

# THOSE WERE THE DAYS

NEWSLETTER OF THE UPPER CLUTHA HISTORICAL RECORDS SOCIETY INC.

(Upper Clutha includes Cardrona, Albert Town, Luggate, Queensberry, Tarras, Hāwea, Makarora, Wānaka and Lakes Wānaka and Hāwea)

WINTER 2023 - VOLUME TWENTY-TWO

JUNE 2023

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

The Annual Subscription fee of \$15 for financial members is now due. Please use internet banking to deposit the funds to the UCHRS account 03 1739-0012311-00 with your name as a Reference. Any cash payments can be made at the Records Room on Wednesday mornings between 9.30am and 11am (but we do prefer payments direct to our bank account).

## PLOD'S PATCH – POLICING ARRIVES IN PEMBROKE

There was no permanent presence by the Police in the Upper Clutha until 1869 when Thomas Ryan of the Otago Provincial Police arrived in Cardrona.

The Cardrona constabulary were:

1869 Thomas Ryan

1870 John Cassells

1871 John McMahon

1872 George Comyn

1876 Thomas Cameron

Whilst Cardrona had a larger population than Pembroke, the latter eventually became more the commercial centre of the Upper Clutha and was more centrally positioned. But things still moved slowly even though land had been reserved for a Police Station and gazetted.



In 1889 it was reported that the tender of J R McDonald for the construction of a stable and forage store for £133 had been accepted.<sup>5</sup> This suggests that either the original tender for the Residence, Lock-up, Stable and Fencing was not completed in full as intended originally, or the original stable was inadequate. All the original buildings were built of wood except for the second cellblock which was built of stone and mortar but was certainly not built in 1886. A stable building does appear in a later photo.



This photo is from around 1890 and shows the first Residence and Station, the single-cell block and the second cell block. In the background is the Commercial Hotel built by William Allan in 1885.



The Second Cell Block in 2023.

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<sup>5</sup> Untitled, Lake Wakatip Mail, 15 March 1889, Page 2



The original 1886 "Lockup" in 2023. The toilet (very small) is at the rear.



Popular Constable Nicholas Marsh who retired to Oamaru from Pembroke in December 1907.

A Constable was not responsible for just law and order – on his appointment in 1896, Constable Marsh was gazetted Clerk of the Warden’s and Magistrate’s Court, Receiver of Gold Revenue, Mining Registrar and Inspector under the Factories Act.<sup>6</sup>

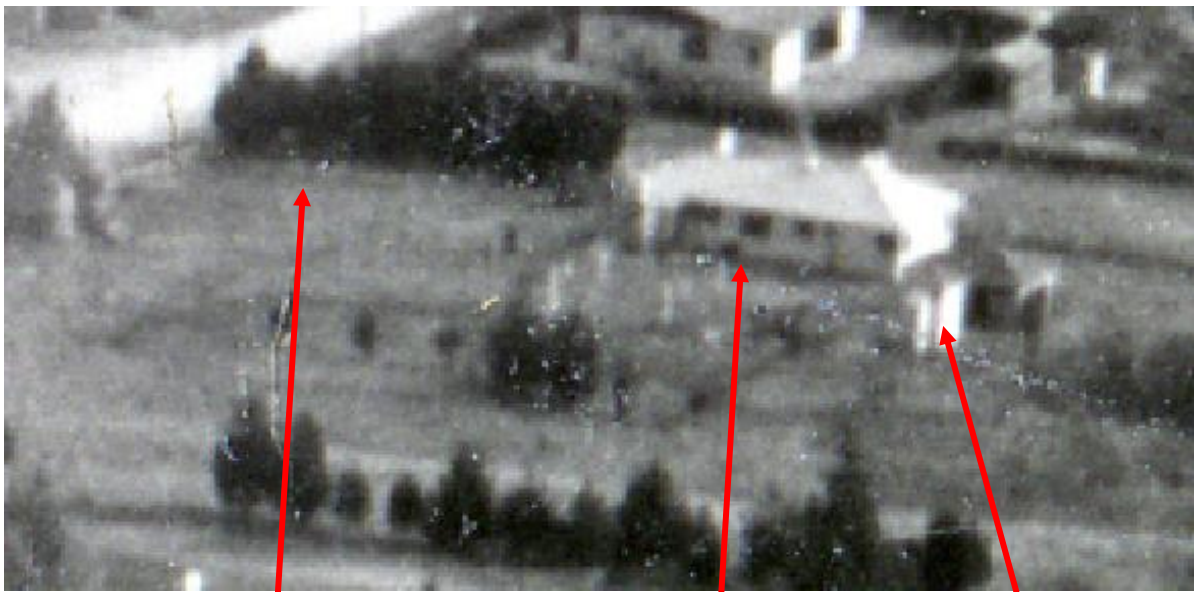
### Subsequent Police Buildings.

In November 1940, tenders were called for the erection of a new Police Station Residence.<sup>7</sup> It was to be situated on Dunmore Street between the existing building and the cell and stone stable on Dunmore Street.

It was reported in June 1941 that building of the Police Station and Residence had commenced<sup>8</sup> and by 20 January 1942 it was reported as being occupied, the old Residence and Station had been sold and was to be demolished.<sup>9</sup>

It is evident from a 1946 aerial photograph taken of the area, that the original wooden cell building was moved back behind the stone cell building<sup>10</sup> to accommodate the new Residence and Police Station. A toilet facility had also been added to the Cell.<sup>11</sup>

Both Cell buildings still exist on the land occupied by the motels in Dunmore Street. The Cell building has been granted heritage protection by QLDC.



Original (1886) Building Site  
(Known as "Plods Patch")

New (1942) Building Site

Wooden Cell

<sup>6</sup> Omnium Gatherum, Otago Daily Times, 8 July 1896, Page 4

<sup>7</sup> Tenders, Otago Daily Times, 22 November 1940, Page 12

<sup>8</sup> New Police Station, Otago Daily Times, 5 June 1941, Page 5

<sup>9</sup> Police Residence, Otago Daily Times, 20 January 1942, page 7

<sup>10</sup> Although not for certain, it is thought that the stone building was originally the stable building (as called for in the Tender document) and may have been converted to use as cells at later date

<sup>11</sup> UCHRS photograph "A74 EL6667, Shoreline aerial of Lake Wanaka 1946.tif"



**Photo of the Police Station and Residence taken around 1998 when it was advertised for sale. It had been rented out from about 1993.**

The building was apparently always known as “Peel House” (after Sir Robert Peel, the founder of the UK Police force). The land and building was sold and then the building was moved by transporter down Helwick Street to eventually end up near the roundabout on Aubrey Road (No. 867 but originally 161 or 129 Mt Iron Road – QLDC documents) in 2000. The current owners renovated it and added a bedroom in 2012.

Of interest, the Police Office at the right of the building in the photo, was just 3.7m square.

That size, in itself, became a problem as Wānaka slowly grew, and of course, the mass “immigration” of holiday makers in the summer period also impacted on policing efforts. At one stage the Lodge Hall in Dunmore Street had to be hired out to accommodate the consequent temporary increase in officers brought in from other locations.

Plans were afoot in the late 1960s to build a new Police Station. It would not include accommodation (other than the cells) and would have been forecasted able to handle Wānaka’s growth for an extended period of time.

In January 1972 , it appears that a small celebration might have been held in the Station to announce to the staff that a new Station was to be built and a month later it was announced that it was planned to be completed by December 1972.<sup>12</sup> When exactly the new Station was opened is not known at the time of writing, but it is expected that it was likely to have been January/February 1973.

The buildings included a separate cellblock and single car garage. In 1993 a major renovation project that included increasing the size of the Station and replacing the single garage with a double garage in a different position. The project cost a contracted amount of \$75,000 and the renovated Station was re-opened on 9 Dec 1993.

The previous residence and Station at 2 Dunmore Street continued to be rented, presumably by staff, until it was sold in 1998.

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<sup>12</sup> Confirmed by a letter from the Ministry of Works to QLDC in January 1973.



Wanaka Police Station, 1990. (N.Z. Police)

Note that this photo was taken before the renovations and shows the original layout. The 1886 original cell building can just be seen over the fence on the left of the photo.



**Photograph taken after the 1993 Renovations**

Wānaka's growth really started accelerating in the 1990's and by the turn of the century, it became apparent that even the Helwick Street Station was going to become unworkable. In 2011, work commenced on planning for a new Police Station that was to be erected on Reserve Land on Ballantyne Road. Eventually, all the consents were obtained, and the building was opened on 9 October 2013.

The Helwick Street Station was sold and the area on which it stood, has been re-developed into retail facilities and is known as 'The Precinct'.



**The latest Wānaka Police Station opened in 2013.**



## ORAL HISTORY GROUP

The final course for the volunteer interviewers was held at The Lake Wānaka Centre on 14 April. From all accounts and feedback the course was very well received by all the participants. Many thanks go to Lynnette Shum from Wellington and Helen Frizzell from Dunedin for leading the two courses. And of course, congratulations to Liz Hollands and Helen Howarth for organising the Course.

Many thanks also go to the Otago Community Trust and Central Lakes Trust for providing funding for some of the equipment and to QLDC for use of the Lake Wānaka Centre at no charge.

We look forward to some very interesting interviews.

If anyone has some suggestion for people to be interviewed, please obtain their name, address and phone number and advise Liz and Helen at [oralhistory@uppercluthahistory.org](mailto:oralhistory@uppercluthahistory.org).



The participants and tutors of the Oral History Course

## A RAILWAY ACROSS THE HAAST PASS??

It took until 6 November 1965 to get a road across the Haast Pass, so what were the chances of getting a railway before then? Richie Hewitt came across the map that follows. It originates

from the National Library, so it is for real. The date is unknown, but a quick look at Paperspast discloses that there was some serious work going on at least as far back as 1876 (Westport Times 12 Dec 1876) with Councils and politicians involved. The mind does boggle at the suggestion that the Government should cause “a flying survey of the route from Otago via Wānaka and Haast Valley” be undertaken, when it took until nearly 90 years later to get a road!



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 18 MAY 2023

The AGM was held at the Arts Society Rooms and 15 people turned up.

The new committee is as follows:

President – Ken Allan

Treasurer – Bruce Foulds

Secretary – Winton Davies

Other members – Erena Barker, Pam Kane, Helen Howarth and Ed Taylor

An enthusiastic series of discussions took place on all manner of possible activities for the future.

## THANKS TO THE RETIRING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jo Walton, Margaret Thomlinson and Graeme Dickson decided not to put themselves up for re-election to the Committee. All three have made a significant contribution to the committee and to the Society over many years and for that we extend our heartmost thanks. Nevertheless they are not “disappearing” from our ranks altogether and will continue with their valuable research and recording activities, amongst others.

## JO'S UPDATE

The Oral History members of UCHRS have been very busy finalising their documentation, training and commencing interviews from a list of suggested interviewees. If you wish to suggest a person of interest to be interviewed, please contact us. Priority of interviewing is being given to the very elderly and poor health. Likewise our President/Editor has spent countless hours researching and sorting out numerous issues faced by our working group for which we are extremely grateful, it has been a challenging time. The technology we use almost daily mostly from our homes makes our tasks easier to update and communicate so we mindful of the costs and future need to make our systems resilient.

This year I suggested a project for the UCHRS: to record a chronological account of all the subdivisions undertaken in the Wānaka area. To include: Name of subdivision, Developer, Date started, name of streets within the development (plus any renaming of streets) as minimum. Advice is obviously required and will be requested from Jo and Diana Cocks. We hope you can assist if asked? [admin@uppercluthahistory.org](mailto:admin@uppercluthahistory.org)

## WHERE DID THEY MEET AND DANCE?

Unless someone organized a barn dance, there was no place to hold a dance, or a wedding celebration or a town meeting in the early days apart from perhaps the Wānaka Hotel. Remember we are talking about the 1870s and following years. The population would have been very small but as it grew, there became a need for a place to meet.

On 25 May 1876, Theodore Russell, the owner of the Wānaka Hotel, was granted a Crown Grant over the block of land on the corner of Ardmore Street and what we now know as Lakeside Road.<sup>13</sup> This is roughly the land on which the current Ardmore House building is erected on. Unfortunately, Theodore died on 14 November 1877 aged just 33, but his wife

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<sup>13</sup> Register Book , Volume 40, Folio 72

Celia, who inherited his assets, was a very capable woman and was a strong supporter of community activities, something she continued with until she died in 1905.

The earliest reference relating to the hall is on 23 February 1887 when it is described as “the new hall of the Wanaka Hotel”<sup>14</sup>. That suggests that Theodore and Celia had plans for a new hall before he died. Meetings and events were held in the hall which was named the Olympic Hall (in later years it became known simply as the Pembroke Hall or Russell’s Hall). Just across the road was Mrs Russell’s dining room etc for providing catering and refreshments.

Her move to build a new hall also happened to cause the opposition, William Allan of the Commercial Hotel, to build his own hall.



**The hall is the larger building and probably the hotel washing is on the line. The building on the left was the blacksmiths**

On 21 November 1920, John Faulks purchased the land and the hall. Over the following 18 months it appears that a few locals got together with John and on 11 July 1922 he transferred ownership to Willis Scaife, James Perrow, Francis Thomson and Fred Collings as trustees. The old Olympic Hall was removed to Haugh’s farm in the Maungawera Valley, to be used as a farm building and plans were afoot to build a new hall.

A tender for the construction of the new hall for £2368 was accepted and the new hall opened on 12 May 1924. A Ball was held to celebrate the occasion as reported in the Lake County Press, 29 May 1924, Page 3:

(See next page)

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<sup>14</sup> Lake Wanaka, Cromwell Argus, 4 Mar 1887, Page2

—New Public Hall.—

The opening of the new public hall took place on 12th inst, the occasion being celebrated with a Ball. The function was attended by one of the largest crowds that has ever assembled in Pembroke, visitors being present

from all parts of Otago, including many from Dunedin. The fine new concrete building, lighted by electricity, was very nicely decorated, and presented a highly attractive appearance. About 150 couples were present, and dancing was spiritedly kept up until 3 a.m. The dance music which was supplied by Flint's Jazz Band (Dunedi), was the outstanding feature of the Ball and added to the success of the gathering. Messrs R Thompson and J M Faulks, who acted as Masters of Ceremonies, kept the dancing going right merrily. The catering was in charge of Mrs Davy, of Cromwell, to whom great credit is due for the excellence of the supper provided. The gross receipts in connection with the Ball amounted to £140, and great credit is due the ladies and the Hall Trustees who worked so hard to ensure the success of the function.

Up to 1939, it appears that electricity for power and lighting was made available from the Wānaka Hotel's generating plant across the road. The then secretary was instructed to negotiate with the power board for an independent supply.

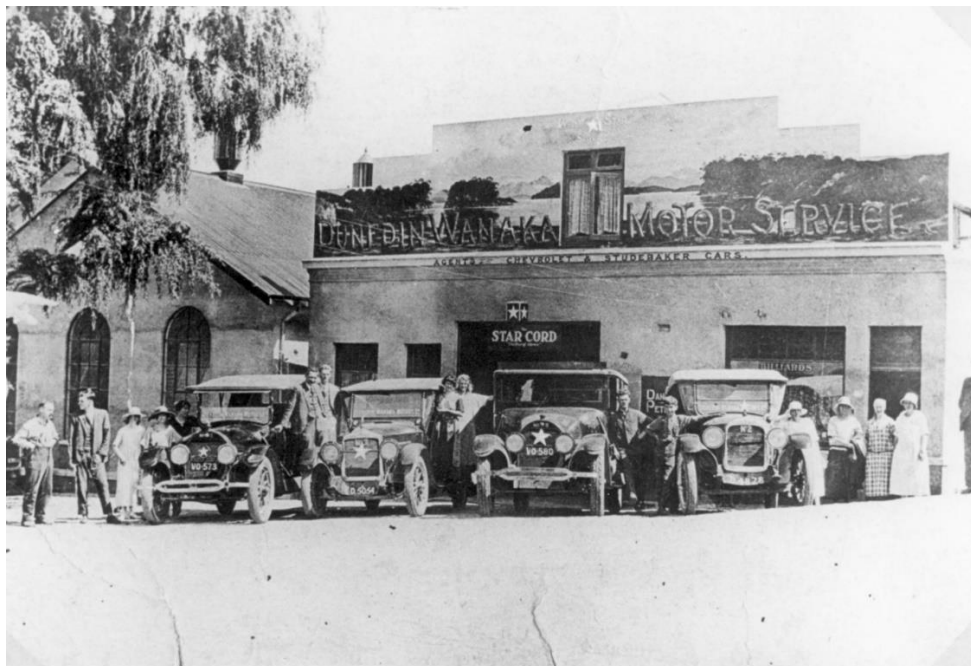
In 1958 when the Wānaka Hotel (No. 2) burnt down, a licence was granted to open a bar operated by the owner, Mr Muir.

The Wānaka Hall had more than its fair share of events that affected the future of the Upper Clutha, e.g. the turning -on of electricity for the town (1939/40) and even the first picture theatre. In 1955 it was decided that movies should take precedence over other events. But by March 1964, the numbers of trustees had 'thinned out'. A citizen's committee took over and the Wānaka Hall Committee became an incorporated society. They set a number of new rules including:

- The objects of the Society were to hold the land on which the hall stood, and acquire further land for the use and benefit of residents and visitors; to control and maintain a public hall and do what was considered necessary to promote social activities in the town.
- Anyone 21 or over, of good character and residing in the county town of Wānaka, and also within 10 miles from the hall was eligible for membership. Applications were formal. They had to be in writing and a candidate needed support of two-thirds of the voting membership for election.
- The annual subscription, payable on April 1, was to be fixed at annual meetings. It started off at 1/- (one shilling) and does not seem to have been increased at any stage.

In 1973 it was decided to commence negotiations for management of the hall be taken over by the Lakes County Council. This took a while and it was not until 1983 that the Wānaka Hall Committee disbanded.

What occurred afterwards is another story.



The Hall is on the left of this photo behind the willow tree (another story). The service station became Mansons before they moved over the other side of Ardmore St where, as most of you will know became the BP Station



Here is a photo taken in the late 1980s



Today!

**HELP NEEDED – CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE BUILDING IN THE PHOTO?**

Have you ever wondered what Ardmore Street might have looked like about a hundred or so years ago? With only one building of that era remaining, it sure was different from today and in more ways than you might imagine.

Over the past couple of months we have been researching the area in some detail (including taking photos of what the buildings on Ardmore Steet currently look like so that generations to follow will know what it looked like).

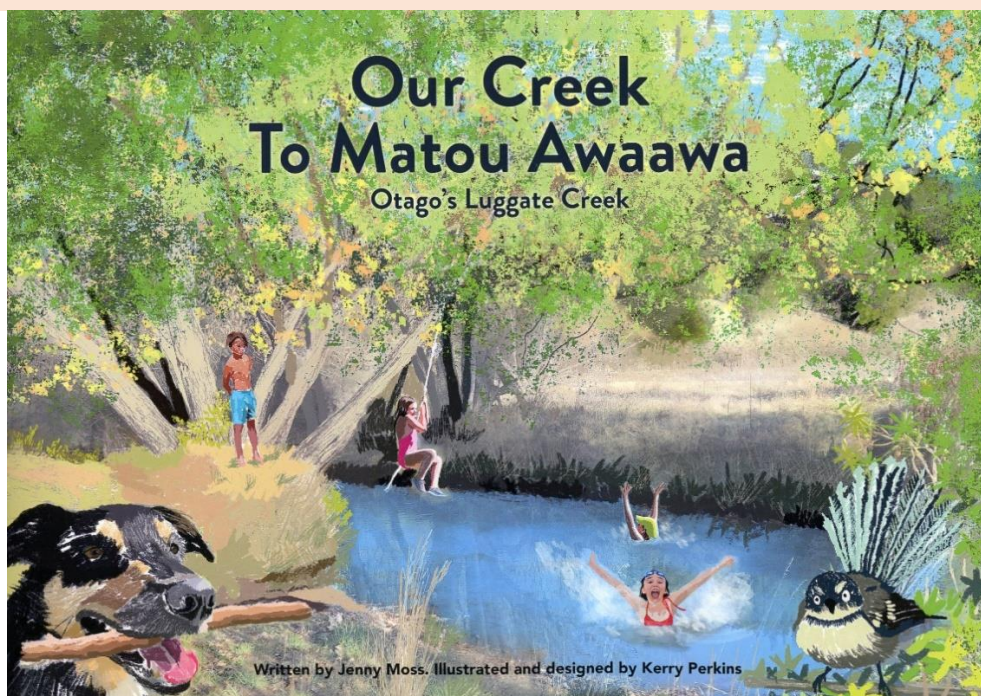
Now I know this photo was taken on 14 June 1926, well before our readers will have been born, but does anyone recognise or have knowledge of the building in the background? It looks a bit like a motel. I think it was part of the White Star Hotel that was situated where the Aspiring

Law/Bayleys building stands today. In the foreground are the remains of a bakery fire. The bakery was owned by D A Jolly & Sons who had purchased the McDougall & Sons store a few years prior.



If you can help me, please email me at [president@uppercluthahistory.org](mailto:president@uppercluthahistory.org) or phone me on 027 663 6986. Thanks. Ken

## OUR CREEK – A HISTORY OF LUGGATE CREEK BY JENNY MOSS



Jenny Moss, one of our members, together with illustrator Kerry Perkins have produced a book about the history of the Luggate Creek and the surrounding landscape, with a focus on the importance of maintaining water quality. Not a lot has been written in the past about the Luggate Creek and this is a very readable book especially for the younger folk, to learn about this rather historic Upper Clutha waterway.



All book sales are supporting an information historical board by the cart and horse in Luggate. Other beneficiaries have been The Kids Can Flood Appeal, Wai Wānaka and The Relay for Life Cancer Appeal.

Copies can be bought for \$25 at the Wānaka Library, Revology, Wai Wānaka and from Jenny by contacting her at [luggatecreekbook@gmail.com](mailto:luggatecreekbook@gmail.com)

## THANKS

Thanks are extended to the various publications that were the sources of the information in the newsletter. Individuals are too numerous to list but references have been sourced from Paperspast.co.nz, a number of out-of-print publications and the records of the UCHRS.

## OUR PUBLICATIONS

The Society has published a small number of books and booklets over the years.

**Skirt Tales – 100 Historical Stories of Women from the Upper Clutha Area, Central Otago** - \$25. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> time this book has been reprinted. It is available from the Society, and the Wānaka Library. Postage is \$7-50 if required.

**The Sequel** – - \$25. A sequel to Skirt Tales. A small number of copies of this book are available from The Society and the Wānaka Library. Postage \$7-50.

**125, Look Alive – 125 Years of Schooling in the Wānaka District** - \$15.00. Available from the Society or the Wānaka 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 Wānaka Library. Postage is \$6-50 if required.

**Courageous and Free** – \$30 -Stories of Upper Clutha WW1 Soldiers and Nurse who died due to war service. This is the second edition. Postage \$7-50.

NZ Post “Bubble Bags” are used to protect the books that require posting.

**MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS** for year ending 31/3/2024 are \$15-00 per person.

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

Email: [admin@uppercluthahistory.org](mailto:admin@uppercluthahistory.org)

## PHOTOS

Copies of the photographs held in our records can be provided either as a digital file or a printed copy.

Costs are:

### **For individuals:**

Digital file:                 \$10-00

Printed Copy:                \$10-00 plus the cost of printing the photo at Kodak, Wānaka.

### **For Non-profit Community organizations:**

There is generally no fee for digital copies but a donation would be welcome. For printed copies, the Community organization will need to pay for the Kodak Wānaka printing cost.

### **For Commercial Organizations:**

The fee is \$30.00 plus the cost of any printed copy.

**Please note** that ownership of the image lies with UCHRS and further copying requires our written approval and possibly an additional negotiated fee.

## WHO ARE WE?

**President (and Editor):** Ken Allan

**Secretary :** Winton Davies

**Treasurer:** Bruce Foulds

**Other Committee Members:** Erena Barker, Pam Kane, Helen Howorth, Ed Taylor

The Society was established in 1985, Incorporated in 2010, and became a Charity in 2014, 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 Wānaka 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 Wānaka Library who will pass on the request or send us an email to [admin@uppercluthahistory.org](mailto: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. Please note that the IRD require donor’s full name and full address.