

### Aims of the Queenstown & District Historical Society

1. That we use our power to advise, concerning the saving of historical aspects of the district.
2. Preservation of and education in all aspects of historical research and interest.

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*The Queenstown Courier is posted out to members. Correspondence and accounts to: PO Box 132, Queenstown*

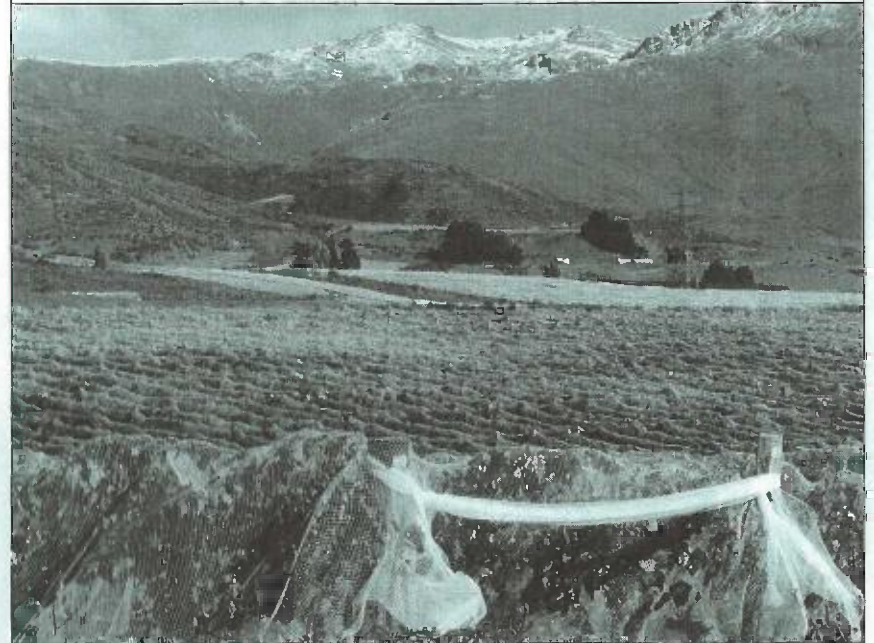
*The Queenstown Courier is produced with the assistance of the Lakes District Museum*

# The Queenstown Courier

Autumn 2008

Issue No. 79

April 2008 and a scene early settlers could never have envisaged but one now closely



linked to Autumn in the Lakes District. Grapes ready for harvesting in the Gibbston 'Valley of Vines' sit beneath early snow on surrounding hills.

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE QUEENSTOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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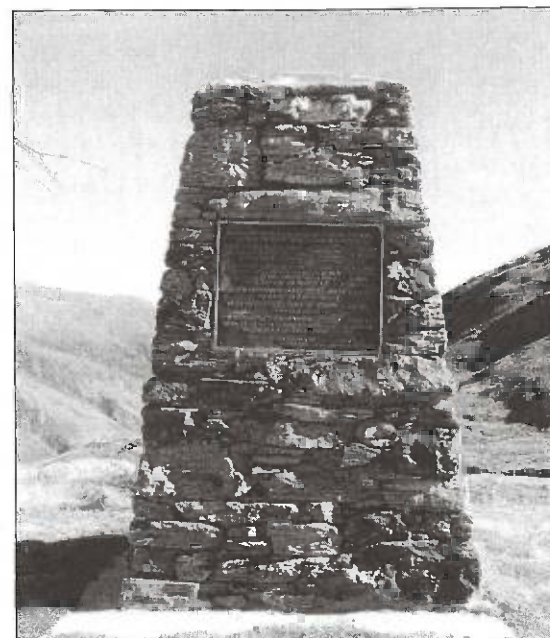
Grateful thanks to Malcolm Boote for his photos of the historic Arrowtown cottages used in this issue.

## IN THIS ISSUE

This Autumn issue highlights the excursion members had earlier in the year to some of Arrowtown's historic cottages. We are fortunate to be able to publish six fascinating accounts of the history of these dwellings and even the flowers and fruit trees that surround them.

What makes these accounts special is that they are all provided by their current owners, many of whom have family histories associated with their homes that go back many, many decades, or in Jack Reid's case, 142 years.

### Crown Range saddle Memorial



The memorial cairn on the Crown Range saddle that commemorates travel over New Zealand's highest road. Rees and Von Tunzlemann, the first sheep, gold seekers, tourists, snow boarders, cyclists and many more have all made their way over this historic route; by foot, pony, cart, bus, bike, car and, of course, 4WD's laden with skis.

**31 MERIONETH STREET**

**Marilyn and John Moore**



It is presumed the cottage was built in the late 1860's, although the original Land Grant is dated 1872.

The first known owner was Joseph Woodhead from Leeds, England, who came to the district in 1862. Joseph was an early gold miner and later a road foreman. Joseph married in 1865 and he and his wife had five children.

The next owner was Isabel Stringer, who bought the cottage in 1901, then sold it to Patrick Tobin in 1910 for £70 1s 9d. Patrick, always a bachelor, and later editor of the local newspaper, bought it to provide a home for some of his family after fire destroyed their house beside Tobin's Track. He grazed his horse on the section and there were signs found of a hen house. On his death in 1942, the cottage passed to his widowed sister, Anne McClintock, and in 1951, on her death, was bought as a holiday home for the present owners' family.

At that time, the property was on the edge of town near farm land, fencing to keep out sheep was necessary and Kent St but a grassed walking track.

The original cottage was just the stone building with a clay floor. Early on it was divided into four rooms and had rear facing windows, now filled with shelves. Later, a lean-to, with an extra bedroom and porch were added piecemeal over time, using various materials. The porch must have opened to the south side where the copper, the only tap and a long-drop toilet were situated. The paving stones at the present back door area were unearthed there when the plumbing was renewed. At the back of the house was attached a small coal and wood shed.

A nephew, now aged 93, remembered the only washing facility was the outside tap when he was 11 in 1923, but by 1951 a bathroom containing the present free-standing bath, basin and hot water cylinder was installed. An earthen-ware sink stood where the pantry wardrobe stands today.

During the early 50's a lean-to shed was added for laundry and general storage and a sink bench placed in the kitchen. Wallpaper and scrim were replaced by the then new insulating Pinex wall-board and the dark woodwork was painted. When the sewage reticulation came to Arrowtown in the mid 70's, a toilet was added to the bathroom.

By 1997, a shower was called for and much of the timber additions and roof structure needed replacing. Architect, Max Wild, suggested extending the porch and putting the shower where the coal and woodshed was. A shed extension to house garden furniture and sports gear improved the roof line. The wagon, outside, was bought from a family farm near Balclutha and has no local associations.

The old varieties of trees scattered around the property, including nectarines, plums, especially Damson's, pears and gooseberries, were established long before the 1950's and are still prolific.





## 12 ANGLESEA STREET

Barbara Hamilton

The earliest record of the section was a map in 1867 by Richard Millet, assistant surveyor, Borough of Arrowtown. Interestingly, the section and the one next door ran the other way round then. Photos from 1878 show the two cottages by themselves and are the earliest I have seen. However, going by the blue cards found in the walls when we renovated, I think the cottage must have been built in 1877.



From 1877-78 the property was owned by William Butler and from 1878-1881, John Barnett Neale. From 1881-86, James Corkhill's name appears on rates information, though so does James Healey's. Perhaps Corkhill rented it from Healey. From 1886-96 James Healey is listed as the owner. Healey was the first town clerk of Arrowtown and had a store at 12 Mile, Arrow River.

In 1905, Richard Cotter, son of pioneer digger, Richard Cotter Sr, was living in the cottage. Cotter Jnr, also a member of the Borough Council of Arrowtown for some time, ran an extensive store-keeping and butchering business at the Arrow and Bullendale.

John Grant, shepherd, is listed as occupier in 1920 with Ernest Graham, Station Manager, as owner, but from 1925-38 Grant is the owner.

Albert Beale took over in 1938. Bert, one of 11 children born and raised at Macetown, was single but his sister Charlotte (Lottie) lived with him after returning from Greymouth and an unsuccessful marriage. In 1964 Bert sold up and moved to Dunedin, the cottage becoming the property of Herbert (Bert) Wohlers, butcher from Invercargill. For a time he also operated a butcher's shop in Arrowtown but the cottage eventually was just a holiday home for his family.

We began restoration in 2006 after waits for various consents and liaison with the NZHPT who required the front garage to be retained. The original part of the house was in surprisingly good condition, apart from the piles. Very few nails were used, with timber framing all inter-locked. Weather boards on the front and east sides and some on the west side were retained. Three of the original double hung windows were in good condition so were able to be double-glazed while the rest were replaced in the same style, as were the doors.

The old cottage area is now the living/dining/kitchen area and the new part of the house is a narrow building at the back comprising two bedrooms and ensuite and a new back-door/laundry area. The result is that from the street only the original cottage can be seen.

Finding a beautiful, stacked stone chimney under a layer of plaster was a highlight of restoration. This

has now been cleaned and sealed, becoming a prominent feature of the cottage.

We have painted the cottage in heritage colours and feel we have retained the flavour of the era, with plantings of roses and lavender by the front path. All windows and doors in the new addition are the same pattern as in the old cottage, as are the architraves and skirting boards.

Number 12 Anglesea St now looks forward to another 131 years of occupation!





## 16 CAERNARVON STREET

Shirley Foster



The stone cottage at 16 Caernarvon St was built in 1871 by William Wright, the local builder and undertaker who occupied it until 1878. In 1878, Charles Scott bought it and passed it on to William McLaren in 1881. By 1893 it had changed hands again, to Patrick Bowman. Then in 1904, Grace Jenkins became the occupier but, because women were not allowed to own property, the deeds state that it was for "her sole and separate use" and her husband Joseph Jenkins' name appeared on the deeds. Joseph was the local store-keeper and the cottage stayed in his family until 1915 when it was sold to Alice O'Callaghan. It stayed in the O'Callaghan family until, in 1964, it was purchased by Raymond Foster whose family remains there still.

The outside walls of the cottage are approximately 2 feet thick and the stone wall which runs through the centre is approximately 15 inches thick. It is interesting to note that the foundations consist of walls made of river stones that run the width of the cottage.

The other original buildings on the site, when it came in to our possession, were a stone stable and a wash-house. The stable was built less than 3m from the back door and opposite the back door at about the same distance

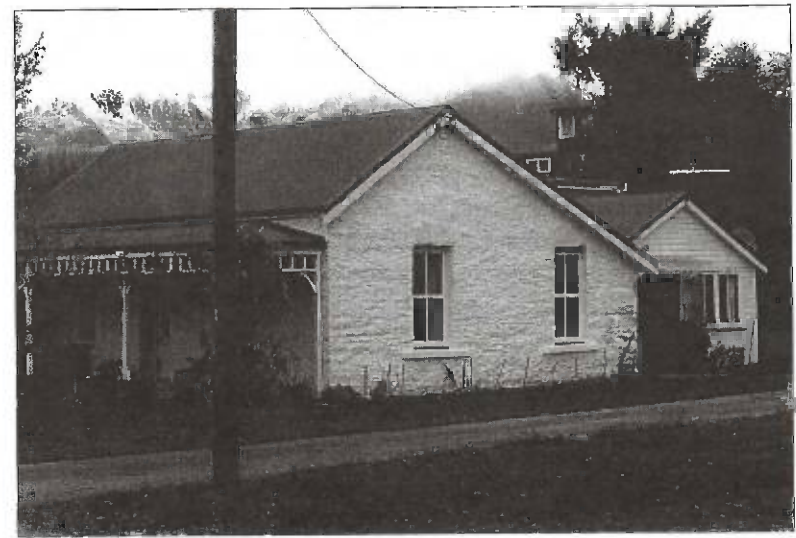
was the wash house. It was in such a poor state of repair that it was quickly demolished for safety reasons but the stable still stands. When we took possession the one loose-box and tack room were still in their original state.

We don't know when a lean-to was built on to the back of the cottage, but it consisted of a small bedroom and a scullery, both dilapidated when we took over. The lean-to was demolished and another piece built on consisting of a sun-room and a laundry-cum-bathroom and toilet. When the cottage became a permanent residence, this too was demolished.

The original kitchen was a room approximately 15ft x 9ft that still had the old Shacklock range with the tank on the side. This was most useful at first, since we virtually camped, and those four gallons of water were a Godsend. We did most of the dirty work ourselves to make the cottage, which had not been lived in for a few years, habitable.

When a proper kitchen was ready and the old range removed, the stone in the old chimney replaced the rotting timber on the verandah in the front of the house. When it became a permanent residence, the cottage had another complete make-over when all the doors and windows plus a completely new roof and verandah replaced the old ones. The original roof had been shingles (or shakes?) which had been covered with galvanised iron.

So, the old cottage became a happy holiday home until 1991 when it again became a permanent residence and a comfortable place to live.



## 10 ANGLESEA STREET

Frances Powell (née Hansen)



A magazine some years ago stated that 10 Anglesea St was brought down from Macetown, but this is not so. The house was built in the late 1880's or early 1890's by a man called Syd George who later married one of the daughters of the house and eventually owned it.

When my parents, George and Annie Hansen (née McMaster), bought the house in the early 1920's, it was a four room cottage. At the front, on the school side, was built a large room which mum always referred to as her 'detached kitchen'. My parents brought up a family of five here and, as the family grew, more space was required. So, my father and his half brother Jack Grant, who lived next door, built on a large kitchen/living room with a high-peaked roof. The ceiling space held the water tank which fed the pipes and the hot water cylinder was situated in a big cupboard by the coal range. This heated the water and provided a cosy warmth even in the coldest of winters. Mum was a good cook and a wonderful baker who provided tasty meals and great cakes.

During the cold winters, the over head tank would freeze and there was an anxious wait until the pipes could be heard making odd noises as the water thawed. If there was no water through by around mid-day, someone had to get up through the man-hole and break the ice in the over-head tank.

From the ceiling was suspended a kerosene lamp with a large, floral china shade; candles were the only other source of light but were not so good for the great delight of reading in bed.

A lean-to off the kitchen housed the laundry with a copper and concrete tubs, and shelving for storage. The lean-to also housed an extremely cold bathroom with a hand basin and tin bath.

In the covered in area between the kitchen and laundry stood a table with a large mangle. It was often my task to turn the handle as mum fed sheets and table cloths through the rollers. The last which dad used when repairing our shoes was at the other end of the table.

In the mid 1930's, the detached kitchen took on a new role as a garage for the 1945 Chevrolet car my father bought.

Outside, the large pear tree is thought to be about 120 years old and it still produces beautiful, juicy eating pears. During Autumn a large pit was dug under this tree and lined with straw and sacks. Into this went potatoes, carrots and parsnips, which were covered with more straw, then earth was piled back on top. This ensured the vegetables would not be frosted during the severe winters experienced then.

Trailing along the verandah is a wisteria that was growing there when I was a child. Also surviving is the lovely, pink, Lady Battersby rose in the garden at the side of the house. I also remember wooden fretwork across the top of the verandah, but it eventually rotted and was not replaced. In time, one end of the verandah was boarded in and built up half-way on the street side. A canvas blind was rolled down and secured with rope ties each evening to keep out the weather. My eldest sister slept there and, when she married, it became my domain.

About 1942, a double chimney between the two rooms on the left in the picture was demolished and the fire place, complete with a modern tile surround was relocated on the outside wall of the sitting room. A solid wall replaced the curtain which had hung on the passage side of the bedroom.

A walnut tree, planted by my brother when he was about 14, grew into a huge tree and became a Heritage tree. Unfortunately, one of the owners who followed my mother was unaware of the designation and it was felled. Generations of school children incurred mum's displeasure by flailing her precious plants with their tennis racquets whilst looking for balls. No matter how high the neighbouring tennis court fence was netted, balls still came over. Maybe ripe peaches and pears were a magnet!

Over time, various owners extended the house at the back, ridding themselves of the coal range which had kept our family warm and cosy. It was also extended on the school side, allowing the interior to be modernised. Latterly, a mezzanine floor has been built in the high ceiling of the kitchen area, making another spacious room with sky lights.

My father died in 1945; my mother continued living at number 10, residing there for just on 60 years. Mum died in 1985, aged 92.



**'REIDHAVEN', VILLERS STREET**

**Jack Reid**



My grandparents, James and Jane Reid, their two infant children and extended family members, arrived in Arrowtown in December, 1864, from their homeland, Stronsay, Orkney Islands, North of Scotland.

Gold mining drew them here and living conditions must have been very basic, at best. Initially, they must have lived in tents, and probably until 1866, when they secured the present home site and surrounding sections in Villiers Street and began to build a house on it.

Their first New Zealand born child, born at Big Beach, Arrow River, arrived some 6 weeks before they were able to move into their completed home. From his birth date, we can date 'Reidhaven', as it much later became known, as completed at the end of September, 1866.

Land holdings would then have been by Miner's Right, since sections in Arrowtown were not offered by the Government for sale until 1869/70. McKay's Directory of that time records that most of the properties were bought by those occupying them at "exceedingly satisfactory prices to the Government".

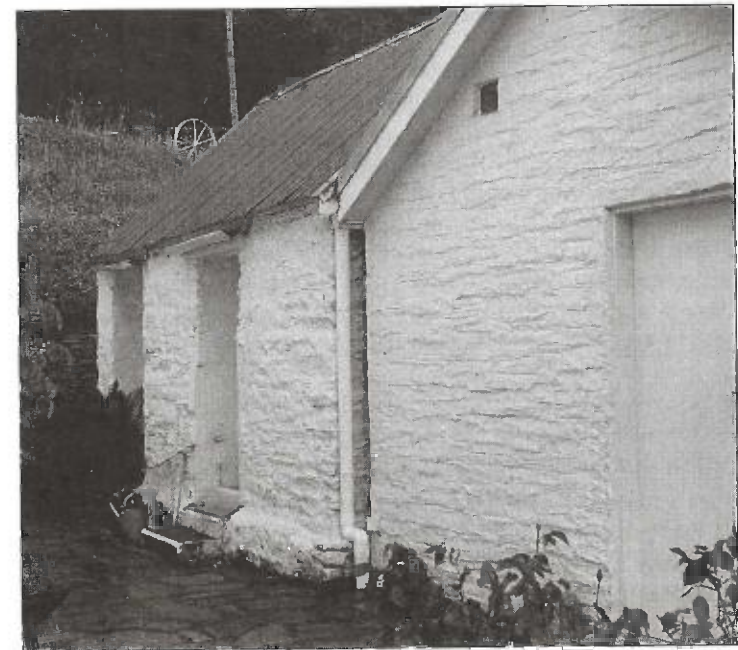
Earliest photographs show the home very much as it remains today, externally. There was no verandah originally, but a pathway of large flagstones formed a footpath the full length of the building. A chimney from a double fire-place, centrally placed between two rooms, has been removed, and other minor changes made over the years, but, externally, today's version is completely recognisable from earliest photographs.

Internally, my parents made quite a few changes after my grandfather died, as he didn't want changes during his life time. These changes involved some re-roofing, removal of the external, central, double chimney and the addition of a verandah and other minor items.

My wife and I had Michael Wyatt design two porches, one at each end of the verandah, and some further internal work done, but in all, there have been few obvious changes since the home was built, back in 1866.



Above, Jack Reid of Reidhaven and below, detail of the former dairy on the property. It was still licensed as a dairy as late as World War 2 and relied on a trough of cool water as its only means of 'refrigeration'.



**THE OLD CONVENT, 21 ANGLESEA STREET**  
**Alan and Kath Jenkins**



Looking from Anglesea St, the part of the residence with exposed stone, was probably built as a two room cottage for Arrowtown's first magistrate, Henry Stratford, in the early 1870's.

In the 1890's, it was bought by the Catholic Church and became the Convent of Saint Joseph, which it remained until the 1940's. The church added two bedrooms on the northern side and another room to the east where there is still their old Orion Shacklock stove, made in Dunedin. A large wooden music room was also added on the western side. Here music was taught to earn some income. It was removed in the 1950's and was first re-used as a hay barn on a property near the entrance to Bendemeer at Lake Hayes. It has since been converted into a home.

In the 1950's, the property was sold by the church and used as a boarding house, 'The Golden Terrace', for a few years. The Shaw family (owners of the garage) bought it and rented rooms to their mechanics.

In 2004, the present owners, Alan and Kath Jenkins, acquired it and restoration was carried out in 2006 with further extensions to both the eastern and western ends of the building.

During this restoration, a small crucifix and holy water bottle were found in the lining of one of the walls. It had been rumoured that one had been previously found and removed, and that things started to go wrong until it was replaced. So, we decided it best to leave these artefacts in the cupboard where they were found, and all is well!

The two storey shed (originally an out-house) was thought to have been brought down from Macetown as it has few nails in its construction and is mainly jointed. It is now used as a bunkroom for the owners grand children.

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust gave advice during the recent restoration. Since it is a listed property, any alterations required their consent. The architect was Michael Wyatt and the project received an award from the Institute of Architects.





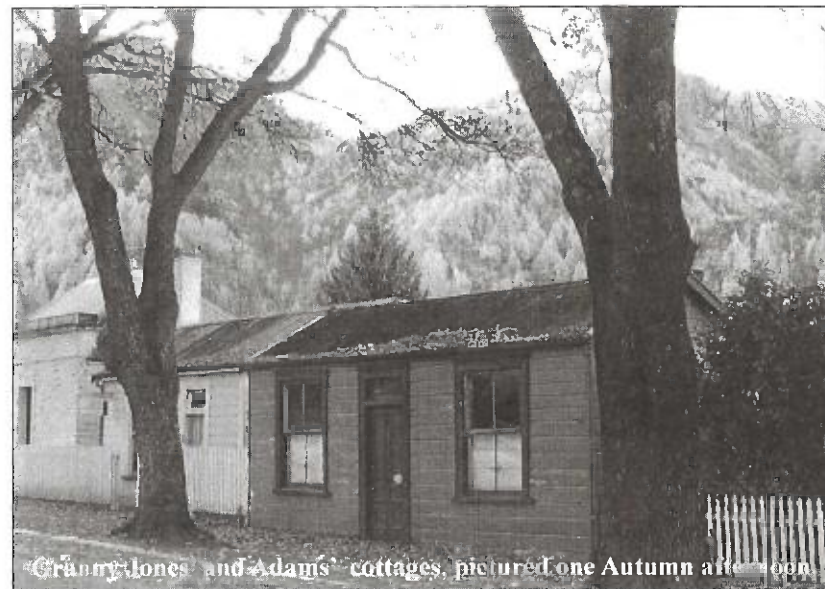
# FIELD TRIPS



## Arrowtown Miners Cottages restoration

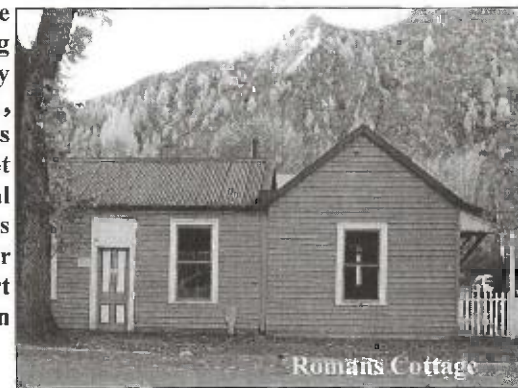
### ARROWTOWN MINERS' COTTAGES

Work is progressing well on the restoration of the three miners' cottages in Buckingham Street, Arrowtown. Although not visibly evident yet, hours of work have been undertaken by the Arrowtown Trust to raise restoration money, get conservation plans completed and apply for consents.



The total cost of the project is expected to be over \$500,000. In addition, Arrowtown architects have worked with the trust to come up with concept ideas, models and plans to investigate how the land behind the cottages could be utilised in the future with a view to making the whole area bounded by Buckingham Street, Merioneth Street, Romans Lane and Wiltshire Street into a semi commercial precinct housing perhaps offices, visitor accommodation and art studios. Expect restoration to commence soon.

*David Clarke, Arrowtown*



**FROM THE WET LANDS OF SOUTH OTAGO  
TO THE HIGH COUNTRY OF THE WAKATIPU**

**BY HENRY BARKER**

*(Craig Printing, Invercargill)*

*Reviewed by Des Stronach*

Henry Barker's 120 page book, with excellent photography, takes us back to his school days on a wet South Otago farm to over 20 years on Ben Lomond station near Lake Wakatipu.

Mustering sheep on steep mountains, shearing, snow raking and fencing are all described in a down to earth manner.

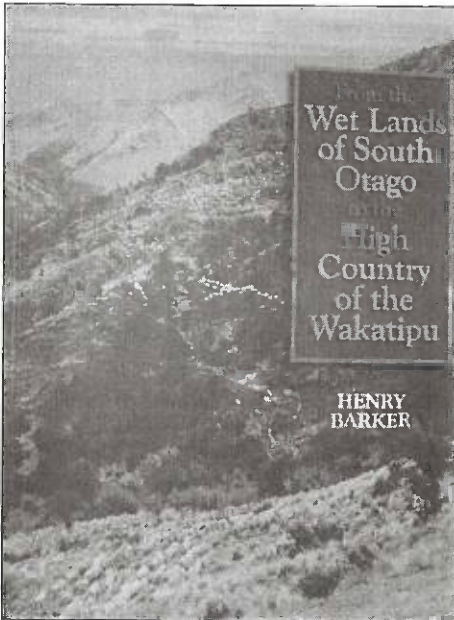
In the mid twentieth century, it was the practice of farming people to help each other and this is described clearly by Henry Barker.

In the days before tractors and other mechanical aids, horses and dogs played an important role in farming life. The author demonstrates his interest and care for his animals as was so necessary in those days.

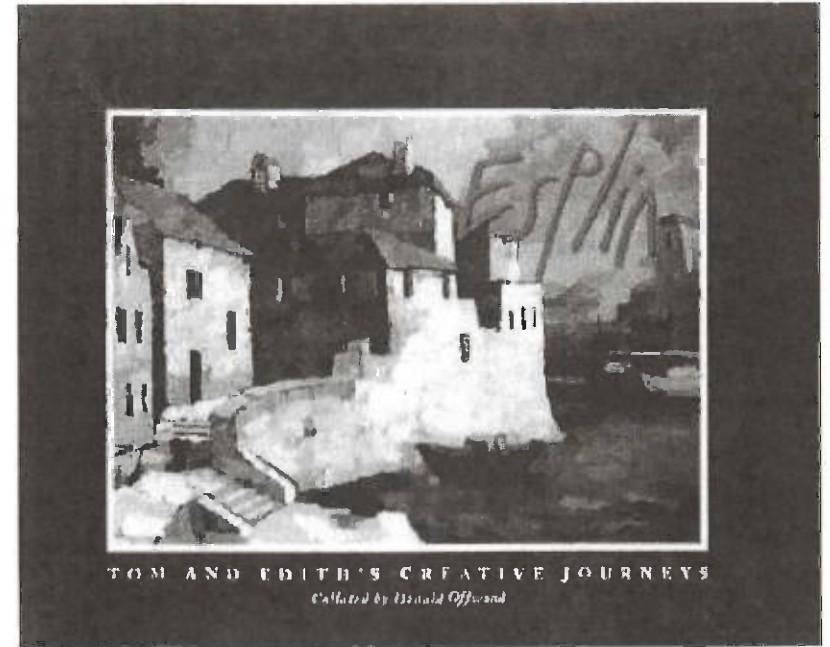
Rabbits were a bone of contention for all farmers, in the 1900's. Barker, for a period, was the chair of the Wakatipu Rabbit Board. He was an innovative, forceful leader, often causing rift amongst his committee.

Having lived a life in the agriculture industry and enjoying the great outdoors, I recommend this book to all those with an interest in the mountains and history within the Wakatipu region.

Purchases can be made from the author at McBride St, Frankton and at the Lakes District Museum, Arrowtown.



**AT THE MUSEUM**



The latest book to reach our shelves is "Esplin: Tom and Edith's Creative Journeys", compiled by Donald Offwood. This is a beautifully presented book, retailing for about \$60, with over 100 images of Tom Esplin's wonderful paintings. Tom has developed a unique palette knife impasto technique which makes his work so distinctive and Edith was also a talented painter. However, her great skill was in creating lively, colourful word pictures, as revealed in her travel diaries. Tom and Edith combined, Tom with sketch pad and camera, Edith with sketch pad and diary, recording her impressions with her quick mind. This book celebrates their life together and is not only an art book but also an intimate and amusing journal of their travels.



*MY DEAR WILLIAM*

Lieutenant William Lee Rees writes to his son, William Gilbert Rees.

This letter, along with other items relating to W.G. Rees, was given to the Lakes District Museum, by Mrs Rosemary Marryatt née Rees of Waikanae on a visit to Queenstown in May, 2006.

The Queenstown Courier, edition 73, included photographs and descriptions of some of these items. Last year, Mrs Marryatt wrote explaining in more detail some of the memorabilia and included this transcript of a letter.

Both the transcript and the accompanying explanation by his great grand daughter are reproduced below.

Of interest from a linguistic historian's point of view are the very, very long second sentence in the letter, the capitalisation of key words, including, oddly, 'Lie', and the use of the word 'kindship' where we would use 'kindness'.

*Written 173 years ago, this letter was obviously much treasured by William, especially since his father died at sea from Yellow Fever in 1839 when William was only 12 years old.*

*It has survived W.G. Rees's two voyages out from England, (1852 to Australia and 1859 to New Zealand). It has been passed down three more generations- to his son, Cecil Walter Rees, then to Cecil's older son, Stewart Grace Rees, and then to me, Rosemary Grace Marryatt née Rees. As the writing paper is extremely thin, and therefore will not be on view to many people, I conclude, by transcribing the letter's contents. The composition and vocabulary used by a loving father to his young son, may seem to us today, to be rather verbose and lengthy, but it is so typical of that period, that I thought historians may find it interesting.*

*Rosemary Marryatt*

*H.M. SCHOONER 'Cockatrice'*

*Rio de Janiero*

*Dec 16, 1835*

*My Dear William*

*I was much pleased with your first letter which I trust was written by your own composition. I hope you will always be a good boy, careful, not to give your mother any cause to be displeas'd with you, diligent, attentive to instruction, loving of and doing acts of kindship for your Brother and Sisters, respectful and obliging to everyone, bearing in mind that Almighty God to whom you have been taught to pray from your infancy sees all you do, and knows all your thoughts, that he has given you, your dear Grandfather and Grandmother to whom you owe more for their care of you than your utmost diligence can pay and ever remember. My dear boy, this, my first written advice-be honest, be sober, be laborious, Love your fellow creatures, fear God, and you cannot fail to be happy.*

*That the Almighty that created you, may preserve you at all times and in all places, My dear William, is the fervent prayer of your loving Father.*

*William Lee Rees.*

*PS. I have not enjoined you to tell the truth, because I think you have too much courage and pride to stoop to a Lie.*

*W.L.R*

William Lees Rees would certainly be a proud Dad if he could see the statue, at right, commemorating his son's contribution to the Wakatipu area: sober, laborious and loving his fellow creatures indeed.



# SNIPPETS

Ray Clarkson

## AUTUMN AMBLES

Five members of the Society, Malcolm Boote, Ray Clarkson, Rupert Iles, Bill McCall and Russell Styles were active during the Arrowtown Autumn Festival. Their 'ambles' attracted many visitors to the town to learn something of the history and appreciate the evidence of pioneer days. Next year, the restored Masonic Lodge building will be included in the walks.

## GIBBSTON MYSTERY AFTERNOON

This attracted 75 members. We are grateful to Susan Stevens and Greg Hunt for their time and contribution. In proposing thanks, Brian Bayley said that the Society would provide \$1000 and advice to help with information panels on the new Historical River Trail.

## MATTERS OF CONCERN

The proposed plans for development in the Queenstown Gardens need considerable thought. Some nursery ideas are good but the development of storage space needs controls.

## HORNE CREEK

Ngai Tahu have so far failed to honour their commitment to provide a walkway along the bank of Horne Creek in their new development. They have placed an outdoor dining platform over the proposed landscaping and walkway.

## PARADISE

At the Head of the Lake, Paradise Trust Historic Homestead has received considerable grants to assist with the restoration of the old guest house. "This will greatly help in the enjoyment of a unique heritage property"- Bill Dolan, Chairman.

## BUTLERS' COTTAGE MAKE-OVER

This is due to happen and we hope that the architects are sympathetic in their treatment of that significant building.

## Marine Parade Buildings

### MARINE PARADE BUILDINGS

We have been trying, with varying success, for many years, to preserve the character of a small group of buildings in Marine Parade. Now, with the sale of the Archer Cottage (next to the Williams' Cottage) there are plans to alter the external appearance of the building. The developer's representatives state that these will be "no more than minor". Well, they would say that wouldn't they?



*The Williams' Cottage, above, is rather submerged by garish signage, while the Archer Cottage, at left, looks more re-built than restored.*

*Further down Marine Parade stands the splendid old Masonic Lodge and its iconic cabbage tree. Ed.*

