond  
by his father, William Beetham

Born in Horncastle, County York, England, the oldest son of the successful portrait painter, William Beetham, Richmond Beetham travelled to the Victoria gold fields in 1853 when he was 17 years old. In December 1855, he joined his large family—parents and nine siblings—who had arrived in New Zealand. The family, encouraged by Richmond, had planned on emigrating to Christchurch, but after an exhausting sea journey, they stayed in Lower Hutt after the ship docked at Port Nicholson.

By the end of January 1856, Richmond and his younger brother William found work as labourers, rebuilding the Rimutaka Hill Road which had been devastated by the earthquake of 1855. At the end of their first month, *'the lads rejoiced in having earned £7.15 shillings (Richmond) and £5.11 shillings (William).* (Cited by A.G. Bagnall)

By the end of August, both young men were on land in the Wairarapa that was later to become known as Brancepeth. The following year, while Richmond was camped in an outstation whare, he was visited by four Maori who *'brandished their weapons and struck the whare with them, threatening to burn it over our heads. We, however, resorted to Pacific measures and they cooled down a little.'* (Cited by A.G. Bagnall) This anecdote is telling in respect to Richmond Beetham's later career which involved 'cooling down' arguments between miners.

Bagnall wrote that although Brancepeth was originally deeded to Richmond and Jack Hutton, son of William Beetham's partner, John Hutton, Richmond decided that a career in law was preferable. It seems that he inherited his father's artistic ability because in 1858 he painted a view of the early buildings—a whare, a store and a woolshed, of what later became the grand estate of Brancepeth.

In May 1861, a letter from Samuel Revens, publisher of the first newspaper in New Zealand, to Sir Donald McLean, supported Richmond Beetham's application for a job, possibly in the Native Service.

(<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/manuscripts/MCLEAN-1000936.2.1>)

Whether Richmond was employed in this capacity is uncertain, but his obituary noted that he joined the Public Service in October 1862. He must have acquired some education in law, specifically in understanding the application of the Mining Act, because in 1863, when we find him next, he is the Gold Receiver in Dunstan.

In January 1863, there was a violent storm that swept through the region, completely flattening, or seriously damaging buildings in Dunstan. The correspondent for the *Otago Daily Times* was in the midst of the winds and barely escaped serious injury. Part of his report follows:

*Buildings of the most substantial character did not escape the violence of the storm, even the Court House, erected at considerable expense, and composed of the most solid materials, was a complete wreck. The Resident Magistrate, Jackson Keddell, Esq., had a narrow escape from the falling building, and but for the fact that the violence of the storm kept him awake, there can be no question but that our obituary notices might have contained an intimation of the decease of a gentleman who has made himself respected in the district. I am also informed that the Gold Receiver, Mr Beetham, had an equally narrow escape from the ruins of the Court House. It appears that feeling insecure in the dilapidated tent known as the Treasury, this gentleman sought refuge in the presumed substantial building called a Court House, but that while this was fast becoming a wreck, he, in endeavoring [sic] to save some papers, made a narrow escape from the falling timbers. (PapersPast)*

By April, Richmond Beetham had been sent to the Arrow but could not be sworn in as Warden on arrival because the necessary forms had not been received at the Post Office! It should be noted that letters passing to and from the district had as tortuous a journey as did the miners. A footnote in the *Lake Wakatipu Mail* of 27 May 1863 in regards to similar delays follows:

*The foregoing letter from our Arrow correspondent should have arrived in time for our Saturday's issue; but owing to the messenger who was sent with it getting more than a 'wee "drappie in his 'ee"' its arrival was delayed till Saturday night. Our efforts to obtain the latest intelligence from the outlying districts are often baffled by the almost entire absence of the necessary means of communication; and until something like an approach to a road be made, our readers must not blame us, but the Government, for any of our shortcomings in that particular. (PapersPast)*

From the same issue:

*'At last' a great benefit has been conferred on this district by (not the appointment, for that has been granted long ago) the administration of the usual oath to Mr. Beetham, who now holds the office of Resident Magistrate and Warden for the Arrow District; but still, to the disgrace of our 'powers that be,' stands that cold incommodious tent (12x16). As this spacious hall of justice will not, when crowded, hold at the most more than eight*

people, all witnesses, &c., have to stand outside. Rather farcical, is it not, to order them out of the Court? (Paperspast)

Although not mentioned in the dispatch, the tent may have also served as housing for the warden.

There was grumbling in the district because no separate Resident Magistrate was appointed. This was accompanied by some disquiet regarding the young Warden's inexperience, but on 6 June 1863 the reporter from the *Lake Wakatipu Mail*, cited 'Mr Beetham's very lucid judgment, given after a most patient and careful sifting of the evidence' in a case where the creators of a dam and race that were destroyed by the late floods were sued for carelessness by the owners of adjacent claims that were temporarily ruined. The Warden did not give damages to the complainants stating that 'wilful carelessness on the part of the Italians has not been proved.' (Paperspast)

Mount Beetham had acquired its name by July 1863 as noted in the introduction. Events on the goldfields unfolded with lightning speed! By 4 August Richmond Beetham, by then Resident Magistrate and Warden, was unanimously voted into the chair for a meeting to support the new hospital at Frankton. As Resident Magistrate he also presided over inquests. The *Otago Police Gazette* on 31 August listed 7 deaths from July and early August that required inquiry.

Richmond Beetham, who was engaged to be married, made a trip to the North Island and back between the dates of 2 September (when he chaired a meeting in Queenstown) and 4 November because there is no newspaper record of official business conducted by him during that interval. There were, however, letters to the newspapers about the lack of adequate governmental agents in place during his absence. Marriage to Lucilla (sometimes spelled Lucille or Lucelle) Frances Swainson, took place on 17 September 1863 at St James Church, Hutt.



### Lucilla Frances Beetham (Swainson)

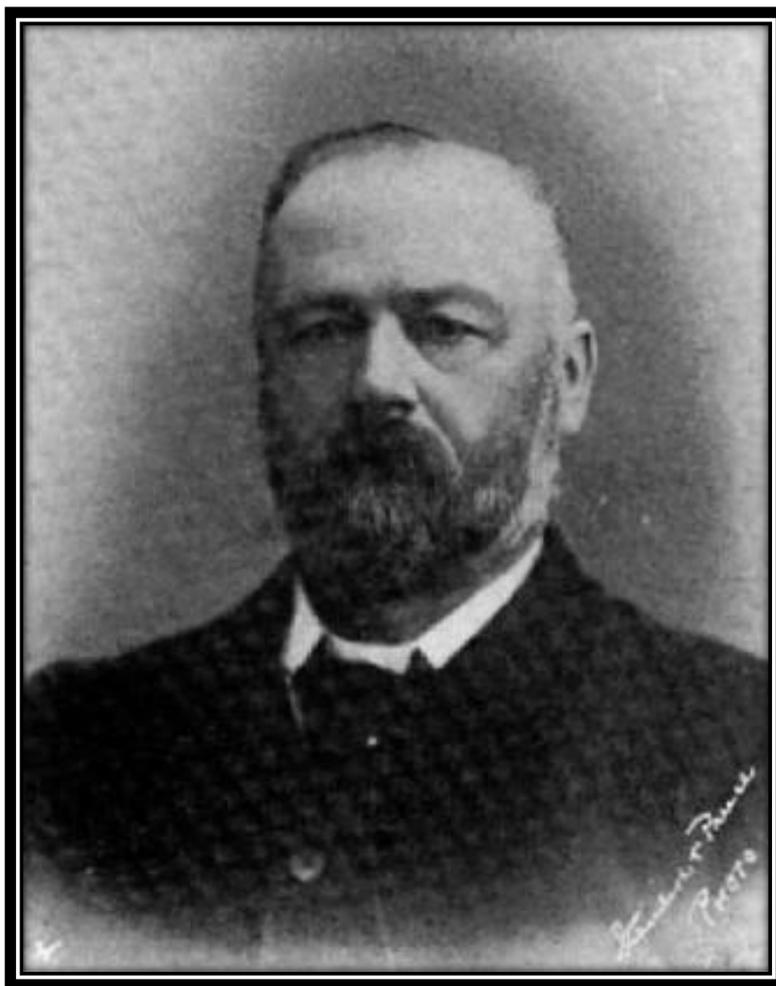
Birthdate: March 24, 1842  
Birthplace: Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand  
Death: 1910 (67)  
Nelson, New Zealand  
Immediate Family: Daughter of [William John Swainson, FRS, FLS](#) and [Anne Grasby \(Swainson\)](#) 2nd wife  
Wife of [Richmond Beetham](#)  
Sister of [Edith Stanaway Halcombe](#) and [Annette Elizabeth Turton](#)  
Half sister of [William John Swainson, Jr.](#); [Henry Gabriel Swainson](#); [Mary Frederica Marshall](#); [George Frederick Swainson](#) and [Edwin Newcome Swainson](#)  
Occupation: married 17-09-1863 @ St James Lower Hutt Wellington, no issue

[Information for Lucilla Frances Swainson, from Geni.com](#)

Richmond must have met his future first wife while he was living in the North Island. Circumstantial evidence to support this impression is as follows:

She was a daughter of the late William Swainson, a distinguished English naturalist and artist, who died in Lower Hutt the same year that the Beethams arrived there. Her widowed mother would have been very happy for her to marry the oldest son of a successful family. Lucilla shared an interest in art; her pencil drawings of birds are held in the Turnbull Library.

It is difficult to imagine what the new bride thought of the rough and tumble town of Queenstown where the couple spent the next 13 years. Richmond Beetham's time as the Queenstown magistrate has been documented in *Courier* Issues 53, 62 & 98.



Mr R Beetham

Standish and Preece Photo

<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/name-124572.html>

The Beethams left for Napier in 1876. The farewell party mentions his wife's ill health as a reason for their departure. A possibility, unproven, is that she had tuberculosis. After serving as Resident Magistrate in Napier and Timaru, Richmond Beetham was established as Resident, later Senior Magistrate in Christchurch from 1881 onwards.

In the years after Richmond Beetham left Queenstown, he spent leisure time painting, and he became well known in artistic circles. He exhibited paintings with the Canterbury Society of Arts (CSA), from 1881-93 and served on the Committee and as President.

He had paintings accepted for the Colonial and Indian exhibition in London, 1886, and the Melbourne Centennial Exhibition in 1888 ('In the Hollyford Valley' and 'Samoan Landscapes with Coconut Palms'). He won second award for figure and landscape at the NZ & South Seas Exhibition in Dunedin, 1889-90. His paintings are in the Turnbull and Hocken Libraries. (*Nineteenth Century New Zealand Artists: A Guide & Handbook*).

Richmond Beetham had spent 42 years as a Magistrate when he retired to Masterton in the Wairarapa in 1905. After Lucilla died in 1910, he married Hilda Margrette Hampton in 1911. In 1912, at the age of 76 years, Richmond Beetham died suddenly, probably from cardiac cause, and was buried in the Archer Street Cemetery in Masterton.

References not previously noted:

Bagnall AG, *Wairarapa: An Historical Excursion*, published by The Masterton Lands Trust, 1976

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/periodicals/TLR20050101.2.10>

Lydia Wevers wrote an article on Brancepeth and some of its early history.

\*Pat Rainey, née Thomson, is the granddaughter of Doctor John Bell Thomson of Arrowtown, and the daughter of John Bell Thomson who wrote *Swift as the Arrow*.

With her three siblings, also writers, she wrote the biography of her grandfather. She now lives north of Wellington. Her research into the history of the Wairarapa included the Beetham family and their homestead, Brancepeth.



Mount Beetham from McDonnell Road, 2020

## Māori Place Names in the Wakatipu

By Pauline Lawrence

*Jan. 13. \_\_\_ Mohiki complete; but as the wind was strong from the N.E., Huruhuru put off launching them until the morning. Huruhuru's leisure in the evenings was employed in giving me information about the interior of this part of the island, with which he was well acquainted. He drew, with a pencil, the outline of four lakes, by his account, situated nine days' journey inland of us, and only two from the west coast, in a direction nearly due west of our position.*

*One of these, named Wakatipu, is celebrated for the 'pounamu' found on its shores, and in the mountain torrents which supply it...The three other lakes, Hawea, Waiariki and Oanaka, had formerly inhabitants on their shores, who frequently went to and from Waitaki to visit their relatives.*

Edward Shortland recorded this in his 1844 journal as he waited with Te Huruhuru who had undertaken to guide his party across the Waitaki River on the overland journey from Otago to Banks Peninsula. In 1851 Shortland published *The Southern Districts of New Zealand* including in it a 'Map of Lakes in the Interior of Middle Island from a Drawing by Huruhuru' – printed opposite. He, like many European explorers, relied on the knowledge and skills of local Māori who guided them through traditional routes in the South Island.

Reko, a powerful Ngāi Tahu chief of Tukurau (situated on the back road between Mataura and Wyndham), was one who provided significant information to early Europeans travelling to the Lakes District. In September 1853 Nathaniel Chalmers, guided by Reko and Kaikoura, travelled north from Tukurau. En route to Wanaka and Hawea they travelled up the Nevis valley and at the summit Chalmers became the first European to set eyes on Lake Wakatipu.

Three years later a map drawn by Reko guided John Chubbin, with his companions John Morrison and Malcolm McFarlane, to the southern end of the lake. Chubbin described how *[H]e drew a map of the course of the Mataura [River] for me. He drew it in sand with a stick, the streams being represented by hollows and the mountains by little mounds of sand.* Reko's assistance was also of great help to John Turnbull Thomson. *With great alacrity and intelligence, he drew first a long line across the floor, which he denominated the Matau (the Clutha river). He then described an irregular circle round the floor, which he denominated the sea shore. At the head of the Matau, he drew three eel-shaped figures, which he called (Lakes) Wakatipu, Wanaka and Hawea.*

Shortland had also noted on his journey that *even in this thinly populated part of the country, names had been given to many small streams and ravines which one would have imagined scarcely worthy of notice.* A similar comment could also apply to this district.



Ngāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe and Waitaha had travelled and explored the region extensively and thoroughly over many centuries to acquire the many highly valued resources that the area offered.

At the head of Lake Wakatipu were the precious pounamu sources. More widely in the region there were resources such as tī (cabbage trees) which provided a source of sweet starch, and tikumu (the mountain daisy) whose leaves were used to make highly valued cloaks, and also leggings which provided protection from matagouri and taramea (speargrass). The flower stalks of taramea provided a perfumed resin when heated. During summer, tuna (eels) and other native fish were caught while in winter there were annual hunting trips to catch weka when they were healthy and fat. Native birds such as koreke (native quail) were caught in the open valleys.

Seasonal visits still occurred in the 19th century. In *The Wakatipians* Alfred Duncan comments that at the head of the lake they *found traces of Maoris in the shape of stake nets, baskets for catching eels, spears, waddies, ashes, and other debris betokening a somewhat recent camp....*



Rāwiri Te Maire

As a consequence of the journeys and settlements, place names which reflect significant legends, people, traditions and resources were given to most important landscape features.

Rāwiri Te Maire (1808-1899) of Waitaha, Kāti Māmoe and Ngāi Tahu descent was an invaluable source of knowledge about place names in the district. In his youth he lived at Lake Hawea and later he was a teacher at a new wharekura (school of learning) at Moeraki. His knowledge was passed on to both his son, Henare, and researchers.

There were a number of routes used to get to and from the area. The Kawarau River was a key route linking the lake and **Mata-au** (the Clutha River). It included crossing the Kawarau, near Roaring Meg (**Te Wai-o-Korokio**), by way of the natural bridge, **Pōtiki-whatarumaki-nao**. Chalmers on his journey with Reko crossed the bridge, and Duncan described it as *where the rocks overhang the stream so far that one can jump across the gap, if the roaring torrent below is not too much for the nervous system*. Later, planks spanned the gap, but the bridge was destroyed in the 1878 floods.

In *Maori Lore of Lake, Alp and Fiord*, Herries Beattie describes the eastern approaches by the *Native pedestrian* to the district through the *rough valley of the Kawarau River* or over the Crown Range, *down to the pakihi (flat) called by him Kā-muri-wai on the banks of Haehae-nui or Arrow River*. Reflecting the landscape features, **Kā-muriwai** indicated that a number of streams ended there, and Herries Beattie

suggests that **Haehaenui** might be translated as ‘Big Scratches’ as if the Arrow River had slit the ground and gouged out a number of channels for itself.

Lake Hayes was known as **Waiwhakaata**, meaning water that reflects objects. Lake Johnson was called **Waipuna**, a term often used for small lakes or springs, wai meaning water and puna meaning spring.

The Shotover River was known as **Kimiākau** and was part of the network of kāinga mahinga kai (food gathering places) and travel routes through Central Otago. The meaning of Kimiākau, ‘looking for the sea coast’, reflects this exploration and the search for potential trails through to the west coast. Kawarau was also the name for the Remarkables. However, the Kawarau Falls were called **Ōterotu**. The junction of the Kimiākau (the Shotover) and the Kawarau was called **Puahuru**. Herries Beattie suggests that it could mean close muggy weather or a snug camping spot. Nearby on the south side of the Kawarau was a Kāti Māmoe settlement, **Tititea**, possibly translating as ‘a white peg’. At the Frankton flats there was a Kāti Māmoe settlement, **Te Kirikiri**, kirikiri meaning gravel.

Lake Wakatipu was called **Whakatipu Waimāori**. Waimāori means freshwater but the meaning of Whakatipu is now unknown. However, the significance of the name Whakatipu in the region can be seen by the number of landmarks in the wider area which include the name.

The flat land of Queenstown Bay was called **Tāhuna** (a shallow sandbank or sandy shore), and the Queenstown Gardens was the site of a small settlement, **Te Karoro**. Queenstown Hill was called **Te Tapu nui** signifying its intense sacredness.



In the gardens is this memorial to Hakitekura and her legendary swim across the lake to Refuge Point. Hakitekura was the daughter of Kāti Māmoe chief Tuwiriroa who was born at Tāhuna. From a spur on Ben Lomond, Hakitekura would watch the competitions of the young women of Tāhuna as they attempted to outswim one another. She then asked her father for a kauati (firestick) and some dry raupō. With the kauati and raupō

wrapped in flax to keep it dry, Hakitekura left in the darkness on her swim across the lake. She steered her course by the dawning light shining on the tops of Cecil and Walter Peaks; hence their name **Kā Kamu o Hakitekura** (the twinklings seen by Hakitekura). When the people of Tāhuna awoke, they saw the fire she had lit at her landing place. Her father recalled his daughter asking for the kauati and raupō. When a search revealed she was missing, a waka was sent to fetch her.

Her remarkable journey is reflected in the number of geographical features named after her. Refuge Point where she came ashore and lit her fire was known as **Te Ahi-o-Hakitekura** (the fire of Hakitekura). Ben Lomond and Fernhill were called **Te Taumata-o-Hakitekura** (the resting place of Hakitekura ) and Kelvin Heights/the Kaware Peninsula, was known as **Te Nuku-o-Hakitekura** (the expanse of Hakitekura).

The wealth of pounamu sources in the Routeburn and Dart valleys meant that this area was of great importance to southern Maori and almost all significant landmarks on the journey to the head of the lake are named. Bob's Cove was named **Punetapu** (sacred spring) and the surrounding hills known as **Puketapu** (sacred hill). **Punamāhaka** and **Waikāmāhaka** were the traditional names for Moke Lake. Herries Beattie recorded the meaning as '*twin waters*' referring to the unusual shape of the lake.

To the east is the Richardson range which was named **Whakaari** (to hold up the view) while the mountains to the west including the Ailsa Range are **Kā Mauka Whakatipu** (the Wakatipu Mountains).

Towards the head of the lake names reflect other valuable and abundant resources. The area from the Greenstone river to Kinloch was known as **Totara ka wha wha** (the totara tree split open) while Pigeon island was called **Wāwāhi-waka** (splitting canoes) because of the abundance of large totara trees on the island which were used by Kāti Māmoe and Ngāi Tahu for making waka. Pig Island was called **Mātau**. However, the third island was unnamed.

The area by the wharf at Glenorchy was known as **Tāhuna**, again reflecting the shallow shoreline. The Dart River was called **Te Awa Whakatipu** (the Wakatipu River) while the Rees River was known as either **Puahere** or **Puahiri**. Located at the junction of the two rivers is **Ari** (Mount Alfred). Ari was the grandson of Turu, a Waitaha ancestor, and he is immortalised in the name of the nearby lake, **Ōturu**, now known as Diamond Lake. Mt Earnslaw was called **Pikirakatahi**.

The Routeburn (**Te Komama**), the Hollyford River (**Ōkare/Whakatipu-ka-tuku**) and Te Awa Whakatipu were part of the well-known travel route which linked Whakatipu Waimāori with Martins Bay (**Whakatipu Waitai**). Whakatipu Waitai was one of the largest Ngāi Tahu settlements in the region. Lake McKerrow was called **Whakatipu Waitai** or **Ōkare**. Waitai means saltwater. On the Routeburn track Lake Harris was known as **Te Hokaputu** and the Harris Saddle was named **Tarahaka-Whakatipu**. Tracks led over the saddle to the head of the lake and via the Greenstone to the lower part of the lake.

At the southern end of the lake, the flat land where Kingston now stands was known as **Takerehaka** and was the site of a kāinga/settlement. Mount Dick on the south western shore of Whakatipu Waimāori was named **Pukeraki**.

Also on the western side of the lake is **Kā Pukemāeroero** or Bayonet Peaks. Kā Puke refers to hills or mountains while māeroero describes supernatural beings who lived in the forest. They were wild men covered in long hair, and known for their strength and craftiness. The Lochy River was known as **Te Awamāeroero** to indicate that the māeroero lived in the forests here.

The Hector Mountains run along the south eastern end of the lake and were known as **Tāpuae O’Uenuku**. At an 1879 Royal Commission of Inquiry into Ngāi Tahu land claims, kaumatua recorded Tāpuae O’Uenuku as a kāinga mahinga kai where weka and tikumu were gathered.

The importance of retaining Māori place names was recognised by people like Herries Beattie and geologist Professor James Park. In 1922 Park wrote, *For all Maori Place names I have the greatest reverence. Enshrined in many of them we have a story of brave endeavour, of victory in the face of odds, often maybe ill-luck and tragedy...the place names are woven into their tradition and folklore. Without them their early history would be a closed book.* In the 1920s Herries Beattie’s meticulous gathering of Māori place names of southern New Zealand and his subsequent writings ensured that many names were not lost.

These names, which highlight important landscape features, legends, events and significant people, are the result of the extensive travel, exploration and utilisation of resources which occurred over many centuries.

Today the Ngāi Tahu Cultural Mapping Project (<http://www.kahurumanu.co.nz/atlas>) provides a comprehensive account of the journey and process used to gather and preserve Māori names and thus create their cultural atlas. The atlas provides great insight into the richness, significance and history of Māori place names in the area.

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*Maori Place-Names in the Lakes District*, Lakes District Museum

## William Warren, 1833-1900, Proprietor of the *Lake Wakatip Mail*

Monologue written by Marion Borrell and presented at 'People from Our Past' in 2016, by David Williams who was the editor of the *Mountain Scene*.

What better place to have a newspaper than a new, go-ahead town? Queenstown in 1864. That's when I went into partnership in the *Lake Wakatip Mail* which had started the previous year, a mere seven months after the gold-rush began. When the town was surveyed into sections, I bought eight, intending to put down my roots. I was 31.

I knew the printing trade well. My father was a stationer, printer and journalist in Royston in Hertfordshire. He died when I was 12, and my older brother John took over the business and trained me in it. But I didn't see much of a future for me there, so when I was 22, I sailed for Melbourne in the 'Marco Polo'. This was in 1856.

The announcement of the gold discoveries in Otago in 1861 was my cue to move again, and at first I worked for the *Otago Daily Times*. My colleague there, George Taylor, was one of the founders of the *Lake Wakatip Mail*. My move to Queenstown in 1864 proved to be a grand and lasting opportunity. Two and a half years later I was the sole proprietor and editor of my own paper. I changed it from twice-weekly to once a week on Thursdays. It cost sixpence. In later years it again became twice-weekly.

From the outset, the paper announced its *special duty to watch over all matters affecting the gold fields and the interests of the miners, and also all matters relating to the settlement of land*. This meant listening to the people, championing the rights of residents, promoting improvements and developments in the district, and taking issue with government officials and anyone else when the need arose. Our office and printing shop was in Lower Ballarat St, just up from Eichardt's, in the thick of the action. Nothing much could escape my notice, and there was indeed plenty to report - even at our own office.

In the great flood of 1878, we had water through the building when Horne Creek overflowed and dug out deep channels down Ballarat St and other streets leading to the lake, swamping buildings and undermining some. This was bad enough, but then the lake rose partway up Ballarat Street. Rees St was under four feet of water. Some of our stock was ruined, and the building couldn't be accessed until the water receded.

We couldn't produce Thursday's paper, but on Saturday managed two pages, reporting on the floods:

*It is our painful duty this week to record by far the greatest inundation ever known in this and the Southland portion of Otago. Judging by the fearful devastation which followed as the immediate result—the cutting out of new water channels where none before existed, the immense and numerous landslips of small hills precipitated into*



*valleys or swollen roaring torrents below, and the gouging out from some of our gullies and table lands of yawning chasms 50 and 60 feet deep and as many wide—the event is probably unequalled by anything of the kind for generations past.*

*... Fortunately, however, no loss of life appears to have occurred, although some hair-breadth escapes are reported...*

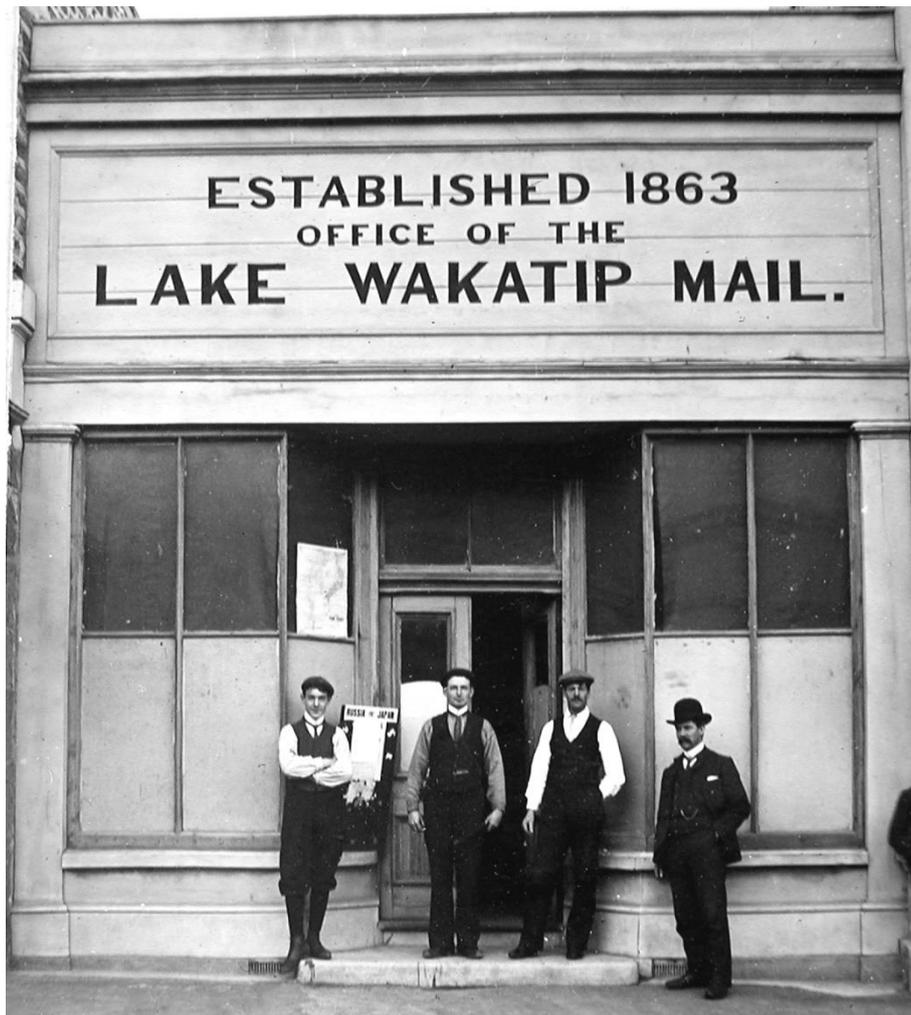
*Beach and Ballarat-streets present a deplorable spectacle from the effects of the Horne Creek flood—deep channels and, in places, falls of six feet deep—more like worked out diggings. In many other portions of the district the flood was as severe as at Queenstown and the losses heavy.*



In 1879 a greater problem for my business was caused not by forces of nature, but by my own children. In 1873 I had married Margaret Beggs from Dublin and we had two sons and two daughters. On a cold Saturday morning in July 1879, two of the children, aged 3 and 4, opened the back door of the unoccupied office and made a fire with some papers. They then went back to our house in Church St and told Margaret that there was a ‘nice fire of paper’ in the office, but she thought they meant that the employees were burning waste paper. By the time people noticed it and raised the alarm, the fire had taken hold. It was only by strenuous efforts that it was prevented from spreading to the wooden buildings next door on each side.

Our loss was heavy. Not only the printing plant itself, but just the preceding day we had received a large quantity of new type and materials from Melbourne. Also lost were a valuable case of pictures and another of books. We were insured - £100 for the building and £250 for the contents, but this didn’t replace all the loss. Of course, I reported it all. An inquest was held, and the jury returned the verdict of accidental burning. The next week’s issue didn’t come out, but we managed a single page the following week, printed

at the office of the Arrow Observer. The building was soon replaced with the one pictured below.



My time has been spent covering all the noteworthy events the town and district as it was transformed so fast by the gold-rush. All the necessities of civilised life were created in this distant outpost. Substantial buildings of stone replaced the earlier makeshift ones. Increasingly, distinguished visitors arrived by steamer from Kingston - you might have heard of some of them: the writers Mark Twain from the United States and Anthony Trollope from England.

And I've done much more than report it – I've been part of it. I became a Commissioner of the Peace which meant that I can act as a magistrate. I've been a borough councillor and mayor. During my mayoralty the council's finances were modernised, and the Ballarat and Shotover Street bridges were built. I've always been a member of the Anglican Church. I've founded and been captain of the Cadet Corps of Volunteer militia; and I've belonged to the Masonic Lake Lodge of Ophir since I first arrived here. Now that my son, Bill, has enough experience, he has taken over the management side of the *Lake Wakatip Mail* while I continue with the reporting.

I count myself blest in my family, my occupation, and my life in Queenstown in business and in public affairs.

## Epilogue

On Boxing Day 1899, William Warren had a stroke, and he died on 3 January 1900 aged 66. At first, his son Bill continued in charge, but when he was away during World War I, William's daughter Daisy, who was a music teacher and organist, took over and was publisher and editor. She confounded doubters, and proved so capable that after the war the two siblings shared the work. William's wife Margaret died in 1923 aged 85. The newspaper remained in the family until 1946 when Bill retired.

The contribution the entire family made to the town is commemorated in a memorial window in St Peter's Church depicting the Good Shepherd, and in the name of Warren Park in Gorge Road. A printing press from the *Mail* is on display in the Museum.



Disclaimer: The facts in this monologue come from historical sources, but the personality is in part constructed by the writer.

### Sources:

*Lake Wakatipu Mail* accessed from PapersPast: [www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz](http://www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz)

*Queenstown Courier* issues 57 (1996) and 72 (2004) available on our website.

De La Mare, A.J., *Wakatipu's Golden Days*, Lakes District Museum, 2000, and entry in *Southern People: A Dictionary of Otago-Southland Biography*, ed. Jane Thomson, Longacre Press, 1998

Miller F.W.G., *Golden Days of Lake County*, Whitcombe and Tombs, 1949

Documents in the Lakes District Museum, notably a book by Colin Boyd of Royston, England, about the Warren family in the UK and NZ

Historical photos from the Lakes District Museum

## Queenstown and District Historical Society (2008) Inc

### Chairperson's Report for the Annual General Meeting, November 2020

For the year from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020

#### By Marion Borrell

In this year when COVID-19 has disrupted our lives, the Society has continued to promote and protect our local history. The first five months from October were as usual, culminating in a memorable autumn visit to Cardrona. Although 'People from Our Past' in April and the May meeting couldn't be held, they were postponed, not cancelled. The talks about 'Cribbies' Memories', planned for May, took place in September, and all the speakers and family members organised for 'People from Our Past' have agreed to a new date in April 2021.

*Queenstown Courier 103* was already sufficiently prepared that it was able to be completed during the lockdown, published on time in May and distributed by hand or post. The usual winter activities of writing, keeping an eye on heritage protection, and planning activities continued unabated.

Our membership numbers are fairly stable at about 200 memberships and 275 individuals. Our financial position remains sound with about \$34,000 in hand. Our largest source of income is usually subscriptions, and we thank members for their support.

#### Historical Panels Project

The aim is to create and donate information panels in widespread places where locals and visitors will see them.

The panels installed and given to QLDC and DOC are:

Old Stone Library,

Lower Shotover,

Macetown Road,

Arthurs Point,

Lake Hayes.

In progress are:

Kawarau Suspension Bridge,

Jack Tewa at Jack's Point,

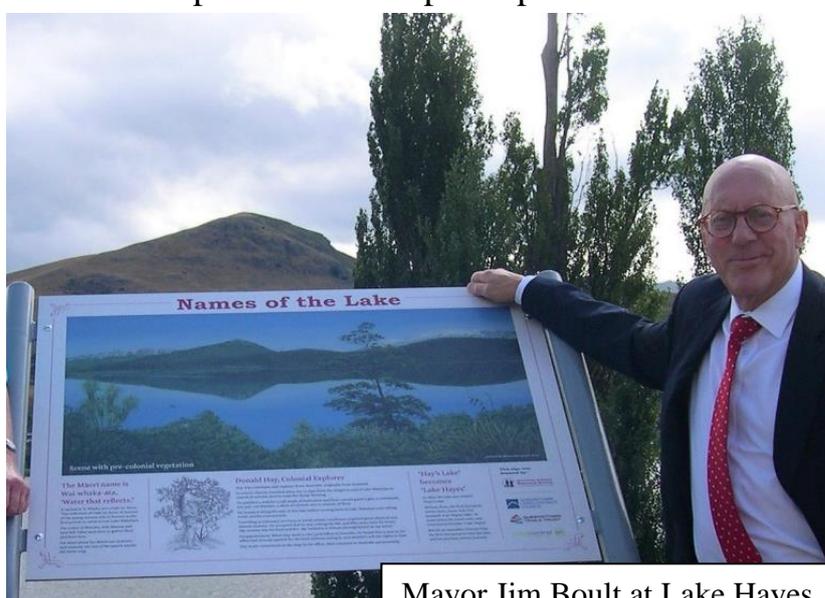
Morven Ferry,

Whitechapel,

two on the Crown Terrace.

Four of these will be beside the Queenstown Trail, in

collaboration with the Queenstown Trails Trust which has received a grant for 50% of the cost from MBIE (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment). This grant will enable us to afford more panels. Since 2016 we have spent over \$6000 on the panels project. We don't tally the hours spent. Two of this year's panels are printed on pages 32 and 33.



Mayor Jim Boulton at Lake Hayes

## **‘Historic Places in Queenstown’ brochure**

This A3 folded brochure was written and designed in 2018. Early this year QLDC agreed to pay for the design and the printing of 5000 copies, to be given away. These arrived the week before the lockdown, just in time to be distributed to the three libraries, the QLDC office, the Museum, and several tourist businesses. Just by replenishing these few places, we have distributed over 2000 so far. Our thanks to QLDC. (Giving things away is so easy compared with selling them!)

## **Other Promotion of Local History**

- *Queenstown Courier Issue 102* contained writing by Nicholas von Tunzelmann and Marion Borrell, and an interview with June Thompson née Hansen.

- *Queenstown Courier Issue 103* contained writing by Neill Simpson and Ben Teele, Bruce Walker, Sue Simms, Marion Borrell, and Clive Geary; a monologue based on writing by Sarah Salmond; and photos of Queenstown cribs by Evan Jenkins. The cover was a painting by Marion Marquand of Wai-whaka-ata/Lake Hayes in pre-colonial times which the Society commissioned for the Lake Hayes panel. This was the 16<sup>th</sup> issue I have edited since 2011; all have been a pleasure to make.

- Website [www.queenstownhistoricalsociety.org.nz](http://www.queenstownhistoricalsociety.org.nz)

This received almost 5000 page-visits by 3,500 individuals in the past year. The highest numbers were in May during lockdowns around the world.

### Other publications:

*Skippers – triumph and tragedy* by Danny Knudson, 2016, and published by Danny, the Museum and the Historical Society. It has now sold out. We thank Danny for the opportunity to assist and for the superb account he has given of the history and the people of the Upper Shotover.

*Edith Cavell – a bridge and bravery* by Danny Knudson, 2012. Because Danny generously gave the copyright to the Society, we continue to do reprints and to benefit from the proceeds.

*Stories of Wakatipu, Courier 100* by Danny Knudson, 2019. The first run sold out at the Museum and more copies were printed early this year. It continues to sell steadily.

## **Activities and Events from September 2019 until lockdown in March 2020**

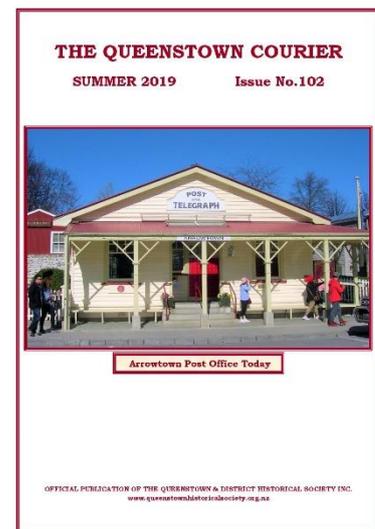
These have been well-attended including by visitors. Our thanks to the many members who have assisted in various ways.

### ‘Pastimes for Rainy Days - home entertainments before 1960’

About 40 people and numerous games and pastimes assembled for a convivial afternoon including some talks, a singalong of old favourites, and a traditional afternoon tea.

### Women Mean Business in collaboration with Lakes District Museum

Dr Catherine Bishop discussed her book on colonial businesswomen which includes some local women. About 50 people attended.



Vehicles with Histories at Thurlby Domain, with a short trip in Bryants' bus to a private vehicle collection. Twelve vintage cars (dating from 1912), three trucks and the bus gathered to be admired by about 60 people of all ages.

AGM, with a talk by architect Ed Elliott about his experiences in restoring old buildings in the district, and the distribution of *Courier 103*.

Visit to Cardrona at Cardrona Hall. About 50 people attended on a still, hot day. Tim Scurr gave a talk and led us on a tour of historic sites on the other side of the river.

### **Heritage Protection**

We continue to monitor Resource Consent Applications and respond to any heritage matters that come to our notice.

The local planning hearing before commissioners regarding the proposed 'Olive Leaf' building beside St Patrick's Church, Arrowtown, took place in late September. Our submission in opposition covered these points listed in our Rules: the preservation of historic buildings and sites, the preservation of historic precincts, and the protection of social history. I concluded with the observation that this is the first time in the ten years that I have been on the Board that we have submitted in opposition to a Resource Consent Application. On the other hand, we have written in support of the heritage aspects of several applications, and supported funding applications for restorations and seismic strengthening.

The Board contributed \$1000 to the No Leaf Society towards the engagement of their heritage expert.

### **Community Involvement**

- Lakes District Museum: In late 2019 Pauline Lawrence became our representative on the Museum Board. Seismic strengthening and restoration of the Bank building is now under way. We continue to be indebted to the Museum staff and archives for information and photos.

- Other entities with which we have been involved this year are Queenstown Trails Trust, QLDC, DOC, No Leaf Society and Wakatipu Heritage Trust.

### **Acknowledgement of Russell McGrouther**

Early this year we received with concern the news of Russell's illness and were saddened by his death in July. He had joined the Board in late 2016 and was a source of wisdom, history and knowhow. He wrote the history of the Lake Lodge of Ophir building which was published in *Courier 98*.

### **The Board**

The Board members are Marion Borrell, Denise Heckler, Gavin Jack, Patrick Beehan, Barbara Kerr, Pauline Lawrence and Ray O'Callaghan. Naturally, we stray from the business of meetings to take diversions into history, as this is our lifeblood.



HISTORIC  
*places in*  
QUEENSTOWN

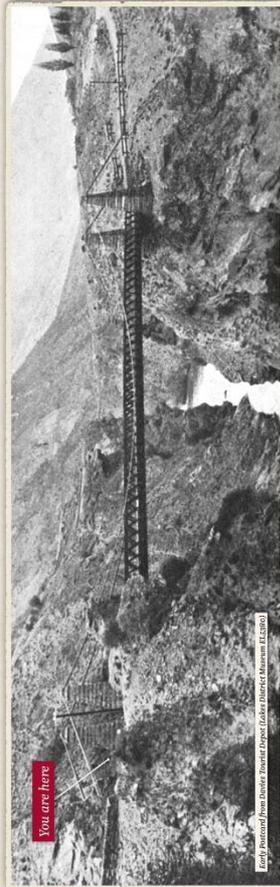


Ballarat Street, 1920s



# Kawarau Suspension Bridge

## Opened 30 December 1880



### A Road Through the Gorge

From this point, the river churns for 50 kilometres through the narrow Kawarau Gorge. This was an obstacle to travel. A wagon road was completed from Cromwell in 1866, but the river crossings remained difficult and slow. The two privately-owned punts were unusable during floods. The Morven Ferry punt was four kilometres upstream from here. See its history on a panel further up the trail.

In 1879, this bridge was commissioned by the Lake County Council, partly funded by central government. The civil engineer, Harry Higginson, produced the plans in just 16 days. He is honoured on a panel on the other side of the bridge.

### An Impressive Project

The elegance and perfection of the design and the craftsmanship of the stonemason, James Sutherland, spark our admiration. The rock was drilled by hand, and schist stone for the towers was quarried nearby. Wind funnelling through the gorge frequently halted work. Yet the bridge and associated road were completed in less than 18 months, thanks to the efficiency of the contractor, John McCormick, and his team.

### Community Celebration

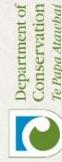
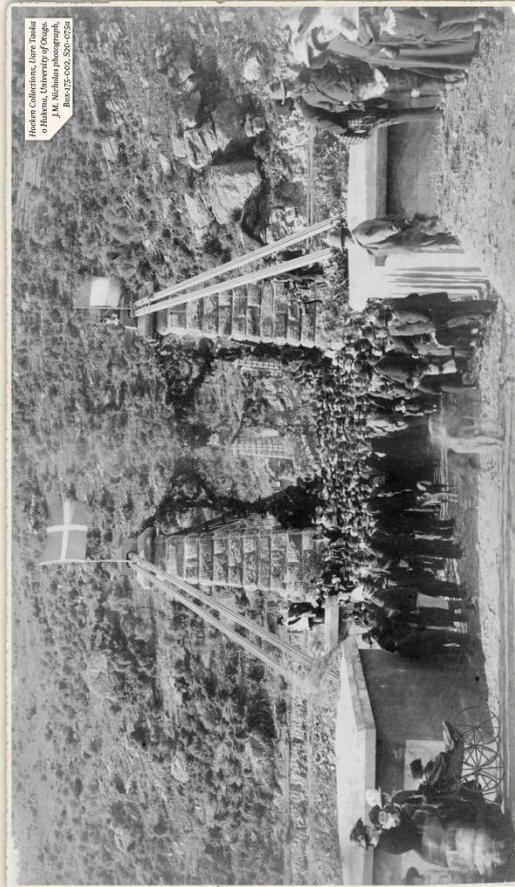
30 December 1880 was declared a local public holiday and a large crowd attended the official opening. (How many dogs can you see?)

Eichardt's Hotel supplied the food and drinks; the Queenstown Garrison Band supplied the music; dignitaries supplied the speeches. The *Lake Wakatipu Mail* recorded: *At least 250 must have sat down to the table with the 'nobs'... Any well-conducted miner, farmer or labourer was equally welcome and ... was served with fowl, turkey or ham, either by the County Chairman, who presided, or Dr Douglas, ... while all had their share of drinkables.*

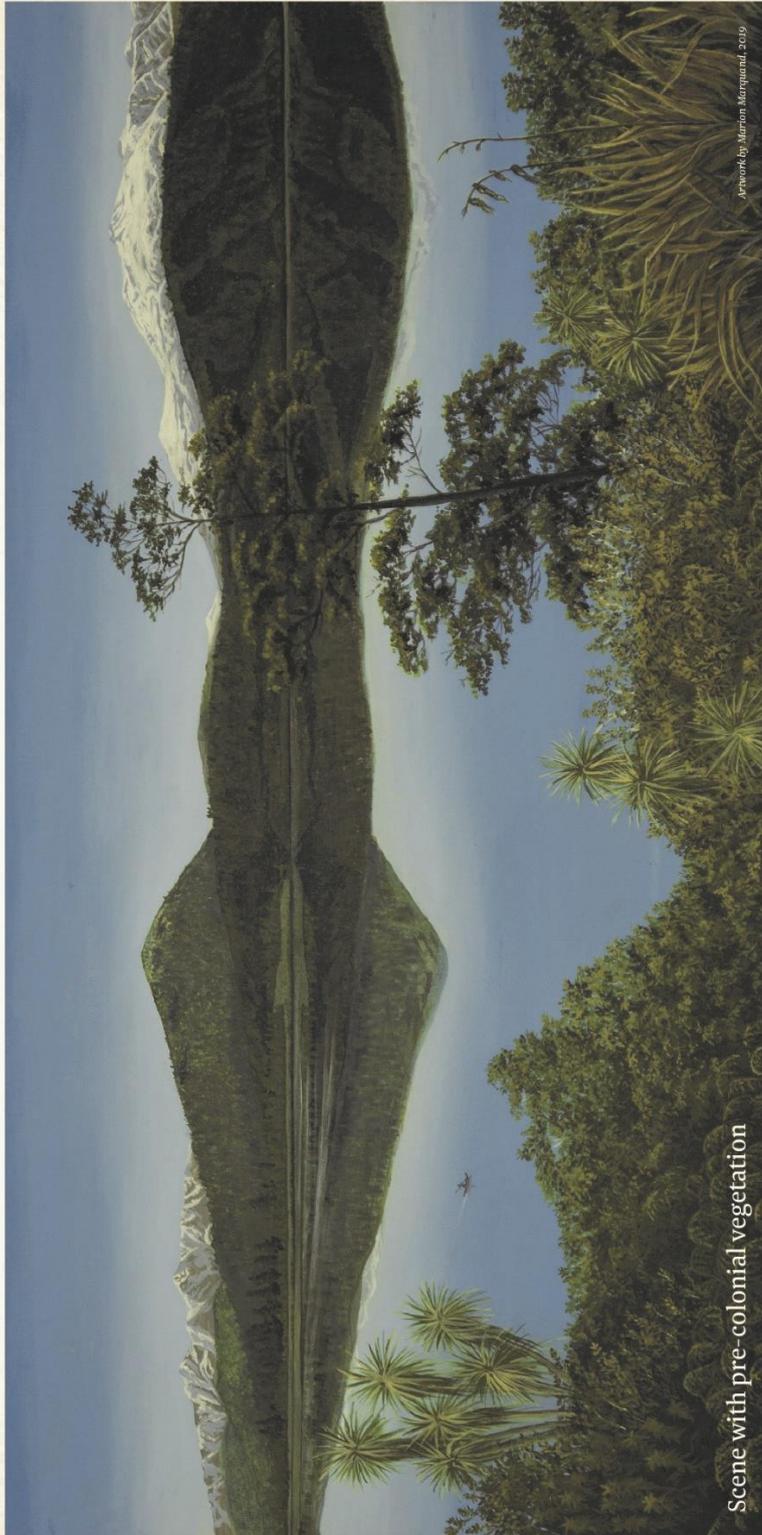
There was much to celebrate. At last people could travel to and from Cromwell without delays at the river crossings. Heavy machinery for goldmining, dredging and farming could readily be brought from Central Otago.

The bridge served for 82 years, until the current bridge was built. It is a Category 1 Historic Place on the Heritage NZ register. In 1988 it became the site of Aj Hackett Bungy. It was restored in 1990. Now it is part of the Queenstown Trail.

For more detailed history of the construction and restoration of the bridge, see the panels at Aj Hackett Bungy, including those directly underneath the bridge.



# Names of the Lake



Scene with pre-colonial vegetation

Artwork by Marion Marquand, 2019

## The Māori name is

### Wai-whaka-ata,

### 'water that reflects.'

A variant is Te Whaka-ata a Haki-te-Kura, "The reflection of Haki-te-Kura", in honour of the young woman who is famous as the first person to swim across Lake Wakatipu. The tribes of Waitaha, Kati Mamoe and later Kāi Tahu came here to gather food and hunt moa.

For more about the Māori use of plants and animals, see one of the panels beside the show-ring.

## Donald Hay, Colonial Explorer

Hay was a surveyor and explorer from Australia, originally from Scotland.

In winter 1850 he travelled alone for 14 days from the Kingston end of Lake Wakatipu in search of suitable land to lease for sheep-farming.

He paddled a mōhiki (a raft made of bullrushes and flax), carrying just a gun, a tomahawk, one pot, one blanket, a sheet of oilcloth and 10 pounds of flour.

He tramped along the side of this lake before turning back to Lake Wakatipu and rifling south amidst a snowstorm.

Travelling in unknown territory in harsh winter conditions required great physical and mental stamina. He accepted that he was risking his life, and fifty years later he wrote, "My anxiety was for food and fire. My isolation is almost photographed on my mind."

Disappointment: When Hay went to the Land Office in Dunedin, he found that a man in the office had already applied for the land without seeing it, and wouldn't sell the rights to him. Hay made corrections to the map in the office, then returned to Australia permanently.



## 'Hay's Lake'

### becomes

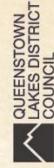
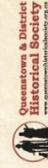
## 'Lake Hayes'

In 1860 the lake was named 'Hay's Lake'.

William Rees, the first European settler here, knew this, but mispelt it as 'Hayes Lake'. At some point the word order was reversed to become 'Lake Hayes'.

But let us remember Donald Hay, the first European to visit the lake, and his perilous winter journey.

This sign was donated by:

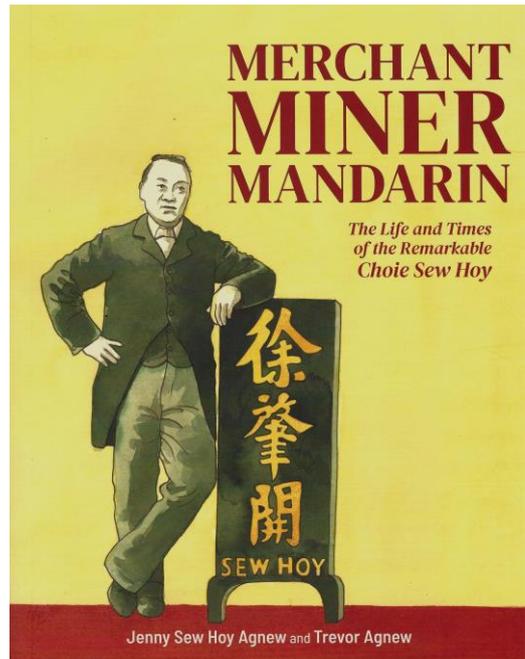


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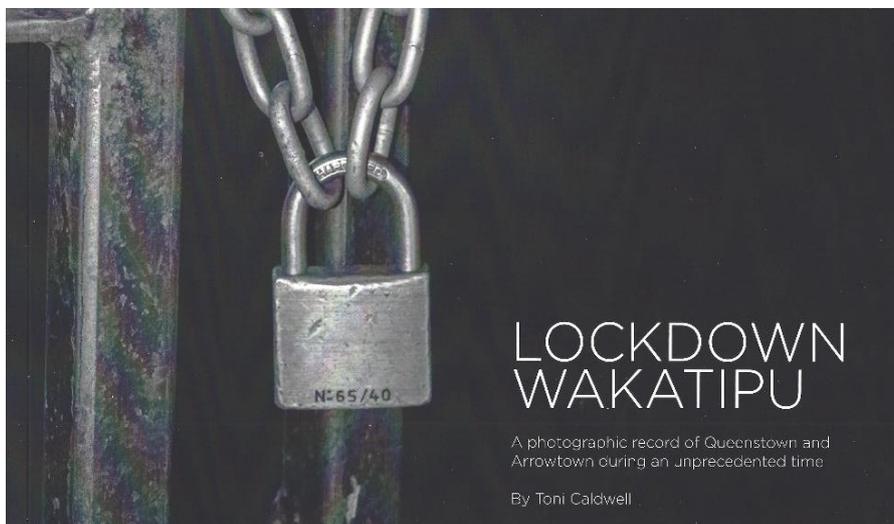
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