10YP 2015-2025 // FULL SUBMISSIONS // 8 MAY 2015 // DICKSON, GRAHAM

Dickson, Graham

UPPER CLUTHA HISTORIC RECORDS SOCIETY



Would you like to comment on any other aspect of this draft 10 Year Plan?

Request for an annual grant of \$1,500 to assist in ongoing work: to fund materials, operating costs and to assist with the cost of recently installed shelving (please see full submission for all details)

Upper Clutha Historic Records Society Inc. | Secretary: Graham Taylor

The Chief Executive Officer,
Queenstown Lakes District Council,
For the attention of the
Wanaka Community Board.

The Upper Clutha Historic Records Society is an incorporated society, which has as its objectives:

- 1. To collect and preserve historical records in the Upper Clutha District,
- 2. That it uses its powers to advise concerning historic aspects of the district,
- 3. The preservation of, and the education in, all aspects of historic research.

The society has an active membership of about 20, mainly older residents of Wanaka, who have been collecting and cataloguing records of the district since 1985.

Over time, the society has amassed a considerable amount of material including farm records, family histories, letters, firms' account books, minutes of organisations, school records, maps and photographs. These form an invaluable and irreplaceable record of the district's history.

The Council has recognised the society as the appropriate body for this function in the Upper Clutha Area and when the new Wanaka library was built, the council, appreciating the value of the collection and the importance of the work of the society, provided a dedicated fireproof room in the new library for the use of the society and storage of its records. These records are available to members of the public on request. There is considerable demand from the public for access to the records, mainly when there is commemoration of events such as centennials, or by people tracing their history. It is important that these local records remain local where they are accessible to this community. The society had a display at the recent A&P show in Wanaka where there was considerable interest in the society's work.

The Society has purchased and installed "Past Perfect" as a database, the same as used by a number of Museums in Otago, and is in the on-going process of transferring the card file record system onto the database. The written records have now all been entered into the database, and work is proceeding on photos and maps.

As the collection has grown, it has become necessary to improve the storage systems in the records room in the library, and the society is in the process of purchasing and installing some better shelving. The current shelving came from the old library in Ardmore Street and some items have never been entirely satisfactory or efficient in space utilisation. Grants have been received from a number of organisations to help with the cost of the shelving but some input from the society has been required, depleting our limited reserves.

The society with its small and elderly membership, has very limited access to funds to deal with the ongoing operating costs of maintaining and protecting the record collection and adding to it as new items are made available and to deal with enquiries. If the collection is to be maintained and continue to be accessible to the Wanaka and wider communities, some additional funding would seem to be desirable.

It is even possible that in the longer term, the collection may be incorporated into the library if the society found itself unable to give the collection the care it needs. It is important that the collection and its cataloguing be not allowed to fall into a state of neglect.

It is therefore requested that the council consider providing a small annual grant to the society to assist in its ongoing work: to fund materials, operating costs and to assist with the cost of the recently installed shelving. Such grants have been received from time to time in the past.

It is considered that an annual grant of \$1500 would be appropriate and it is requested that such a sum be included in the Annual Plan.

Graham Dickson

GAPL

President Upper Clutha Historic Records Society

9 April 2015