



Welcome to the Tapanui Cemetery

The map to the right is designed to assist you to locate the burial plot of your loved ones. Burial records are available for viewing at the Clutha District Council Tapanui Service Centre, Suffolk Street, Tapanui, or from Whitechapel Gifts, 13 Forest Street, Tapanui. If you have any difficulties, or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Service Centre on 03 204 8306.

The history of a country township is written in its Quiet Acre and there is no more humbling experience than to walk around the plots noting all that belongs to the past.

It was reported that during the year 1869 a progress committee was formed to endeavour to improve the town and it was about this time the Government granted four acres of land to be used exclusively as a cemetery. Five managers were chosen and entrusted to supervise and lay out the area. An artificial mound was created in the centre on which was planted the Wellingtonia Tree (giant Sequoia) which still remains a focus of the cemetery. On the east boundary a hedge of hazelnut trees was planted and rhododendrons feature throughout the grounds.

In 1878 however, the cemetery became dilapidated and it was the well known early settler William Quin who rescued the site and transformed it into this resting place of beauty and tranquillity.

Along the back boundary (Block 1) are the oldest graves in the cemetery. Originally, those of the Roman Catholic faith were buried in the southern corner. Hard by the fenceline is the sunken, neglected grave of Am Sing Tong, a Chinese gold-miner. It was reported that he was murdered, but the case was inconclusive. He died in 1905 aged 66 years - there is no marker for his grave.

It is noteworthy that three members of the pioneering Keir family died in 1871. The Reverend James Urie, Tapanui's first Presbyterian Minister and his daughter were also buried in 1871.

The Returned Soldiers Corner is the well-tended restful and orderly site for those returned from battles fought and won. *Sista Viator* – Stop Wayfarer and Remember Them

In this cemetery we may observe the creativity of the sculptor. All styles can be seen - angels poised in flight such as the Milligan Memorial – the Open Book was much favoured and then there are the simpler headstones. Unfortunately many of the inscriptions have worn away. The first settlers of Kelso, William and Sussanah Mayow of Tasmania, share a plain plot. The Kelso Dunnetts rest beneath an imposing square slab, dominated by a tall column, suitably engraved and matching this is the Herbert memorial.

The entry gates (sketch to the left by Annette Dickison) are a fine example of delicate and intricate wrought iron work. They were a gift from the Howat family in memory of their parents John and Margaret Howat, pioneer settlers. John was an early sawmiller in Tapanui and Margaret, a daughter of the original Dickison family who settled in the area.

We invite you to rest and reflect, to wander and read the inscriptions and to listen to the beautiful song of the bellbird.





Block 18

Block 17

Block 16

Block 7

Block 2

Block 3

Block 9
(RSA Section)

Block 4

Block 10

Block 5

Block 11

Block 6

Block 1

YOU ARE HERE