



Bringing the Past to the Future

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

NEWSLETTER OF THE UPPER CLUTHA
HISTORICAL RECORDS SOCIETY INC.

(Upper Clutha includes Cardrona, Albert Town, Luggate, Queensberry, Tarras, Hawea,
Makarora, Wanaka and Lakes Wanaka and Hawea)

AUTUMN 2018 - VOLUME ONE

MARCH 2018

EDITORIAL

This is the first quarterly newsletter to be published by the Society so that we can better communicate with our Community, members, and those people and institutions who kindly support our activities.

The Society's records are somewhat hidden away in the Wanaka Library but access can be arranged with our helpful Librarians.

Preserving and recording the history of the Upper Clutha is important work for the current residents and those who will become our fellow residents in the future.

The Society works within a limited budget and with a very small but enthusiastic group of volunteers. We are always on the lookout for new members and/or people who can contribute to our knowledge of our past. We should not forget that today is tomorrow's past.

Members of the public are encouraged to donate historical records/photos (or we

will copy them and return the originals) so that our history can be preserved.

CONTRIBUTIONS/ARTICLES

Since the commencement of the 100 Year Remembrance of World War One, many locals have asked about the origins of the Wanaka War Memorial. When was it unveiled? Ken Allan did some digging around and discovered the following:



The Wanaka War Memorial is set on the hill overlooking the central retail area of Wanaka off Upton Street – you can't miss it. It records the names of some of the men and one nurse who lost their lives in World War One and World War Two. We now know that not all the Wanaka area soldiers who died in WW1 have their names recorded on the Memorial (WW2 records are yet to be checked). The names were originally sourced from a Registration Book in the Pembroke Post Office and no apparent thought was given to the men who enlisted elsewhere e.g. Cromwell, Oamaru, Dunedin etc.

Following the end of WW1, communities across New Zealand decided to memorialise the names of the men and women who gave their lives during the War. Pembroke was no different. The Pembroke records are very sparse but references have been found in newspapers of the time.

The Wanaka Patriotic Association was formed during WW1, to support the soldiers serving overseas. On 11 March 1919 a meeting of the Assn. was held in the Pembroke Hall presided over by Mr F D Thomson, Chairman. A discussion took place about "a suitable district memorial to our soldiers". Two proposals were made: (1) for a cairn on Mt Iron, (2) a Memorial Hall. The latter proposal was adopted for investigation.

Two months later, a further meeting about the proposed Memorial Hall was held. The lowest estimate for the cost of a hall was £1000 "...and while this seems a large sum of money, the raising of it should be easily within the possibilities of the district."

Eventually a decision was made on 18 May 1921 "to erect a monument in concrete,

with marble relief, and slabs bearing the roll of honor (sic)." A contract was let to Mr J Robertson "who intends making a start with the erection of it at an early date. It is to be erected on the hill behind the post office, and when finished should look very well."

The Memorial was unveiled by Mr James Horn, MP on Monday, 20 March 1922 with much fanfare. The official name of the Memorial was the "Wanaka Fallen Soldiers Memorial".

Fifteen names had been engraved on the Memorial. In between the unveiling and Anzac Day 1928, additional names were added however it is unfortunate that mistakes occurred and two names are incorrect. "T Brown" should be "J Brown" and "W Perkins" should be "H E Perkins". Perhaps the Wanaka community should consider correcting these mistakes and adding on the names that are still missing?

In 1948, the local RSA decided to canvas the District for donations to wards the cost of altering the "...Soldiers Memorial at Wanaka." Note the changed name it was originally known as. They also sought to "... improve the surroundings of the Memorial to provide a more capacious assembly area."



Photo of Robert and Ellen Kingan's family about 1916. Will, (backrow left), was killed in WW1 on 3 Dec 1917.

ANECDOTES FROM THE PAST

In 1865, local Cardrona identity, Paddy Galvin (his cottage still stands on the southern part of Cardrona), had his team of horses struck by lightning killing three and knocking Paddy and his companion senseless. Paddy and his companion were taken to a nearby hotel where they recovered. It is not known what “medicinal” measures assisted the recovery – we can only guess!

100 YEARS AGO

From the Otago Daily Times 6 Dec 1917

“Wanaka Notes

(From Our Own Correspondent)

“We have had a spell of very dry hot weather for the past four weeks and although rain has threatened on several occasions and has fallen in nearly every other portion of the district, Wanaka has only received one or two very light showers. Many of the crops in the district are heavy this year, and the hot spell has had the effect of ripening them very early”

Sound familiar?



Cardrona Hotel – 1930's?

LATEST NEWS

Digitizing Documents etc

A project to scan all our documents into PDF documents and photograph all objects held e.g. badges, is underway. This will provide a backup record of all the records held and help prevent accidental loss. The project team is using a temporarily loaned scanner/printer until funding is found to complete the purchase.

Street Names and Hawea History Project

Pam Dovey has been researching the origins of street names used in the area and writing regular articles in the Wanaka Sun about the information she has discovered – some of the reasons certain names have been used, have been “interesting”.

Compliance with Charities Commission Reporting Requirements

New reporting requirements have been imposed on all Charities and David Simmers and Ken Allan have worked on creating a financial reporting system to make reporting as simple as possible.

Society Rules

The Charities Commission suggested that all charities review their rules. This has been undertaken by three committee members. Some minor changes will be recommended at the next AGM.

“Courageous and Free”

Almost all copies of this book have been sold and recently a donation of \$2800 was made to the RSA Welfare Fund to assist with the welfare of ex-servicemen and servicewomen in the Central Otago region.

Pioneer Families Project

This major project continues and there is still much work to be done in identifying all the families/individuals concerned. If you have knowledge/photos of any families, please download the form at www.uppercluthahistory.org/content/UC%20Pioneer%20Family%20Register-Form.pdf and forward a copy to our email address or deliver to the Wanaka Library.

QLDC Website

Ken and Margaret Thomlinson prepared a summarised version of the history of the Upper Clutha for the QLDC Heritage section of the website.

“Hot off the press!”

Richie and Iris Hewitt have kindly donated another TV to the Wanaka Library. The new one is to be used to display a “slide show” of the Society’s photo collection during Library hours. Some work has to now follow on in creating the “slide shows”.



Photo of the building of the lake vessel the 'Makarora' c 1896-8.

JO'S NOTES AND UPDATES

Wednesday morning Research Days commenced on 7 Feb. There is still much work to be undertaken so if you have some spare time.....

WHO ARE WE?

President: Graham Dickson

Secretary: Graham Taylor

Treasurer: David Simmers

The Society was established in 1985 to collect and preserve records and images of the history of the Upper Clutha region and make them available to members of the public. The records are held in a special room in the Wanaka Library and a team of volunteers provides research assistance (appointments are necessary) to members of the public who may be looking for their family history or for persons searching for aspects of NZ history. Copying costs apply.

Please contact a Librarian at the Wanaka Library who will pass on the request, or send us an email to uchrsoc@gmail.com.

The Society is Incorporated and is a Registered Charity.

Funding is reliant on the assistance of a variety of community funders and individual gifts. Donations are very welcome, as are new members.

Donations may be made to our bank account 03-1739-0012311-00 with the reference – Donation. As we are a Registered Charity, donations are tax deductible – please ask for a receipt.

Membership Subscriptions for year ending 31/3/2018 are \$10.

Website:

<http://www.uppercluthahistory.org/>

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