



## The Catlins

‘THE CATLINS’ is the name given to the area of south-east Otago, hemmed in between forested hills and a dramatically beautiful coastline, which for the purposes of this bulletin extends from Romahapa and the Nuggets southward to Chaslands Mistake, and includes all the river valleys facing the south-east coast. Its reputation now is one of native bush, charming waterfalls and scenic landscape, but it also has a considerable history — evidence of a strong Maori presence in earlier centuries, and of timber-felling, farming and fishing in European times. The following lists provide a guide to Hocken Library holdings relating to the area.

### BOOKS, THESES, PAMPHLETS

Hardly any literature on the Catlins existed outside newspapers before 1900, and even up to World War 2 very little had been published in book form — and most of that through the enthusiasm of two noted Owaka teachers — J.T. Bryant, headmaster from 1884 to 1909, and George Chapman-Cohen, senior secondary assistant from 1926 to 1942. But the amount of publishing in the last half-century has made up a great deal of ground, not only in district history, but also in the numerous land-use and natural history surveys carried out by Lands and Survey, the Forest Service, the Dept of Conservation and the Otago Regional Council.

In addition to the specific titles listed here, virtually all of which are held in the Hocken, it should be remembered that many passing references to the Catlins appear also in general books relating to Otago and the southern region.

### **Maori settlement**

Anderson, Atholl. *When All the Moa-Ovens Grew Cold*, 1983.

Beattie, Herries. *Maori Place-names in Otago*, 1948.

Beattie, Herries. *Our Southernmost Maoris*, 1954.

Buick, T.L. *Moa-Hunters of N.Z.*, 1937, 260p. Includes Papatowai.

Freeman, J.D. & Geddes, W.R. eds. *Anthropology in the South Seas*, 1959; includes ‘From Moa-Hunter to Classic Maori in Southern N.Z.’, by L. Lockerbie.

Hall-Jones, F.G. *King of the Bluff: the Life and Times of Tuhawaiki (Bloody Jack)*, 1943.

Hamel, Gillian E. *Prehistoric Man and his Environment in the Catlins, N.Z.*, OU thesis, 1977 [held in Central University Library].

### **European settlement and general coverage**

Anon. *Anglican Parish of Balclutha. 100 Years of Service 1874–1974*, 1974.

Anon. *Clutha Presbyterian Church 1854–1904; Jubilee*

- Services and Celebrations*, 1904.
- Anon. *Eason Family Reunion*, 1977. Katea.
- Anon. *Owaka District High School 75th Jubilee Souvenir Booklet*, 1951.
- Anon. *Owaka Presbyterian Church Jubilee 1885–1935*.
- Angus, J.H. *Donald Reid Otago Farmers Ltd: Centennial History, 1878–1978*, 1978.
- Baker, Everard. *Boy the Dog, Sam the Pig and Peter the Possum. The Story of My Life*. [1986?].
- Baker, Everard. *Research at Caberfeidh*, 1984.
- Bannerman, Jane & Dalrymple, A.M. *Jubilee Memorial of the South Otago Parish, comprising Puerua, Port Molyneux and Romahapa*, c.1905.
- Beattie, Herries. *Early Runholding in Otago*, 1944.
- Beattie, Herries. *Otago Place Names*, 1948.
- Belmer, F.R. *Around the Southern Coasts*, 1973.
- Bishop, K.J. *The Catlins Branch Railway — its role in the development and settlement of the Catlins district*, OU thesis, 1975 [held in Central University Library].
- Blair, R. *Owaka Presbyterian Church Jubilee, 1885–1935*, 1935; reprinted with addenda, 1985.
- Bryant, E.R. *Richard Cogar Bryant of Kinloch and his descendants*, 1987.
- Buckingham, Rhys and Hall-Jones, J. *The Catlins*, 1985. Good general coverage.
- Bullock, Ian. *A Colonial Boyhood*, 1978. Partly Pounaweia.
- Crews, Arthur. *From the Catlins to Tauranga*. 1995.
- Cross, W.H. *An Historical Look through the Minute Books: a condensed historical documentation of the former authorities making up the Clutha District Council*, [1995].
- Deuchrass, Shirley McN. *The Blairgowrie McNabs*, 1994.
- Dewar, G.E. *Chaslands*, 1953.

Dreaver, Isobel C. *The Catlins River Wisp Run 1857–1994*, 1994.

- Fairweather, J.R. *Farming in Hurunui and Clutha Counties: current attitudes and practices compared to survey results in 1986*, 1993. Lincoln University.
- Fallon, L. *The Homestay Cookbook*, 1985. Burgess family, Greenwood, Owaka.
- [Flanagan F.W. ed.] *N.Z. Tours and Excursions. North and South Otago*, [1897]. Catlins section by J.T. Bryant.
- Gormack, R.S. *Diary for 1941–42*, 1988. Catlins trip.
- Hamill, Vernor H. *The Adams Saga*, 1993. Tahakopa, Lory's, Rimu.
- Henderson, J. *Return to Open Country*, 1967. 'Big Kate'.
- Hocken, T.M. & Fenwick, G.A. *A Holiday Trip to the Catlins District (via Willsher Bay)*, 1892.
- Jones, Ken ed. *Down the Bush: A Century Completed at the Owaka Rugby Football Club, 1892–1993*, 1993.
- King, Mary. *Truby King, the Man*, 1948. Tahakopa.
- Keene, Kathleen. *Tang of the Bush*, 1966, 150p. Tahatika.
- Lord, S.A. *Full Circle in Catlins Schools, 1875–1975*, 1975. General survey of education.
- McKenzie, D.C. *Catlins Summer Holiday Programme: 1985–86*, 1985.
- McLaren, Ethel U. *The Mist of Time: The Story of Romahapa (Winding Stream)*, 1989.
- McLaren, J.W. *Descendants of Daniel & Anne McMinn*, 1981, cyclostyled. Romahapa.
- McLintock, A.H. *The History of Otago*, 1949.
- McLay, Evelyn. *Stepping Out: Clutha County 1876–1976*.
- McNab, Margaret Ann. *Sunshine and Shadow*, 1973. McNab family.
- Mollmann, Bernhard. *The Catlins*, 1979. Excellent survey by a German researcher.
- Mullen, Eliza. *The Last Place*, 1990. Chaslands.
- Noonan, Diana. *Kangaroo Bill and the Forest Behind the Bay*, 1994. Children's story relating to Tahakopa Bay Scenic Reserve.
- Noonan, Diana. *The Silent People*, 1990. Children's book.
- Noonan, Diana. *A Writer's Work*, 1995. Writing in the Catlins.
- Peterson, E. *Eight Schools in the Bush*, 1972.
- Reed, A.H. *Farthest South*, 1953.
- Reed, A.H. *The Four Corners of N.Z.*, 1954 etc.
- Rendle, C.A. & Chapman-Cohen, G.C.E. *Owaka DHS Diamond Jubilee 1875–1935*, 1935.
- Rice, G. *Black November: The 1918 Influenza Epidemic in N.Z.*, 1988.
- Rutherford, V.M. *Otago Education Board Schools, 1985*.
- Sampson, C.W. *Tautuku Outdoor Education Centre: Activities 1975–80*, 1981.
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- Stuart, Alice. *Memories*, and Stuart, Colin, *Rimu to Radiata*, [1978?]. Family booklets.
- Tate, A. *Our Irish Origins: McKee Family History*, 1987. Chapter on Owaka branch.
- Thomson, J.W. *Catlins in 1863, 1892*. Bound in with Hocken, T.M. *A Holiday Trip etc.*
- Tod, F. *Whaling in Southern Waters*, 1982. Tautuku.
- Todd, R.G. and Brough, E.T. *Call of the Bush: Catlins Centennial 1865–1965*, 1965.
- Trask, E.E. *The End of a Line*, 1971; 1986. Catlins railway.
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- Tyrrell, A.R. *Catlins Rail. The Story of the Catlins River Branch Railway 1879–1971*, 1996, 80p.
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- Waite, F. *Pioneering in South Otago*, 1948, 199p; 1977.
- Wilson, Geoff A. *The Urge to Clear the 'Bush'. A study of native forest clearance on farms in the Catlins District of N.Z., 1861–1990*. 1992. University of Canterbury.
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### **Scenic and land resources**

- Anon. *Catlins Coast Park Concept. Summarised Edition*, 1980; *Study of Resources*, 1982. Lands & Survey.
- Anon. *Catlins State Forest: Indigenous Development Plan*, 1986.
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- Anon. *Catlins State Forest Park. Recreational Development Plan, 1982–87*, 1982. Forest Service.
- Anon. *Catlins Trout Fishing*, [1984]. Forest Service.
- Anon. *Catlins Walks and Tracks Information*, 1990. DOC
- Anon. *Coastal Reserves Investigation. Bruce County*, 1982. Lands & Survey.
- Anon. *Field Trip to Catlins, 21 March 1970*, Otago Regional Cttee, N.Z. Historic Places Trust, 1970.
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- Anon. *Walks and Tracks in the Catlins*, 1983. Lands and Survey.
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### **Shipping and sea-coast**

Anon. *About Lighthouses*, 1973. Ministry of Transport.  
 Anon. *Proposed Regional Coastal Plan for Otago. Background Report 1, Section 32*. 1994. *Background Report 2, The management of Otago's water quality*. 1994. *Background Report 3, Manawhenua report*, 1994. *Background report 4: Eastward to the sea: a scientific review of Otago's Coastal marine area*, by Abigail Smith, 1994. *Background Report 5, Marine recreational fishing along Otago's coastline*, 1994.  
 Anon. *South Otago Coastal Hazard Mapping: discussion document*. 1992. Otago Regional Cl.  
 Anon. *Yellow-Eyed Penguin. Species Conservation Strategy*. Cover-title. Dept of Conservation, 1991.  
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 Vernon, Adele. *The Hoiho: N.Z.'s Yellow-eyed Penguin*, 1990.  
 Watt, M.N. *Index to N.Z. Section of the Register of all British Ships, 1840–1950*.

### **Verse**

Bryant, J.T. *Woodland Echoes*, by 'Woodlander', 1906; 1908.  
 Chapman-Cohen, G.C.E. *Poems*, 1939.

Chapman-Cohen, G.C.E. *Woodland Poems*, 1936.  
 Dreaver, Isobel C. ed. *Poetry Through the Years. Catlins Heritage in Verse*. Series 1, 1995; Series 2, 1995; Series 3, 1995.  
 Wells, William. *Poems*, c.1930. MacLennan

### PERIODICALS

Newspapers and periodicals provide much interesting Catlins material. A local paper, the *Owaka News*, functioned from 1932 to 1936, but the Hocken's holdings are very incomplete. It does, however, hold an almost complete run of the *Catlins Post*, produced by the Catlins Area School since December 1984. The nearest sizeable centre to the Catlins is Balclutha, where the *Clutha Leader* has carried good coverage since 1874, and the Hocken holds a complete run since 1967: but earlier issues have not yet been microfilmed, and the holdings of those are scrappy. Holdings of the other early Balclutha papers — *Clutha County Gazette* (1881–87), *Clutha Times* (1878–79) and *Free Press* (1891–1926) — are much the same.

The Hocken holds a good run of the *Otago Daily Times*, and a computerised index of headings for the period 1946 to 1980, though the ODT card-index from which it was taken did not cover the country edition in detail. The *Otago Witness* also carried important coverage up to the 1930s, and indexes of varying quality are available for both the picture sections and earlier articles. Other Dunedin papers may be worth consulting for specific events or periods.

There is some Catlins coverage in the *Southland Times*, while the recent purchase of early *Mataura Ensign* microfilm means that a Gore perspective on the Catlins is available at the Hocken for the periods 1878–1919 and 1967 to the present. There may also be coverage of special events in such magazines as the *Weekly News* and *Free Lance*.

Specialist periodicals should not be overlooked — especially those dealing with timber, agriculture, railways, tourism, motoring, boating, conservation, Kaitahu land interests, fishing, ornithology etc. A useful article on early Catlins postal services, for instance, appeared in the February 1982 issue of *The Mail Coach*, the journal of the N.Z. Postal History Society.

### ARCHIVES

Though the Catlins holdings are not extensive, they do contain interesting material.

Bannerman, Jane, *Reminiscences of her life*, MS 536B.  
 Beattie, Herries. *Papers*, some Catlins material. MS 582.  
 Bryant, J.T. *Memoirs, Reminiscences of*, 93-074.  
 Cattlin, E. *Deed of Purchase, Cattlin's Claim*, 1840, Misc. MS 832. The original is not available for inspection, but a photocopy may be requested for examination.

Craig, John. *Scrapbook*, 1890s, 95-148. Material on Catlins railway and general items.

Harris, A.L. *Newspaper clippings, Owaka, 1964–65, 1968–72, 96-044*. Coverage by the *Otago Daily*

*Times* reporter based in Balclutha.  
 Hector, Sir James. *Papers*, Otago Geological Survey material relevant to the area, 1864, MS 443.  
 Hinahina Sawmilling Co. — see Keith Ramsay Ltd, AG 224.  
 Houipapa — work diary found in wall, 1900–06, 91-107.  
 Owaka Anglican Church, *Foundation Document*, 1892, MS 935; also see St Mark's Anglican Parish, Balclutha.  
 Romahapa Hall Society, 90-142.  
 Schools: There is some material — including examination results of pupils and inspectors' reports from 1879 to the 1950s — about all Catlins schools in the Otago Education Board Archives, AG 294. There are additional records (R.1080) for Chaslands, Houipapa, Kahuika, Maclellan, Owaka Valley, Purekireki, Stuarts, Tautuku and Tawanui schools. Also Owaka School, historical notes only, 93-074; Romahapa School, historical scrapbook, 94-028, and school committee records, 1864–1936, 94-029.  
 South Clutha Presbyterian Parish, papers concerning Romahapa church, 81-067.  
 Wells, William (Kangaroo Bill), *Account book ca. 1914–16*, Catlins coaching days, bulbs, farming, poems, 92-021.

#### MAPS

Maps of the Catlins are mostly standard, though one or two of the Tautuku Bush maps are attractive.  
 Clutha District, Block I to VII, 1847; Warepa District, Block II, 1862; South Otago, composite map, 1863; Kuriwao, Warepa, Catlins & Rimu Survey Districts, N.Z. Survey, 1883; Kuriwao, Warepa, Rimu & Catlins, part of, N.Z. Survey, 1884; Clutha County, provisional map, Lands & Survey, 1939.  
 Catlins River Settlement Plan, Otago Survey Litho Press, 1870; Catlins District, part Blocks I & II, Otago Survey Litho Press, 1888; Catlins District, Sections 1 to 22, Block VIII, also Block IV, Woodland District, N.Z. Survey, 1890; Catlins District, part Blocks I, III & IV, Otago Survey Litho Press; Block II, 1900; Block IV, Lands & Survey, 1912.  
 Glenomaru District, Blocks III & VII; Block V; Block VIII, General Survey Office, 1889; Block IX, Otago Survey Litho Press, 1890; Block X, General Survey Office, 1891. Glenomaru Survey District, Lands & Survey, 1892; Block V, 1908; 1922.  
 Rimu Survey District, Block XIII, N.Z. Survey, 1893; Block XV, Otago Survey Litho Press, 1896; Sections 1 to 14, Block XIV, Otago Survey Litho Press, 1896.  
 Tautuku Bush, topographical sketch, N.Z. Survey, 1887; Tautuku District, sketch plan, N.Z. Survey, 1896; map, Lands & Survey, 1906; Block II, Otago Survey Litho Press, 1892; Block III, 1892; Block IV,

1892; Block VIII, 1895; Tautuku Native Reserve, Block XI, Otago Survey Litho Press, 1896; Tautuku Survey District, map, Lands & Survey, 1933.  
 Woodland District, topographical sketch, Lands & Survey, 1892; Homestead Settlement, Otago Survey Litho Press, 1888; Block VI, 1893; Block VII, 1892; Block X, 1893; Block XI, 1894; Woodland Survey District, Lands & Survey, 1923; 1955.  
 Kuriwao, Warepa, Catlins & Rimu Survey Districts, N.Z. Survey, 1883.  
 Owaka Valley, plan of farms, 1893.  
 Papatowai, town & suburbs, Lands & Survey, 1894; Quakerfield township, 1891, 1893; Catlin town (at head of Catlins Lake), Lands & Survey, 1888.

#### PHOTOGRAPHS

A good range of material is available in Hocken Photographs. Check the index and filing cabinets for Catlins, Catlins River; and also such headings as Agriculture, Clearing of Land, Dwellings, Football, Hinahina, Motor Vehicles, Owaka, Pounaweia, Railways, Romahapa, Sawmilling, Surveyors, Tahakopa, Tautuku, Tawanui, Tree-felling and Weddings.

#### PICTURES COLLECTION

Despite the modern scenic reputation of the Catlins, it was remote and virtually inaccessible when romantic landscape painting was at its peak in the 19th century, and even in the 20th century has not attracted large numbers of leading artists. The Hocken holds relatively few works:

Anscombe, Elizabeth (1872–1934), *Catlins Lake*, 1893, 430 x 600mm, oil.  
 Artist unknown, *An Early Homestead in the Catlins District*, 230 x 300m, oil  
 Burns, Angela (1956– ), *Catlins Window*, 1990, 550 x 450mm, acrylic on paper.  
 McLintock, Alexander Hare (1902–68), *Catlins River*, n.d., 113 x 161mm, etching.  
 Peterson, Florence Edna May (1907–89), *Bushfires in the Tahakopa Valley, Catlins*, 1967, 280 x 400mm, water-colour.

#### MUSIC

And if you want to catch the mood as you research all the written records, ask to listen to the only recording the Hocken holds with a distinctly Catlins flavour:

*Catlin River Boys, The*. HMV, 1 disc (ca. 40min), 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> rpm, Lindsay & Terry Donovan & Murray Kirk, rec. L802.

*Compiled for the Friends of the Hocken Collections by Ron Tyrrell, with the assistance of David McDonald, Beverley Booth and other staff members. Edited by George Griffiths. Designed by Gary Blackman.*