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Members at Mt Nicholas Station

MEDICAL SERVICES - ALWAYS A LIVELY TOPIC

By Marion Borrell

Early in 1862 all hands at William Rees's station at Queenstown Bay met in the men's hut. Alfred Duncan in his memoir, *The Wakatipians*, explains (p.38) that 'it became evident that we would have to accord a welcome to a little stranger, and as the nearest doctor lived about 150 miles away, it was a matter for grave consideration.' Or in modern terms, Mary and James Flint were expecting the first pakeha baby to be born in the district. The solution agreed upon was that as Nicholas von Tunzelmann was a veterinary surgeon, he should be asked to come from his own station across the lake and stay with them until the baby was born. In fact, little William Wakatipu Flint duly arrived without the need for his assistance. 150 years later many babies born to Wakatipu residents are delivered in Invercargill or elsewhere due to the limitations in maternity services here.

Once the gold rush began later in 1862, doctors soon arrived, as related in our next two articles.



Then came the need for hospitals, with the Frankton Hospital, left, opened in September 1863. In the first six months it had 391 patients, averaging 15 patients daily. Common ailments were scurvy and dysentery. By 1878 the residents of Arrowtown felt the need for their own hospital and set up a committee to establish one. This was a great

community effort. Land was donated; funds were raised including from balls held in the billiard room of the New Orleans Hotel; annual subscriptions were collected; and the Arrow Borough Council contributed £50. The Arrow District Hospital, pictured below, opened on New Year's Day in 1880. After being very busy during the gold-mining boom, the hospital became under-utilised and was closed in 1915.

In 2011, following years of discontent with hospital services, public meetings and consultations were held throughout the Wakatipu district by a National Health Board Review Panel. While some of the expert panel's twenty-one recommendations have been put into effect, we await the major decisions about where a new hospital will be built, when, under what governance model, and with what arrangements between public and private providers. So, Medical services remain a lively topic.



Sources: *A Narrative History of the Arrow District Hospital* by Maxine Alterio, Otago University Print, 2003

The Wakatipians by Alfred H. Duncan, 1888, reprinted by Lakes District Museum, 1964
'Frankton and Arrowtown Hospitals' by G.T.Piercy, *Queenstown Courier* Issue 40, 1988. This article can now be seen in full via our website.

DOCTORS OF THE WAKATIPU BASIN: 1862-1962

By Rita L. Teele and Rupert Iles

This article is in honour of all doctors who have served people in the region.

I extend particular thanks to Doctor Simon Davies who cared for close friends of mine and to Patricia Rainey, granddaughter of Doctor John Bell Thomson. RLT

Images courtesy of Lakes District Museum except where otherwise noted.

The first doctors who came to the Wakatipu Basin in 1862 were quick to learn that much of their work would be setting bones and sewing up lacerations for diggers on the gold fields. The results of trauma provided by Mother Nature or from one's mates when they were drunk were the source of much of their practice. Scurvy, dysentery, and conjunctivitis were common medical complaints, along with toothache that was treated with removal of the offending tooth - or one close by! Tuberculosis was endemic.

The doctors of the gold rush era were young. Most were just out of medical schools in Edinburgh, Glasgow and London or had only a few years of experience when they arrived in New Zealand. (Dunedin did not open its medical school until 1875). If they had been schooled in Glasgow before 1869 they would have been taught by the great surgeon Joseph Lister who was in the process of instituting antiseptics in the practice of surgery. Lister moved to Edinburgh in 1869 and then accepted the chair of surgery at King's College London in 1877. Vaccination and anaesthesia had been introduced to New Zealand in 1850 by Doctor Purdie in Dunedin. (His classmate in Edinburgh had been James Simpson who became famous for his advocacy of chloroform, which was administered to Queen Victoria during childbirth). But for pioneers in the backblocks of New Zealand the available anaesthetic was whisky, rum, or brandy, and lots of it. In 1862, Louis Pasteur in France was just beginning his research into micro-organisms; X-rays had not yet been discovered (by Roentgen in 1895); and there was no adequate treatment for consumption (tuberculosis), venereal disease, typhoid, diphtheria and other infections. Scurvy was rife because of the absence of foods rich in Vitamin C. There were essentially no useful medicines other than opium or digitalis. Until well into the 1900s the doctor was a surgeon rather than a physician.

Doctors were attracted to the gold fields of the South Island just as others were for riches and for adventure. But most of them also carried the genes for charity. The newspapers of the day published reverential obituaries of doctors who had given their all, including sometimes their lives, in the service of others. There is one doctor whose death was reported with less respect, but more of him later! We have put the doctors' names in bold text, where appropriate, to highlight their individual stories. There are likely to be doctors we have missed recording, but we hope that we have included the majority.



(William) Charles Evison was the first known doctor in the area.

According to Robert Fulton, who was writing in the early 1920s, **Charles Evison** from England was the first doctor to ply his trade in the Whakatipu. (Doctor Fulton was insistent that ‘Whakatipu’ was the correct spelling). Doctor Evison stayed only for a year or so after his arrival in 1862 before moving to the West Coast. “His work was chiefly minor accidents, fractures, gunshot wounds and frost bites.”

Doctor Morris, who practised in the Cromwell, Shotover and Queenstown districts in the sixties, also moved to the West Coast, leaving little history behind him. After Doctor Morris, Fulton lists several medical men: **Doctors Pelley** (sometimes spelled **Peely**), **Croft**, **Jackson**, and **Scott**, of whom little is known.

Doctor Rutherford Ryley, after leaving for Invercargill and marrying Charlotte Robinson, was notable for later undefined “scandals” and that he wrote to Lord Lister from Hokitika regarding his use of antiseptics in the successful treatment of three patients with compound fractures.

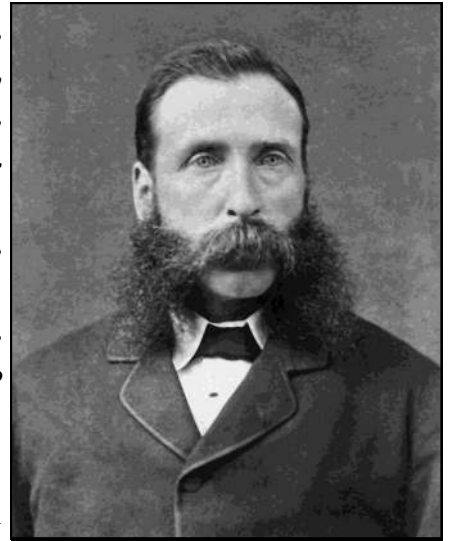
Doctor Patrick Usher Pelley from Victoria, having trained in Ireland, deserves mention. In November 1863 his supporters lobbied for his appointment as permanent surgeon at Frankton Hospital, although his personal conduct had been considered less than satisfactory. He was opposed by **Doctor James Douglas** who had been working in Arrowtown. Although Doctor Pelley was selected as surgeon at the Frankton Hospital, he was suspended by the hospital committee (chaired by William Rees) after several absences from the hospital in defiance of the rules. Not to be thwarted, his supporters had Doctor Pelley reinstated while Rees was away for a while in Dunedin. Finally, Doctor Pelley was farewelled to Dunedin and Doctor Douglas was installed as his replacement in 1864.

Doctor James Douglas was aged 25 when he arrived in Port Chalmers from Scotland in September of 1862. He stepped ashore from the barque *Grasmere* (sometimes spelled *Grassmere*). He headed to the Arrow diggings and according to F.W.G. Miller, “lived and practised in a tent on the beach for a year or eighteen months.” The entry in *The Cyclopedia of New Zealand, 1905*, also states that he commenced practice in Arrowtown. In the 1860s there was certainly enough work in the area for many doctors. One early settler estimated the population around Queenstown at 20,000.

After replacing Doctor Pelley, Doctor Douglas stayed in control of the Frankton hospital until 1910 when he retired into private practice in Queenstown. In his book, *Golden Days of Lake County*, F.W.G. Miller has a couple of pages devoted to the long-serving doctor. The most amusing relates to his care of a woman in labour. “He sat beside her for a while and then said, reassuringly: ‘My good woman, I did not get you into this fix, but I will do my best to get you out of it.’ ” Although Doctor Douglas never married, he brought up his brother’s five children after both of their parents died. John Haddow Douglas, who was an early supporter of the Lakes District Museum, was one of those children. Rose Douglas, who taught school in the district for many years and after whom the park in Arrowtown has been named was his wife and longtime secretary at the museum.

When Doctor Douglas died in 1911 at the age of 74 he was eulogised in the *Lake Wakatip Mail* of 7 March 1911 as follows:

During the whole of his professional career Dr Douglas exercised the greatest medical and surgical skill and performed his duties with much assiduity. Many, many times has the old man ridden in the darkness of the night over most dangerous and precipitous bridle tracks, into gullies and ravines amidst our gigantic mountains, in prosecution of his profession, though knowing full well he would never receive a fee. For over 40 years he was president of the Lake County Jockey Club, and for only a slightly shorter period president of the Lakes District Acclimatisation Society. The doctor was a true lover of sport, and he did probably more towards its upkeep than any man in Lake County. He was a member of the Wakatipu Licensing Committee, of the Lake Lodge of Ophir, cricket and tennis clubs, etc. He also at one time occupied the position of member of the Lake County Council and he was a JP for many years.

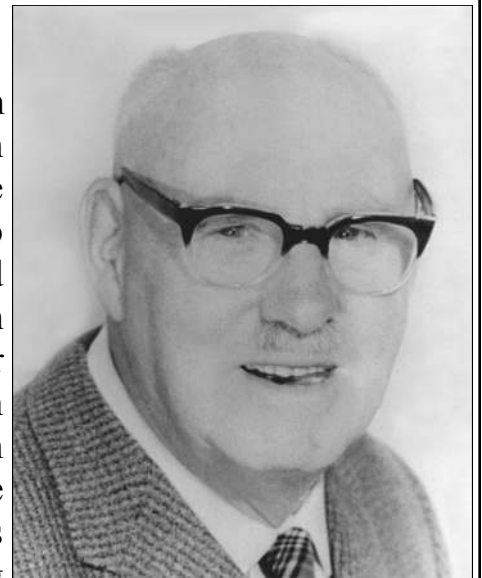


Dr James Douglas who "faithfully served this district as medical doctor for 49 years." (Epitaph on his headstone in Frankton Cemetery.

It should also be noted that in 1878 he was a major shareholder in the Wakatipu Steam Navigation Company Limited and served as the first chairman of the board. A full account of the history of steamships on the lake and Doctor Douglas's involvement was provided by Alan De La Mare in *The Queenstown Courier* Issue 67.

Doctor Alexander Stewart from Glasgow acquired the Queenstown practice in 1911 after Doctor Douglas died, living in the hospital until he moved to Queenstown. Whereas his predecessor had been known as "Iodine Jimmy", Doctor Stewart was known as "Semolina Alec" from his treatment of any digestive problem with semolina. A colourful Scot, he smoked black twist tobacco almost continuously. After eleven years working in the district he moved to Melbourne, thereby leaving the door open for **Doctor Bill Anderson** who had worked as a locum in Queenstown.

In his memoir *Doctor in the Mountains*, Doctor Anderson recalled being summoned to the Royal Oak Hotel in Arrowtown on his first Saturday night of locum duty. Mr Smith, one of the last residents of Macetown, had been badly hurt driving down to Arrowtown by buggy. The buggy, two horses and the driver had gone off the Macetown Road into the Arrow River. Although unconscious, Mr Smith was breathing normally and, after transfer to Frankton Hospital and the care of Doctor William Watt, he made a good recovery but never went back to live in Macetown. It was not only Doctor Stewart's now vacant practice that drew Bill Anderson back to the Wakatipu after his studies were completed in Dunedin. In Queenstown he had met a young lady, Mary Lee, whom he married in June of 1920.



This photograph of well-known Queenstown doctor and community leader, Doctor Bill Anderson O.B.E., J.P. was taken in his later years.

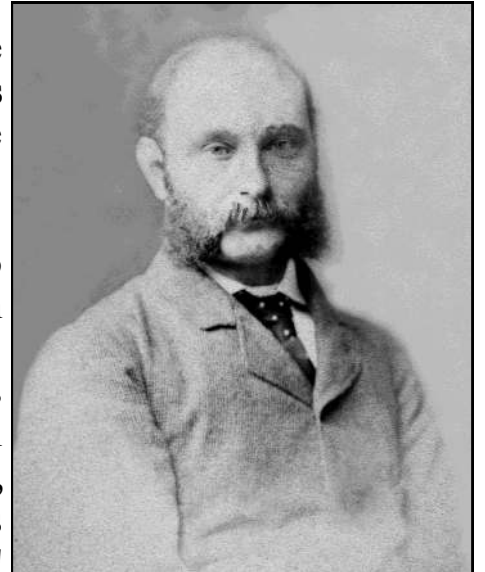
Doctor William Watt served as medical superintendent at the Frankton hospital for two years. In 1923 Bill Anderson assumed that position as well as continuing his general practice. It seems that Doctor Watt made his way to Kurow as there is an entry in *Papers Past* when a Doctor William Watt gave evidence at a coroner's trial. (*NZ Truth*, Issue 1018, 30 May 1925, Page 8)

After many years as serving as doctor in the mountains, Bill Anderson retired in 1960, with **Doctor Michael Soper** taking over the practice. Doctor Anderson's memoir tells of difficult journeys to injured or sick patients, the limited medical and surgical resources, the tragic outcomes of some situations, and the joyful successes of others. He ends his book as follows: "Our most priceless asset is good health and no effort or sacrifice is wasted in endeavouring to preserve it; for without good health one can do nothing, neither to help anybody, nor really enjoy life."

At this point we leave Queenstown for Arrowtown and turn the clock back to 1862. As noted above, **Doctor James Douglas** began his practice in Arrowtown in 1862, only to move to the superintendency of Frankton Hospital two years later.

Other than Doctor Douglas, who probably retained his links to Arrowtown, we do not know who else might have been practising in Arrowtown from 1864 to 1879.

From December 1880, when the Arrow District Hospital was opened, until 1895, there was a revolving door for doctors in charge. Alan De La Mare noted that the first was **Doctor Scott**, possibly the same Doctor Scott mentioned by Robert Fulton as having been in Queenstown. However, Maxine Alterio, in *A Narrative History of the Arrow District Hospital* suggests that **Dr W.M Dickenson** was the first doctor, leaving after only four months. The committee that was assigned to hire the doctor in



Doctor Donaldson was the Arrowtown Hospital doctor for nine years.

charge was often at odds with the community in their assessment of incumbents. In the first four years there were five doctors appointed in succession. A veritable war of words was conducted in the *Otago Witness* by its reporter, decrying the situation. F.W.G. Miller mentions **Doctors Webb, Dickison [sic] and Donaldson** in his book. **Doctor Robertson** was mentioned in the *Otago Witness* in 1882 as having treated George Romans of Arrowtown for a "fearful wound and crush" of his right hand when using the sausage machine. (Messrs Romans and Heller had just taken over Mr. Paterson's butchery business.)

Doctor Donaldson, the longest-lasting incumbent during the 15-year period, was on duty in 1885 when James Reid caught his right hand in a chaff cutter. James Reid walked half a mile to the doctor who had to amputate the hand above the wrist. From then on James Reid was known as "Hooky Reid".

Doctor Donaldson sued Thomas McDonnell (for whom the road in Arrowtown is named) for slander but lost in the Dunedin court in December 1892. During the trial, the wardsman admitted setting a fractured leg while the doctor was absent. He gave the patient half a glass of brandy, took half a glass himself, and reduced the fracture. Doctor Donaldson, having been resident

doctor for nine years, was dismissed by the hospital committee in spite of a petition in his favour that was signed by 141 Arrowtown residents, and support at a public meeting. Doctor Donaldson was replaced by **Doctor Nicol**.

The most scandalous of all the applicants to the superintendency was **Doctor W.H.Dutton**, he of the less than respectful death notice mentioned in the introduction. In August of 1894, the *Otago Witness* reported with some glee the hiring then immediate firing of a Victorian gentleman who had been selected from 31 applicants as the new doctor. Doctor W.H. Dutton, however, chose to ignore the retraction of his contract and arrived in Arrowtown. He set up his own private hospital in the New Orleans Hotel and seemed to be more popular than the doctor who had been installed in his place at the hospital! But what was all the fuss about?

Doctor Dutton, having been educated in Melbourne, completed his medical studies at the Royal College of Surgeons, then returned home to Australia in 1884 and marriage to 17-year-old Mary Dent Oswald. The marriage was unhappy; one of the children died, and the divorce trial in 1894, won by his wife, was played out in lurid detail in the Melbourne *Argus*. Doctor Dutton was accused of habitual drunkenness, cruelty and of committing adultery with a servant. Following divorce from his wife and public shame, he arrived in New Zealand and sojourned for a while in Arrowtown. Between 1894 and his death in 1896, he wrote an extraordinary novel, *The Bird of Paradise*, ostensibly a work of fiction, but in reality the story of his life with details twisted to reflect more favourably on himself.



The following was reported in the *Otago Witness*, Issue 2230, 26 November 1896, Page 23:

Very great surprise was caused throughout the district on Thursday last when it became known that

Dr W.H. Dutton had died at 4 o'clock on the morning of that day. Dr Dutton came to the district about two years ago, and was not long making a name for himself by a number of striking cures. About six months ago he returned to Victoria, of which colony he was a native. After a short stay he came back to Otago, fluctuating between Gore and Invercargill for a time until a week or two ago, when he settled at Queenstown. Owing to disappointments of a private nature - the cool reception his novel, "The Bird of Paradise," met with was one - he fell into dissolute habits, which ended a strange if brilliant life at the premature age of 38 [sic] years.

His age at death is given as 37 years in the New Zealand registry of deaths but we do not know the cause of death or place of burial.

This plaque, now in the Lakes District Museum, was found along Hogan Gully Road and dropped off at the museum with a note to that effect many years ago. How it ended up by the road is a mystery.

Doctor John Bell Thomson, born in Dunedin and student at Otago Medical School, completed his studies at the medical school in Edinburgh. He was working in Kaitangata when he was appointed superintendent of the Arrowtown Hospital. Circa 1895, he arrived with his bride to a new doctor's house in Arrowtown that had been constructed on the hospital grounds.

Undoubtedly, Doctors Dutton and John Bell Thomson would have met each other in the overlapping year when they were both in the area.

In his Edinburgh classes, John Thomson had been seated next to an unrelated Thomas Thomson who befriended him. Having been taken to his friend's house, John met and fell in love with Thomas's sister, Isabella. She made the long journey to New Zealand where she was married to John in his family home in Dunedin on September 29, 1894. Isabella Thomson had only to add Mrs to her name.

The couple was well received in Arrowtown and they gained the affection of all in the town by alternating attendance at the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic churches. The Thomson children were christened at the Presbyterian Church – ‘probably the only Presbyterian children who had Roman Catholic godparents,’ as son Jack (John Bell Thomson III) later recalled.



This photograph of Doctor and Mrs Thomson and John Bell Thomson III was taken at the time of the latter's christening. (Photograph courtesy of Patricia Rainey, daughter of JB Thomson III)

The doctor relied on Dulcie, the family mare, to get him to patients in the remote areas around Arrowtown. She would plod back home reinless if the doctor fell asleep on his return journey.

On one occasion when the snow was too thick for the horse, Doctor Thomson walked to Skippers and back to care for an injured miner. From the accounts of his son, the doctor preferred his feet or a horse to the newfangled motorcar. Although he obtained a licence for the first private car in the county, an early Studebaker, he was often left stranded by mechanical woes. At the time the only repair mechanic in Arrowtown was William Murphy who had adapted to dealing with the horseless carriage after shoeing horses and coach-building. Doctor Thomson's E.M.F. (representing the founders of the Studebaker Corporation, Everett, Metzgar and Flanders) became known as “Ever Murphy's Friend.”

Because of failing health, Doctor Thomson left Arrowtown in 1914 for medical administration work in Auckland. He died in Dunedin in 1915 aged 46 years.

The family continued their connection to Arrowtown. The doctor's son John Thomson III wrote, among other books and articles, *Swiftly Flows the Arrow*, a little book that packs history and anecdotes into its 46 pages. In turn his daughter Patricia Thomson Rainey wrote a tribute to her grandfather the doctor in 2003.

Doctor Nichols seems to have stepped in after Doctor Thomson left Arrowtown in July of 1914. **Doctor Ewart Brown** is noted as being the last doctor at Arrow District Hospital, which closed in 1915. He was then farewelled to go to Waihi.

Doctor M.D. Murphy advertised his services in the *Lake County Press* in 1896 and may have been in private practice at the same time as Doctor Thomson was working from the hospital. As noted by Maxine Alterio, the qualifications of some private practitioners may have been difficult to prove.

William Bertram Ochiltree Ferguson, at right, arrived on the scene in 1922 and, in the tradition of Arrowtown doctors, he was a colourful character. After graduating in medicine from Glasgow University in 1891, he served as surgeon on a trading ship to India, practised in England and married there. According to the obituary published in the NZ Medical Journal, April 1962, (provided by the NZMA), he and his wife emigrated to New Zealand in 1911 and he became resident medical practitioner in Kurow. Doctor Ferguson went back to Europe to serve as a doctor in WW I and was on board the ship *Marquette* when it was torpedoed in 1915. He survived eight hours in the waters of the Aegean Sea off Gallipoli before being rescued.



The doctor ran the most unusual household in the area, having arranged for a pharmacist, Fraulein Justine Waldmann, to come to New Zealand when the war ended. He established her in the hospital as his “Dispenser.” Her part of the house was the kitchen and dining area while Mrs Ferguson lived in the middle section and Doctor Ferguson had the front sitting room. For more about Justine Waldmann, see the article on p. 20.

Jack Reid’s family farmed the paddock - now part of the golf course - next to the doctor’s house on Centennial Avenue. Jack remembers the fabulous cocks that the doctor kept in pens, fighting cocks that travelled with the doctor out of town on occasion! Jim Childerstone, grandson of the doctor, told of his loading the old Vauxhall with a crate of his favourite birds, and with son Kim heading for Omarama. There, publican D. Woods also had birds, and cockfights - highly illegal - were staged in a pit near the Ahuriri River. (*The Queenstown Courier* Issue 67). As for the current adjacency of the golf course to the doctor’s house, the first nine holes were played in 1937 with Doctor Ferguson allowing an unused hospital building to be appropriated as the club house.



One of Dr Ferguson’s fighting cocks.

Mrs Ferguson predeceased Doctor Ferguson who died in Cromwell Hospital on 10 December 1961 within a few days of his 95th birthday. At the time he was New Zealand's oldest doctor in active practice. His driving was not quite up to par with his other skills, and his licence was taken away after he drove off the road. Dorothy Wilcox (later Hamilton) among others served as chauffeur in his 1936 Vauxhall as he went on his house calls.

The medical men who practised in the Wakatipu from 1862 to 1962 were adventurous, interesting, and often eccentric. The doctors varied in their abilities, and experience was often the best teacher. They had few tools, little in the way of useful medicines, and often could only provide support as a patient struggled with illness or injury. But without the doctors, many current citizens of Queenstown and Arrowtown would not be here. The doctors have played a dual role in local history: they left behind their individual stories and they enabled the survival of many others who created their own historical roles.

Sources:

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From <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>:

Gilbert Rees supports the Frankton location for Queenstown's hospital, *Otago Daily Times* 1863
Dispute over Arrow Hospital, *Otago Witness*, 1879

Notice re construction for Arrow Hospital, *Southland Times*, 1879

Doctor Donaldson vs Arrowtown Hospital Committee and slander case heard in Dunedin December 1892, *Southland Times* and *Mataura Ensign*.

From <http://www.nzetc.org>:

Photograph and biography of Dr James Douglas, *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* 1905

A discourse on the life of W.H. Dutton and his novel "The Bird of Paradise"

CALL THE DOCTOR!

Early Medical Practice in the Wakatipu

By Danny Knudson

The onset of the gold-rush first to the Arrow then the Shotover transformed the Wakatipu and men raced for the riches. Tents sprang up at The Camp later Queenstown and Fox's now Arrowtown as rapidly as they do each New Year's Eve now-a-days. First pubs were fashioned out of calico hanging on crude wooden frames, and rude red-eye was passed off as alcohol. Thousands of miners, together with a few wives and children and the inevitable band of cosmopolitan characters which inevitably accompanied a new gold strike, reached the Wakatipu. Most folk arrived in haste, eager to be first in the field and occupy a highly productive claim. Many of them suffered health problems. Adequate food and clothing were neglected in the rush, with the result that early health complaints included pleurisy, pneumonia and scurvy, and, as winter 1863 arrived, frostbite. Success in the field was accompanied by drunkenness and fighting, pints and punches, wealth and welts, binges and brawls. Doctors were needed urgently. Miners followed the sniff of gold and doctors followed the smell of miners. Medical stability in the Wakatipu occurred only once glistening gold- pans and gold-cradles were supplemented by the bed-pans and baby cradles needed in a booming population.

Doctor James Douglas

Into this needy community arrived a white knight, Dr James Douglas from Scotland. Douglas was born at Auchmeddan in Larnackshire in 1837. He studied medicine at Glasgow University where he graduated with a Licentiate of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons (LRFS). De La Mare suggests that Douglas first established his practice in a tent on the Arrow River (De La Mare, p.66). However, Fulton recorded that Douglas established his residence in a tent in Queenstown where his surgery was a calico extension to his residence. It was quite unnecessary for Douglas to market his services: the antics of miners, drunk or sober, ill or injured, created ample evidence of his impressive knowledge, skills and empathy. He willingly attended patients in all parts of the district. If he was not an experienced horseman, he soon became one. He had to traverse rough tracks, negotiate virgin country into deep valleys or across rugged mountainsides to reach patients, usually miners, in isolated, forbidding localities. Some of his journeys in winter involved crossing ice, snow, freezing streams and rivers. His territory included Macetown, reached by crossing a high pass known as Big Hill; Cardrona on the far side of another high pass known as the Crown Range; Glenorchy reached by boat; and the track to Skippers and Bullendale involved a steep descent down a forbidding zig-zag at Deep Creek. There were slippery slopes, rushing rivers and tiny tracks on which an unfamiliar visitor could easily become lost or stranded.

Before the construction of bridges, it was not unusual for Dr Douglas to cross rivers such as the Shotover on horseback to reach patients. In some cases, he had to wait months before he received a fee for his call-out, if he were paid at all. Occasionally, he was transported in a buggy driven by his nephew, Hadow Douglas of Lakes Hayes. Even when the journey was wild and windy, the doctor would sit calmly, reading a book. One evening the doctor was called to an accident at Skippers. Hadow drove the buggy from Queenstown to Arthurs Point, up the track to Coronet Peak, over Skippers Saddle where deep snow covered the ground, and on down Long



Buggy on Skippers Road EL 5887 LDM

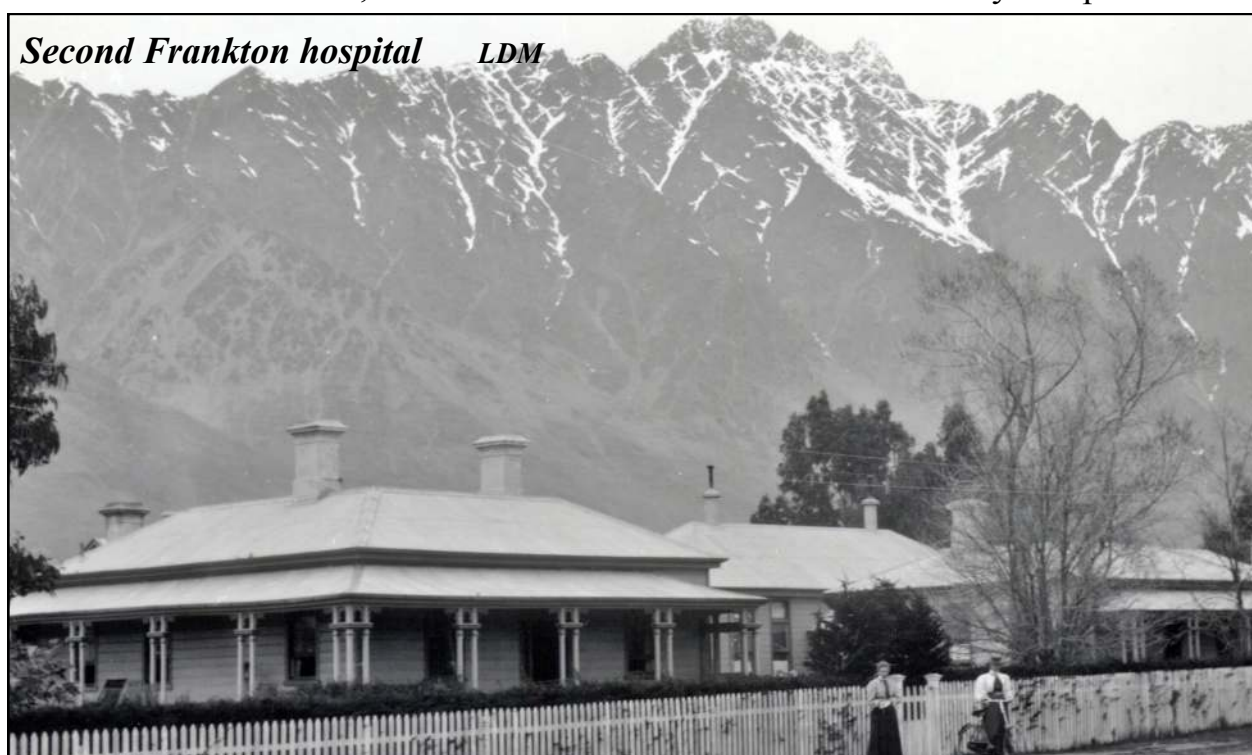
Gully. It took two hours to descend to the hotel at the bottom of the gully, with Haddow walking in front to lead the horse. From there a party of men walked with the doctor to his patient. Medical help was provided then the same men carried the patient on a stretcher back to Long Gully where the buggy became an ambulance. The hospital at Frankton was reached 24 hours after the call for help had been received (Miller, p.238). One unfortunate miner at the Head of the Lake got his foot wedged under a wooden water race. In spite of frantic efforts from his mates, his limb could not be freed, and all the while, water poured over him. By the time a doctor arrived by launch hours later, the man had succumbed to exhaustion and hypothermia. Another accident occurred at Walter Peak where a worker cut his leg badly. Friends rowed him across the lake to Queenstown for medical attention, but the patient died from loss of blood and shock as the row-boat entered Queenstown Bay.

Two Hospitals

An important decision was taken in to establish a hospital in the Wakatipu. By 1863 Frankton was beginning to rival Queenstown as a lakeside port on Lake Wakatipu. It was four miles closer to Arrowtown, there was land suitable for building, and streets had been laid out. In spite of vociferous reactions from Queenstown businessmen, the Wakatipu District Hospital was built at Frankton and opened in April 1863, just five months after gold had been discovered in the Shotover River and six months after the Arrow rush. At first no nurses were available, but a caretaker and his wife were employed (Jardine, p.1). Dr Patrick Pelley from Queenstown was appointed the inaugural superintendent, but he remained only briefly and was succeeded within

a year by Dr Douglas who remained as Superintendent for 36 years until his retirement in September 1910.

In the first six months of Wakatipu Hospital's existence, 227 patients, mainly miners, were admitted and a further 164 were listed as out-patients. The most common illnesses were dysentery and scurvy, the latter caused by a lack of fresh vegetables in miners' regular diet. Injuries from foolishness, falls and fighting were common among the miners, and seven victims died in the hospital during its first half-year (Piercy, *Queenstown Courier*, No.40, pp.4-5). Several patients needed treatment for diphtheria and typhoid. This range presented a serious challenge for Dr Douglas, especially given that Pasteur's work was new, disinfectants were seldom available and antiseptics were unknown. It did not help that horses roamed on the hills and in the valleys close to settlements. Pack horses reached the end of their working life after three or four months of exhausting work and most were turned loose to fend for themselves. Typically, there were more than 100 horses on the commonage in the valley leading from Queenstown to Arthurs Point, and sanitation near the town was seriously compromised.



Wakatipu Hospital has had an eventful life. It was burnt down in 1894 and the suggestion was made by the inspector of hospitals nationally that Arrow Hospital could serve the whole Wakatipu community. Queenstown, though, would have none of that. County Council facilities in Queenstown were used as a temporary hospital until a new hospital was built at Frankton using insurance money from the fire. This building was used until 28 September 1989 when five patients were transferred to new hospital facilities.

Arrowtown gained its own hospital as recorded in the editorial on page 3 of this issue. Daily charges for hospital stays were £1 for subscribers and £1 10 shillings for non-subscribers. Women and children paid 10 shillings. A formal review of the hospital in 1888 confirmed that Arrowtown was one of the most comfortable and well-managed hospitals in New Zealand (De La Mare, p.30). The first resident doctor of Arrowtown Hospital was Dr Scott who was assisted by a wardsman, matron and cook. No accommodation was provided for the doctor until a house was built beside the hospital in 1895 (see page 21).

Dr J.B. Thomson

One longstanding doctor at the Arrow hospital was Dr John Bell Thomson, pictured at left, from Kaitangata. He had attended Otago Boys' High School where he had a distinguished record in rugby and athletics. He trained as a doctor at Edinburgh. Like his medical colleagues, Dr Thomson gave sterling service to the Wakatipu community as a member of several sporting and cultural organisations and in providing unstinting service to his patients irrespective of where they needed help. On one occasion he received a call from a patient at Skippers. It may have been a routine place for him to visit, but at the time the road was impassable due to snow. Undaunted, he walked the whole way, a distance of at least 20 miles each way. Perhaps that experience convinced Thomson that he should invest in motorised transport. He purchased the first privately owned car in the Wakatipu, an Everett Metzger Flanders (EMF). The Arrowtown community was greatly disappointed when Dr and Mrs Thomson left in 1914. At that stage the opportunity was taken to close the Hospital. The building was later demolished, but the doctor's house is still standing and used as a private residence.



Dangers and Deaths

Dr Neil Clayton, a former President of the Queenstown and District Historical Society, has examined the major causes of death of the 457 individuals buried in Queenstown Cemetery between 1871 and 1911:

Major Causes of Death		
	Number of Males	Number of Females
Consumption	15	9
Bronchitis	13	9
Heart disease	14	3
Drownings	13	2
TOTALS	58	23

The preponderance of males in these statistics is due to the fact that there were far more men than women in the Wakatipu in the early days. Consumption figures included patients suffering from tuberculosis, for which there was no known cure at that time. Bronchitis as a category included miners who died of silicosis, a lung condition caused by breathing in quartz dust while mining reefs underground. The incidence of heart disease is interesting in that women of the Wakatipu worked just as hard as the men, but fewer of the females buried in Queenstown Cemetery died of heart failure. A disturbing statistic is that the age group with the greatest number of fatalities was children in their first year.

Of the 475 deaths 84 (almost 20%) were children under one year of age. A further 14 babies were stillborn. By contrast, one person reached 90 years. Clayton calculated that the average age of the 457 victims at time of death was 40 years (Clayton, *Queenstown Courier*, No.23, pp.5-8). The numbers of drownings in the table confirm the dangers associated with mining. The major rivers were deep, most creeks and rivers were swift, and all of them were subject to sudden

flooding. When combined with fossickers' risk-taking, these factors created an epidemic of drownings. John Egan, for example, drowned in October 1863 when collecting firewood from the banks of the Shotover. He waded into the river and lost his footing (*Lake Wakatipu Mail*, 28 October 1863). Six months later a miner was drowned when he was swept off his horse when crossing the Shotover at Maori Point. Thomas Goodwin, proprietor of the Diggers Rest Hotel in the same area, was drowned in 1881 when crossing the Shotover on his horse. Three men were drowned near Skippers when clearing a blocked tail-race. They were swept into the Shotover when the tail-race suddenly flushed clear.

A series of floods occurred in winter and spring 1863 leading to serious loss of life. In mid-July heavy rain caused deep snow to melt in the Upper Shotover. The river rose up to 30 feet overnight. Miners who camped well above the river were caught in the flood and many drowned (LWM 18 July 1863). Two weeks later a landslide which had blocked the Shotover beyond Skippers suddenly gave way, sending a torrent down the valley. A group of 13 miners were camped above flood level, but did not realise in the darkness that the Shotover was undermining the bank on which they perched. When their camp site collapsed into the torrent, 12 of the 13 were drowned. No one will ever know how many other lives were lost, but witnesses reported several bodies floating down the flooded valley next morning (LWM, 21 Oct. 1863).

Doctors of the Wakatipu attended miners caught in a range of accidents associated with the nature of their mining activity. To exploit a gold claim, miners typically dug deep in the hope of reaching bedrock or at least an impenetrable rock base. Some diggers were caught when the sides of their claims collapsed in a fatal landfall. John Redpath was aged 40 when he died in this way in 1877. John Cameron was 43 when he lost his life in a similar way at Bullendale in 1882. George Matthews and Edward Rier were buried when the bank of the Shotover collapsed on them in 1864. Rier was rescued by neighbours who summoned medical help. Dr Morton arrived from Frankton, but by the time he arrived Matthews was delirious and died just as the doctor began to examine him (LMW, 3 Feb. 1864).



Isolated work places: The Premier Mine beyond Macetown.

It did not help victims or the doctors that miners worked in isolated localities often in treacherous terrain. A victim who fell and broke his leg crawled over a mile through bracken and across rocks to reach his mates who carried him to hospital at Frankton. Dr Douglas patched him up and the patient eventually returned to his claim (Fulton, p.172). In 1910 George Robinson fell into a mine shaft on Londonderry Terrace near Skippers. Unable to climb out, he banged two stones together to attract attention, but it was two days before he was discovered and rescued. He was carried to hospital but died due to his injuries and hypothermia.

Doctors were also engaged to treat accidents involving explosives. Ben Rogers used dynamite when fishing in Skippers Creek. However, he blew off one of his hands and lost several fingers from the other. Colleagues carried him to hospital at Arrowtown. A pupil of Upper Shotover School at Skippers saw the rescue party as it passed. She recalled years later that there was blood everywhere. Rogers received effective treatment and recovered sufficiently to return to his hut and live independently for many years.

Childbirth

Women in isolated areas of the Wakatipu typically took the precaution of travelling in plenty of time to Queenstown, Arrowtown or Frankton to be near medical help as the birth of their babies approached. But sometimes these plans were cancelled by snowfalls or premature births. On such occasions women in the neighbourhood were mobilised to help. Eliza Johnston, the proprietor of the Otago Hotel at Skippers, was surprised when the birth of her sixth baby began prematurely. Local women were notified and the baby was safely delivered on the kitchen floor of the hotel.

Isabella White lived at Sandhills in the Shotover valley way beyond Skippers. Her husband Robert managed the local dredge and that meant he had to transport gold to the bank in Queenstown. Just before Christmas in 1896 he saddled his white horse, buckled on his shoulder holster containing the pistol he had never needed to fire, and rode down the valley. Isabella was expecting, but the baby was not due for several weeks so she rode her horse five miles down to Skippers to visit her mother. She stayed longer than anticipated and on the return journey she galloped all the way home - not a good idea for an expectant mother! Sure enough, the onset of birth occurred. To make matter worse, Robert had not returned, and the only help available was a young man who could not ride a horse. In desperation he was despatched to run to Skippers and alert Isabella's mother, Elizabeth Aspinall. When she got the news, Elizabeth saddled a horse and galloped full speed to Sandhills, arriving just in time to deliver her granddaughter, baby Ruth White. Qualified help from experienced doctors was preferred, and Isabella made sure she journeyed to Arrowtown or Frankton to be near a hospital in plenty of time prior to the birth of her second child.

At Bullendale, when frozen snow prevented Mrs Jemima Cotter from travelling to Arrowtown for the birth of her baby, midwives assumed responsibility, ordering

the prospective father, Tom Cotter, to boil water and keep out of the way. In due course twin daughters were successfully delivered. That was a surprise for Jemima who did not know that she was carrying twins. Incidentally, Tom Cotter complained later that he was the only man sober in the town that night. All the others celebrated at Bullendale's Phoenix Hotel. After leaving Bullendale the Cotters brought up their twelve children in a small cottage opposite Skippers on a high promontory known as Packers Point. Because of her experience in childbirth, Jemima was sometimes called on to assist in



Jemima Cotter and family, including her twin daughters. (EP 3561 LDM)

delivering babies in the Skippers district. On one occasion, though, by the time she reached an

expectant mother, the baby had been delivered successfully by the patient's 13-year-old daughter. Jemima developed a reputation for her medical wisdom. A mine manager's wife whose child was constipated once brought the youngster to Jemima who held the child's nose and poured a spoonful of Castor oil down the child's throat. The mother thought her child was choking and panicked, but Jemima knew from experience that the noises were typical in such treatments. The child recovered, but that mother never returned for other consultations.

Years later, Jemima herself became seriously ill during the night and husband Tom knew that a doctor was needed urgently. He couldn't leave his wife so he woke their oldest son, Pat, to fetch the doctor in Arrowtown. It was 2 a.m. when Tom legged his 11-year-old son on to his faithful horse, Duke, and wished him well for his difficult but important ride of 18 miles. It was so dark that young Pat had to search for the road in certain places, but he hurried on as best he could, reaching Arrowtown at 5 o'clock and banging on the doctor's door. The return journey was made easier as dawn broke. The doctor arrived in time to save Jemima, thanks to his professional skills and the bravery of young Pat.

The Ambulance Arrives

It was a difficult job to carry injured men, women or children to hospital at Frankton or Arrowtown from deep in the Shotover gorge. When accidents occurred at Bullendale at the head of Skippers Creek, for example, men working in the mine would take time off to ferry the patient 30 miles to hospital, taking it in turns to carry the stretcher. This arduous journey took two or three days and the mine manager, Fred Evans, became concerned about the time lost, so he initiated a fund to raise money for an ambulance. The community at Bullendale raised £29 which, together with a donation of £25 from the hospital at Frankton, left sufficient funds to buy a sturdy harness.

The ambulance was constructed in 1883 to a specific design by the American Carriage Factory in Invercargill. It was less than three feet wide to suit the track to and from Skippers and Bullendale. It could be pulled by a horse where the track allowed. A brake was installed, and a cover was available to protect patients from sun, wind, rain or snow. The stretcher part could be detached and carried by men where necessary. When completed, the ambulance was put on display in Invercargill before being transported to Queenstown.

The special day arrived for delivery to Skippers. Evans selected his most trusted horse even though it was one of his slowest, and off he set from Queenstown at 9am. The most challenging section of track was the zig-zag down the slopes at Deep Creek. A helper took the handles behind the stretcher to help slow the descent and all went smoothly. The ambulance reached Skippers at 3.30pm, taking just 6½ hours, a typical time for a mounted horseman to complete the journey. The ambulance was thus the first four-wheeled vehicle to negotiate the road to Skippers. It was trumpeted as a wonderful addition for the Shotover community. When not in use, it was stored alongside the school at Skippers.

The ambulance was first used in February 1884 to convey Mr James Stephenson to hospital at Frankton. Mr J. Sainsbury drove the horse and only five other men accompanied the appliance (LWM, 15 Feb. 1884).

Doctor Bill Anderson

An account of medical services in the Wakatipu would be incomplete without reference to Dr William Arthur Anderson, O.B.E., J.P., MB, ChB, or Doctor Bill as he was affectionately

known. He arrived in Queenstown in 1920 and he remained as the sole medical practitioner and Superintendent of the Wakatipu Hospital from 1923 until his retirement in 1950. Anderson was born in Essex on 29 September 1888, one of twin boys, and he immediately required medical attention for a broken leg sustained during his birth. The doctor used pencils as a makeshift splint for the tiny infant. His family came to Wellington in 1907. In his delightfully interesting autobiography, *Doctor in the Mountains*, Anderson tells of his university studies in Dunedin and temporary placement as an under-graduate in Queenstown in 1919. This experience was sufficient to convince him that he would return to the town to become a resident doctor.

Dr Bill provided exemplary services for the Wakatipu, responding to requests for his services in all parts of the region including settlements on both sides of Lake Wakatipu from Glenorchy to Kingston and in the Shotover and its tributary valleys. Many of his calls took him to distant regions where miners, farmers and their families lived in isolation or small communities, difficult to reach in warmer months and practically impossible in winter conditions. At other times emergencies caused him to take to the lake in stormy conditions. As years passed, the advent of air transport reduced the delays in reaching patients. It took at least three hours to reach the Head of the Lake by launch in stormy conditions, but this was shortened to 20 minutes by light aircraft. Sometimes he was contacted when in one distant area to attend a patient in another locality. When at Skippers once, he was informed that a horse had kicked a boy at Glenorchy. While Dr Bill returned to Frankton, the lad was brought there by launch and car.

Dr Anderson, like several of his predecessors, earned the deep respect of the community. He spent 27 years as an elected member of the Queenstown Borough Council including 15 years as mayor of the town. On the back cover of his autobiography, he wrote: "My philosophy of life is this: that true happiness lies... in trying to accumulate goodwill, love and respect from being trusted and needed, in sickness and in health, by those around us." He certainly achieved this goal, as did some of the other notable medical practitioners in the Wakatipu over the years.

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Most photographs are courtesy of the Lakes District Museum



Dr Anderson's nameplate in the Museum (Rita Teele)

JUSTINE WALDMANN, AN UNUSUAL ARROWTOWNER

By Denise Heckler

Adapted from her 'People from the Past' presentation at the Arrowtown Cemetery during the 2012 Autumn Festival.

Justine Waldmann lived near Arrowtown for nearly 47 years, and you might think that would make her a 'local', but it didn't. Perhaps this was because she was German, a nationality not viewed favourably in New Zealand in the first half of last century. Or there may have been other reasons.

She was born in 1885 in Hamburg in a talented professional family. Her father Carl was a highly respected composer and conductor; her mother, also named Justine, enjoyed entertaining. It was a cultured upbringing. Justine attended university, studying chemistry and apothecary, and became an apothecary or pharmacist. She did not need to work but was encouraged to practise her skills between many trips around Europe.

In 1914 she visited Scotland and found employment in a medical rehabilitation centre, and it was there that her link



with Arrowtown began. She met Dr William Ferguson who had been wounded at Passchendaele while working in a medical unit. He was a very energetic person with a restless nature, who had falsified his age in order to join the war effort. In fact he was about fifty, having been born in 1866 in Glasgow. He had been the doctor in Kurow briefly before the war. After the war, in 1920, he moved to Arrowtown with his wife Florence and two teenage children, son Kim and daughter Mary, and he asked Justine to join them as his dispenser.



She arrived in 1921 and lived with the doctor and his family in the large house beside the golf course. The Arrow Hospital next door had been closed and had been shifted and attached to the back of the house where the dispensary was located. As well as assisting the doctor, Justine helped Mrs Ferguson with the housekeeping. As both women had grown up with servants, they weren't very confident housekeepers. The locals considered it a joke that they called in an electrician to change a light bulb.

The children grew up and left home, and then there were just Doctor Ferguson, Mrs Ferguson and Miss Waldmann. People talk, and there was gossip about the three living together.

The doctor became old, and reached the stage when he could no longer drive himself and Justine to house calls, so his neighbour Dorothy Hamilton of Morven Ferry Road drove them. Mrs Ferguson often went too and the women would have a cup of tea in the kitchen while Dr



Ferguson saw his patient. Dorothy also often drove them to Queenstown to go shopping.

Dr Ferguson's grandson Jim Childerstone has written his memories of the doctor and his unusual household, in 'Strange Happenings Up the Arrow' in the *Queenstown Courier* Issue 67, 2001, p.21. He describes Justine's 'exceedingly white face' and 'unnatural pale blue' eyes.

Florence Ferguson died in 1950 and the doctor in 1961, leaving Justine alone in the large old house which was becoming dilapidated and the garden overgrown. She lived with her cats, and would phone the butcher to deliver meat for them, and the grocer for her supplies, but she would have the items left on the verandah in order to avoid conversation. She was a recluse, apart from phoning Dorothy Hamilton each day.

She left her property to Mary Childerstone, the Fergusons' daughter, who was living in Ceylon. When she died in 1967 she was buried in an unmarked grave in the Arrowtown Cemetery.

Sources:

New Zealand Archives, Lakes District Museum Archives, Otago Daily Times, Obituary of Dr W. Ferguson, and Arrowtown Burial Records.

Illustrations:

Photos belonging to Justine Waldmann, Lakes District Museum, EP 2532-2532

Ink drawing of the Arrow Doctor's Residence by Audrey Bascand, from Old Buildings of the Lakes District by Marion Borrell, published by David Johnston, Dunedin, 1971

HISTORICAL CUTTINGS

Monkey Puzzle Trees at Reidhaven

This is the first of occasional notes from Rita L. Teele (enthusiastic but amateur botanist), co-written with Jack Reid.

Special thanks to Gordon Bailey, Parks Manager, QLDC, Margaret Tomlinson of Wanaka and Murray & Jan Forward of Arrowtown for their help.

Monkey Puzzle Tree

Araucaria araucana

Last December, the society held its annual picnic in the garden of Reidhaven, Jack Reid's ancestral home. The picnickers made sure to avoid sitting near the handsome but prickly monkey puzzle tree, *Araucaria araucana*. Jack's recollections sent us on a path of discovery about this tree and its New Zealand cousins.

Jane Reid, Jack's grandmother, planted a monkey puzzle tree in front of the house. Jack remembers his father, who was born in 1871, remarking that he was able to jump over it as a child. We estimate, therefore, that it was planted sometime between 1875 and 1880. It grew to a very large size, then began dying from the top. (In retrospect, this was probably due to infestation with *Phytophthora*.) A fierce gale, probably in the early 1970s, took the tree down. The spouting went with it but the house itself survived.



The original monkey puzzle tree at Reidhaven is at the far left. Photograph is probably from the early 1970s.

(Courtesy of Lakes District Museum)

William Sinclair, woodturner, made bowls for the Reids, and the children of Jack's sister own salt and pepper shakers made of the wood. Jack had the main trunk of the tree milled and the planks sat in a pile behind his house until they were removed to become panelling in a local house. The wood is relatively light, golden in colour, and close-grained.

When the tree was failing, small offspring appeared around the base of the trunk, and these Jack salvaged. He planted two on German Hill that he could see from his house with binoculars. They were doing well until a fire went through the area and destroyed them. A third tree, which he estimates he planted about 40 years ago in the border of his property, is the sole remaining offspring of the original tree.

But where did Jane Reid get such a tree for her garden in the late 1800s?

J

ack remembers it coming from a nursery on the Crown Range. It is possible that it came from *over* the Crown Range, but we have been unable to trace its birthplace. The Lakes County Nursery was established in Wanaka in 1879 but its trees were intended for use as shelter, timber and firewood. There were no monkey puzzle trees listed in the last inventory which was taken in 1947. The origin of Jane Reid's tree will likely remain a mystery!



Jack Reid holding one of the bowls made by William Sinclair.



The male monkey puzzle tree in the border at Reidhaven, 2012.

There are two large monkey puzzle trees, one male and the other female, inside the front gate of the Queenstown Gardens. (These were mentioned by Bruce Hamilton in earlier *Couriers*, issues 48 & 55.) In his *Queenstown Park Historical Report* in 2007, John P. Adam states: "There is strong evidence that the monkey puzzle trees that grow at the eastern side Park came via Henry J. Matthews [Chief Forester] as he reports some 60-odd seed were being propagated at his Rotorua-based nursery in 1902."

A third tree in the park has since been planted near the Scott Memorial.



A nut-bearing cone of the female monkey puzzle tree in Queenstown Gardens.

Araucaria araucana is native to South America, in particular Chile, from whence its botanical name derives. Archibald Menzies, surgeon and botanist on Vancouver's ship *Discovery*, was served some nuts from this tree when he was at a banquet with the Spanish Viceroy in Chile. He took them back to the ship, planted them in his glazed frame on the quarter deck, and had five young trees to present to Kew Gardens on his return to England in 1795.

The Victorians loved this tree with its unusual spiky triangular leaves and serpiginous long branches. One proud owner is reputed to have said that the tree would be a puzzle for even a monkey to climb, and thus its popular name was born.

As for its relations in New Zealand: the genus *Araucaria* belongs to the family Araucariaceae, a family of coniferous trees that co-existed with the dinosaurs. *Agathis australis*, the New Zealand kauri, is a member of that ancient family.

MORE 2013 CALENDAR TALKS

January and August: The Paddle Steamer Mountaineer

By Pat Paulin

August
The Mountaineer at
Elfin Bay.



When the Wakatip Steam Company Ltd called for tenders on 23 August 1878 for their proposed steamer for Lake Wakatipu, the story of the *Mountaineer* began. The company comprised shareholders from Nokomai, Kingston, Arrowtown and Queenstown. They were run-holders, merchants, hotel-keepers and a solicitor. The contract went to Kincaid and McQueen who then built the side-paddle-wheel steamer in Dunedin. When ready, it was dismantled and transported in sections by rail to Kingston where a slipway had been prepared. As soon as the components arrived, a team of shipwrights, boilermakers, carpenters and painters worked from 5am to 8pm six days a week until her launching on 11 February 1879. The ceremony was a colourful and exciting occasion for the Kingston community. A Miss Daniel, who I assume was the daughter of Mr Frederick Daniel, one of the shareholders, performed the launch, and the *Mountaineer*, festooned with many cabbage trees, slid onto the water.

It was an exciting venture. Here was a new form of transport on the lake. Above the engine-room it had a saloon measuring 38 by 12 ft with large square portholes. The interior walls were panelled in birds-eye maple. This was offset by red velvet upholstery. Forward of this room was a LADIES room. Another saloon situated further forward measured 16 by 10ft. Passenger capacity was 200, and cargo was 30 tons. At 130ft long, the *Mountaineer* was 35ft shorter than the *Earnslaw* which is 165ft long. I like to think of the *Mountaineer* as being the length of two cricket pitches.

Speeds of about 8 knots were anticipated, and under good conditions they must have been easily achieved. The blue riband of Lake Wakatipu was gained when in February 1883 she did the 25-mile run from Kingston to Queenstown in 1 hour 28 minutes – helped along by a southerly buster! Usually only three bags of coal were consumed on the run from the foot of the lake.

This venture with a new steamer met with fluctuating fortunes. The competition among the steamers *Antrim*, *Ben Lomond*, *Mountaineer* and later *Earnslaw* was good for users, but not for investors. I love the gimmick used when the *Mountaineer* was introduced: for TWO days, FREE trips were offered.

It's interesting to note that a year after she was launched she was fitted with a new whistle that sounded like a foghorn. When she left Kingston the horn could be heard some ten miles away at Halfway Bay.

At 5am on 11 June 1883 the *Mountaineer* left for Kingston in a heavy snowstorm and ran aground on a beach at Sunnyside, Collins Bay. The point was of a clayey nature and the steamer cut in almost up to her paddles. The *Antrim* managed to haul her off some five days later, apparently none the worse for the mishap. On another occasion she had a narrow escape from destruction when one of her paddle floats was damaged by striking some rocks near Rat Point on a trip to the Head of the Lake.

During her operating days the most successful times were when her movements coincided with the train services at Kingston. This route was the main artery to and from the Lakes District. Farm produce, mining materials, tourists, mail, timber and all the necessary supplies for Queenstown and the wider district were her stock in trade. Transporting livestock must have provided some interesting challenges. For example, over a five-day period in May 1905 the *Antrim* and the *Mountaineer* ferried 6,000 sheep from Glenorchy to Mt Nicholas. At the wharf in Queenstown the *Mountaineer* was normally berthed aft of the *Earnslaw*, so to clear her berth she had to go astern towards the town jetty. One day in May 1929 a strong gust of wind blew her into the stern of the *Earnslaw*, and the resulting damage put her out of action. The *Earnslaw*, which was just leaving for the Head of the Lake, helped her back to the wharf. Then the *Mountaineer's* passengers were transferred to the *Earnslaw* and taken to Kingston. Once repairs were effected, the *Mountaineer* did the Head of the Lake trip.

Eventually in June 1931 the *Mountaineer* was withdrawn from service. By that stage she needed many costly repairs. She was put up for sale and purchased for £35 by Major P. Mackenzie of Walter Peak Station for use as a houseboat. Ultimately in 1941 she was sold to the government to provide urgently needed materials for the construction of minesweepers and Bren gun carriers.

This is, I hope, just enough of the story of the *Mountaineer* to inspire you to further reading. My source has been *All Aboard: The Ships and Trains that Served Lake Wakatipu* by R. J. Meyer, published by the NZ Railway and Locomotive Society, 1982. Copies are available at the Queenstown, Glenorchy and Arrowtown Libraries.



January

The *Mountaineer* unloading at Glenorchy

November: The Queenstown Bowling Club Pavilion

By Owen Todd



The Pavilion is on the QLDC register of heritage buildings.

Origins of the Building

While the Bowling Club was founded in 1904, we had no club house, so after playing, members had no facilities for social activities.

On 7 August 1907 a delegation of three members, one of whom was a Mr Lynch, the grandfather of Michael Lynch, met with representatives of the Government Tourist and Publicity Department from Wellington, asking if the department would build a pavilion. One month later the club received a cable of approval and the news that plans were being drawn by the government draughtsman in Rotorua.

On January 14 1908 tenders were advertised for construction of a pavilion for use by the bowling and tennis clubs. It was to be 31 feet wide, 15 feet deep and 30 feet high, and to include an opening through the centre 13 feet wide with stairs to an upstairs viewing area. The downstairs was to have two rooms each 15 by 9 by 9 feet each fitted with a hand-basin. The bowls room was to have lockers installed.

On 25 February a tender was let to Mr A.C. Stewart of Mosgiel for the sum of £248-10s.

On 18 March Mr Stewart started on site and completed the project by mid-May.

Think of this time-frame: applying for planning consent, drawing plans, calling tenders and building. Could this happen today?

The original plan was for the building to be 25 feet back from the green, but the Bowling Club thought this was too far back, so the pavilion was brought forward to 15 feet.

The Plan and Specifications of the Pavilion

These allowed for open access through with one room on each side. Also an internal stair to the open viewing floor the roof of which was concave and covered with malthoid to allow rain to run off to the guttering. A balustrade safety railing surrounded this area, and there was a corrugated iron roof. The two clubrooms were lined with rimu t-and-g timber, and the outer walls were rimu and totara. Each room had a semi-French design window of 32 panes of glass. All outer surfaces of the building were painted cream, with doors and window-frames green. The roof colour was red oxide.

Viewing Area

This was an excellent place to view the public gardens, and was frequently used on Sundays by the local band to entertain the public picnicking in the Gardens.

Subsequent History

When the Tennis Club went into recess in 1956, the Bowling Club took over the other room. During the past 104 years the pavilion has had many alterations, for example:

1925 – The Tourist Department removed the stairs, and enclosed the viewing area then turned it into a tea kiosk.

1962 – The Bowling Club took over the kiosk and contracted it to a Mrs Hood at £52 per year.

1968 – The kiosk closed and the upstairs was turned into a social area for the Bowling Club.

1978 – The Club signed a 33-year lease of pavilion and greens from the Government Tourist and Publicity Department.

1983 – The Club rented the top floor to the rejuvenated Tennis Club, and added on the lounge with kitchen and toilets at a cost of \$43,000.

1997 – The Tennis Club was given approval to build a viewing platform facing the courts and upgrade their social rooms. The builder of this upgrade told me of the terrific workmanship of Mr Stewart, the original builder. For example, the roof support posts are dove-tailed into the ceiling joists.

2012 - The Club has replaced the original iron roof and purlins due to leaking.

The pavilion is a wonderful asset to the Queenstown Gardens.



Above, the pavillion today

SOCIETY NEWS

April 2013



Current Projects

Your subscriptions and the profits from the sale of calendars enable us to undertake projects for the wider community, promoting 'Our Heritage Today – for Tomorrow' as our motto states.

Couriers 1-86 on our website www.queenstownhistoricalsociety.org.nz

We're very grateful to John Borrell for the hours he has spent scanning all the magazines from 1966 to 2011 and upgrading the website to accommodate them. Now anyone with an interest in our local history can find a wealth of information and use it freely. All we ask is for proper acknowledgement in any assignment or publication. You will find that the most recent issues are not on the website because we hope that people will maintain their memberships! The enlarged website costs us \$100 per year.

How to use:

Note that as the files are large, they'll be too slow to download unless you have broadband.

1. On the homepage, click on 'Courier Index' at the top right.
2. Search the index of authors and subjects, jotting down relevant issues and page numbers.
3. Click the issue number, and you'll receive a list of issues.
4. Click the issue you want and soon the whole magazine will appear. Scroll to the page.

We wish you happy searching and reading.

Historical signage on the Queenstown Trails

We have offered the Queenstown Trails Trust \$2000 as seed-funding for the erection of signs at locations of historical interest along the new trails. This funding will enable the Trust to seek further funding from other benefactors.

Collaboration with the Wakatipu Heritage Trust

We offered our support, and have been asked to assist by chairing meetings of a forum which will review the various conservation projects undertaken by local trusts in recent years, e.g. Williams Cottage, One-Mile Powerhouse, Paradise, and the Boatshed. This information will be used to establish guidelines and strategies for the projects which the new Heritage Trust will undertake. Our Vice-President Ralph Hanan has agreed to chair the forum.

Publication of Book on Macetown's History

We're collaborating with the Lakes District Museum and the Department of Conservation to publish a very informative book which has been waiting for a long time to be printed. Our contribution will consist of time for the editing (involving Danny Knudson and Marion Borrell) and money for the printing.

Thank-you for your support of our endeavours.

Acting President's Report for the Annual General Meeting November 2012

It is my privilege to present the Annual Report after six months as Acting President.

This has been another active year for the Society, with strong continuity in our long-term roles, and increased community participation. The departures from the district of our president Bill Dolan and former president Malcolm Boote have depleted our expertise, especially in the area of relationships with QLDC, DOC and HPT. However, we are pulling together, developing our understanding, and drawing on the help of other members to maintain all activities.

Our membership base remains healthy with 260 current memberships representing 380 individuals, and new members are joining steadily to maintain numbers. This level of support and good will gives weight and confidence to our representations on behalf of the heritage of the district, and we are grateful to the members who, while unable to be on the committee at present, contribute when they can, such as on cemetery and walking tours, the launch of the calendar, and writing articles for the *Courier*.

Our financial position is healthy, thanks to subscriptions and donations, and income from the sales of calendars and Danny Knudson's book, *Edith Cavell: A Bridge and Bravery*. As a result we have been able to contribute to the Lakes District Museum and have the funds to undertake other projects in the year ahead. Our treasurer, Gavin Jack, keeps us clearly informed and wisely advised.

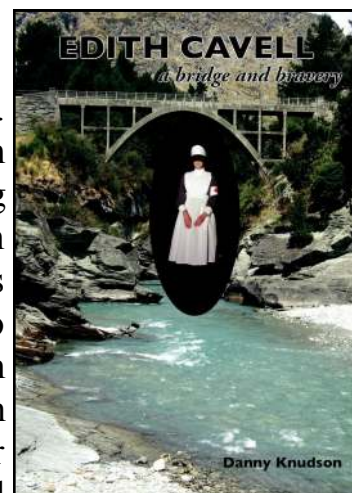
Heritage Protection

The establishment of the Wakatipu Heritage Trust, as a collaboration between QLDC, DOC, the Museum and the HPT, is a very significant development in public policy on heritage in the district, and one to which Bill Dolan devoted much energy. At present the Trust is in its setting-up phase, working out its methodology, and has just selected its first two projects: the Arrowtown Jail and the Dynamo at Bullendale. The Society does not have a seat on the Trust as of right, but we intend to keep in close contact, and look to provide financial or other assistance with specific projects. Ralph Hanan has undertaken to liaise with the Trust.

Brian Bayley continues to monitor Resource Consent applications for any affecting heritage buildings and sites. In recent times these have been less numerous and contentious, and we made no submissions this year, but vigilance is always needed. QLDC's Heritage Strategy is functioning effectively in protecting listed buildings and trees. Ralph Hanan will take the lead in liaising with QLDC and Lakes Environmental to see whether we can have input earlier in the consents process.

Publications

Our publications are our main contribution to local historical knowledge. The Summer 2011 *Queenstown Courier* (No.86) was a meaty one with 44 pages. In May the 60-page book *Edith Cavell* was the *Courier* along with a leaflet of Society News. We are very grateful to Danny Knudson for donating all his work in writing and publishing the book. It has proven to be popular, and not many copies of the 400 printed remain to be sold. The following *Courier* with 36 pages was published in spring in honour of the gold-rush and the centenary of the *TSS Earnslaw*. I am grateful to Spike Broadbent for his articles in the last two issues. Our archive of 88 *Couriers*, with the index now available on-line, is a useful resource for researchers.



The 2012 calendar proved to be a good fundraiser with a profit of about \$7,000. We hope it is being enjoyed in many homes. Our calendar for 2013 consisting of hand-tinted postcards from the early 1900s is an unusual one, and is on sale at \$15. We are grateful to the people who offered their postcards. We thank all who have bought calendars for themselves and for gifts. If every member bought just two copies, the time-consuming task of distribution and selling would be greatly reduced, especially for Ben Saunders who makes such a great job of the production and sales.

Brian Bayley was on the Glenorchy committee which has just published a DVD on the making of the Glenorchy-Queenstown Road. We hope that this will soon become more widely available.

Community Involvement

Our best promotion of our cause and the Society comes through participation, and this has increased this year through our contribution to major events. We provided Cemetery 'Walks In Time' during the Arrowtown Autumn Festival which 90 people attended. For the Arrowtown 150 commemorations Bill Dolan and Denise Heckler were our representatives on the organising committee. Rupert Iles, Russell Styles and Rita Teele guided 40-50 people on walks. Once again these were attended by people for whom this was their first contact with the Society.

Ben Saunders contributed to classroom education at Queenstown Primary School.

Jocelyn Robertson continues to serve as our representative on the Museum Board as well as being our efficient secretary. We were pleased to be able to donate \$3000 to the Museum to upgrade computers in the Archives Room.

Brian Bayley represented us at the launch of Historic Places Central Otago which replaces the former branch of the HPT.

Communication with the Public

The website is now 18 months old, and I update it from time to time with information, and photos of events. Since November 2011 the average number of visits per day has risen from 3 to 8; total visits for the 12 months have been 2,364, and total hits 19,701. While it's impossible to quantify, there must be some benefit from being accessible to members and people everywhere.

A major development in publicity and image has been the addition of a motto to the Society's name, **Our Heritage Today – For Tomorrow**, and a revised logo to represent the pastoralists

(the dog), women and children as well as goldminers. A pull-up sign and table banner now make us easily recognised at market days and events as we literally 'fly the flag' for local history. We thank Queenstown Signs for their generous discount, and Dean Williams for designing the new logo.

James Beech, local reporter and a Society member, provided good exposure in the *Queenstown Times* for the calendar launch and our donation to the Museum.

Malcolm Boote and Jack Reid at Arrowtown.



Activities for Members

Eight events took place between September 2011 and May 2012, including trips to Mt Nicholas Station, down the Clutha to Doctors Point, and to Bendigo. The launch of *Edith Cavell* was combined with a short film re-enacting the first ascent of the Remarkables. All events were well supported with numbers up to 50. Given our small committee, we are mindful that we must keep the workload manageable while still providing substantial educational content and variety. The

The Come In Time Battery 2



current season's programme which began in August has eight activities planned, mainly close to home and inexpensive, but we hope still enjoyable and enlightening.

Thanks.

I am very grateful to the committee for the encouragement and help they are giving a novice president, and for their unfailing commitment and goodwill. Also, thanks to the members who have made their contribution at events, in the *Courier*, and by selling calendars.

Marion Borrell
Acting President

Bill and Angela Dolan on the Clutha River near Doctors Point.



QUEENSTOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2008 INC.

Statement of Receipts & Payments

for the year ended 30 September 2012

	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>30 SEPT 2012</u>	<u>30 SEPT 2011</u>
OPENING BANK BALANCE		<u>15,092.31</u>	<u>20,036.37</u>
PLUS RECEIPTS			
Activities Income		1,200.00	1,400.00
Project Income		1,420.00	2,000.38
Membership Subscriptions	3.	5,465.00	2,770.00
Donations		690.00	405.25
Other		207.00	13.45
Interest Received		817.64	594.05
Calendar Sales	1.	15,486.00	10,480.00
Total Receipts		<u>25,285.64</u>	<u>17,663.13</u>
LESS PAYMENTS			
Activities Expenses		1,155.00	1,717.70
Project Grants & Expenses	2.	6,445.35	9,605.25
Subscriptions		165.00	60.00
Printing & Stationery		30.97	64.40
Postal Expenses		336.58	469.50
Courier Magazine		4,000.05	3,757.60
Meeting Expenses		351.34	410.25
Sundry Expenses		203.69	182.11
Calendar Expenses		6,278.55	6,340.38
Total Payments		<u>18,966.53</u>	<u>22,607.19</u>
CLOSING BANK BALANCE		<u>21,411.42</u>	<u>15,092.31</u>

REPRESENTED BY:

	<u>30-Sep-11</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>30-Sep-12</u>
ASB Current Account	1,783.73			7,285.20
ASB Fast Saver Account	2,371.15	75.98		2,447.13
SBS Bank Term Deposit 7-1	5,537.81	324.19		5,862.00
SBS Bank Term Deposit 6-3	5,399.62	417.47		5,817.09
	<u>15,092.31</u>	<u>817.64</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,411.42</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- The Society is incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.
- The Society is also registered as a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005.
- This report is exclusively for the use of members of the Society.

GENERAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- The Society adopts a cash basis of accounting.
- There have been no changes in accounting policies.
- Accounting policies have been applied on a basis consistent with previous years.

PARTICULAR ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- The Society is not registered for Goods and Services Tax.
- As a registered charitable entity, the Society is exempt from Income Tax.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Calendar Sales

• 2012 Calendar	13,577.00
• 2013 Calendar	1,909.00
	<u>\$ 15,486.00</u>

2. Project Grants & Expenses

Principal Grants paid by the Society during the financial year were:

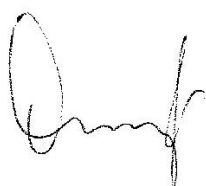
• Microphone for the Lakes District Museum.	363.40
• Contribution towards new computer for the Lakes District Museum Archives Dept.	3,000.00
• Production costs of Edith Cavell book.	3,081.95
	<u>\$ 6,445.35</u>

3. Membership Subscriptions

The increase in membership subscriptions received reflects the increase approved at the 2011 AGM.

AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

I have examined the financial records of the Society which in my opinion have been properly kept. I have obtained the information and explanations I required. In common with other similar organisations, control over income and sundry donations prior to its being recorded is limited, and there are no practicable audit procedures to determine the effect of this limited control. In my opinion the financial statements presented above give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the Queenstown and District Historical Society Incorporated for the year ended 30 September 2012.



D. Warrington BCom CA



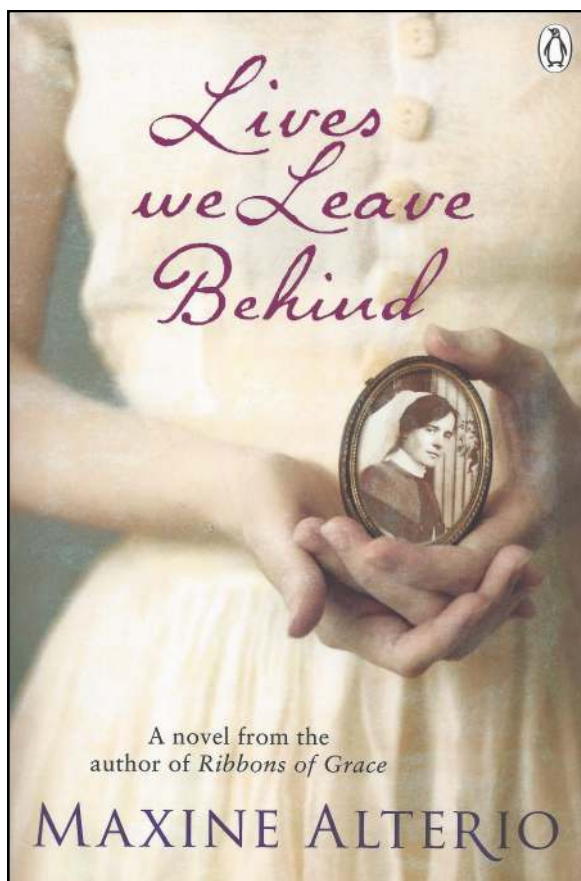
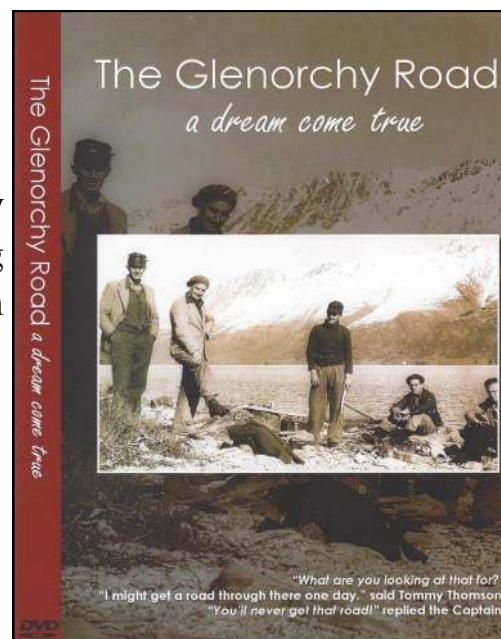
PUBLICATIONS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Available From Our Well-stocked Bookshop

The Glenorchy Road (DVD)

Fifty years since the opening of the road, the Glenorchy Heritage Museum Group has published this fascinating DVD, including interviews with the key people involved in the making of the road. Produced by Beck Industries Ltd.

Price: \$30



Lives We Leave Behind

A new novel by Maxine Alterio, traces the experiences of two Southland nurses, Addie and Meg, who serve in Egypt and France during World War I. A powerful story of friendship, love and the legacies of war. Maxine is a Historical Society member, and many of you will have read her first novel, *Ribbons of Grace*, set mainly in Arrowtown.

Price: \$38

Queenstown & District Historical Society 2008 Incorporated

Our Heritage Today - For Tomorrow

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Honorary Solicitor: Graeme Todd

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Individual or Family Membership: \$25 a year

Corporate Membership: \$50 a year

Life Membership: \$250

The Queenstown Courier is posted out to members.

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