

Aims of the Queenstown & District Historical Society
2008 Incorporated

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Individual or Family Membership: \$10 a year

Corporate Membership: \$50 a year

Life Membership: \$100

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
Thank you to Karen Swaine: Archive Photos*

The Queenstown Courier
Winter 2009
ISSUE No. 81



Icicles formed at Ayrburn Station near Arrowtown

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE QUEENSTOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

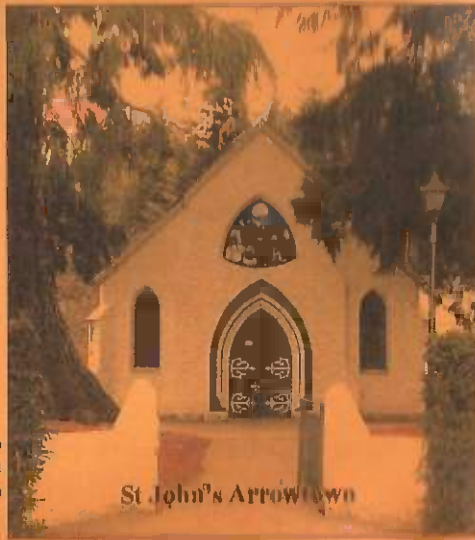
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If you have comments on an article, memories to share, an opinion, an interesting photo please forward to the Editor.



SNIPPETS

Ray Clarkson

TED STURT

We must record the death of Ted Sturt, one of our first Life Members of the Society. He was always prepared to host us at Hulbert House in Ballarat St. and for many years we had our regular meetings in that beautiful building of which he was so proud. For his efforts in the late 1970's he had been awarded a commendation by the N.Z. Historic Places Trust, much to his chagrin being pipped by the Mansion House at Kawau Island, which had a Trust behind it and very considerable funds. For your hard work and generosity we will always be grateful.

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

It is always pleasing to get contributions from members, script and photos, and we acknowledge these. Rumours have it that there are several more in the pipeline and they will appear in the next publication.

MARGARET TEMPLETON TRUST

The Margaret Templeton Education Trust is now in its third year and the extremely generous amounts awarded to local students going on to tertiary study must be a great financial boost to the recipients.

WILDING PINES

The Society is very supportive of the efforts to control wilding pines and larches in the Skippers area.

ARROW AMBLES

The Arrow Ambles, led by Rupert Iles, Bill McCall, Russell Styles and Ray Clarkson, attracted good numbers in a beautiful week's weather, to stroll around the historic sites in the old town.

MEALS FOR DIGGERS

We were pleased, by providing meals, to help with the Otago University archaeological dig at Gibbston, where Susan Stevens and the Association are working hard developing a riverbank track from the Nevis Bluff to the "Bungy bridge". This passes through some very interesting tailings and the remains of old miners' huts.

CHURCH ON THE MOVE



St John's church as it looked in 1928 before the addition of the Miller's Flat church. The two Wellingtonia trees which still dwarf the church were planted in 1880. In the background, sheep graze on what has become the Hills Golf Course and The Remarkables loom high over a fairly barren landscape.

St. John's Presbyterian Church in Arrowtown has submitted plans for a large extension - hall and facilities - on their site. Members of the Society have inspected these and have agreed to them. The old Miller's Flat Church which has already been moved several times will be relocated to a new site behind the cottages in Buckingham Street. These cottages, Granny Jones, Adams and Romans, are nearing completion of restoration and are being advertised as commercial sites.

HONOUR FOR RAY

The work of the Society was recognised recently when Ray Clarkson received a Heart of the District Award at an impressive Council ceremony in the Memorial Hall. Ray has been a tireless worker and enthusiastic Society member, with a huge knowledge of, and respect for, the Queenstown area and its wonderful stories. *Ed.*

INTERESTING SOCIETY TRIP TO ALEXANDRA

We had a beautiful day for the trip to Alexandra and we were able to fully enjoy the outside talks and walks. Gill Grant met us at Central Stores and gave us a quick tour to the exhibits and facilities which are part of that impressive museum. She also took us on a visit to the Russell cottage. This once derelict cottage has been well-restored and sympathetically furnished, in keeping with its late nineteenth century period.

Then a change of guides. Cam Withington took over and we had an emphasis on dredging, for which Alexandra is best known. A trip up to the observation point above the clock gave a great panorama of the area of the Manuherikia/Clutha plain over to the Dunstan and Old Man Ranges. Then it was on to the ponds and dredge remains.

All this time we were being entertained and informed by an interesting and knowledgeable commentary.

Finally, we had a tour of the Packing Shed garden displays with Cam and Les McLean, who several years ago had spoken to the Society on a memorable Garston/Nevis outing.

This day was well received by the many appreciative members. Many thanks Gill, Cam and Les.

OLD SOCIETY, NEW SOCIETY

On completion of winding up procedures by the liquidator, the old Historical Society was struck off the register by the Registrar on 28th Feb 2009. After payment of \$568.75 in professional fees and GST thereon, the balance of \$14,591.08 funds from the old Society were transferred to the new Society in the Solicitors Trust account as planned.

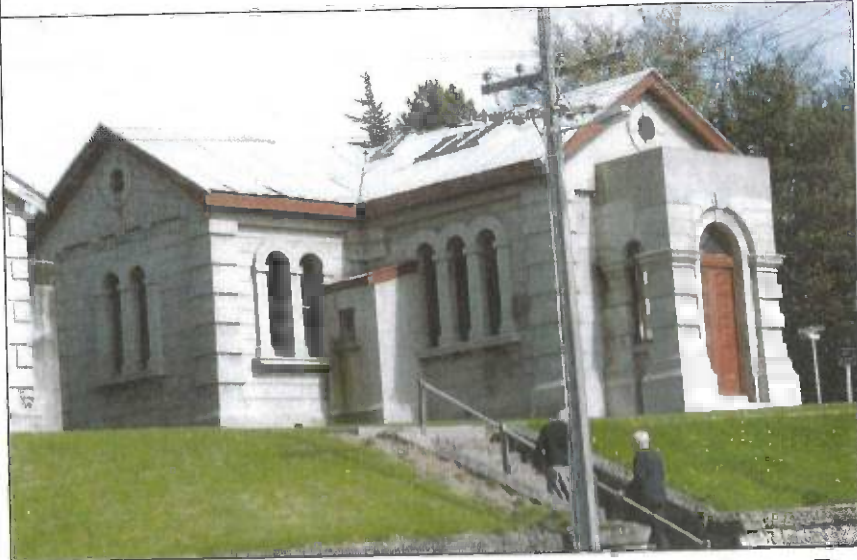
Our new Society was incorporated last October and now has been registered as a charity by the Charities Commission. After payment of \$831.25 in legal fees, disbursements and GST, a cheque for the remaining balance of \$13,759.83 funds from the old Society was received by the new Society, successfully concluding this lengthy exercise.

Being a charity, any person donating funds to the Society is able to request a 33% personal tax rebate from the Inland Revenue Department.

Brian Bayley, President

THE SOCIETY EXPEDITION TO LAWRENCE.

Cicely Morrison



The Lawrence Warden's Court visited by Society members. The Warden's Court was convened in 1861, though the building in the photo was designed by R.A. Lawson and built in 1866. Magistrates came from Dunedin when necessary and Sessions were held at the Warden's Court. In 1876, the Warden's Court became the Post Office.

On March 21st we set out for a day's outing to Lawrence. What might have been a tedious trip was made interesting by Ray and his cohorts on items of historical value on the way. On arrival at Lawrence, we were greeted by Nola Robertson who was to be our guide for the day. She introduced us to her son's property at the entrance to Gabriel's Gully. It was the site of an old flour mill and now houses a small vintage Tractor and Machinery Museum. After browsing there we moved to a small hut behind, which used to be towed on skids by teams to be used by workers on the railway. It was a little gem - beautifully preserved and furnished with lots of interesting items.

We then did a little tour around the beginnings of a garden being developed on the banks of the stream at the rear by Nola's son and a band of helpers. Their aim is to extend it as far as the old Chinese settlement. As we walked, we were greeted by a large army of geese, but we managed to get round unscathed.

After lunch and a short informative trip up Gabriel's Gully, we went back to the town proper and were treated to a comprehensive tour of the historic area with most interesting information on it from Nola as we went. We ended up at the Presbyterian Church which has been restored after a disastrous fire and is now privately owned and is operating as an accommodation business. The transformation was amazing.



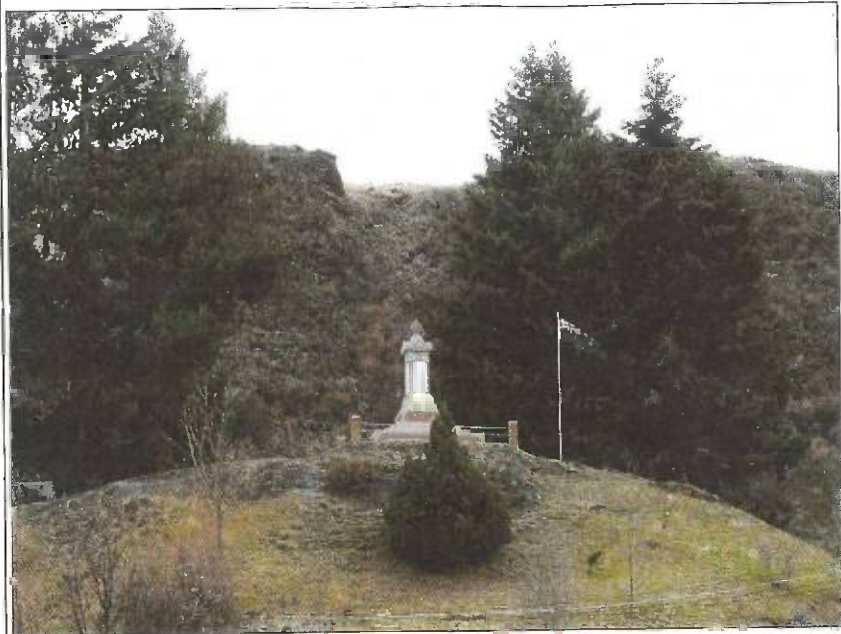
The Lawrence Magistrate's Court.

The rest of what had turned into a delightful, warm, autumn day we spent wandering the streets and becoming acquainted with the attractions of present day Lawrence.

All in all, a very good day and our thanks go to Nola, Barbara, Shona and Ray for making it so.

**ARROWTOWN
RETURNED SERVICES ASSOCIATION**

Rupert Iles

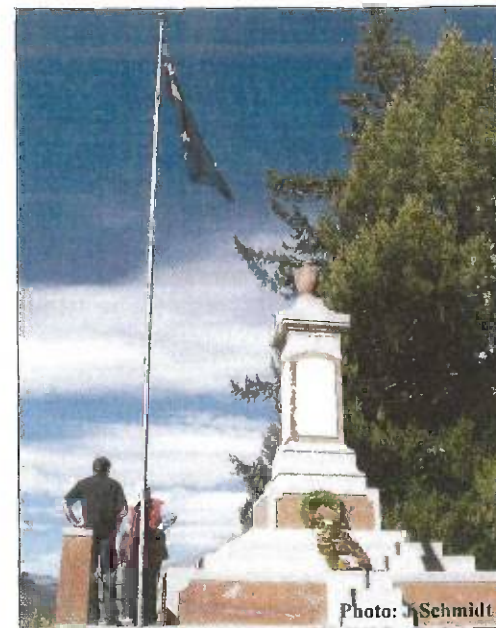


In researching the formation of the Arrowtown RSA, consideration must be given to the formation of the New Zealand RSA. The first wounded soldiers from Gallipoli, including Capt. (later Sir) Donald Simson, returned to New Zealand in July 1915. These soldiers discussed and then formed groups and associations of returned servicemen around the country.

On Friday 28 April 1916, delegates met in Wellington to discuss the formation of a national body. Capt. Simson was elected to the chair and moved the formation of the New Zealand Returned Servicemen's Association. This was carried and a provisional executive elected with Simson as Dominion President. Upon the delegates returning to their centres, new associations were formed while existing associations voted to affiliate with the NZRSA which was registered as an incorporated society in January 1917.

Following the Wellington meeting, the Dunedin RSA was formed on the 15 May 1916. This did away with all other committees and was the only one in Otago.

**Memorial Monument
Arrowtown**



In the Lake County Press of 21 August 1919 an advertisement appeared calling all Returned Soldiers to a meeting in the Atheneum [sic] Hall, Arrowtown, on Tuesday 26 August, to meet the organiser for Otago and discuss the aims and objects of the Association. This meeting was held with the organiser, Lieut. Colonel D. Colquhoun present, along with 30 other returned men. After discussion on pertinent matters, "On the motion of Mr. Walter McLaren, seconded by Mr. O. Edie, it was unanimously[sic] decided that a sub-association be formed in Arrowtown and that it be attached to Dunedin branch." The motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Edie was elected president and Mr. John Forbes secretary.

The first general meeting was held in the Council Chambers on Monday 8th September 1919 and the appointments of Mr. Edie as president and Mr. Forbes as secretary were confirmed and the following committee was appointed: Messrs. M. Winders, J. Fletcher, C. Johnston. G. Hansen, H. Dagg, P. Cotter, and M. Elliot. Mr. J Fletcher was appointed treasurer. A delegation from the Queenstown Branch was in attendance. It can be assumed a Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Committee would have been formed at some stage and some fund raising conducted, as in neighbouring Queenstown.

On 29 August 1922, the Arrowtown RSA sought permission from the Arrowtown Borough Council to erect a Memorial Monument on the Quarry Reserve. This was granted. On the 23 June 1923 the Monument was unveiled. "Under the command of Lieut. W. H. Thompson and led by Pipe Major J. T. N. Grant a body of close on 40 returned soldiers processed [sic] from the Council Chambers to "Soldiers Hill" where the Memorial is situated. In the rear were school children and general public." His Worship the Mayor of Arrowtown, H. G. Bruce Esq., gave a short address. The Rev. R. de Lambert followed with prayers. Then Mr Jas. Horne MP, when unveiling the Monument, said, "he had been requested to announce that at a full meeting of the committee it had been decided that the name of the hill on which they were assembled would, in future, be known as, "Soldiers Hill." After a Prayer of Dedication was read by the Rev. Wm. McIlhatton[sic], wreaths were laid.

Arrowtown Memorial Swimming Baths & Memorial Gates.

After World War Two the Government offered subsidies to communities to build usable monuments as a way of commemorating the war dead. Arrowtown chose a swimming pool. Work started in 1956 and, on the 4th February 1957, the building committee handed over the baths to the Borough Council debt free.

The plaques on the two Memorials bear the names of the eighteen men who died in World War One and the eight in World War Two.

Ibid Lakes District Museum----Archives
Hocken Library----Lake County Press
RSA REVIEW
Dunedin RSA

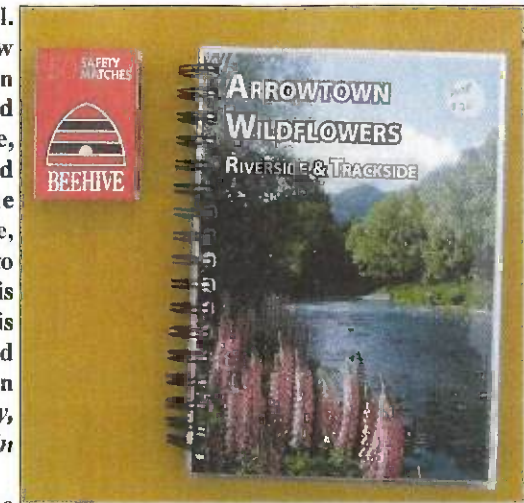
**ARROWTOWN WILDFLOWERS
- RIVERSIDE AND TRACKSIDE**

By Rita Teele, Benjamin Teele and Rebecca Lawrence

Reviewed by Patricia Cook

What a wonderful book we now have to make walking on the tracks, waysides and riversides around Arrowtown so much more interesting, enjoyable and educational.

I am referring to the new publication, 'Arrowtown Wildflowers: Riverside and Trackside' by Rita Teele, Benjamin Teele and Rebecca Lawrence. The team has put much time, research and thought into the presentation of this most informative book. It is very sturdily bound and will stand many years in pocket or pack. *(Its handy, compact size is illustrated in the image at right-Ed.)*



The information has come from many sources and covers many aspects of each plant, including scientific name with meaning. Even help with the pronunciation is included in some cases. The original habitats, medicinal properties, folklore, myths and legends of times past are all there. The flowers are grouped by colour on colour coded pages. An added aid in identification of the flowers is a small centimetre ruler thoughtfully placed on the back cover.

Most of the wildflowers (I do not like them to be referred to as weeds) have come to us in various ways eg as escaped garden plants or in early importations of crop seeds. They grow unattended on our waysides and in random places, creating many beautiful sights.

If the reader wishes to further his or her knowledge on the subject, an authoritative reference list is given and a long list of websites, which one can refer to, is included.

I thoroughly recommend this book be added to everyone's collection of local publications. Thank you, Rita, and your team.

LUCKY ESCAPE FROM TAYLOR'S REEF

ANDY PAULIN

Below is an excerpt from a longer manuscript by Andy Paulin that relates his experiences Scheelite mining near Glenorchy over 50 years ago.

While working on a new contract at Taylor's Reef, brother Bill and I had a very narrow escape from serious injury or, what was more likely, a pretty messy death. The usual practice in mining then was to time the blasting to take place at the end of the shift. By doing this, no trouble was experienced with smoke and fumes. This day, we had been held up somewhere along the line and at the end of the shift we were running quite late.



Miners outside hut No 50, Mt Judah mine, 1950's.

We had about ten holes to load and get ready for firing. This all takes time, however, as we were running late, we were not too long in preparing things. It is surprising how you can get a move on when you have to. I always cut my fuses three feet long, considering one and a half minutes being adequate for the job in hand. Also, I counted one, two, three between the lighting of each fuse. The shots, as they detonated, were counted. We then knew whether we had a misfire or not. I can remember only one occasion when I experienced a misfire.

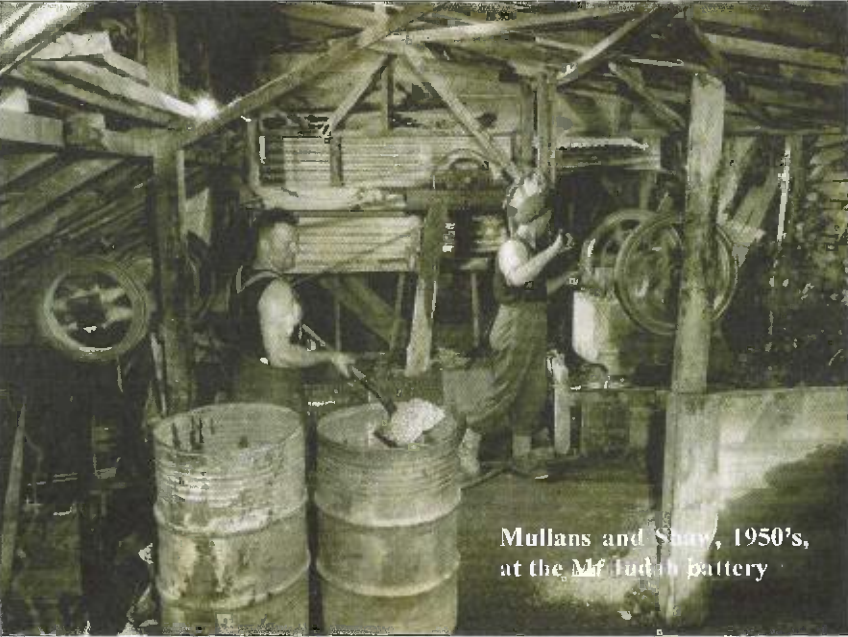
On this occasion, as we were running late, our miners' lamps were starting to fade. The usual practice was for one chap to light the fuses and the other fellow to hold his lamp in readiness for any emergency.



We published this image in the last Courier but it's worth repeating. Pictured from left are: Andy Paulin, G. Paulin and Vic Scheib at the 12 Mile tunnel.

The lamps we used were powered with carbide and when the charge of carbide became spent then, of course, the light began to fade. Usually, then, we would go outside and recharge the lamps. This time, we would be finished for the day when the charges were detonated, so, we just did the stupid thing and started lighting the fuses. Now, when a fuse is lit, it gives a large spit, and, if your lamp is being held at the wrong angle, your light will be extinguished. This can be extremely embarrassing, more so in our case when both lamps were weak. As I progressed with the lighting, and Bill stood by with the emergency light, my lamp was extinguished with the spitting of practically every fuse. Things were going wrong; they were going very wrong, and with the lighting of the last fuse, both lamps went out and we were in big trouble. I knew we didn't have time to look for matches, as our time was just about up, so I did the only thing possible. I grabbed hold of Bill, turned him round the correct way and told him to run like hell and I would steer him.

About forty feet back from the face where we were working, the tunnel took a sharp bend to the north and here we received two lots of assistance. At this point in the workings, someone had broken out to the surface and, although it was near enough to dark outside, there was a faint glow of light penetrating our darkness. Anyway, I managed to steer Bill round this corner. Then the second lot of assistance occurred. This assistance was the thought of ten charges of explosives about to start detonating. We had only just turned the corner when the first of the barrage began. The concussion was bad enough, but then the pieces of rock started ricocheting everywhere. Bill and I just appeared to float the rest of the distance to the next corner where we were safe. It is only someone who has been underground and had his lamp extinguished who can really appreciate just what darkness is really like. Wherever you are, other than underground, there is always some form of light, provided you know how to look for it.



Mullans and Shaw, 1950's, at the Mt. Luton battery

The same circumstances never arose again and I always made sure the lights were in tip top order before commencing the shot firing. How Bill and I escaped that barrage I will never know. Maybe it was too dark for the rocks to find us. This incident occurred fifty years ago and I still shudder when I think of it.

MALAGHAN'S MILK BARS

A recent trip to Wellington found your editor spending some time in the rather delightful Wellington Museum on Queen's Wharf. A large, energetic display traces the history of Wellington from its earliest days through memorable events such as the 1913 strike and Massey's 'Cossacks', the battle of Manner's Street during World War 2, whaling in Cook Strait and...the introduction to New Zealand of the Tip Top Milk Bars and the famous ice cream brand we still know so well. And this is where we come to the Queenstown connection.

Len Malaghan of Dunedin, who developed the Dunedin Ice Cream Company, was the man who moved to Wellington and started up the first Tip Top Milk Bar, ushering in the Milk Bar Cowboys' era, scaring parents and changing our lives forever. Tip Top Milk Bars sprouted up in various other New Zealand cities after the success of the Wellington one.

Malaghan's name still lives on in the South in the Malaghan Library in Queenstown and Malaghan's Road.



Athenaeum Library before the extension



Malaghan Library extension, shortly after completion.

CLOSEBURN STATION AT WILSON'S BAY

By Karen Swaine
Archivist, Lakes District Museum



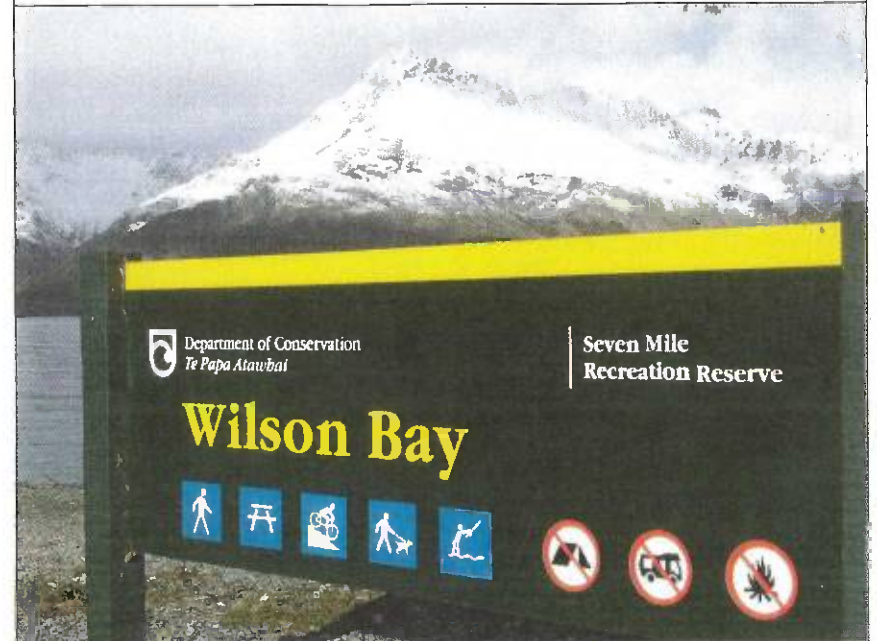
James Fitzpatrick settled at 8 Mile (Wilson's Bay) in 1866 and soon after obtained a licence for the run which he called Closeburn. Interestingly, the name Closeburn, though seemingly Scottish, has nothing to do with either closes or burns but, in fact, is derived from Ceila Osbern, the cell or chapel of St Osbern, a Norse saint.

Kirkpatrick appears to have stayed at Closeburn from 1866-69 until about 1875-76. Donald Angus Cameron acquired Closeburn Station in 1874 when it was 29,500 acres and contained station buildings on the shore at Wilson's Bay where 8 Mile Creek empties into Lake Wakatipu. Donald Offwood in 'Camerons of the Glen' describes the station as rising steeply behind the homestead to the north and opening out into a basin at about 700ft above the lake.

Margaret Buckham, Cameron's daughter, lived at Closeburn from about 1918-1936 and contributed recollections of the station to the November 2001 *Courier*. Closeburn was run by a relative of her father's until his son Ewan managed it from 1891-1898. According to Margaret, Peter McCormick, took over the lease (1898-1903) and eventually owned the station after marrying Cameron's eldest daughter, Catherine, in 1904.

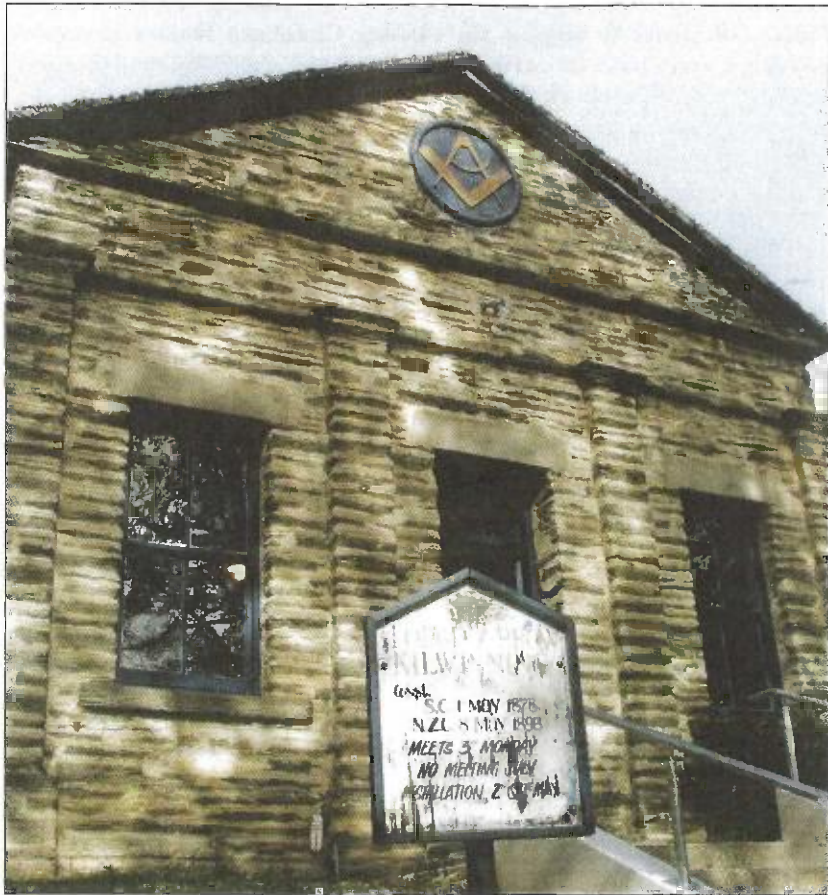
On McCormick's death in 1936, his son Archibald managed Closeburn for his mother and sisters until selling it to Ray Key of Mt Creighton Station in 1951.

There is evidence to suggest the existing Closeburn Station Homestead may have been built as early as the late 1860's and that the Cameron legacy retained Closeburn Station for about 77 years.



Above, the current DOC sign refers to Wilson not *Wilson's Bay* and 7 Mile not 8 Mile.

ARROWTOWN'S MASONIC LODGE RESTORED



The schist rock Masonic Lodge in Arrowtown was built in 1887 using donations from its members. The architect was probably R. W. Burrell. Now, all these years later the main chamber, has been extensively restored under the guidance of Jocelyn Morrison and Jackie Gillies. The portion of the Lodge, not shown in this picture, but to the right was added as recently as 1994 by Barry Lawrence. The photos on the opposite page reveal an interesting contrast with the austerity of the outside view of the Lodge, the only view that most people would have had of the building, while it was in use.



Bright, colourful in various shades of blue, and elaborately decorated, the main chamber once again looks as it did for meetings.

At left is the view looking into the chamber from the main door.

Immediately below, is detail from the roof with its sky light.



At left, can be clearly seen the intricate detail of the Masonic symbol on the walls that restoration has again revealed.

JACK REID REMEMBERS-WATER & WOOD

The following is based on notes recorded after an interview with Jack Reid.

BRINGING WATER TO ARROWTOWN...

BUSH CREEK

Mr Reid senior, pre-1920, had a a dry water race in this area. Jim Hamilton and Bill Souter formed a road and water race to irrigate higher parts of the farm. This dry water race was legalised to take water, two cubic feet, from a dam higher up the creek.

FEELHY'S SCHEME They had nineteen acres on the home block which did not include the hill and ran cows. They irrigated this area and there were now two dams and races on Bush Creek.

BOROUGH SCHEME



While the date of this photo on the Arrow Flats is uncertain, it is likely the pipes are destined for Bush Creek.

This provided water for Arrowtown. Their dam was at the top end of Bush Creek and by means of a race fed water into a tank above the village. Up near the top, a wooden fluming was built. It was the job of the dayman to inspect and keep clear the race and maintain the water supply. In the cliff-gorge area one Borough dayman, Bill Keating, a married man of Arrowtown, father of 12 and 14 year old boys, fell and was killed. Each Wednesday, the water was turned off while the race was cleaned out, and the following day the water was always discoloured. There was, also, always a problem with the race banks breaking.

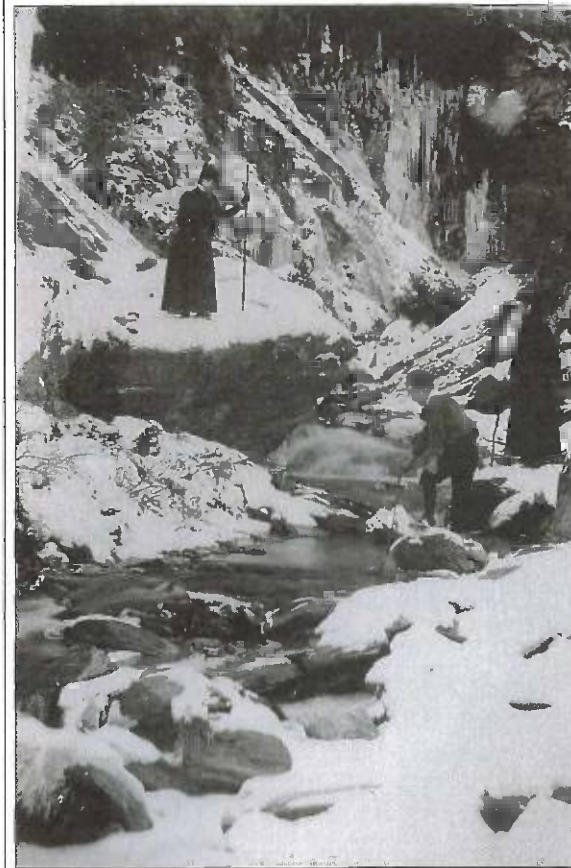
...AND TAKING WOOD AWAY

BUSH CREEK

There were three forest blocks up Bush Creek. They belonged to Butel's, Urquhart's and another family. The sawn timber was taken out over the ridge down to Miller's Flat where it was milled by Butel's at their depot.

SAWPIT GULLY

The large two-roomed hut was probably used by a musterer or miner. Bert Lister came back to occupy the hut during the Depression and he mined in the gully. Jack Reid sometimes took provisions from the General Store up to him. Austin Dudley took the iron from the roof during the war and a court case followed over his actions. Sawpit Gully was on the main route to Macetown and once there was a considerable settlement up there.

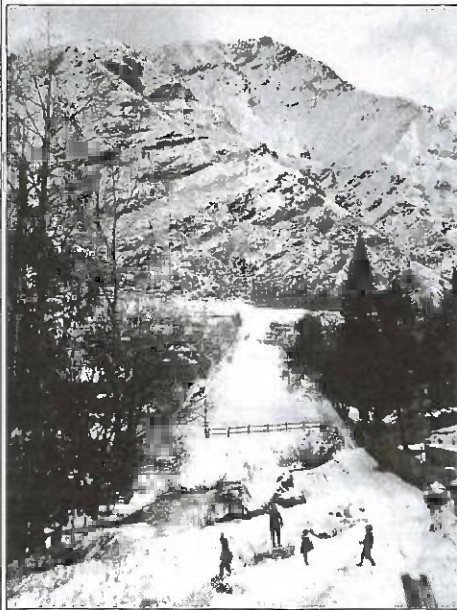


While not entirely relevant to our story above of water and logging, this image was just too good to leave out. It is Bush Creek and shows the type of winter conditions back then. What looks like a mother, son and, perhaps, grandmother, gingerly negotiate the ice and snow in Bush Creek. Each carries a stout walking stick and mum seems to have done very well to clamber atop the snow covered rock at right dressed in her cumbersome garments. Note the enormous icicles hanging from rocks in the background.

THE WAY WE WERE: *WINTER*



A delightful Central Otago winter scene: the Queenstown Gardens and a group of intrepid ice skaters pose for the camera.



At left, Camp St, Queenstown, from Hotop's Rise, and under a good cover of snow. The group in the foreground shows that irresistible urge to play in a fresh dump of snow. At least three of the children's hands are either raised in a wave to the camera or, more likely, about to unleash a snowball!



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The Lakes District Museum

Become a member and receive this great discount on all gift shop purchases.

CRAIG POTTON calendars have just arrived in store. Perfect gifts for overseas friends: made in New Zealand, stunning photographs of birds, flowers, and wild New Zealand landscapes. Envelopes included - so be organized for Christmas postage! Prices range from just \$10 to \$20. A new calendar in the range this year is 'New Zealand Botanical Art'.

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