

Balclutha Lawn Cemetery



BLOCK 6

BLOCK 5

BLOCK 2

MEMORIAL
BEAMS

YOU ARE HERE

BLOCK 4A

BLOCK 4

BLOCK 4

ASH BEAM

BLOCK 3

BLOCK 1

MILTON

HIGHWAY

History of the Balclutha Lawn Cemetery

Welcome to the Balclutha Lawn Cemetery, which was established in 1946. The cemetery layout map on this kiosk is designed to assist you to locate the burial plot of your loved ones. Burial records are available for viewing at the Clutha i-SITE, 4 Clyde Street, Balclutha, or from the Clutha District Council's main administration office, 1 Rosebank Terrace, Balclutha.

From 1868 to 1946, the Balclutha Cemetery located on Totara Avenue was the only official cemetery for Balclutha.

In early 1944, the Medical Officer of Health was invited to Balclutha to inspect ground for a new lawn cemetery and on 30 August, Council resolved to take the land required under the Public Works Act.

Agnes Murray, 69, formerly of Dunedin, was the first person laid to rest here on 17 September 1946.

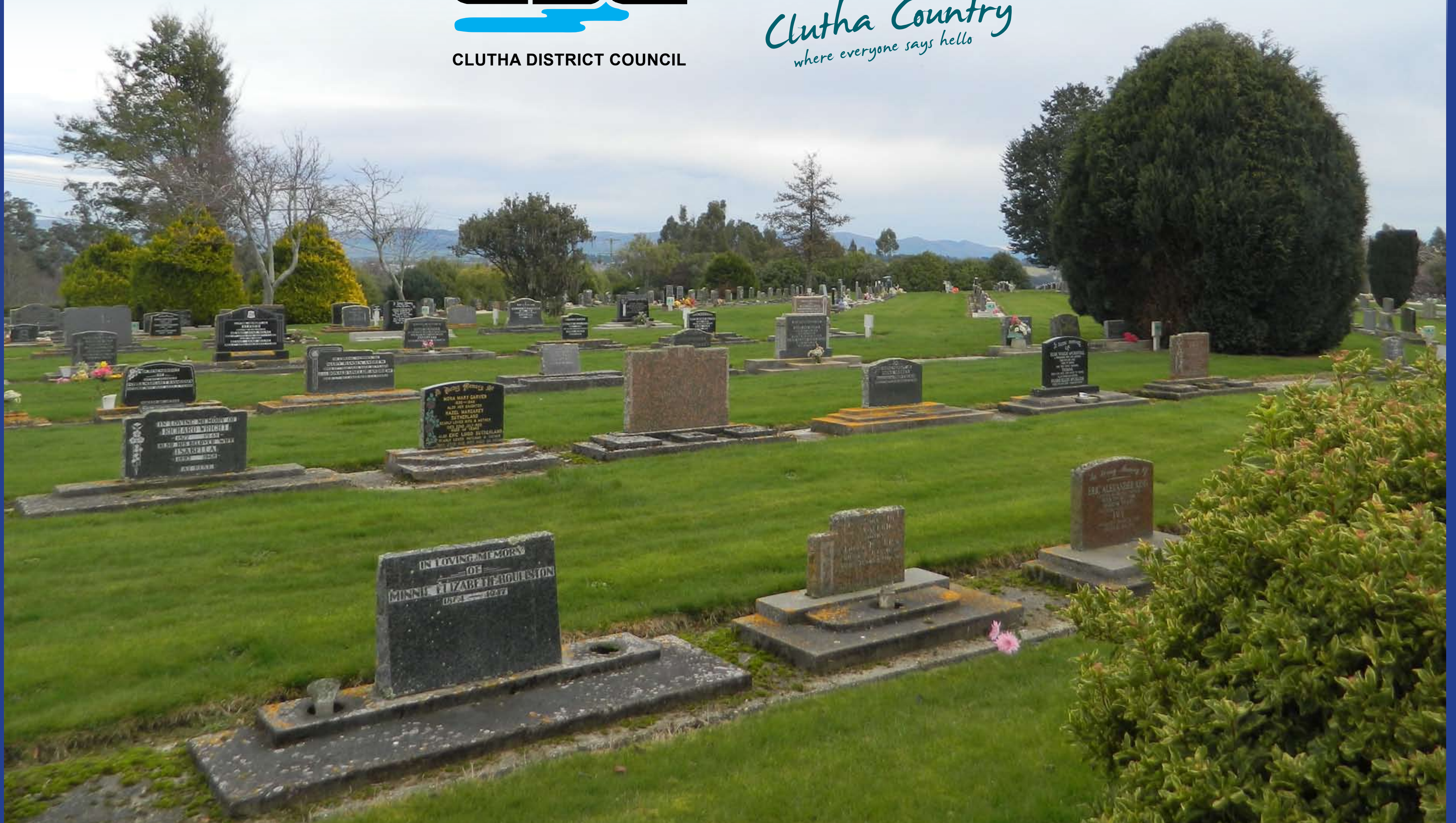
Major improvements were made at both the old and new cemeteries at the start of the new millennium.

The Memorial Beam at this cemetery was installed in 2001 for people whose loved ones may have been laid to rest elsewhere. A year later, a new access road was put in by the beam and new planting undertaken along the eastern boundary.

In 2009, the Veterans Association of New Zealand

donated two large granite headstones to be placed at Returned Services Cemeteries in the district. These have since been placed at the RSA Cemeteries in Balclutha and Tapanui and are an important reminder that the sacrifices made are not forgotten, both now and in the future.

An unveiling ceremony of this kiosk was held in 2010 involving descendants of Balclutha's founding citizen James McNeil. This kiosk originally housed a panel including information about James McNeil, Balclutha's founding citizen in 1852, and his son John McNeil who became the first Mayor of Balclutha in 1870. Clutha District Council has since installed an information kiosk at the Balclutha Cemetery on Totara Avenue – the McNeils' final resting place – and as such has relocated the McNeil panel to the kiosk at that cemetery.



Remembering Our Heritage

The son of Fuzi Kanki and Kazuye Tsukigawa, **Kazuyuki Kiyoehei Tsukigawa** was born in 1874 in Konoura-mura, on Uku Island, Japan. In his formative years, Mr. Tsukigawa found an interest in a career at sea while working as an apprentice seaman with his uncle. This was the catalyst for his many seafaring adventures that resulted in a journey on the vessel the Clan McLeod from New York to New Zealand in 1895.

After a dispute on arrival with the ship's Captain, the then 20 year old K.K. Tsukigawa walked off the vessel in Dunedin, leaving behind most of his possessions and three months' wages. He then waited in the hills of Brockville until the Clan McLeod had sailed, leaving him free to make a life in a new country.



Kazuyuki Kiyoehei Tsukigawa

K.K. Tsukigawa spent his first years in Otago working in a variety of professions including a position as an agricultural engineer at the Clydevale estate under one Mr. James Mitchell.

After a four month return journey to Japan in 1902 he returned once more to Clydevale and two years later crucially accepted a written offer to be an able-bodied seaman on the Clutha River Board steamer Clyde under Captain John Butler.

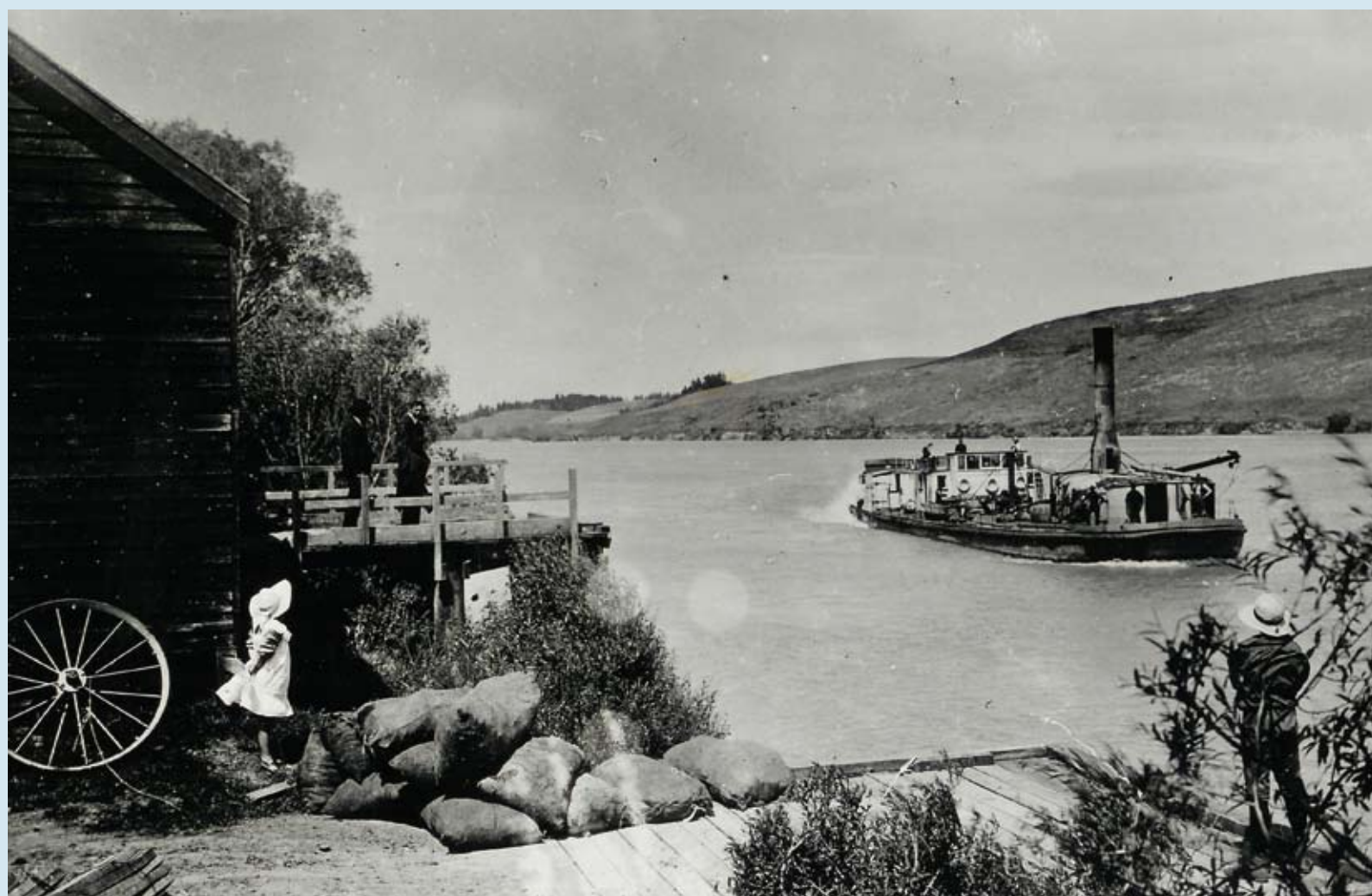
"anyone could be rich but being a ship's captain in a foreign country would be a very honorable thing for my country"
(K.K. Tsukigawa memoir)

Mr. Tsukigawa became a respected member of the community in Balclutha, his wedding in 1913 to Lt. Adelaide Clarke of the Salvation Army attracting 600 witnesses. His continuous demonstrations of generosity and heroism confirmed his strong values and a personal desire to demonstrate the valour of the Japanese people.

His fondness for his homeland resulted in journeys to see Japanese naval vessels visiting New Zealand and a substantial last expedition to Japan in 1936.

The last run of the steamer P.S. Clutha was in 1939 and Mr. Tsukigawa resigned from the River Board in 1941, just months before Japan would be at war with New Zealand. During the conflict his standing in the community and views on the war retained the respect of the citizens of Balclutha. The Tsukigawas had three sons Togo, Sydney Nogi and Ito. During the Second World War Sydney fought with valour in a New Zealand uniform during the African and European campaigns.

Since his passing in 1948, the reputation of Kazuyuki Kiyoehei Tsukigawa and interest in his life story has generated publications, documentaries and even dedications in the township of Balclutha. Most recently in 2007 a new subdivision was named Tsukigawa Terrace in his honour.



The P.S. Clyde approaching Beggs landing at Pukeawa

The next four years would be very important for Mr. Tsukigawa, most significantly by officially joining the Salvation Army by 1906, where he later achieved the rank of corps sergeant major. The Salvation Army continued to have a deep impact on the rest of his life.

One year later he was one of the first citizens of Japan to be naturalised as a New Zealand citizen. Then his career was advanced greatly when he earned his master's certificate, entitling him to navigate in harbours, lakes and rivers in 1908.

Mr. Tsukigawa's thirty five year career on board paddle steamers on the Clutha River started with seven years on the vessel P.S. Clyde. He then went on to become remembered fondly as the Captain of the P.S. Clutha that he worked on for over quarter of a century.



The crew of the P.S. Clutha with Captain K.K. Tsukigawa at right