箭镇华人定居点

奥塔哥

箭镇的华人定居点坐落在布什溪畔，是部分修复的箭镇华人定居点。这个村庄是华人矿工和商人的贡献对地区文化、经济和历史的持久纪念和致敬。

1866年，奥塔哥地区仅有不到200名华人矿工，但到1868年4月，华人人口已增长到1270人，其中大部分人在淘金。1871年，他们的数量达到约4300人。到1885年，箭镇华人定居点已发展到约十座小屋、一个大型社交厅和至少两家商店。

华人常常是歧视的受害者，他们生活在欧洲定居点的边缘，靠近自己的矿产。到1921年，只有59个华人剩下，很大程度上是由于反华移民立法的影响。

对于许多农村贫民来说，解决方案是资助儿子和兄弟远赴海外工作。人们认为他们会在那里变得富有，然后回到村子提升他们的家庭地位。大多数男子去了加利福尼亚和澳大利亚，但也有些人来到了新西兰。

背景

在19世纪早期，中国广州三角洲地区的人们正遭受极大的苦难。该地区人口过剩，许多人生活在贫困中。英国帝国主义和鸦片贸易的破坏性影响正在显现。

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对于许多农村贫穷的人，解决方案是资助儿子和兄弟到海外工作。他们认为自己会变得富有，然后回到村子里提升自己的家庭地位。大多数男子去了加利福尼亚和澳大利亚，但也有一些人来到了新西兰。
Chinese gold miners didn’t come to mine in the Wakatipu area until after the initial gold rush. When gold was discovered on the West Coast of the South Island in 1864 many gold miners at the Arrow packed up and followed the rush. Business owners in the Wakatipu were suddenly faced with a serious loss of customers. In addition, the wider Otago Province was faced with losing its main source of wealth: income from taxes on gold.

The Otago Provincial Government’s solution was to invite the Chinese to come and work on the Otago Goldfields. At first Chinese miners came from places in Australia such as Ballarat, but soon many came direct from their homelands in Guangzhou. Existing goldminers were not keen on competition and as the Chinese travelled inland to the goldfields, they suffered harassment and discrimination.

**Life in the Chinese settlement**

At first the men in the Chinese settlement at Arrowtown lived together in communal huts, which housed between two and six men each. A range of construction techniques were used for the buildings, including mud brick, mortared stone, wood, corrugated iron, and canvas. Some buildings were thatched, while others had corrugated iron roofs. There was also an extensive garden area.

It seems that the community centred around a large social hall, which was perhaps 15 metres long, until it collapsed or was demolished around 1900. Ah Lum’s store (separately registered as an historic place) probably later took over this social function.

It is unlikely that any women ever lived in the settlement, as the first recorded arrival of a Chinese woman in New Zealand was not until 1873. By 1878 there were only nine Chinese women, and only 89 by the turn of the century. Paradoxically about 70% of the Chinese miners were married men.

**Did you know?**

- The Chinese miners drew their religious beliefs from the three major religious doctrines in China: Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism. They had many rituals designed to keep evil away or to invite good fortune. Ancestor worship was very important to them, and many maintained small shrines in their huts. Two temples were built, one at Lawrence in 1869 and the other at Round Hill in 1883.

- Some Chinese miners brought their addiction to opium with them, while others took up opium smoking in New Zealand as an escape from the hardships and loneliness they faced. It has been estimated that about 10% of the Chinese mining population was addicted to opium and perhaps as many as 60% smoked occasionally.

- The Chinese were skilled practical people who were quick to see the advantages of western technology, particularly in the area of hydraulic sluicing. Over 45% of all Chinese miners in 1874 were sluicers. Their workings at Round Hill and their water races in the Shotover area are legendary.

**Further Information**

For further information about the Arrowtown Chinese settlement, contact the Queenstown Visitor Centre, phone 03 442 7935.