

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)

SPRING 2020 - VOLUME ELEVEN

SEPTEMBER 2020

THEODORE RUSSELL – PIONEER, ENTREPRENEUR AND CITIZEN

Theodore was a valuable early pioneer of the Upper Clutha who died too young.



THE LATE MR THEO. RUSSELL,
Proprietor of the first hotel in Pembroke.

He was born on 18 November 1843 in Hobart, Tasmania, to Henry and Sally (nee Powers) Russell¹. Theodore's father, Henry, had arrived in Auckland in the early days of that district and had been engaged in managing sawmills in the Bay of Islands but afterwards went to Dunolly in Victoria, Australia, in the middle of the goldfields, where Theodore was educated. About 1862, Theodore came over to the Westcoast goldfields and subsequently came to Cardrona together with Elijah Charlton Hedditch (known as Charles and later as Captain Hedditch). Both of them were among the principal owners of the Gin and Raspberry claim before they ventured into the timber milling trade. Charles and Theodore involved themselves in delivering timber, mainly from the Matukituki Valley, down the Clutha to Cromwell, over a number of years as well as building boats for transport on the Lake. On 21 September 1867, Theodore married Celia, a sister of Charles Hedditch. Theodore and

¹ Australia Birth Index 1788-1922

Celia had 6 children, the last being born just after Theodore's death.

Their children were:

- Theodore b 1868 d.1874
- Emily Clara 1870
- Celia Isabella 1872
- Sophia Blanche 1874
- Theodore 1876
- Edith May 1878

In May 1874, their 6 year old son Theodore was accidentally killed when J B Ewing's bullock cart ran over him. Theodore Jnr had a habit of jumping up on the wagon pole as usual and it was thought he missed his footing.

In 1867 Theodore acquired a block of land overlooking Roys Bay, more or less where the current Wanaka Hotel is situated and towards the Bay. In reality he occupied the land as a squatter. He spent the rest of his life trying to obtain title or a lease to the property with a number of applications recorded and all declined until approval finally came through just after he died.

In partnership with Charles Hedditch, they built the first Wanaka Hotel on this land. It was claimed to be the first building in Wanaka. Judging by the advertisements in the newspapers, it opened about November 1868. Whilst it is commonly reported in many publications that Theodore was the owner of the hotel from its inception until his death, the partnership between Theodore and Charles was dissolved on 1 Jan 1869, less than 2 months after the hotel opened. The hotel business was then carried on by Charles Hedditch in partnership with Thomas A Russell, who was said, at times, to be Theodore's cousin. However, I believe that he is Theodore's younger brother, Thomas Augustus Russell

b. 11 September 1847. Later in the early 1880s, Thomas was an occupier of Run 468 jointly with J B Ewing and Celia I Russell which suggests a close relationship.

However, back to Theodore's story, over two months later, Theodore is advertising on 9 March 1870 that he is the sole proprietor. What happened? Was there a falling out between Charles Hedditch and Thomas Russell and Theodore has stepped in to settle matters? It is noted that Theodore had built the sailing boat *Isabella* (22 tons) in late 1869 and "shortly after" it was sold to Charles Hedditch, maybe as part of a settlement? Unfortunately for Charles Hedditch, the *Isabella* was wrecked in October 1870 at Dampier Bay.

Early on, Theodore had the foresight to see that Pembroke was a tourist attraction.

**WANAKA HOTEL AND STORE,
PEMBROKE,
LAKE WANAKA.**

**HEDDITCH & RUSSELL,
(Proprietors.)**

THIS Hotel is situate on the margin of the Lake, at Roy's Bay, and commands an uninterrupted view of the magnificent scenery of the Wanaka
Splendid accomodation for visitors
and Boating Parties.
Sailing and Rowing Boats.

This advertisement is from the Dunstan Times on 18 December 1868 and is the earliest advertisement found relating to tourism in Wanaka. Note that this is dated no more than 8 years after the first family arrived in the area! There are other advertisements by the owners of sailing boats seeking customers and promoting the hotel.

But Theodore was not a man to stand still, and remember, at this stage he is only 27 years of age.

Early maps show that he and his wife Celia owned or leased a number of properties around Wanaka – even Theodore’s brother Thomas, had property interests including the land where the Caltex Station now stands.

The following is a summary of some of the other events Theodore was part of:

1872: he raced the cutter *Dart* on Lake Wanaka as part of a regatta.

1872: he was racing his horses at the Albert Town racetrack and was Secretary of the Racing Club.

1872: he was advertising for shepherds and also teamsters to take wool to Dunedin

1872: he was fined 5/- plus costs 9/6d for allowing a raffle at his hotel.

1873: he was advertising for the sale of all or part of the Eureka Co’s assets – the ketch *Eureka*, ketch *Isabella*, a jetty and land, a stonehouse, lumber etc.

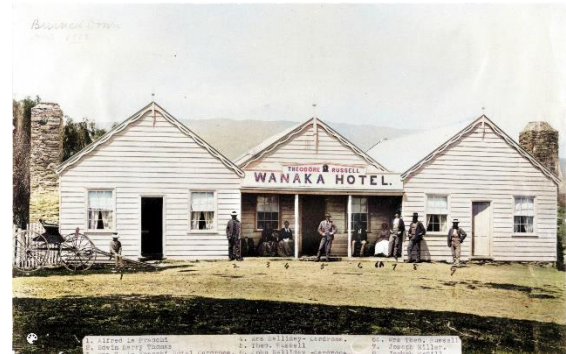
1874: he had contracts on hand for over 100,000 feet of timber to be taken from Lake Wanaka to Cromwell. This was usually achieved as 3000 ft rafts, 2 at a time.

1875: he raced his 4-oared boat called the *Makarora* at the Lake Wanaka Regatta.

1876: with J B Ewing leased 160 acres in the Matukituki and proceeded to establish a sawmill there. It was opened in Jan 1877.

1876: took the first mail that had arrived in Pembroke from the West Coast via the Haast Pass, down to Cromwell

1877: spoke on behalf of the Matukituki ratepayers at a meeting in Cardrona about separating from the Lake County.



The Wanaka Hotel - this colourised photo is the oldest known photo in the Society’s collection. Originally recorded as being “before 1923” (as the hotel burned down in 1922!), it was subsequently identified earlier this year as being circa 1880 allowing for the young boy on the cart shafts (Alfred La Franchi) being in the photo. He was born about 1869 and looks like he could be about 7 to 10 years of age. Two months ago it was realised that Theodore was in the photo (in front of the central door) and he died in November 1877. Therefore, it is likely that the photo was taken mid-1870s.

Theodore died, quite prematurely, aged 33, on 14 November 1877 at Perriams, Lowburn. He had been on a trip to Cromwell and fell ill with enteric (a disease of the intestines). A doctor was called but was unable to save him. Apparently Theodore had suffered from this disease for quite some time.

And so the Upper Clutha lost a very capable and valuable citizen. His wife, Celia, took over the hotel (she was probably running it anyway!) and she died in 1905. Celia was very well thought of in the Pembroke community.

Theodore's name continued to feature as Charles Hedditch (commonly known as Captain Hedditch by now) captained the paddle steamer "Theodore" as it plied the Lake for many years from 1881.

Theodore's namesake and surviving son was also well known in the area. He owned Cattle Flat Station before he sold up about 1914 and went to Oamaru where he purchased the well-known Alta Vady estate and other properties.²

OF MICE AND MEN

This is just a little bit of sundry information that fascinated me.

Some of you will recognize the title as being that of a famous book by American author, John Steinbeck. This article has nothing to do with that book, nor the history of the Upper Clutha but the article in the photo below has become a household item that few of us can do without today.



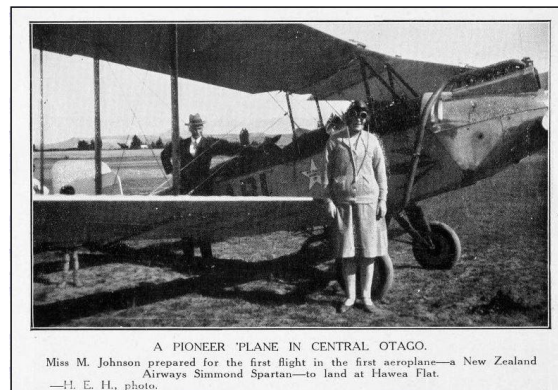
It is the world's first computer mouse, invented and built in 1963. How things have changed over the years. It was brought to my attention as the co-inventor, Bill English (no, not the NZ ex-Prime Minister) passed away in July aged 91. He was an American and obviously had a lot of foresight. Not only did he invent the Mouse (it won a NASA competition in 1965), he was able, at "The Mother of All Demos" in

² Obituary (Manawatu Standard, 15 Apr 1932)

1968, to connect to another computer 30 miles away and communicate by video and audio between the two locations. Clearly a forerunner of Skype and Zoom etc., but light-years ahead of delivery of those systems to the general population. In 1968, the concept of a home computer was completely foreign to most of us let alone an electronic mouse!

AIRPORTS AND MORE AIRPORTS!

Airports are rarely out of the news in the Upper Clutha especially when it comes to building new ones! What about the unused ones????



This photo was sent to me and it was thought to be pre-1934 as that was about when the plane's owner, NZ Airways company, went out of business, like many others of the period. Comment has been made that it is thought that the photo was taken "somewhere out in front of the old Hawea Flat store. In 1934 the paddocks out there were owned by the Allison and the Kanes."

COMPUTER UPGRADE UPDATE

After lots of stops and starts, mainly created by Covid-19, the project is finished and working well.

IMPORTANT - NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

The Society's email address has changed. No longer do we use the old Gmail address. If you have us in your Contacts list, please amend our email address to:

admin@uppercluthahistory.org

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

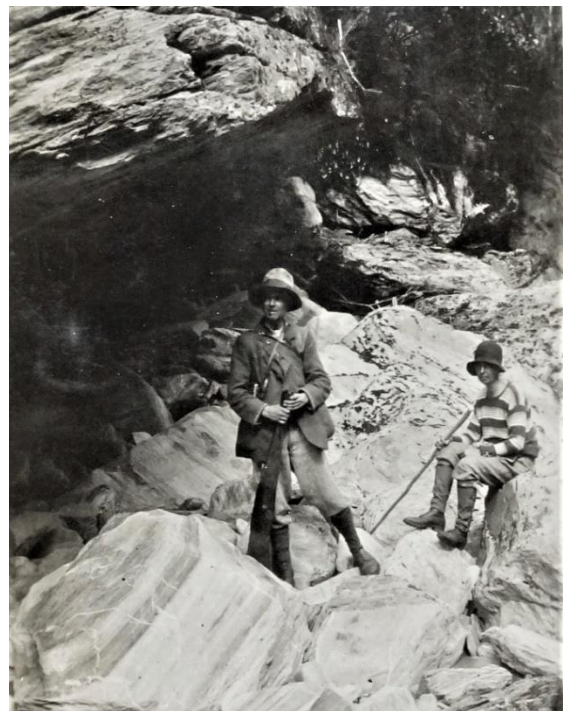
Are you interested in reading or history or just contributing to our Charity? We are seeking help from anyone with a little spare time. We have a very small group of active members and the volume of outstanding work just keeps on growing. Can you please help? It may be as simple as reading a book and just identifying names and places on each page – things that can be done from the comfort of your own home. All the jobs may not be like that but if you are interested, please phone Jo Wilton on 021 104 0405 or leave your contact details with the Librarians at the Wanaka Library.

KEN HUMPHREY PHOTO COLLECTION

The UCHRS was recently given a set of family photo albums to scan by Allan Humphrey, that were previously owned by his father, the late Ken Humphrey. Ken was a valued member of the UCHRS Committee in our earlier years keeping us informed on matters relating to Makarora.

Most of the photos were taken in the Makarora area giving a fascinating insight into life there in the early 1900s.

One aspect of that life was the importance of hunting. Ken's father George was a Government Guide and also a deer culler so there are many hunting photos included. The area drew hunters from all walks of life including Lord and Lady Latymer shown in the photo – probably taken in the Landsborough Valley.



Newspaper reports suggest weather and other factors prevented their visit from being completely successful, but Lord

Latymer did manage to bag seven heads in the Landsborough Valley as recorded in the Cromwell Argus on 21 April 1930.

STALKING SEASON.

The season is nearing a close majority of the stalkers having parted including Lord and Lady Latymer who depart for England a fortnight hence. His Lordship secured seven heads of the following measurements:—40 x 35½, 11 points; 37 x 35½, 10 points; 36½ x 32½, 11 points with a 5½in beam; 37 x 32½, 10 points; 38 x 30, 16 points; 38 x 29½, 14 points. All were of light structure, with the exception of the 16-pointer. So far the best trophy of the season to date again goes to the keen North Island stalker, W. Livingstone. Tom was shot in the Young Valley, in the Otago Forest. It is a fine 18-point with a 42 x 30½ length and width.

(Contributed by Margaret Thomlinson)

CECILY AND ROD ANDERSON COLLECTION

Irrigation and water rights are a hot topic in Central Otago amongst the farming community. We acquired an interesting collection of papers from Cecily and Rod Anderson, some of which related to applying for Water Rights, that we thought we would share with you.

In 1887, Tom Pearce and Gideon Anderson gave a Notice of Intent to construct a water race to irrigate their Mt Barker farm. It gives an interesting background to the present work of balancing competing water needs.

The mining act 1886 Amendment act 1887
a water race
 Notice of Intention to Construct ~~Branch Race, Flood Race,~~
~~or Sludge Channel.~~

District: *Otago Goldfields Cromwell*
 Date: *5th Sept*, 18*87*

To the Warden at *Cromwell*

We hereby give notice that we intend to construct a *water race to divert*
~~to convey water from the main channel~~ *and use water for the purposes of irrigation*
~~for the purpose of irrigation and other industrial pursuits commencing at a point~~
~~on each side of Cardrona Creek about ¾ mile above the road taking~~
~~water from it thence crossing the other branch of the same creek~~
~~have named Clear Water Creek taking one head of water from it~~
 and terminating
 at Section 54
 Block I. Lower
 Wanaka

The length of such Race is *3 miles*
 or thereabouts, and its intended course is *NE & SW*

The race is partly constructed for which certificate is required 15 years return the water down its natural channel in the winter and will put in flood gates at all water courses along course of race to prevent accident in case of floods

The mean depth of such Race is *1* feet *—* inches,
 and the mean breadth is *2* feet *—* inches.

proposed to divert 2 Government heads of water
 Applicant: _____
£100
for construction eight months

Thomas J. Pearce 9951. 15.7.87
Gideon Anderson 9952. 15.7.87
per J. Marshall

Date and No. of Miner's Right: _____

The document is a bit hard to read so it has been transcribed as follows: "We intend to divert and use water for the purposes of Irrigation and other industrial pursuits commencing at a point Creek on the east side of Cardrona Creek about ¾ mile above the road takingwater from it thence crossing the other branch of the same creekhave named Clear Water Creek taking one head of water from it and terminating At Section 54 Block I Lower Wanaka.

The length of the race is 3 miles or thereabouts and its intended course is NE & SW. The race is partly constructed for which certificate is required 15 years return (?) the water down its natural channel in the winter..... and will put in flood gates at all the water courses course of race to prevent accident in case of floods."

The topic of water rights and irrigation has been to the forefront ever since as is demonstrated in this newspaper article from the Otago Witness on 30 July 1902. It also records early efforts to irrigate land in the Upper Clutha.

Albertown, July 28.—I noticed lately that Mr Walsh, of Hampden, had a letter in the Witness in reference to irrigation and "Agricola" then made a few further remarks on the same subject. Some years ago I made the statement in the Witness that many of our mountain streams are flowing away to waste, and if some of the water in them were arrested and carried over the dry and parched lands in the interior the accumulation of much wealth would result. Sundry irrigation schemes in this district have abundantly verified the correctness of this statement. In fact, in the future, irrigation, water conserving, irrigation water races, laws relating thereto, and loans in connection with them will be burning questions in Parliament, and parliamentary candidates will adopt irrigation as a leading line in their parliamentary addresses. Professor Black complained that the bones of the frozen meat contained large quantities of phosphorus and other manurial substances, which tended to impoverish the ground. With irrigation, when used in growing clovers and grasses to be eaten off by stock, it appears that the land increases in fertility all the time, owing to the quantity of silt deposited on the land by the water. Even if there is no silt in the water, there are minerals and other substances held in solution which help to keep up the land. Irrigation means raising more stock, which are easier managed than grain-growing, and is a solution to a certain extent of the scarcity of labour, and a check to a certain extent on the Labour laws, which have a tendency to crush out the employer of labour. The inauguration of a new and profitable industry in a district means the circulation of a lot of wealth, which soon passes through several hands, creating happiness and increased worldly comforts as it goes along. At Lowburn Mr Chas. Perriam acquired a farm some years ago, a portion of which was covered with very fine gravel, which would require several acres to keep a sheep all the year round. Mr Perriam irrigated it with water from the Five-mile Creek, which was heavily charged with yellowish silt from the clams, and the result was very gratifying.

At Luggate, Messrs Bruce, Trevathen, and McLoughlin brought in a race holding six heads of water, to be divided equally between them. Mr Thomas Anderson, miller, Luggate, has a most valuable property as the result of irrigation, which he finds so profitable that he lately acquired an area of over 1000 acres, extending from the boundary fence between the Wanaka and Pisa runs to the Luggate Creek. Mr George R. Pearce has a farm below Stone Yards, and irrigates a portion of it. Messrs Robert Studholm and Sons lately constructed a water race seven miles long, to hold over two heads of water, from Timber Gully to their farms at the foot of Mount Roy. Their neigh-

bour, Mr George Miller, the manager of the Wanaka station, has lately let the contract for a water race to water the homestead and paddocks at Dog Match. There will be a lot of fluming along a gravel bank and across a little valley. In the latter case, when fluming is built it is best to have live poplar trees for a foundation, as they grow and are everlasting, and are cheap. On the south side of Quartz Creek, on the Forks, Mr Ewen Cameron (formerly of Matukituki) has acquired a valuable property—a rich piece of "bottom" land. He waters at the rate of 20 acres per day, and each watering lasts about a fortnight, and the grass grows amazingly. The latest race is one taken out of the Cardrona River by Mr Richard Norman, to water his farm at Mount Barker. The quantity of water required will be about eight heads, and as the ground absorbs the water rapidly a good supply will require to be maintained. In the present case rabbits are rather plentiful at times, and this water will soon change all that. This is only a short sketch of the progress of irrigation in the Wanaka district. In fact, I purpose giving details shortly, from which it will be seen that irrigation has long since passed out of the experimental stage. Details of the construction of races will be given, which is a very important item, and there is a considerable amount of difficulty on this head, because experienced racemakers are very scarce, so that sometimes the owner has to study the matter himself. It might be said in the meantime that if a race runs through private property, and the owner cannot decide as to the price he is to receive for the concession, the warden has sufficiently extensive powers to deal with the matter. It is necessary to apply to the County Council for permission to cross the roadways, and it is always necessary to build culverts over them.

(Contributed by Margaret Thomlinson)

OPEN DAY 29 AUGUST

An Open Day was organised by the Wanaka Genealogy Group and the Society at the Presbyterian Church Hall.



Displays of what both groups do were on

display and a guest speaker, Haillie Buckley, co-director of the Southern Cemeteries Archaeology Project gave an excellent talk on the work they are doing, principally focussed on early European and Chinese colonial settlers in the Otago area. If you want to read more about the work they do, have a look at :

<https://southernsettlerarchaeology.com/>

PUTTING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE

For a small amount of perspective at this moment, imagine you were born in 1900. When you are 14, World War I starts and ends on your 18th birthday with 22 million people killed. Later in the year, a Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until you are 20. Fifty million people die from it in those two years. Yes, 50 million.

When you're 29, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, global GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet.

When you're 39, New Zealand is fully pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war and the Holocaust kills six million. At 52, the Korean War starts and five million perish.

At 64 the Vietnam War begins, and it doesn't end for many years. Four million people die in that conflict. Approaching your 62nd birthday you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, could well have ended. Great leaders prevented that from happening.

As you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends. Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How do you survive all of that? A kid in 1985 didn't think their 85 year-old grandparent understood how hard school was. Yet those grandparents (and now great grandparents) survived through everything listed above.

Perspective is an amazing art. Let's try and keep things in perspective. Let's be smart, help each other out, and we will get through all of this. In the history of the world, there has never been a storm that lasted. This too, shall pass.

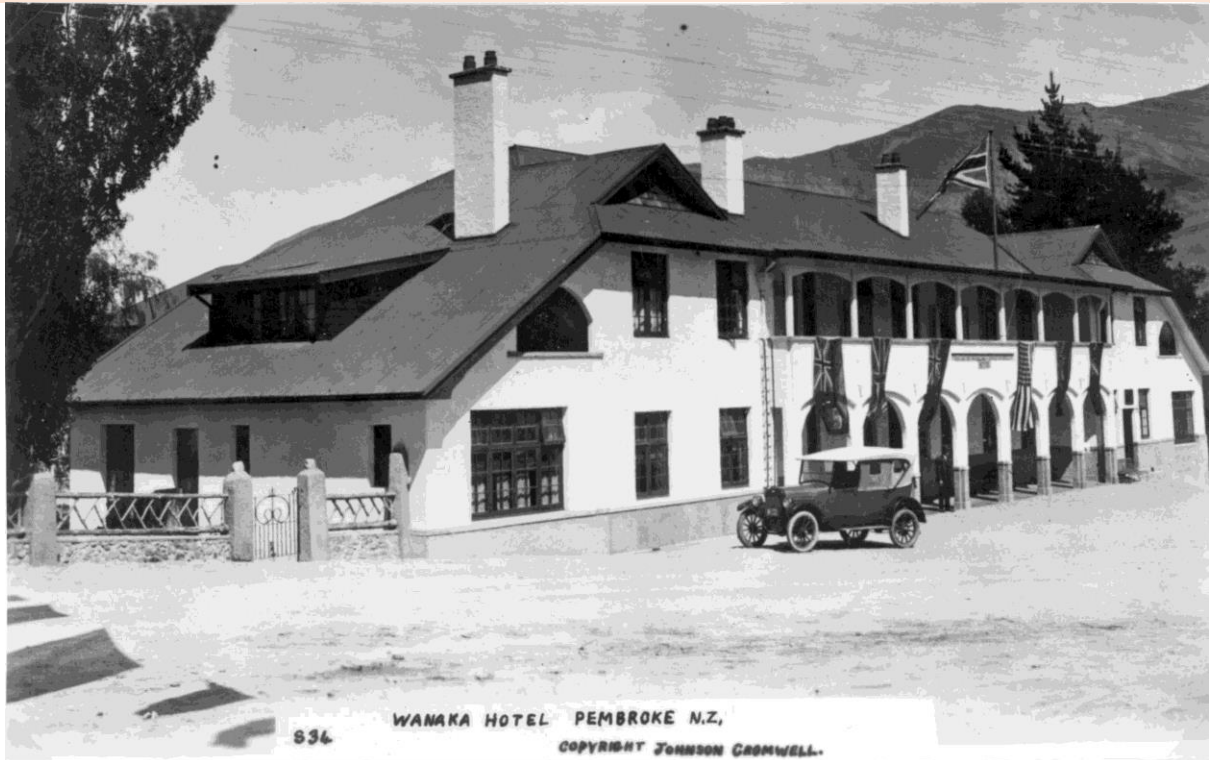
(Found on Facebook)

JO'S UPDATE

It has been a very "stop and go" year so far that does not lend well to planning ahead. We have shut down the Wednesday morning sessions whilst we have been in Lockdown 2 or greater as access to the Records Room and other facilities is limited for volunteers and any visitors. Hopefully we can get back to Lockdown 1 soon!

If you do have any research queries, please do contact us via email. There is a Contact page on our website (www.uppercluthahistory.org), or leave a message with the Librarians. We do have some limited ability to undertake research remotely and in case of need we can access the records at the Library.

RANDOM PHOTOS



THE SECOND WANAKA HOTEL ABOUT 1925



WANAKA IN 1946

OUR PUBLICATIONS

The Society has published a small number of books and booklets over the years. Three are still for sale:

Skirt Tales – 100 Historical Stories of Women from the Upper Clutha Area, Central Otago - \$25. This is the 3rd Edition and is available from the Society, and the Wanaka Library. Postage is \$6-50 if required. Very few copies are left.

125, Look Alive – 125 Years of Schooling in the Wanaka District - \$12.00. Available from the Society or the Wanaka Library. Postage is \$7-00 if required.

The Upper Clutha – 150 Years - \$5. A short history of the Upper Clutha district. Available from the Society or the Wanaka Library. Postage is \$6-50 if required.

Courageous and Free – Stories of Upper Clutha WW1 Soldiers and Nurse – Sold Out! – but the proof of the 2nd Edition has just arrived and it should be printed by the end of this month. Cost will be \$30 per copy.

Postage is extra – NZ Post Bubble Bags are used to protect the books.

WHO ARE WE?

President: Graham Dickson

Vice President: Jo Wilton

Secretary: David Simmers

Treasurer/Editor: Ken Allan

Committee Members: Ken and Margaret Thomlinson, Bruce Foulds.

The Society was established in 1985 and Incorporated in 2010, 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 small 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 admin@uppercluthahistory.org.

The Society 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 over \$5 are tax deductible – please ask for a receipt.

Membership Subscriptions for year ending 31/3/2021 are \$10-00 per person.

Website:

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

Email:

admin@uppercluthahistory.org