

Selfie hikoi - local history



Head outside on an adventure and explore **Te Taiao**

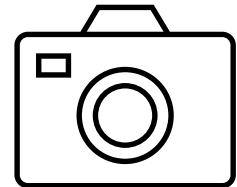
The natural world that surrounds us

This is a hikoi (walk, journey, or tramp) with a challenge. You can take the selfies listed below and share them with us via Facebook, Instagram or email. Or just enjoy learning about our local history as you explore your surroundings.

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Selfie #1

The Takitimu Mountain Range is named after the ancient waka, Takitimu, one of the fleet of canoes which crossed the Pacific Ocean from Hawaiki around 1300. It was captained by Tamatea who sailed along the shores of Te Ika a Māui (the North Island). His people settled where they chose, founding new whānau, hapū and iwi.

Later, his grandson, named Tamatea Ure Haea, explored Te Pounamu (the South Island). He named his waka Takitimu too, like his grandfather had before him.

According to one of the Ngāi Tahu pūrākau (stories), this waka was wrecked at Te Waewae Bay by three huge waves. No lives were lost but the vessel was thrown inland, and the overturned hull became the mountain range.



Take a selfie with the Tākitimu Mountains in the background



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Selfie #2

The early inhabitants of Fiordland were Māori of the Waitaha, Ngāti Mamoe, and Ngāi Tahu tribes. For generations Māori people travelled from their coastal villages to favoured food gathering sites in Fiordland.

They came to gather eels from the rivers and birds from the bush as well as passing through the area on their way to Milford Sound and Westland in search of precious pounamu or greenstone.

Tamatea Ure Haea and his crew spent some time exploring Fiordland before returning to the North Island. This is why his name appears in place names in Fiordland, Southland and up the South Island's east coast. One of the most famous place names is Tamatea Dusky Sound.



Take a selfie at Dusky Sound if you can 😊 or if that's a bit tricky take one beside the Dusky Street sign

Selfie #3

The Māori name for Dock Bay is Te Rua, or The Pit. Tamatea wanted his young warriors tattooed, so a pit was made to burn suitable wood. Mats were spread over the pit and soot was collected to make tattooing ink.



Take a selfie at Dock Bay



Selfie #4



Eels were caught using woven flax traps. At some sites, weirs were made to trap eels. One such site was at Shallow Bay, near Manapouri. There are reports of a glade there with ovens, house sites and chipping places, where stone tools were made.



Take a selfie at Shallow Bay

Selfie #5

Most of the Māori people left lakes Te Anau and Manapouri once the whalers arrived in New Zealand, but some stayed on into the 1850's in a village near the Upukerora bridge.

Apparently, the hill where the water reservoir now stands was used as a lookout. If enemies were sighted, people escaped by canoe to the other side of the lake.



Take a selfie standing on the new foot bridge crossing the Upukerora River



Selfie #6

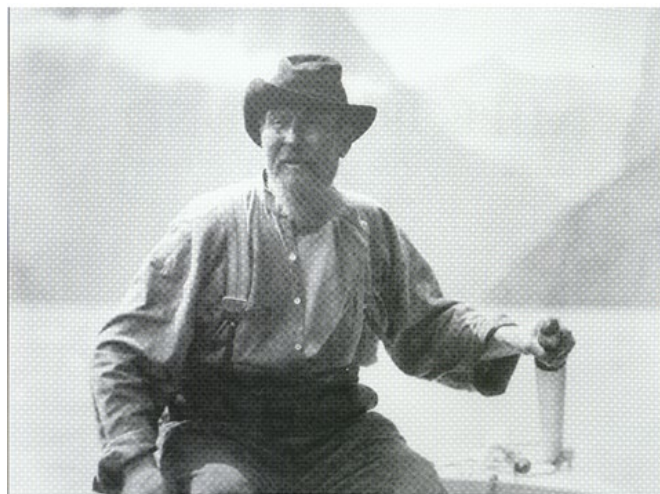
In 1877 the Scotsman, Donald Sutherland, set off from Dunedin with his dog, in an open 20-foot boat for Milford Sound. Although he lived at Milford alone for 2 years before marrying, he liked to call himself mayor of "The City of Milford."

With fellow prospector John McKay, Sutherland explored the Arthur River. In 1880 they discovered and named the McKay Falls, Mount Balloon and of course the world-famous Sutherland Falls.

Sutherland lived in Milford for 40 years. When he died, his wife Elizabeth was unable to lift his heavy body, so she was forced to leave him where he lay until the steamer arrived 6 weeks later. Donald and Elizabeth are buried at Milford Sound, the place they loved so well.



Take a selfie beside the sign saying Sutherland Street.





Selfie #7

Quintin Mackinnon, another Scotsman, arrived in Otago in the 1870's. From 1885 he lived at Garden Point, on the Western shores of Lake Te Anau. With his friend, Ernest Mitchell from Manapouri Station, he discovered a route through to Milford from the head of Lake Te Anau on 16 October 1888. Having discovered the Milford Track, Mackinnon became the first track guide.

On 29 November 1892 McKinnon set out to cross Lake Te Anau bound for Milford but never arrived. A search party sent to the area failed to find him. His wrecked boat and belongings were discovered but his body was never recovered. He was presumed drowned in Lake Te Anau.



Take a selfie standing beside the statue of Quintin Mackinnon on the lakefront.

Selfie #8

The first white settler of Te Anau township was Richard Henry. He built a small, thatched hut by the lake at Tui Bay in 1883. He did odd jobs on farms in the area, but all his spare time was spent in his boat, observing the birdlife, which was his passion.

In 1894 he was appointed caretaker of Resolution Island, New Zealand's first bird sanctuary. Henry was the international pioneer of the live transfer of birds to island refuges. He dedicated the next 14 years of his life in a solo attempt to save the kakapo from extinction, only giving up when he discovered that a stoat had reached his island sanctuary.



Take a selfie beside the plaque at Tui Bay where Richard Henry's house was sited.

Selfie #9

Dr Geoffrey Orbell, an Ear Nose and Throat specialist from Invercargill, holidayed in Te Anau as a child, and from a young age was intrigued by the extinct, flightless bird - the takahe. A keen hunter and trumper, he was always searching for sign of takahe. On April 11th, 1948, Doc and two hunting mates heard the birds' call and found footprints around a lake in the Murchison Mountains called Te Wai O Pani (now named Lake Orbell.) Returning 7 months later, he and his friends were successful in tracking, capturing, and photographing the "extinct" takahe. Orbell's discovery made news around the globe.



Take a selfie outside the Orbell family crib at Bluegum Point. It is the house closest to the boat harbour.

Selfie #10

The Te Anau-au caves were known to Māori and rediscovered in 1948 by Lawson Burrows and his friend Wilson Campbell. Campbell and Burrows had often wondered about the meaning of "Te Anau". They'd heard different stories, but one that caught their imagination was that it could be a corruption of the Māori "Te Ana-au", meaning a cave with swirling water.



Lawson Burrows



Wilson Cameron Campbell

Even the oldest residents of Te Anau did not know of any such caves. Undeterred, the two men began searching for a cave on their many trips around the lake.

In May 1948 Lawson Burrows found a stream (now called the Tunnel Burn) flowing out of a cave in the Murchison Mountains, but its opening was too low to enter.

Excited with his discovery, Burrows came back with Campbell and another friend, Milford Track guide George Pollard. Climbing up the side of the waterfall and continuing into the cave they stumbled upon a large grotto with walls and ceiling illuminated by millions of glow worms.



Take 2 selfies, one beside the street sign saying Lawson Burrows Crescent and the other next to the street sign saying Campbell's Court.

