

Lake 1883 LEAKE 1983

THE STORY OF
LAKE LEAKE'S FIRST HUNDRED YEARS



MUNICIPALITY OF CAMPBELL TOWN, TASMANIA

LAKE LEAKE

1883 — 1983

Tasmania

This booklet was produced by the Campbell Town Municipal Council to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the construction of a dam at Kearney's Bog which held back water to form Lake Leake and so provide the Town of Campbell Town and surrounds a permanent water supply.

1883 TRUSTEES

Charles Leake - Chairman	Frederick Hart
Robert Jones	F. A. Padfield
David Taylor	T.H. Power - Trust Secretary

1983 Municipal Council

A. W. Vaughan - Warden	A. R. Evans
D. G. Gatenby	K. J. Headlam
J. W. MacKinnon	A. H. Oakley
D. A. Roberts	D. Taylor
D. M. Wickham	G. T. Morgan - Council Clerk

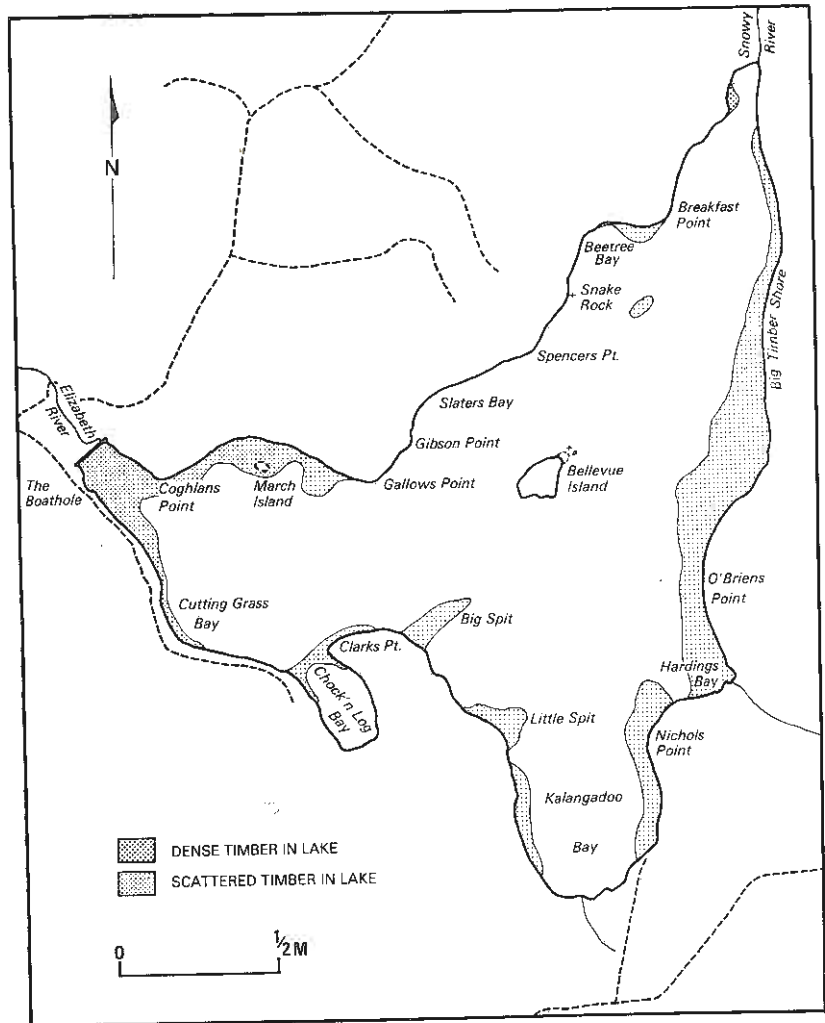


Charles Leake.

Lake Leake

1883 — 1983

THE STORY OF LAKE LEAKE'S FIRST HUNDRED YEARS



LAKE LEAKE

Circa 1910

Tasmanian Lands Department.

Preface

Lake Leake is a phenomenon, being at the time of completion the largest man made dam in Australia and more importantly still being financed by the community itself without Government Funds. Needless to say this did not happen overnight and the Campbell Town Council hopes that by this publication it will be recognising the great debt we owe Mr. Chas Leake and his four co-Trustees for giving us the virtual gift of a permanent water supply. Having a water supply is one thing, keeping it is quite another. Council has been most alarmed at the loss of water storage in other areas caused by silting from "clear felling" operations. To create a filter against moving dirt, Council has declared a non-clearing perimeter right round the lake and beside the Snowy River, and one large forest industry company has been most co-operative in helping cut down silt. We sincerely hope the Forestry Commission uses the ample power it has to make sure everyone abides by the rules and prevents a calamity.

With the advance of time it has become apparent that we need even more water to keep the municipality up to its potential productivity and one can only hope that the Government after seeing this self help effort will be the first to give help when our needs become greater.

In closing may I express the Council's and my own personal thanks to Cr. David Roberts for all the time and effort he has put into producing this worth while booklet.

A. W. VAUGHAN, Warden
Campbell Town Municipality
Tasmania

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Mr. Vern Darke } Fisheries Association

The Hon.

W. C. Hodgman } A Lake Leake Fisherman
Mr. G. Willson } Photographs — Dick Murphy
Mr. P. G. Lockett } Photographs

Mr. G. T. Morgan } Town Water Supply
Mr. K. Fletcher } Wrights Tombstone
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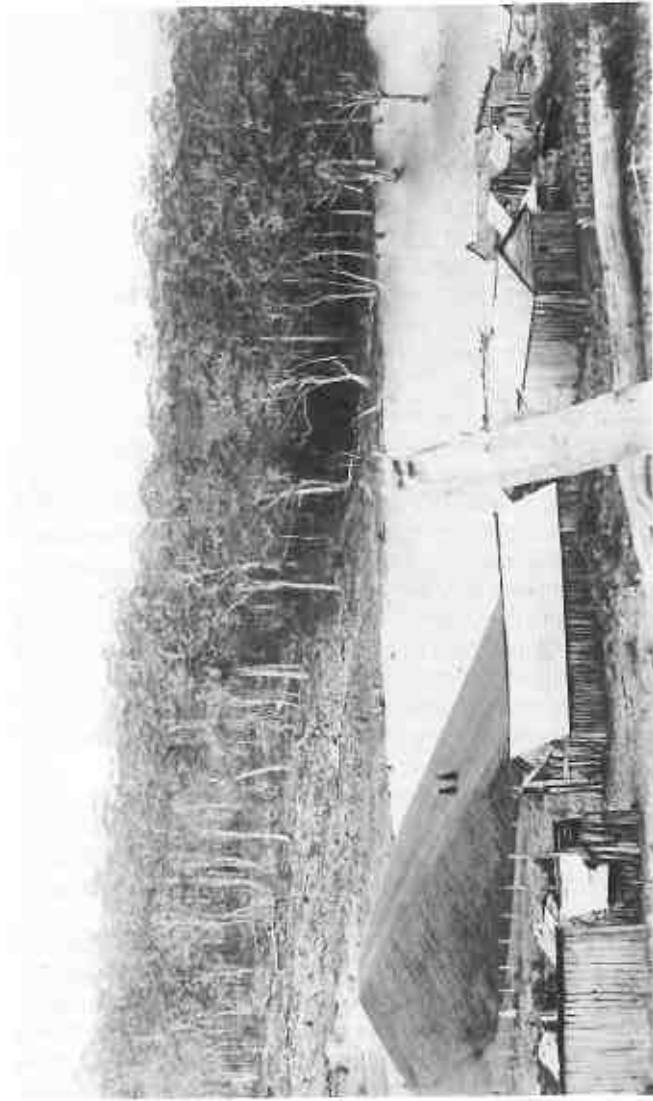
LAKE LEAKE DAM

The first mention of Lake Leake in official documents occurred in 1842. There were two men of the name of MARZETTI living in the Campbell Town district, one of which drew up a plan to dam the Elizabeth River. This plan was reported to have been sent to Hobart but unfortunately was never found.

The first constructive record was on March 8, 1867, six months after the inauguration of municipal government in the district, when Councillor Allison presented a petition to the Council. The prayer of the petition was — The Council send an engineer to the upper reaches of the Elizabeth River with the object of discovering the possibility of building a dam to give the inhabitants a supply of fresh water — there is very little reference to the petition in the council minutes apart from an old committee minute book written by Charles Leake and called "Dam across Elizabeth River Committee". This states that the committee had its first meeting on March 8, 1869, (exactly two years after the deputation) and was aborted "not enough members to form a quorum".

On July 3, 1871 a select committee was appointed to enquire into the probable cost of constructing a reservoir. This consisted of Messrs. J. Taylor, J. Swan, G. H. Fletcher and Padfield and their first discussion was to instruct Mr. Jackson, a surveyor, to survey an area for a lake and report.

Mr. Adam Jackson lived at Williamwood, Ross and was a warden of that municipality. His report was extremely favourable to the use of Kearney's Bay as a reservoir and he recommended that 1,200 acres of this region be purchased. This acquiring of the land for Lake Leake was easier said than done, for now began the first of many frustrating confrontations



Lake Leake Dam construction.

for the men who were charged with bringing this dream of fresh water for the Campbell Town district to fruition.

The period from the Jackson report until the ultimate formation of the Water Trust in 1879 (8 years) was, according to the records, a disjointed one, with numerous committees appointed, public meeting and petitions presented. During this time the name Charles Leake began to stand out and his dealings with the Government and the local opponents of the scheme were a highlight, and his letters to the press under the non-de-plume of The Junction (he lived near the junction of the Macquarie and Elizabeth Rivers) were very close to libelous.

The Council's main concern, of course, during this period was how to finance this project. A special Water Act would have to be passed by the Government to enable the Council to rate a Water District. This was eventually done on December 16, 1879.

The Act placed the whole responsibility of the scheme on the shoulders of five landowners who were to be elected at, and by, a meeting of landholders. This is what they were required to do. Collect the sum of money the Act stipulated they could borrow and spend (£7,000) acquire the land and have the dam built!

The meeting to elect the trustees was held on February 5, 1879. An extract from the Water Trusts original minute book of the meeting — "Minutes of meeting of landholders within the Campbell Town Water District held this day at Keans Hotel, Campbell Town for the election from among such landholders of five persons to be trustees of the district for the purpose of the act." "To increase the supply of Water to the Elizabeth River for the benefit of the inhabitants of Campbell Town".

"Moved that Mr. A. Findlay do take the chair". Ten landholders were nominated for the position with the following being elected with large majorities — Frederick Hart 197 votes, Charles Leake 193, David Taylor 189, T. A. Padfield 180, Robert Jones 176. There were 1,203 votes recorded. At their first meeting a week later the trustees elected Mr.



Lake Leake dam and Kearney's farm.

Charles Leake as chairman and appointed Mr. T. H. Power, the Council Clerk, trust secretary.

Positive action could now be taken with the appointment of the Trust and the first requirement was the acquisition of the necessary land. The land needed was Kearney's Bog of 1,200 acres belonging to the estate of George Meredith, and 300 acres belonging to Mr. John Lord. Both owners were approached but it was to take two years before settlement was obtained. Mr. Lord offered his 300 acres at thirty shillings per acre which the trustees hastily accepted but Mr. Meredith wanted £3 per acre plus £1,200 compensation so the long confrontation started. First the acreage was disputed so another survey by a Mr. Cotton was done and a difference of 35 acres was found from the original survey of Jackson. Next, Messrs Dobson and Mitchell were asked to act as the Trustees' solicitors and a Mr. Thos. Parramore of Beaufront, Ross was asked to arbitrate. Various valuations were obtained and even the timing of the valuation was argued, for at times

the Bog was a useless bog but then months later good grazing. An umpire was eventually appointed, The Honourable Nicholas John Brown, and an agreement to arbitrate was signed on February 11, 1881. The date of the arbitration was January 1, 1882 with the price to the Water Trust of £1,962.13.10, which was not paid for until July 28, 1883 so a £190.10.11 interest bill was added.

After the signing of the agreement to arbitrate, the trustees asked Dobson and Mitchell to approach Messrs Christophersen and James of Hobart Town, asking if they would prepare plans and specifications for a dam. These were supplied at a cost of £87.10.0 and about the same time a fee of £5.0.0 was paid to Mr. FINCHAM, the Government Engineer-in-chief. The Trustees required this officer to approve of the dam site and the plans and specifications.

Tenders for the work were called in June, 1881, closing on June 30. They were J. & T. Gunn £5,487.2.4, Tas. Hills £5,051.4.8, M. Boland £5,579.0.0, C. W. Cheverton £4,489.1.10. No tender was accepted, for a legal technicality arose. After the trust had agreed to purchase Mr. Lord's land at 30/- an acre he died without the transfer taking place. It was on a portion of this land that the dam would be built and the material for building obtained. Mr. Power wrote — "should the contractor enter upon the ground he might be deemed by Mr. Lord's executors as a trespasser and ordered off."

Reading between the lines it appears that the Trust used this technicality to give them time to ponder their worries as a major financial problem had arisen. The original committee appointed to make an estimate of costs of the project to assist the Government in drawing up the Act did not include the cost of the land in their figures, as they presumed the Government would compensate Meredith with a grant of land elsewhere. This the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Reebey, refused. The Act stated that £7,000 was the limit the Trust could spend and having seen the tender prices, plus knowing the cost of the land and various other costs, there is no doubt that the Trustees must have had serious thoughts about carrying on

with the project. To add to their worries some of the landholders in the Water District were very vocal in their opposition to not so much the scheme, but the fact of being rated. In reading the Trust's correspondence of that period, it was very obvious that the determination and dominance of Mr. Leake came to the fore. Brushing their problems aside, the Trust eventually accepted a tender from Mr. Clark, proprietor of an iron foundry in Hobart, for £4,841 and work commenced on December 1, 1881. It is not recorded how this tender was received nor of any "turning the first sod" ceremony being enacted but on March 15, 1882 the minutes show Mr. Clark was paid a progress payment of £404.0.10½.

At the commencement of work the Trust had no money whatsoever. The first rate of the Campbell Town Water District was struck on February 19, 1881, and the first demands posted on July 9 of that year. A small overdraft was arranged but the Trust were unable to borrow the £7,000 from any source. They tried to sell debentures but received no offers. The Secretary wrote to the solicitors stating that the trustees felt they would have to stop the works, but the fear of rendering themselves liable for an action by the contractor deterred them. Finally the Trustees co-opted Mr. John Taylor of Winton, Campbell Town and Mr. James Gibson of Bell Vue, Epping Forest to join them as a deputation to the Government and to ask for a loan of £7,000. This was a deputation of respected and influential men and they were able to have the application favourably received, but they had to sign promissory notes to the Government and pay 5% interest.

During this period of financial worries the works at Kearney's Bog was proceeding. On the payroll were the engineer, Christophensen, Clark and his manager, Mr. Wiggins, Mr. Hall, clerk of works, seventy odd men, plus horses and bullocks. Various problems cropped up at the works frequently, the main one being Clark's request for progress payments, many of which the Trustees refused as they were not accompanied by the Engineer's certificate. By October, 1882 it became evident that the works would not be

finished by the contract date (December 1882) and that the cost would not be contained to the estimate.

In the new year the Trust was informed that Clark was bankrupt and on January 27, 1882 he was given his final payment of £280 of which £115 was held back being a penalty of £5 /day for non-completion of his contract. From this date the Trust and the engineer took charge of the construction. Instead of lump payments to the contractor, the Trust account books now featured payments for such items as flour, meat, tobacco, cement, fodder, wages etc.

In May, 1883 another problem appeared for the Trustees. They had no valves to control the flow of water through the dam. The providing of these had been in Clark's contract and as he had the only foundry in Tasmania capable of making them an agreement between Clark's Bank and creditors with the Trust was made. Clark made the valves for which he was paid £180 on October 12 and they were an excellent job,



First flooding, 1883.

weighing over seven tons and only now, 100 years later, the Campbell Town Council are making arrangements to have them replaced.

On November 11, 1883 the last engineers report from the works was presented at the Trust's meeting. It was number 79. The dam was completed but lots more had to be done before water would reach Campbell Town. Land was required for the Trust to build a channel to take the water from the dam to the Elizabeth River. This land was owned by Messrs Edward Lord and Geo Parramore. Mr. Lord gave fifteen feet for a channel and Mr. Parramore half a chain. As the channel was not dug by the time the dam was completed permission had to be obtained to let the water flood what was called Greys Marsh. Permission cost £10.

The next crisis facing the Trustees was the disposal of the construction machinery, implements and animals which had been left at the works. They had them carted to Campbell Town by T. Richardson at £2/ton and then proceeded to sell them. Apart from the sale of the pug mill and steam engine, no other records were kept. Clark then proceeded to claim from the Trustees and an awkward situation arose which eventually finished up in Court. The case was heard in June, 1884 before Acting Chief Justice Dobson and the verdict was against the Trust and was for £270 to the Plaintiff with £221.1.7 costs against it.

February 23, 1884 was the date of the important meeting at which Mr. Taylor reported that he had opened the valves and let the water go. It must have been a great day indeed for those gentlemen (Messrs Leake, Taylor, Hart, Padfield and Jones) for they had encountered crisis after crisis, opposition and criticism, not to mention the time they had given to the project. With the exit of Clark, Trust members took over supervision of the works and numerous trips to the site were made to pay the men etc. Trips to Hobart (a 2-3 day effort) seeing Government officials and solicitors were frequent. Two of the members, Messrs Leake and Taylor, gave generous donations, £1,000 and £500 respectively. Very little appreciation from the

inhabitants of the district for the Trustees is evident in the records. The first of the original five resigned at that meeting. Mr. Padfield was leaving the district and Mr. James Gibson was elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. Robert Jones died in 1886 and a minute of appreciation was recorded at the December meeting. Mr. Leake died in 1889. There was no reference to his passing in the minute book which is hard to understand and he was not to have it confirmed that his name was to be given to the lake. The Lake had been referred to in the minutes as Kearney's Bog or the Works and it was not until a letter from caretaker Wise, referring to Lake Leake, in 1889 was received by the Trust that first mention was made. Secretary Power used the title Lake Leake for the first time officially in December 1890. The trustees intended to have a metal plate set in the stonework of the dam commemorating the opening of the dam but it was never done. This is to be rectified by the Council of 1983 with the unveiling of a plaque at the dam site. As the late G. A. Findlay, an ex-Warden of Campbell Town, so aptly put, "The lasting memorial to the five citizens who were responsible for and administered the construction of a dam which held back water to form, at that time, the largest made lake in Australia, is the perpetual stream of pure water passing under the Old Red Bridge at Campbell Town".

The final tasks for the Trust to complete after the opening were to construct the water race to the Elizabeth River and to finalise their ever present problem of paying for the project. The water race seemed to be a repetition of the building of the dam. Tenders were called but none accepted as they were too high and the Trust as usual short of money. Eventually in September 1885 a contract was left to D. Callaghan, but here again the contractor lost interest in the work and it was then passed over to Mr. E. Richardson who completed a very satisfactory job for the sum of £987.2.0 in 1886. Here for the first time the Government helped the Trust financially and a grant of £1,500 was allotted, allowing the Trustees to pay for the race and other works which needed doing such as paving under the bell mouth etc. On the financial side it is rather

difficult to ascertain from the books how all costs were met. The total scheme cost £12,370 and the total receipts over the construction period were £10,000 —

Government Loan	£7,000.0.0
Government Grant	£1,500.0.0
Gifts C. Leake	£1,000.0.0
Gifts D. Taylor	£500.0.0

The £7,000 was paid by the issue of 140 debentures of £50 each. A special rate of 8 pence was struck for the purpose of paying them off in 20 years and this was achieved in January, 1904. The other £2,370 was apparently payed off from the income of the original Water rate which varied from 1 pence to 6 pence during the period that the project was being paid for.

The original promoters of the project were called the Trustees, in later years the Water Trust, and finally the Campbell Town Water Trust. On March 28, 1941 this Trust ceased to exist and by Government decree became vested in the Campbell Town Council.

The following is a word for word copy of a pamphlet printed after the undertaking was completed:—

Describing the Works

The Works, which were constructed to form the reservoir, consist of an embankment 530 feet in length, and of a stone, or masonry byewash weir in continuation across the river or valley 200 feet in length. the embankment is made wholly of clay put down in nine inch layers. This was consolidated with the four ton "ramming" roller being drawn backwards and forwards along it by a team of bullocks. Before this embankment was started the soil over the area was stripped down to the clay, and this clay foundation covered, or well wetted, with water.

A central puddle trench and wall runs longitudinally the whole length of the embankment and from eight feet below the centre of the dam to within three feet of the top of the embankment.

The inner side of the dam's slope is covered by eight inches of broken metal, or "Whinstone" to prevent erosion by the waves eating into the clay.

The width at the base of the embankment is about 150 feet. Slope on water side three in one, and on side away from lake two in one. Width at top twelve feet, and nicely gravelled. The engineer was pleased to note that the height of this embankment lessened by only one inch in the first twelve months.

The end of the embankment next the outlet is supported by massive whinstone masonry wing walls. The foundation of these walls goes down to rock bottom.

The overflow weir, or byewash, is of solid stone and cement nearly 100 feet long, three feet thick at top, and five feet six inches to seven feet six inches thick at bottom. It is about three feet high at the east end, seventeen feet at the outlet. The outlet end of this overflow weir butts onto another wall sixty feet long running at right angles. The other two walls, also running at right angles from the weir (L.F.), are required to give additional stability to the main weir, and also as a termination for the water cushions which are constructed below the main weir at different levels. The water cushions are extensive masonry troughs seven feet wide and four feet deep running nearly the whole length of the main overflow weir, and adjoining the same; thus all water flowing over the weir falls into them, and in this manner breaks its force, and so prevents damage to the works. The walls of the water cushions are of solid masonry and the floors of same are pitched with large pitches set in cement, and underlayered with a twelve inch layer of cement concrete. The water is taken from the cushion troughs by drains to the river, keeping the overflow water away from the outlet construction etcetera. This weir can discharge 900 million gallons per day.

The outlet works deserve particular attention as they are by far the most extensive in the colony. A massive wall is built between the weir and the embankment in line with the weir. This wall has been taken down to bedrock and is twenty six feet high and four feet thick. The outlet — of wrought iron — four feet in diameter and eight feet six inches in length

passes through this wall almost level with the bed of the lake. A cast iron shield fixed to the centre, and forming portion of the pipe prevents any movement in the same, and effectively prevents the water from percolating between it and the surrounding masonry. The valves are on the lake side of the outlet pipe. They are enclosed in a cast iron case nine feet high by five feet. The two valves are cast iron measuring four feet six inches by two feet three inches and are lifted by worm gears, the iron shaft of which is two and a half inches in diameter. Cast iron bellmouths of a ton weight each are fixed to the inner and outer ends of the outlet pipe. A wrought iron grating six feet in diameter covers the intake end of the discharge pipe to protect the valves.

The original contractor — Mr. John Clark of the Excelsior Foundry, New Wharf, Hobart, made these valves etcetera from Mr. Christophensen's designs.

The embankment of the dam contains 60,000 loads of clay and puddle, 2,500 super yards for the outlet slope, 850 cubic yards of two and a half inch broken metal on the inner slope with 200 cubic yards of gravel for binding mixed with several thousand cubic yards of excavation from the puddle trench etcetera.

About 1,000 cubic yards stonework in the walls etcetera. Valves, outlet pipes etcetera weigh about seven tons.

In 1882 Hobart reservoired forty million gallons — from Mount Wellington — Campbell Town district 6,050 million gallons.

In 1930 a false wall was constructed at the dam but it was not until 1971 that the first major repair work was undertaken by the Campbell Town Council. By that time the face of the cement overflow weir had cracked causing minor leaks to appear. This was repaced and in doing so the height of the dam was increased by 7 inches. As well large cement blocks were placed in the spillway to dispose the water more evenly during flooding and hence lessen the risk of undermining the cement apron of the overflow.

TOWN WATER SUPPLY

Governor Macquarie noted in his diary that the waters of the Elizabeth River flowed "pure and free, as clear as crystal". It was lucky for him that, on his various journeys in Tasmania, he always found it so.

In the olden days (the phrase is from the 1921 Town Centenary booklet) if anyone in Campbell Town required water they went to the river with a bucket and got it! One or two of the more industrious residents started filling casks with water and delivering them around the town for around nine pence (8 cents) a cask. However, during dry seasons, flow in the river stopped and the water supply was reduced to an occasional water hole, which meant that by the end of every summer both quantity and quality was not the best.

After the Red Bridge was built in 1837, two wells were sunk on the northern side of the river, one on each side of the new main road, and hand pumps were fitted. The carters of water from these wells charged one shilling per cask to persons within half a mile of the bridge, and one shilling and threepence beyond that distance. The supply was still not continuous or reliable, but following completion of the dam there was a guarantee of a continuous flow in the river. Water for the town householders was not only assured but there was now constant water flow to power the local flour mills.

In 1884, Mr. James Gray developed a private scheme of storage and supplied water to houses owned by him. He negotiated with the council and the private scheme was extended to serve many houses in the town. Problems would arise from time to time if Mr. Gray had a difference of opinion with someone. That person could suddenly find that he had no



Town Water Supply.

water! This situation continued until early in 1908. At a meeting of ratepayers the council was authorised to borrow £3,400 (\$6,800) for the purpose of installing a turbine pump capable of pumping 5,000 gallons an hour, erecting a reservoir on land offered by Miss Bell on Wattle Hill, and installing pipelines. The right to take water from the mill stream had been purchased from Mr. Coombe. The Trustees of the Campbell Town Water District gave permission for the Council to do everything necessary for supplying the town with water. Mr. Robert Gould was placed in charge of the project and the reticulation system, through some 8 miles (13 kilometres) was completed and in use by November, 1909.

The turbine pump was in use until 1950! It is in fact still in its pump well and some efforts have been made to restore it as a working (memorial) unit but these have not been successful.

Commencing in 1945, the Council had had several reports prepared on the best means of improving the reticulation

system to supply the needs of a changing community. There were discussions on a gravitation scheme from a weir to be built at the Devils Elbow, or of incorporating the scheme installed for the Military Hospital, or for direct pumping to the reservoir, or better pumps. A meeting of ratepayers could not agree, so the decision was left up to the Council. Council decided on a scheme for installation of more efficient electric pumps with some upgrading of the main pumping line to Wattle Hill. On November 13, 1950 the Council, together with Messrs George and Thomas Davidson and Mr. Jack Lockett — the local contractors who did the work — were present when the Warden, Councillor G. A. Findlay, switched on the electrical control for the new scheme.

Since then the Council has continued to make regular upgrading of the scheme. There is now some 12 miles (20 kilometres) of water mains. Polythene and PVC pipes are gradually replacing the original galvanised and cast iron pipes. An additional pump supplements the two installed in 1950.

Water consumption averages 14,000 gallons an hour over the summer months, a considerable quantity for a town of less than 1,000 people.

FISHING LAKE LEAKE

With the flooding of Kearney's Bog it soon became very evident to anglers that here was an ideal stretch of water for fishing. A Mr. Bernie Shaw of Campbell Town wrote repeatedly to the Fisheries Commission asking them to introduce fish to the Lake which they eventually did in 1889. Very little is recorded about these fish, even their type was questionable, and they eventually died out due to a severe drought in 1898 which heated the water and the fish headed up the Snowy looking for cooler water, were trapped in the drying up stream and died in their hundreds.

With the formation of the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association in 1898 very good records have been kept of the introduction of fish in the Lake from that period. In 1904 a Mr. A. F. Sharland induced the Association to liberate 210 Rainbow Trout yearlings in the Lake. The permission of the Campbell Town Council was obtained and the water closed to all types of angling until December 1, 1907. In that closed period 184 yearling Rainbow and 1,000 Rainbow fry were released in 1907 1,500 plus Salmon fry.

In August of 1906 the executive members of the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association visited the Lake to see if any of the liberated fish had reached sufficient size to run up the Snowy for spawning. These gentlemen, Messrs Ritchie, Weedon and Harrison, were delighted with what they found. Huge Rainbows in excellent condition and ready to spawn. They immediately returned to Launceston to arrange the first stripping of Rainbow eggs in Tasmania at Lake Leake. They relate that the largest fish (still under 3 years) stripped was 8¼ lbs. and the best 12 averaged 7 lbs. 20,000 eggs were stripped

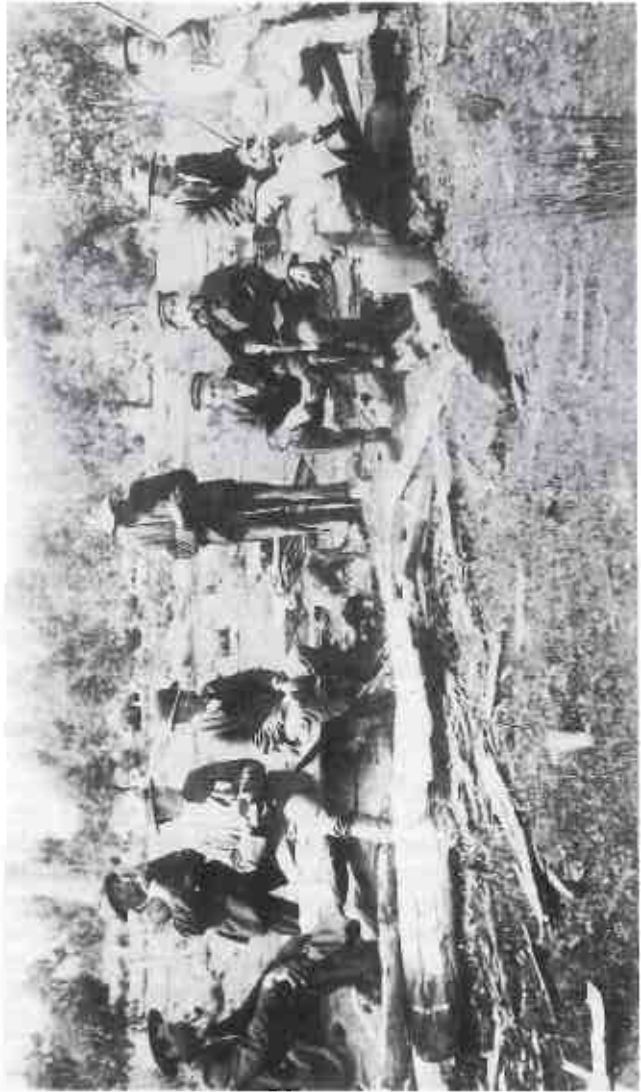


T. W. H. Clark and W. Lockett.

and these were carefully transported back to Waverley Hatchery, Launceston which had been prepared for their arrival. These eggs became the basis to stock the Great Lake at about this time, plus other waters of the State so Tasmania was self supporting in Rainbows.

From the next year's stripping, Lake Leake stocked itself to the tune of 32,200 fry. These fish were hatched and kept to fry stage at a small hatchery built on the side of the Lake. Again Mr. Sharland came to the aid of Lake Leake and raised £25 from local Campbell Town people to build the hatchery — a Mr. Spencer was employed to look after the eggs. In 1907/08 it was realised that the spawning facilities in the Snowy River were inadequate and something must be done. The little river was subject to quick rises and falls in its short length and there was not sufficient gravel for the fish to make adequate redds.

Here enters the guiding figure in the development of fishing at Lake Leake for more than a quarter of a century — Mr. T. W. H. Clarke of Quorn Hall, Campbell Town. This man, as



Fishermen, Lake Leake, 1883.



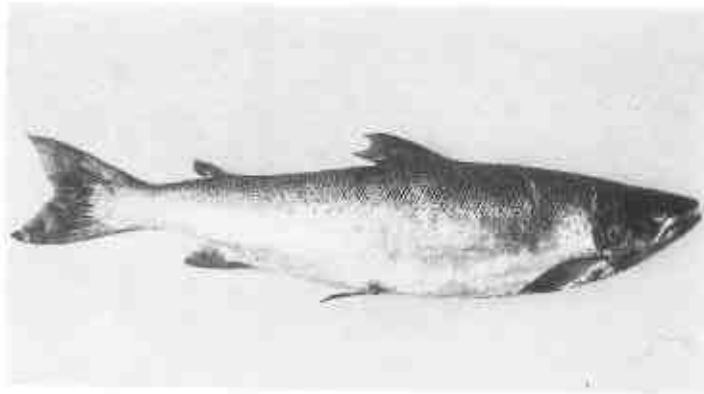
Fishermen, Lake Leake, 1983
Left: Lionel Richardson, Longford; Jack Perkins, Conara; Betty Jones,
Stone Cottage; Dick Murphy, Lake Leake, and Merv Jones, Stone
Cottage.

well as developing Lake Leake, was for many years Senior Vice President of the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association. Mr. Clarke subscribed handsomely and assisted with the construction of artificial spawning facilities in the river.

It is recorded that in the first 5 month period that the lake was opened for fishing from December 1, 1907, 115 Rainbows (averaging 6 lbs) were caught, the largest on a spinner 12 lbs with the largest on a fly of 10 lbs. The 1909 figures show 620 fish were caught averaging 3.65 lbs. but in that year the Lake was very low with anglers able to wade over most of the area. In 1907, much to the consternation of anglers, two Brown Trout weighing 6½ lbs and 5 lbs respectively were caught. The intention had been to keep the Lake Rainbow Trout only and the explanation at the time for the appearance of the Browns was that netting was taking place below the dam to replace young fish which had escaped either over the dam or through the bell mouth and in doing so some local river Brown trout were included with the netted Rainbows. The Brown Trout were not stripped or disturbed, their spawning time was earlier than the Rainbow, so they rapidly gained in numbers and in a few short years equalled the Rainbows in number.

By 1912 the water had become so popular that the lake was acclaimed as one of the greatest Rainbow fishing in the world. So much so that the Government Tourist Bureau built an accommodation house at the Lake and anglers, including the Governor General, flocked to Lake Leake by the hundreds. The figures of 1918/19 for instance show the standard of fishing for 2,314 Trout averaging 4 lbs were caught.

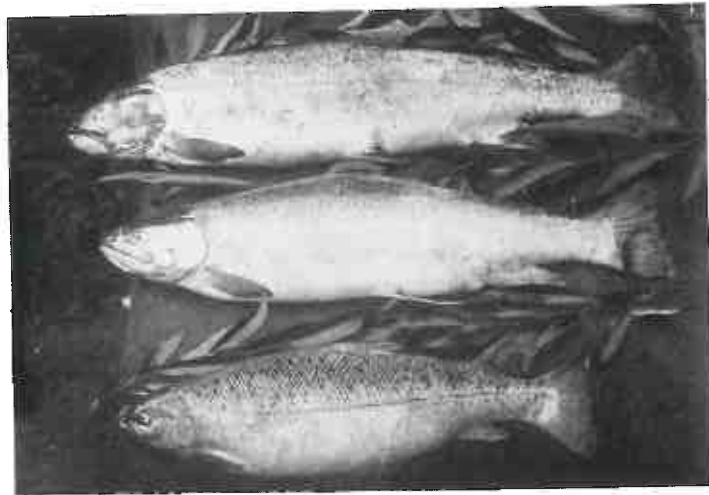
On January 17, 1910 Mr. W. Lockett landed the first Atlantic Salmon from the Lake. These had been put in by the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association in 1907. This fish created a great deal of interest in the local and overseas press for this was the first Salmon caught from a purely enclosed water in Tasmania, and was put on display in a shop window in Launceston. Three other Salmon were caught but these were the only ones to be recorded.



True Atlantic Salmon caught in Lake Leake, 1910.

The report of 1924 showed that 1,052 Rainbow averaging 2.86 lbs each and 1,363 brown averaging 3.54 lbs were taken. This showed for the first time that the Brown Trout were becoming dominant and the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association stated that if Lake Leake was to continue as a Rainbow Fishery it would be necessary to import new blood annually. By 1928 five times as many Brown as Rainbow were being caught so Mr. Clarke donated 100,000 eyed Rainbow ova from New Zealand. The first 50,000 eggs produced 14,197 Rainbow fry to be released. These eggs were hatched at Plenty under the care of Mr. Jones who was to become one of the State's most respected Fisheries Officials.

Mr. Clarke continued to donate quantities of eggs and the Lake continued to grow in stature as a fishery. In 1931 1,077 Brown (average 3.21), 815 Rainbow (average 2.95) were taken. By 1935 Rainbow catches exceeded Brown, again with some Rainbow 8½ lbs and the catches recorded were 1,788 Rainbow and 1,176 Brown. Mr. Clarke maintained this stocking throughout the 30's. In the 1939 season 661 Rainbow and 470 Brown landed and in 1941 1,600 Rainbow and 225 Brown.



Rainbow trout from Lake Leake.

The largest recorded fish taken from the Lake was 14½ lbs caught by Mr. Slater after whom Slaters Bay, a good fishing spot, was named.

During the war years few records were kept but it was reported that with the cessation of stocking and the dying of the weed in 1948 saw the Lake lose some of its fame as a Fishery and the fish taken to be smaller in size. In 1965 a commercial eel trapper took 12 tons of eels from the Lake. At the end of the 1967 season an event happened which was to cause great controversy and concern. The Inland Fisheries Commission removed and killed 7,000 adult Brown Trout from the spawning run of fish at Lake Leake and the following two years they removed thousands of fry and fingerlings at the same time heavily stocking the water with small Rainbow. Up to 1970 anglers were catching plenty of Rainbow up to 9" but after two successive wet years with the dam overflowing and taking a lot of the newly stocked Rainbows, the numbers caught were greatly reduced.

The Commission have not touched the water now for several years and nature, combined with the tremendous natural ability of the Brown Trout to adjust themselves, is gradually rehabilitating this water to its former glory for Rainbow and Brown over 2 lbs are being taken again. The weed growth is good the food life prolific. The Commission has now started to restock the lake with Rainbow with 1,000 yearling going in this year from Plenty.

A LAKE LEAKE FISHERMAN

Fishing Lake Leake on and off for more than forty years provides an excellent opportunity to watch the development or despoliation (whichever way you look at it) of the Lake from what it was to what it is.

Whether or not Charles Henry Leake or his engineer Mr. Christopherson or even the Campbell Town Council were interested in fishing is not clear but suffice it to say it appears they had little enthusiasm for the fishing capabilities of Kearney's Bog for nothing seems to have been done about fishing until the Fisheries Commissioners stocked it in 1889 some seventeen years later and it was probably by restocking with Rainbow in 1904 and closing the Lake for three years that the fishing started to flourish. To add to all this, fishermen owe a great debt to Mr. Cramp and to Mr. T. W. H. Clarke of Quorn Hall for his continued support and stocking of the lake in the 1930's.

Few people at that time would have anticipated that the Lake would become a Mecca for anglers. The fantastic growth of the fish attracted anglers from all parts of the world. What wonderful congregations of anglers from all over Tasmania — Dover to Burnie, Queenstown to Bridport and from interstate stayed at the Accommodation House. They rolled in to enjoy probably the best fishing in Australia.

With a beautiful climate, pleasant company and fish everywhere what more could you ask. The Lake abounded with fly life with all kinds of hatches everywhere. Fish made the water boil rising all over the Lake. The climate and the fishing were enough to make even indifferent anglers put up with the bad road from Campbell Town to get in the action and to mingle with the angling greats who kept on coming and coming again.

All social activity centred on the Accommodation House and the evenings were full of the days events on the Lake. Inexperienced anglers listened with bated breath to the stories of the experts little knowing that these would probably be repeated time after time in their angling pursuits "you should have seen the one I missed today best fish I've ever seen" or "you should have been here last Thursday they almost jumped into the boat" but coming from the greats these seemed to carry conviction — and what greats they were Mrs. Murphy and Charlie Coughlan from the Lake, Tim Jackson and Hubie Beech from Dover, the Bayles and the Kings from Melbourne, assorted Burbury's, Headlams from the Midlands, George and Harry Cramp, Doug Bridges and Jack Johnston from Hobart, Frank Johnson from Kempton, Hobie Nicholls from Richmond with Bob Peacock, Martin Wallace John Steer and the Greens from Launceston, and a host of others all acclaimed as experts one way or another and all apparently satisfied with the fishing as the services at the Accommodation House were not exactly "haute Cuisine" and the road in was deplorable.

Outside amusements were scarce except for some poker in the evenings. One of the greatest interest stories was of Frank Johnson who was fishing with Hobie Nicholls and Const. Williams from Richmond and whilst out in the boat on a hot day mistook the Tarzans Grip tube for the Tanafax ending up with a glued face and a rock solid moustache. All eyes were on him for days whilst his beard grew enabling him to get the glue off. He was accused of doing it to put on a poker face and everyone was amused except Frank.

The popularity of the Accommodation House waned for a while probably because of the increased number of shacks being built at the Lake but its fortunes were revived when the lease was taken over by two most attractive and pleasant trained nursing sisters. They certainly stimulated the lagging trade and attracted back a lot of the greats who had given the Lake a miss for a season or two probably because the fishing was going off a bit and the Lake fish — always in beautiful condition — were harder to get.

Various reasons have been advanced for this, overstocking — understocking — interference by the Fisheries Commissioners and the like but there seemed to be a change in the feeding habits of the fish — fly life was less and rises far less but the condition of the fish left little room for doubt that there was an abundance of feed for them.

The number of shacks at the Lake increased dramatically over the years and probably more anglers were on the Lake during the season. The place lent itself to holiday shacks and as a holiday place as it really is today if you like a quiet and peaceful holiday. I am reminded of a gentleman who in 1958

wrote — Fishing, if I a fisher may protest
Of pleasures is the sweetest, of sports the best
Of exercise the most excellent
Of recreations the most innocent;
But now the sport is marde, and wott ye why?
Fishes decrease and fishers multiply!

this may be a case of history repeating itself at Lake Leake.

Even a nice secluded place like the Lake stands aside for progress and from what was a beautifully quiet and contented place we now see the scars on the hillside that proclaim we now have the power on and the blaze of lights at night looking down the Lake make the shacks look like a town.

For all this it is still a wonderful place to holiday and enjoy yourself and the addition of the "Laird O Lake Leake" Hotel brings appropriate comforts not previously available to anglers and visitors.

Fishing the Lake for more than forty years still makes one want to fish it for another forty no matter what may come as nothing can destroy its beauty and pleasure and I for one will always find a quiet corner somewhere there. I can easily understand why Dick Murphy has chosen it for upwards of fifty to spend his life. No doubt his longevity and health demonstrate what a good place it is.

It has maintained itself magnificently for a hundred years — may it continue to do so for another. All of us are grateful to the Campbell Town Council and all others who have worked so hard to maintain this little paradise.

FISHING BRANCHES

During the first decade of fishing at Lake Leake the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association had an active branch at Campbell Town called Midlands. Started 1906 but from 1911 it no longer appeared in the N.T.F.A. minutes but it was recorded from then on to have a District Representative. Midlands Branch Committee members during that period included C. F. Pitt, F. S. Beddome, W. Lockett, J. Lockett, A. J. Lloyd and A. F. Sharland (Hon. Sec.).

Mr. T. W. H. Clarke, Quorn Hall, Campbell Town had been appointed a Life Member of the N.T.F.A. in 1908.

On the 21st July 1960 a Campbell Town Branch of the N.T.F.A. was formed with 121 members. The first Office Bearers being —

Patron	Mr. T. K. Clarke
President	Mr. V. J. Emery
Vice President	Mr. V. Darke
Secretary	Mrs. B. Butler
Treasurer	Mr. V. Darke
Committee	M/s A. Pears, C. Blackwell, J. Davis D. Wilson, C. Crocker

Branch Members who have been made Life Members of the N.T.F.A. were Mr. V. J. Emery 1962, Mr. V. Darke 1965 and Mrs. B. Butler 1969.

In the 1964-65 season a Lake Leake-Swansea Branch of the N.T.F.A. was formed with Office Bearers being —

Patron	Mr. N. Ruch
President	Mr. M. Wallace
Vice Presidents	Mr. J. Golley, K. Simmons
Sec/Treasurer	Mr. A. T. Dilger

There were 92 members.

CARETAKERS



George Arthur Rapley.

Perhaps the greatest attraction at Lake Leake is the peace and tranquility it gives, and this is well illustrated by the fact that during its 100 year life there has only been three caretakers employed by the Council. A Mr. George Rapley was employed as works caretaker during the construction of the dam. He was a shepherd on the Kearney's Bog farm and lived in the area. His home which is gone now, was at The

Willows, a popular fishing spot on the race below the dam. He had the distinction of opening the valves for the first time on 24th February, 1884. That day the valves were opened 20 inches, a far cry from the present day ones which generally average 8 inches in summer and 4 inches in winter. The first official caretaker was Mr. Wise and it is to him that the credit of first using the name Lake Leake can be given. He used the name in his reports. In 1891 Mr. Tom Spencer was appointed and he was to remain for 40 years. Mr. Spencer figures frequently in the history of Lake Leake fishing for he was there during the introduction of trout, was employed to look after the eggs in the Lake Leake hatchery, and was appointed a water bailiff. On his retirement in 1931 Mr. Spencer moved to a cottage at Epping Forest, a peaceful place if ever there was, but after two months he moved on, complaining that he could not stand the noise! On the 2nd February 1931 Mr. Richard Murphy was appointed and here began a long association between man and lake, which is still being carried on in this centenary year. Dick Murphy has endeared himself to all



Tom Spencer.

those who visit Lake Leake, and one, a journalist Mr. Geoff Willson, sums up the man with the following —



Dick Murphy.

Although Dick Murphy seldom leaves Lake Leake, he is one of Campbell Town Council's best ambassadors.

And certainly one of its most loyal and trusted employees.

Dick Murphy, and his wife, Tessie, came to Lake Leake to work for the Council in 1931. Their cottage at the Lake's entrance was then lit by a Tasmanian made, gas gloria light. Although the cottage is now lit by electric power from the Hydro Electric Commission's grid, the gas gloria generator, with its system of weight driven pulleys and pump, is still on the site.

Mrs. Murphy died during a hasty trip to Campbell Town to seek medical help 23 years ago.

Although she was much missed by Dick and visitors, Dick stayed on to continue as the Lake's caretaker, and reporter of the weather and Lake and river heights.

Although Mr. Murphy travelled to Egypt, England and France with Australian troops in World War 1 and was wounded thrice by the Germans, he seldom leaves his beloved Lake.

At the time of the centenary of Lake Leake, he had not left for 12 months and before then he had not left for 4.5 years.

The Campbell Town Council and graziers, down river from the Lake, rely on his ability to control the water outlet at the Lake.

Fishermen rely on him for a tip as to where the big trout are feeding or where the white swans can be seen.

It was through the fishermen and shack owners that Dick Murphy built up a host of friends.

Each Christmas brings cards and greetings from Tasmanian, mainland and overseas former visitors to Lake Leake.

His 53 years on the same job for the same employer must rate some kind of a record.

Perhaps some of the tenacity of his former school teacher at Conara, Joseph Lyons, later Prime Minister of Australia, rubbed off on to Dick Murphy, perhaps it is just plain stubbornness which keeps him going.

But he has no plans to retire.

"I'll be here until the good Lord comes for me", he said.

Most Sundays and holidays there are a group of friends at Murphy's cottage. Some help cut his firewood, others leave a cream cake or scones, some share a drop of refreshment—all enjoy a yarn.

Content with life, Mr. Murphy, has time to enjoy the friendship of mates.

"Therefore I'm one of the richest men in the country", he said. "I've spent my money and enjoyed myself with genuine friends. Some of the richest in worldly possessions are often the loneliest."

WRIGHT'S TOMBSTONE



Wright's Tombstone.

Travellers to Lake Leake from Campbell Town will notice a well kept tombstone on the side of the road. Mr. Ken Fletcher, a present day relative of the man whom the stone honours, records what happened.

On the evening of June 27, 1882 William Wright and his teenage son, also William, arrived at the gate, now known as Wright's gate, on the Lake Leake Road. They had a horse-drawn wagon loaded with bricks, materials and provisions for the men working on the Lake Leake Dam.

As they had done on other trips, they would pull through the gate, unhitch the team, boil the billy, have a feed and a smoke and roll up in their old "Wagga's". Wagga's were several corn sacks sewn together with a piece of old blanket tacked on one side. They would sleep under the wagon and go on in the morning.

The lad got off the wagon and opened the gate for the team to pass through. When the gate swung open, a young skittish horse lunged forward and crushed the boy against the post. Helpless on his own, the father could do no more than sit by the fire cradling and keeping him warm, hoping help would come. Help did come a couple of hours later in person of a Mr. Cutler, driving a horse and cart. They took the lad to Campbell Town but he was dead on arrival there.

He was buried in a cemetery above the showground in Campbell Town.

The cartage contractor, Mr. Eddie Richardson, and the workmen of Lake Leake got the stone and cut the inscription on it and it was placed on the spot it holds today.

Over the years roadmen have kept it tidy and every now and then repainted the lettering.

WHITE SWANS

White swans have been part of Lake Leake history for many years now. These birds were introduced to the Lake during the 1939-45 War when the Launceston City Council could no longer keep them enclosed in the City Park. Arthur Fleming and Irene Elburg were the people responsible for bringing the birds to Lake Leake and as there were only 3 of them it was surprising that they increased in number and at one stage numbered 28. Unfortunately during the last decade the swans have ceased to breed and the number now is only 5.

Various reasons have been given for the decline, mainly disturbances with more people and motor boats being the main cause. Four swans have been taken to the Bicheno Wildlife Park to see if breeding can be undertaken there. Reading the Campbell Town Council's minutes, it appears that white swans have been a contentious subject with the Council for some time as numerous Wild Life Park operators and the Government Parks & Wildlife Office have taken more than a passing interest in their well being. It is to be hoped that the Council can encourage the return of the swan to their former numbers and thus retain one of the Lake's many appeals.

ACCOMMODATION HOUSES

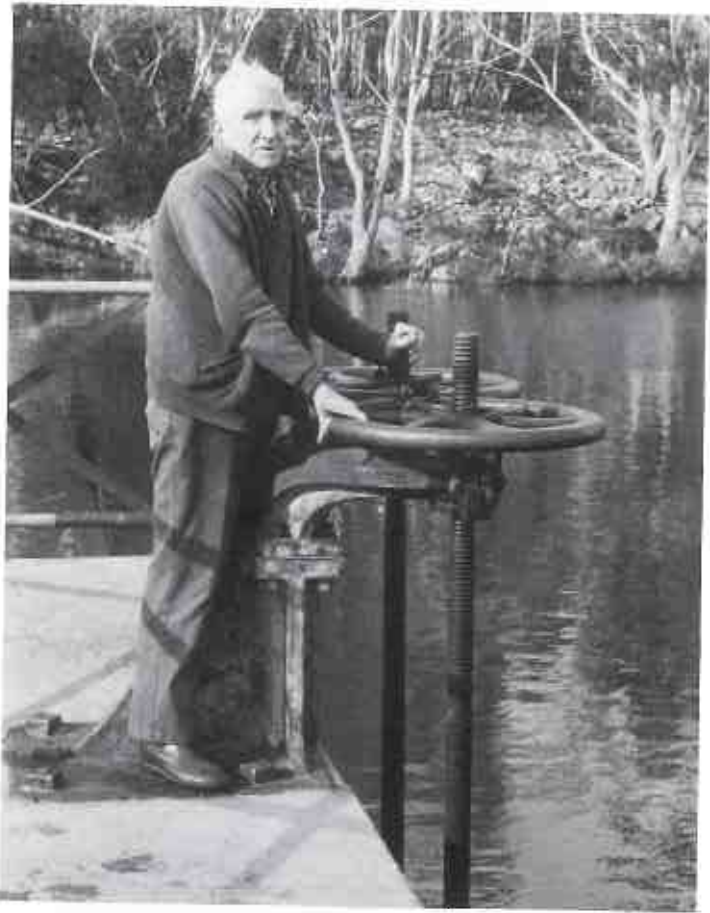
With the advent of good fishing at Lake Leake, anglers found it not only difficult to get to the Lake because of the bad roads but the scarcity of accommodation was another problem. In the early 1900's there was an accommodation house known as Halfway House on the Swansea Road east of Kalangadoo Bay. This was owned by a Mr. Jack Harding who not only provided accommodation for the fishermen but was also an official recorder for the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association. During this period a Dr. Gibson built himself a house at Kalangadoo Bay, which he eventually sold to a Mr. Brodribb who used it as an accommodation house, Mr. Mick Coghlan took this over in 1918. Both these houses were to become redundant in 1912 when the Government built an Accommodation House at the Lake. This building was placed under the control of the Northern Tourist Association and leased to Mrs. Jack of the Campbell Town Hotel. One of the first visitors to use this new building was the Governor General of Australia who expressed himself as very pleased with the sport and accommodation.

According to the Houses' Visitors Book many more people were to share the Governor General's opinion and for the next 20 or so years the place was a mecca for fishermen. In the 1930's and 1940's with the decline in fishing and the 1939-45 War the House went through lean times. After the War regeneration took place when two nursing sisters from Melbourne, Margaret Slatery and Irene Callaghan took over the lease and good times echoed through the place once more. There have been several owners since those lively ladies. Mr. George Goss, Mr. Evans, Mr. Wrigley, Mr. Bruce

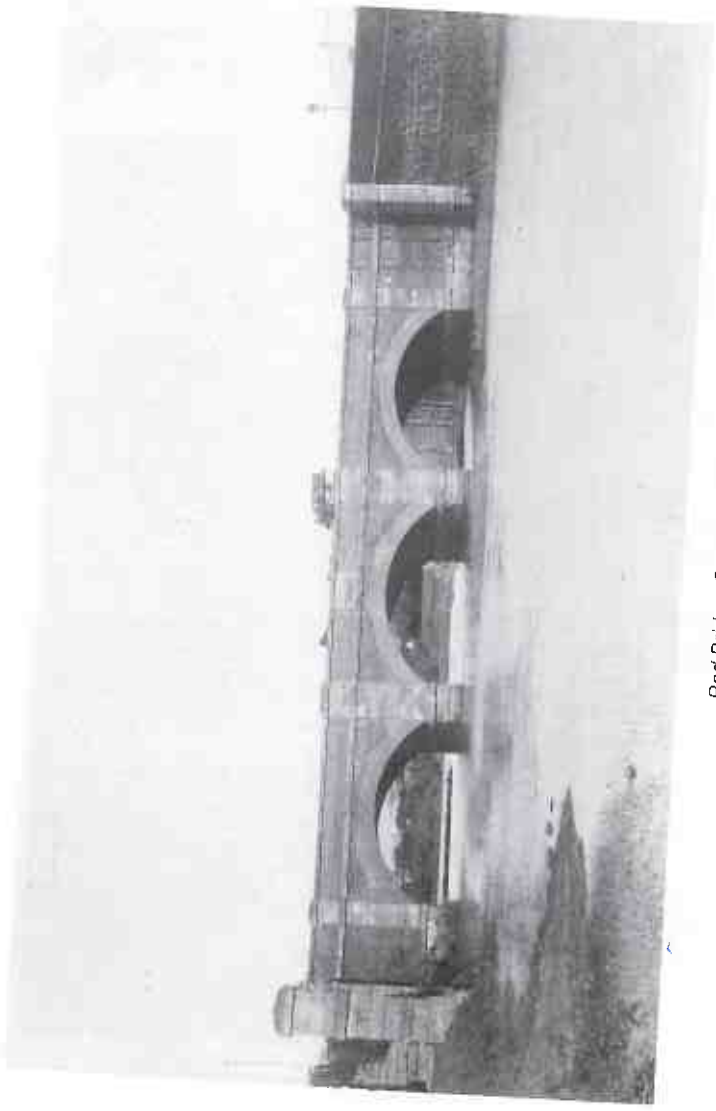


Accommodation House

Robinson, Mr. Vern Allen who sold to Mr. Tom Knowles who obtained a licence and changed the name to the Laird O Lake Leake Hotel. The present licencees are Mr. & Mrs. Eric Stanley.



Dick Murphy opening valves.



Red Bridge, Campbell Town

MISCELLANEOUS

Lake Leake dimensions

Area — 1,500 acres.
Average Depth — 14¾ feet.
Capacity — 6,048,000,000 gallons.
Elevation Above Sea Level — 2,300 feet.
Elevation Above Campbell Town — 1,200 feet.
Length of Earthworks — 530 feet.
Length of Weir — 200 feet.
Outlet Pipe — 4 feet in diameter.
Outlet capacity fully open — 120,000,000 gallons/day.

Holiday Shacks

There are 81 shack sites on the shore of the Lake with 70 shacks most of which were erected after the 1939/45 war. The first shack built was by Mrs. Scully in 1937 and the total by 1939 only 3. The Councils present day policy is not to allow any more shacks to be built on the foreshore for health risk reasons.

Belle Vue Island

Mr. James Gibson of Belle Vue, Epping Forest was a very active member of the early Water Trust, hence the name given to the island.

P.S.

In checking facts, figures and names regarding the fishing history of Lake Leake I found it very hard to confirm these as there were many different interpretations. Taking this problem, to Mr. Dick Murphy he casually replied "Don't you realize David that all fishermen are fibbers."

D.A.R.