

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2008



REMARKABLES LODGE

QUEENSTOWN • NEW ZEALAND

HISTORIC QUEENSTOWN

THE CHARM OF THE OLD WITH THE THRILL OF THE NEW

"Thank you so much for your splendid hospitality in this peaceful and lovely place. And thank you for arranging the helicopter trip and memorable jet boat voyage. We hope to be back one day." Edward & Jeanette, Guernsey, CI

REMARKABLES LODGE PEOPLE PROFILE

Colleen co-owns the lodge with her partner Brian. Born into the hospitality business, her parents were hoteliers in the UK, but after ten years sailing round the world Colleen and Brian made New Zealand their home. Running a charter yacht had its rewards but Colleen appreciates the lodge for not having to move the scenery every day – after all with views like Remarkables Mountains why would you want to change the scenery.

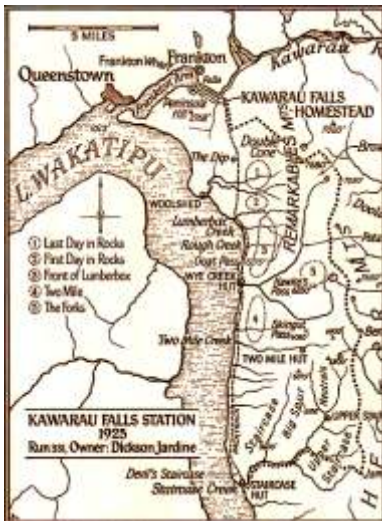
Having opted for a life ashore Colleen now supervises the lodge's extensive cottage gardens – something of a challenge in a climate which spans 30 degrees centigrade (90 F) in the summer to minus 10 degrees (15 F) overnight in the winter.

The lodge's library is also Colleen's responsibility so expect an extensive range of travel books as well as many books about New Zealand history, geology, flora and fauna.



Colleen enjoying the lodge gardens

LODGE HISTORY



Though Queenstown is a modern bustling town these days only 150 years ago it was a frontier town. Neighbouring Arrowtown was at the forefront of gold mining and money from gold was used to buy land to establish the early farms.

Remarkables Station – where the lodge is located – was particularly challenging because of the rugged nature of the mountains.

Nonetheless the Jardine family made the land work and turned it into a prosperous farm which allowed them to build the original homestead which forms the basis of the lodge.

Cap' Jardine built the homestead based on a Frank Lloyd Wright design and many original features have been preserved (though of course the original building was not equipped with a sauna and hydrotherapy spa).

Cap was a fascinating character – a sickly child who spent

much of his childhood in bed, he acquired a love of literature and developed his artistic side. He wrote a delightful book describing the early days when the sheep were mustered on horseback. The cover uses one of his own paintings.



Remarkables Station still farms sheep, but deer are the main stock these days and the lodge is surrounded by paddocks where red deer graze.

Also the lodge wine list includes a Three Fires Pinot Gris wine grown on the slopes of Remarkables Mountains named after the musters on Remarkables Station in the 1920s who used to light three fires to signal to the skipper of the Earnslaw (the steamship that still operates on the lake) that they needed more supplies.



A poetic history of the estate

OFF SEASON RATES

More and more overseas guests are discovering that traveling to New Zealand outside the busy summer season has many advantages. Fewer crowds and more flexibility over arrangements are just a couple of benefits. In the Queenstown area we also have settled weather and glorious seasonal colours. May brings reds and golds as the trees acquire their autumn colours and September is marked by frothy spring blossoms. From June to August we have sparkling white snow – with the added fun of skiing.

From May to September we offer a special rate equivalent to three nights for the price of two. To allow flexibility with regards to the number of nights booked, we have reduced our tariff to 2/3 of the summer rate per night. And for families we offer a 50 percent rate for a second room for the children. See www.remarkables.co.nz/Family_friendly.html

NEW PRODUCT

HELICOPTER TO HISTORIC SKIPPERS CANYON

Another historic area in the region is Skippers Canyon. Gold discovered in the Shotover river drew prospectors and Skippers Road, built between 1883 and 1890, was considered an engineering feat in its day. Miles of schist stonewalling, complete with their striking capping stones, curve their way through Skippers Canyon. Rental cars are not allowed on the road but there are 4WD tours available.

However from the lodge guests can be collected by helicopter to fly to Skippers Canyon. The old mining equipment is still visible and the canyon is stunningly scenic. Board a jet boat for a trip through the canyon to the museum and



Skippers Canyon



The vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw - our 'Lady of the Lake'

learn of the history, hardships and successes of the pioneers. You can even try your hand at gold panning.

To complete the day in the afternoon join the vintage steamship Earnslaw, one of the last remaining coal fired passenger carrying vessels operating in the southern hemisphere, for a cruise across the lake to the historic Walter Peak High Country Farm for lunch and a visit to the homestead and to see the sheep shearers in action.

For a two night package including these activities see www.remarkables.co.nz/HistoricQtn.html

FACILITIES AND FLOWERS

At this time of year the lodge gardens are a mass of flowers of every colour and scent and graciously supply freshly cut flowers for guest rooms and the lodge. Although the showy perennials put on a splendid display it is the roses that often attract most comment. The lodge has a number of old fashioned roses, no longer available in garden stores, but flowering abundantly year after year in the lodge gardens.



Pretty roses and vibrant phlox create a colourful scene

One of the reasons the gardens are so prolific is that the lodge is blessed with a very sunny position. The lodge is on the east side of Lake Wakatipu so keeps the sun until it sets in the evening, long after downtown Queenstown has slipped into shade.

The gardens provide a back drop for the facilities around the garden and it is hard to imagine a prettier setting for a swimming pool. The tennis court too is surrounded by trees and there are many shady seating areas under the fruit trees. The spa and sun lounge face north so benefit from our long sunny days - some days guests choose not to leave the lodge at all.

The Otago climate - hot dry summers - is perfect for growing lavender and there is an abundance of these fragrant plants around the lodge. As part of our turn down service fresh lavender is placed on the pillows and bottles of sparklingly clear and chemical-free mountain water on the bedside table. It is thanks to our mountain waterfall that we are able to irrigate the gardens throughout the summer drought.



Crisp white linen adorned with fresh lavender

NEWS EVENT

ARROWTOWN AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Marking the close of the main summer season is the Arrowtown Autumn Festival. This lovely historical town (15 minutes from the lodge) hosts a week long festival which includes: a street parade, horse and pony country fair, festival golf tournament, 'Autumn in the Arrow' Art Auction, street entertainers, guided historical walks, gold panning plus music by the Arrow Miners Band which would have to be New Zealand's most mature band, with a combined age of 655. The band was formed in 1985 by musicians who lived in and around Arrowtown, and over half the original members still remain.

We suggest to all our guests that they find time to visit Arrowtown at any time of year. The museum is a delight and the main street is lined with lovely cafes, shops and art galleries. **Friday 25 April to 4 May 2008**



The Arrow Miners Band - and support artistes



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