

## 14.1.2016 Owaka, Nugget Point, Balclutha, Gabriels Gully

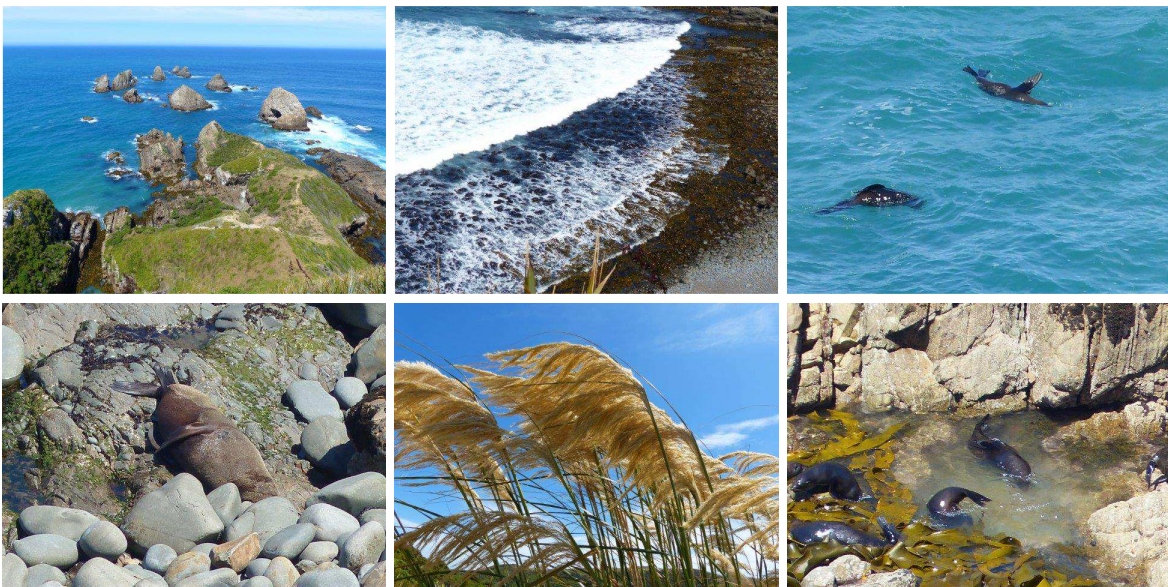
Clear blue sky is welcoming us and we have a quiet morning at the lake before heading to Owaka. A pretty little town... with the biggest Tea Pot collection in the world!



We buy a glass of honey ,on the street'. Everywhere are little booths selling local produce – vegetable, fruits, eggs or honey. You can take what you want and put the money into the ,honesty' box.

Fresh from the garden it all tastes much better than from the supermarket...

For lunch we are at Nugget Point. After a walk to the light house you can see the seal colony down at the coast. As usual, the more you look, the more seals you all of sudden detect. Even two seals who are frolicking in the water for quite a while. Usually they are only sleeping lazily on the beach, not wanting to move a tiny bit.





We had planned to have a coffee break in Balclutha and made it to town at 16:00pm. Unfortunately everything around us is closing up, all shops, cafes, the whole downtown. It still takes some getting used to that everything closes so early in New Zealand. By latest 17:00pm the city centres are deserted. Only the big supermarket chains and retailers open longer, even until 22:00pm.



The road leads along the Clutha river, the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest river of New Zealand and the one carrying the most water.

Afterwards we drive to Lawrence. Shortly behind this town is the former gold mining area „Gabriel’s Gully“ where freedom camping is allowed. In 1861 Gabriel Read had found gold here and in a result the whole landscaped was changed by the gold digging. Sluicing (hydraulic mining) even lifted the valley ground by almost 50cm. During the goldrush haydays more than 11.000 inhabitants were living in this valley, which was before and is now only deserted. Still today a few remnants of the former activities are visible.



### 15.1.2016 Lawrence, Clyde Dam



As forecasted, it is raining all day... We continue our way North and slowly head back to Pleasant Point. Soon we are back to the fruit growing region. Orchards have their fruit stalls along the road, also selling real fruit icecream: Fresh fruit are mixed with vanilla icecream – hmmm.

On the way is Mitchells Cottage, a little house built by John and Andrew Mitchell, who immigrated from the Shetland Islands due to the gold rush in New Zealand. 1904 after almost 20 years of an effort, the house was finally finished. John lived with his wife and 10 children in this little house.



Shortly before the turn off to Clyde we discover the Flat Top Hill Reserve at the Butcher's Dam. Butcher's Dam was built between 1935-37 and provided drinking water for Alexandra until the 70ies. For this project, the Butcher's Gully hotel which was standing in this valley, was flooded. Today the dam is used only for irrigation.





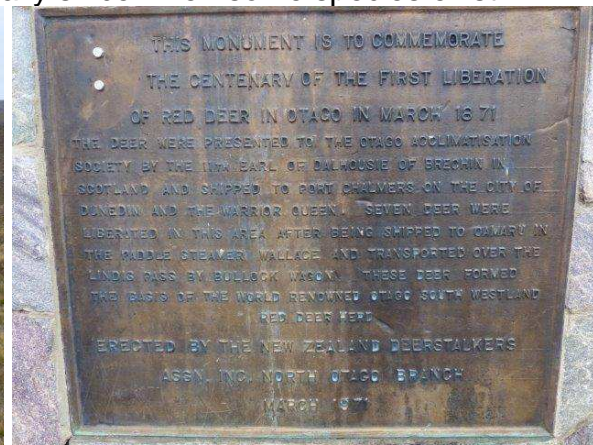
In the evening we are back to Clyde Dam and dinner has to be taken in fine drizzle rain...

### 16.1.2016 Cromwell, Twizel, Lake Ohau

The next morning we find out that Cromwell is hosting the Classic Car & Hot Rod Festival, all for the vintage car lover's heart. We have a stroll around the exhibition.



Next is Lindi's Pass where in 1871 the first ever seven deer in New Zealand had been liberated. Just yesterday there was article in the „North Otago Daily“ about bumble bees. In 1885 the first ever bumble bees had been liberated. We assume that in no other country it is known so specifically since when some species exist.



Via Omarama and Twizel we reach Lake Ohau. After dinner Werner wants to repeat his fishing success from last year. Unfortunately, it ain't gonna happen, but at least an picture perfect sunset is compensating for this.





### 17.1.2016 Tekapo, Pleasant Point

After breakfast at the never-seen-so-quiet-before Lake Ohau, we drive via Lake Tekapo back to Pleasant Point.



In good weather, the drive from Lake Ohau to Lake Tekapo and through the McKenzie region is really beautiful with great vistas of the lakes and Mount Cook. Unfortunately, today the clouds are hanging low, we can't see anything. Rain in the McKenzie region also doesn't happen too often.



In the evening we are at Pauline and Lincoln at the Church Farm. It's good to be back "home" 😊

### 18.1.2016 Church Farm

Tomorrow Werner, Timo, Gavin, Malcolm and Gareth will head out for their 2nd hunting trip. Preparations have to be made, planning, shopping, packing... Inbetween we not only manage a move, repair rain pipes and lawn mowers but also learn how to get a tone out of newzealandic dog-directing-whistles.

### 19.1. 2016 Church Farm

It is pouring down all day! The farmers are happy, the tourists a bit less... The hunting expedition still sets off, not only before having checked the weather forecast several times in the morning. As tomorrow the rain should improve... but today it rained so much, Timaru even had some flooding.

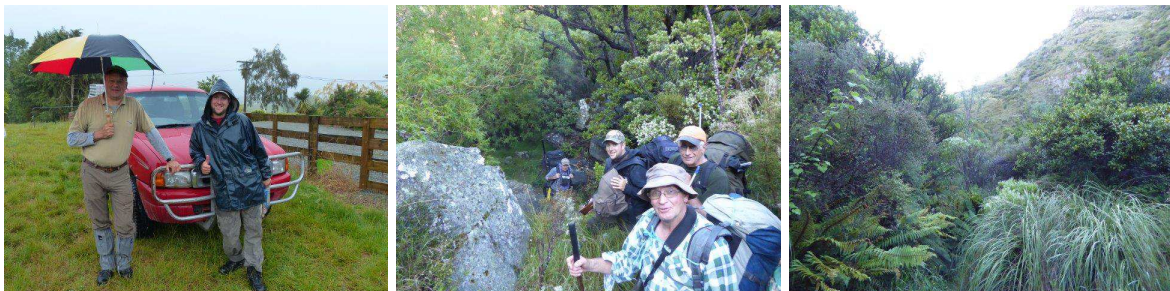
### 20.1.2016 Church Farm

While the boys are out, at Church Farm it's busy with preparations for the upcoming festivities and running errands in Timaru and Geraldine and picking up eggs from happy chicken.



### 21.1.2016 Church Farm

Late afternoon the hunting expedition is back. A hunting trip, where not one gun was loaded, instead they had an adventure hike. The track to the hut was steep and wild and after eight hours of tramping the hut was still not in sight. Man vs Wild – they had to camp out in the open and then hiked back out.





### 22.1.2016 Church Farm, Lake Tekapo

The days are busy preparing the big pre-wedding-BBQ-reception on Church Farm. We all help as much as we can to prepare house and garden for the big event. The first guests of Ang and Tim arrive, we have an outing with Dave and Henry to Lake Tekapo, Lake Alexandrina and Burke's Pass.



## 23.1.2016 Church Farm

Today is the pre-wedding-BBQ and the weather god shows some mercy, it is not raining today.



## 24.-27.1.2016 Church Farm, Timaru

The day after, the big clean up...

The weather is not really great, we drive to town and run some errands, have our laptop and shoes repaired and are happy to volunteer to finish all the leftovers from the BBQ.







**28.1.2016 Hampden, Palmerston, Wedderburn, Lauder**

After some last preparations we are on our way to Lauder. For lunch we have an appointment with Pauline and Lincoln at Hampden, where it has the best Fish & Chips of the whole South Island. Indeed, it's very yummy and we even find another specialty on the menu: Elephant!



We continue our way via Palmerston and have coffee break in Wedderburn, which actually consist only of a historic Tavern, which was built 1885.



Finally we reach Lauder, hometown of the bride. Part of the guests stay in the former school of Lauder, which is now a B&B. We are allowed to camp opposite the road next to the Lauder Hotel which is very convenient, because in the evening after the dinner reception at Lauder Hotel in the local pub we only have to walk 10 steps home to bed...



## 29.1.2016 Lauder

Today is Ang's and Tim's wedding! The sun comes out, what a perfect day!



## 30.1.2016 Lauder

Today is big After-Wedding-BBQ, we are for lunch at Lauder and happen to stay until dinner... Another relaxing, fun day with great company and good food.

