

Reference Guide

Mining Sources at the Hocken Collections



Gold miners at Winding Creek, Waikaia, c.1898-1903. George McNeur album, MS-1007-009/009, Archives Collection. S09-296b.

Nau Mai Haere Mai ki Te Uare Taoka o Hākena:

Welcome to the Hocken Collections

He mihi nui tēnei ki a koutou

kā uri o kā hau e whā arā, kā mātāwaka o te motu, o te ao whānui hoki.

Nau mai, haere mai ki te taumata.

As you arrive

We seek to preserve all the taoka we hold for future generations. So that all taoka are properly protected, we ask that you:

- place your bags (including computer bags and sleeves) in the lockers provided
- leave all food and drink including water bottles in the lockers (we have a researcher lounge off the foyer which everyone is welcome to use)
- bring any materials you need for research and some ID in with you
- sign the Readers' Register each day
- enquire at the reference desk first if you wish to take digital photographs

Beginning your research

This guide gives examples of the types of material relating to mining in New Zealand held at the Hocken. All items must be used within the library. As the collection is large and constantly growing not every item is listed here, but you can search for other material on our Online Public Access Catalogues:

- for books, theses, journals, magazines, newspapers, maps, and audiovisual material, use Library Search|Ketu. The advanced search - <https://tinyurl.com/mtske2x9> gives you several search options, and you can refine your results to the Hocken Library on the left side of the screen.

The Library Search Guide <https://otago.libguides.com/ketuhelp> contains helpful tips and assistance for using Library Search|Ketu;

- for pictures, photographs and archives and manuscripts, use Hākena - <https://hakena.otago.ac.nz>. Listing of the ephemera collection has just begun on Hākena; please talk to desk staff if you have any questions about this collection.

The Hākena Search Help Guide <https://otago.libguides.com/hakena> contains helpful tips and assistance for using Hākena;

- some of the photographs from the Pictorial Collections are available for viewing online via Hocken Snapshot at <https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/> . Some other photographs and artworks can be viewed at <https://otago.ourheritage.ac.nz/>.

If you have any enquiries about ordering or other research questions, please ask the reference desk staff – they will be happy to assist you.

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Publications

Official publications

The New Zealand Mines Department and its successors, including the Ministry of Commerce, produced several periodicals with statistics and information relating to all types of mining. We have the following:

Annual report of the Colonial Laboratory (1894-1906). Reports on the analysis of mineral samples. Replaced by the *Annual report of the Dominion Laboratory* (1907-1942, some gaps in holdings).

New Zealand mines record (1897-1909). Includes a variety of articles, reports, and photographs. An index to this publication is available in the ready reference area.

Annual returns of production from quarries and mineral production statistics (1973-1988)

New Zealand annual mining review (1989-1996)

Official reports and statistics relating to mining also appear in:

Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives. Includes many official reports on mining, some with photographs and plans. Indexes for 1854-1953 are available in the ready reference area and appendices for 1858-1950 are now available online at <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary>.

New Zealand official year-book (1892-). Available in the ready reference area and online at <https://tinyurl.com/sj2e8khc>. The 1899 issue has a special article on the gold dredging industry.

Statistics of New Zealand (1853-). Title was at first *Statistics of the colony of New Zealand*, then *Statistics of the dominion of New Zealand*. A few issues are available online at <https://tinyurl.com/sj2e8khc>.

Votes and proceedings of the Otago Provincial Council, 1862-1875, include departmental reports relating to the goldfields with maps and drawings. Some of these are available to search and browse in the *New Zealand Gazette Archive* database (on public computers in the library).

We also have numerous publications from the New Zealand Geological Survey, including its *Bulletins*, each devoted to a specific topic, and periodicals *Industrial minerals and rocks* (1966-1983) and the *New Zealand journal of geology and geophysics* (1958-).

The Mines Department produced *The handbook of New Zealand mines* in 1887 (available via <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006588906>), updated as the *New Zealand mining*

handbook in 1906. These are detailed surveys of gold, coal, and other mining in New Zealand to that date, including maps and illustrations.

Newspapers

We have a large collection of newspapers, including many nineteenth- and twentieth-century papers from throughout the Otago region. Most contain extensive news relating to mining, and the *Otago Witness* had regular columns of mining news from throughout the region. An index to Central Otago goldfield newspapers is available in the ready reference area – there are two volumes dedicated to mining, arranged by geographical location, or search the index online at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/goldfields/>. Our holdings of newspapers can be checked on Library Search|Ketu.

Many nineteenth-century newspapers from mining districts are also available online on the National Library's PapersPast website (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>). Those available for searching and browsing include the *Otago Witness*, *Alexandra Herald and Central Otago Gazette*, *Dunstan Times*, *Cromwell Argus*, *Mount Ida Chronicle*, *Mt Bengier Mail*, *Lake Wakatip Mail*, *Tuapeka Times*, *Grey River Argus*, *Inangahua Times* and *West Coast Times*.

Other general publications

We have numerous publications relating to mining in general. Try searching Library Search|Ketu using the following headings:

- *Mines and mineral resources – New Zealand*
- *Mineral industries – New Zealand*
- *Geology, economic – New Zealand*

We hold the following:

Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand (1952-1961, from 1961 divided into separate series - Botany, General, Geology and Zoology. In 1968 Botany and Zoology were combined into Biological Sciences and the Geology series was renamed Earth Sciences.) These series have been digitised and are available via PapersPast at <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/periodicals/all>

Other more general publications often contain material of interest, including advertisements, reports and other information on mining and engineering activities and personalities. Useful sources include electoral rolls, cemetery records, the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* (available online via the New Zealand Electronic Text Centre at

<https://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-corpus-cyclopedia.html>), and street directories.

Many of these items are available in the ready reference area.

Gold mining

For the history of gold mining in New Zealand, the major works are:

Lloyd Carpenter and Lyndon Fraser (2016). *Rushing for gold: life and commerce on the goldfields of New Zealand and Australia*. Dunedin, New Zealand: Otago University Press.

Stevan Eldred-Grigg (2008). *Diggers, hatters and whores: the story of the New Zealand gold rushes*. Auckland: Random House.

Philip Ross May (1967). *The West Coast gold rushes*. Christchurch: Pegasus.

J.H.M. Salmon (1963). *A history of goldmining in New Zealand*. Wellington: Government Printer.

There are numerous other books and pamphlets, many of them about specific districts. Try a search on Library Search | Ketu using the following subject headings:

- *Gold dredging*
- *Gold industry – New Zealand*
- *Gold miners – New Zealand*
- *Gold mines and mining – Environmental aspects – New Zealand*
- *Gold mines and mining – Law and legislation – New Zealand*
- *Gold mines and mining – New Zealand*
- *Gold ores – Geology – New Zealand*
- *Gold ores – New Zealand*

Many of these have sub-headings according to the region or district, for example:

- *Gold mines and mining – New Zealand – Alexandra*
- *Gold mines and mining – New Zealand – Central Otago District*
- *Gold mines and mining – New Zealand – Queenstown Lakes District*
- *Gold mines and mining – New Zealand – Shotover Valley*

There are useful overviews of the Otago goldfields in two older geography books:

R.F. Watters (Ed.). (1965). *Land and society in New Zealand: Essays in historical geography*. Wellington: A.H. and A.W. Reed.

Murray McCaskill (Ed.). (1962). *Land and livelihood: Geographical essays in honour of George Jobberns*. Christchurch: New Zealand Geographical Society.

Coal mining

Useful histories of coal mining in New Zealand include:

Len Richardson (1995). *Coal, class and community: The United Mineworkers of New Zealand 1880-1960*. Auckland: Auckland University Press.

Matthew Wright (2014). *Coal: the rise and fall of king coal in New Zealand*. Auckland, New Zealand: David Bateman.

Most of our publications on coal mining in New Zealand deal with specific districts. These can be found by searching Library Search|Ketu using subject headings such as the following:

- *Coal – Geology – New Zealand*
- *Coal mines and mining – New Zealand*
- *Coal mines and mining – Environmental aspects – New Zealand*
- *Coal mines and mining – Law and legislation – New Zealand*
- *Coal miners – New Zealand*
- *Coal mine accidents – New Zealand*
- *Coal – New Zealand*

You can make the search more specific by adding a specific district or region to the end of the subject heading, for example:

- *Coal mines and mining – New Zealand – Buller District*
- *Coal mines and mining – New Zealand – Denniston*
- *Coal mines and mining – New Zealand – West Coast*

Maps

We have numerous maps relating to mining. There are a few maps in the archives collection, but most are in our publications collection and can be found on Library Search|Ketu. Try a simple search for the district that interests you and then refine your results by type to 'maps'. We have the main topographical, cadastral, and geological series maps, along with numerous other maps and plans, some of them manuscript rather than published. See our 'Maps and plans at the Hocken Collections' research guide

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/otago038951.html>.

Copies of several maps relating to mining are in the map cabinet in the reference area. They include a map of the goldfields of Otago (1867), Wise's new map of Otago (1875) and an

Otago Daily Times sketch map showing gold claims (1899). James Hector's geological map of Otago, compiled in 1864, is available online at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/treasures/hector/index.html>

Music

Charles Thatcher, goldfields balladeer, toured New Zealand during the 1860s. We have some of his 'songsters', with lyrics he wrote to be performed to popular tunes and these have been digitised and can be viewed on OUR Heritage <https://otago.ourheritage.ac.nz/items/browse?collection=81>.

We have sound recordings of modern folk singers, including Martin Curtis and Phil Garland, who have recorded some older songs, along with their own compositions about the miners. Our sheet music and sound recordings are catalogued on Library Search|Ketu.

Archives and manuscripts

General

For collections relating to mining in general, try a search on Hākena, the pictures, photographs, ephemera, archives and manuscripts catalogue, using the subject heading *Mines and mining*. Among the interesting collections are:

Otago School of Mines: We have various archives relating to the University of Otago School of Mines, later the Department of Mineral Technology. There are records directly from the school, including minute books, assay report books, annual reports, and photographs [ARC-0763, MS-3837, and MS-2747]. The main administrative records of the university also include material relating to the school/department [ARC-0018]. We have papers of the first Professor of the School of Mines, George Ulrich. Various graduates of the school have also donated records – these can be found by searching Hākena for *School of Mines*.

J.N. Stephens papers: Joseph Stephens, who studied at the Otago School of Mines, was involved in numerous mining companies, and patented the Stephens Hydraulic Pump. This collection of Stephens family papers includes papers relating to various mines, including prospectuses, maps, and plans [MS-0988].

Papers relating to coal and goldmining in Otago and Southland: a miscellaneous collection of papers relating to various gold and coal mines [Misc-MS-0430].

Ron Murray Papers relating to the history of Central Otago: Ron Murray studied accountancy and worked for Cromwell firm Broderick, Parcell and McKay, but his

lifelong passion was history, particularly the history of the Cromwell district and gold mining. This collection relates mainly to Central Otago history, particularly gold mining, the building of the Clyde Dam and consequent flooding of part of Cromwell. It also contains a large amount of material on early Central Otago events, crimes, and identities. It includes many photographs, early legal documents and research files compiled by Ron Murray. There are also reminiscences of early Central Otago residents [ARC-0718].

Gold mining

We have many archival collections relating to gold mining, especially in the Otago region. These include reminiscences of various early gold miners. Try searching Hākena using the following subject headings:

- *Gold mines and mining*
- *Gold miners*
- *Gold dredging*

If you are interested in a specific mine or specific district, try searching under the relevant name or location. Some of the larger/more significant collections relating to gold mining are:

Allan Houston: 'The Gold fields of Otago'. Houston, who travelled through Otago in the 1860s, compiled this miscellany of observation and description in 1865. It includes photographs, cuttings, maps, and samples along with his manuscript descriptions. He describes the miners, their methods, and their 'phraseology'. [Misc-MS-1413]

Alexander Crow McGeorge papers: McGeorge, an engineer, was a pioneer of gold dredging in Otago, operating successful dredging companies and holding interests in many others. His papers include numerous items relating to gold dredging, including company records, diaries, reminiscences, maps, and photographs. There are prospectuses for many New Zealand dredging companies, particularly for the period 1899-1900. [ARC-0374]

Brown family papers: Brothers Moses and John Brown began gold mining at Kyeburn in the 1880s and the claim was worked by them and their descendants until the 1950s. These papers include receipts and account books for their mining business and a sequence of diaries, commencing in 1936, which record work activities on the claim. [ARC-0571]

Please note that we do not hold official government archives relating to mining, such as miners' rights, other than a few examples in the papers of individuals and families. Records of the Wardens' Courts are held at the Archives New Zealand Dunedin Regional Office – these include a variety of sources relating to mining.

Coal mining

We have archival material relating to several coal mines in the Otago region. Try searching Hākena using the name of the mine company or the subject heading *Coal mines and mining*. We have small or miscellaneous collections of archives for the Jubilee Coal Company (on Saddle Hill), Walton Park Coal Mine, Shag Point Coal Mine, Taratu Coal Mines and Hampden Coal Prospecting Committee. Larger collections are:

Kaitangata Coal Mine: We hold archives of the Kaitangata Coal Company covering the period 1912 to 1968 (they include wages and time books and inspection reports) [AG-558]. We also have records, including minutes and a letter book, of the Otago Coalminers Industrial Union of Kaitangata for the period 1923 to 1971 [ARC-0067]. We have a collection of clippings, photographs, memorial cards and other papers concerning the Kaitangata Mine disaster of 1879 [Misc-MS-0840]. A collection of letters of a Kaitangata family also includes material relating to the disaster, along with their work in the mine [Misc-MS-1921]. The records of the Kaitangata Borough Council include a few items concerning miners' amenities and benefits [AG-954].

Ngapara Colliery: The records of this Waitaki Valley colliery, open from 1885 to 1971, consist chiefly of financial records but also include maps [AG-155].

Pictorial collections

Photographs

We have numerous photographs relating to gold mining and a smaller number on coal mining. Some are available online via Hocken Snapshot at <https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/>. Try a search for the specific location that interests you, or under the following subjects:

- *Chinese in New Zealand*
- *Coal and coal mining*
- *Goldmining* (includes files on various sub-headings, such as *dredges, dwellings, gold escort, methods, transport*)
- *Mining machinery*

The *Otago Witness* is a good source of photographs from the early twentieth century; it is available on PapersPast <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/> for the years 1851-1926. Copies of the illustration sections are available in the pictorial reference area, and we have an index of its illustrations relating to gold mining. The illustrations section of the *Auckland Weekly News* is also available for browsing in the reference area. There is also a print catalogue of early photographs relating to gold mining (compiled by the Department of Lands and Survey in 1982), available in the pictorial and general reference areas.

You can search for holdings of other photographs on Hākena. Try a subject search under *Mines and Mining* and then refine results to the photographs collection; among the items of relevance are:

Herbert Deveril photographs: 1870s and 1880s photographs of gold mining in Otago, including some of Chinese miners [Box 127].

William Frost photographs: include 12 photographs concerning the Kaitangata Railway and Coal Company, among them shots of employees in the 1880s [Box-138].

McEachen collections: an album and other photographs of Otago gold dredges [Album 207 and Box-163].

Ian McEwin photographs: a large collection relating mostly to Waiuta, the large West Coast gold mine [P94-034].

Moen family photographs: the Moen family, originally from Norway, mined in Australia and then in the second wave of gold mining in Otago, building water races at Waitahuna, Gabriels Gully and Blue Spur [P92-010].

Muir and Moodie and related firms: include photographs of gold mining in Otago, including dredging, and various coal mines on the West Coast [Box-173].

Please talk to desk staff if you wish to access the photographs collection.

Artworks

We have a few artworks relating to mining. Try a subject search on Hākena under *Mines and Mining* and then refine results to the pictures collection. The most notable works (both of which can be viewed online via their Hākena records) are:

Doris Lusk [1938]. [*Gold dredging, Central.*] oil on canvas. (79/12)

John Turnbull Thomson (1879). Tuapeka Gold Rush, Otago 1861. Watercolour on paper. (92/1290)

Please talk to desk staff if you wish to access the pictures collection.

Websites

Archives New Zealand holds numerous records relating to mining. Their catalogue, Collections search, is available online: <https://collections.archives.govt.nz/web/arena#/>

Te Ara, the online Encyclopedia of New Zealand, has articles on mining and its history: <https://teara.govt.nz/en/mineral-resources>

GNS Science, the Crown Research Institute for earth sciences, has information about New Zealand's mineral resources: <https://www.gns.cri.nz/our-science/energy-futures/>

West Coast NZ History is a website that makes accessible over 21,000 photographs of the West Coast, and can be browsed by topic <https://westcoast.recollect.co.nz/>

The Otago Goldfields Trust aims to develop, represent, and promote the historical sites, trails, and events of Otago - <https://goldfieldstrust.org.nz/>

The **Hocken Collections** website has PDFs of this and other guides and bulletins: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/otago038951.html>. Of relevance to mining is the Friends of the Hocken 2005 Bulletin *Geology in historical documents*.

The publication *The life and times of James Park: Geologist, Explorer and University Dean* by J.C. Park (2017) is available at: https://gsnz.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Shop/Products/MP144_James_Park/MP144_2017_Life_and_times_James_Park.pdf

The **Bannockburn History Project** attempts to record history, along with information about some of the people who lived in the area: <http://oldbannockburn.nz/Home/Index>



Kaitangata coal mine. Photographs and documents relating to the Kaitangata mine disaster 1879, Misc-MS-0840, Archives Collection. S09-296a.

Hocken Collections/Te Uare Taoka o Hākena
90 Anzac Ave, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054
Phone 03 479 8868
reference.hocken@otago.ac.nz
<https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/>

For hours, please check our website:
<https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/>