

Music in the Goldfields

John Drummond



The Tuapeka Rush

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- Christmas 1861, 14,000 miners at the Tuapeka
- November 1861, San Francisco Minstrels at Tuapeka and Waitahuna
- February 1862: Large concert-room at Wetherstones holding 400, “nightly filled with admiring audience”



The Dunstan Rush

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- September 1862: The Dunstan Rush
- December 1862: several concert rooms at Hartley's (now Clyde)
- January 1863: Shamrock Hotel at Dunstan has concert room 60 feet by 20 feet
 - 20-21 January, performances there by Harriet Gordon and her husband J. P Hydes

The Wakatipu Rush

- November 1862:
 - Cardrona
 - Fox at the Arrow
 - Harry Redfern at the Shotover
- December 1862: 1500 miners on the Arrow
- February 1863: Wakatipu population 8000 (ODT 27.3.63)

Charles Thatcher

- 1831 born in Bristol
- 1847 theatre bands in London
- 1852 to Bendigo
- 1854 entertainer
- 1861 marries Annie Vitelli
- 1862, Feb-July, in Dunedin
- 1863, Jan-August, in Goldfields





'Rush in the Spring'

- Mid-June 1862, Dunedin
- Bad weather at the diggings, and in Dunedin
- Tune: Irish Historian (?)



Thatcher in the Goldfields

- February passes through Tuapeka and Dunstan
- 27 February first concert in Queenstown at ‘Clement’s Theatre Royal’
 - “the house accommodates upwards of four hundred”
 - “the songs draw crowded houses nightly” (ODT, 14.3.63)

William Gilbert Rees

- Came to Wakatipu in 1860; sheep and bullock farmer
 - Lived at 'The Camp', later Queenstown
 - Clement(s) was his foreman
- Didn't expect a goldrush
 - Had the only working boat on the lake
 - Had the only source of meat

Queenstown, March 1863





‘The Olden Days of Lake Wakatipu’

- Early April 1863, Queenstown
- Tune: Irish Washerwoman
- Sergeant Bracken was appointed the local policeman, but he soon quit the force to open a hotel

‘Cockatoo Jack’

- April 1863, Queenstown
- Tune: Unfortunate Man
- ODT 3 April 1863: John Ambrose, alias Cockatoo Jack, alias Barney the Nut, brought before magistrate J. Nugent Wood.
- “Charged with stealing, from the stand of Lawrence Layard, on the evening of 24th instant, one Crimean shirt and six pocket handkerchiefs of the value of 18s.”
- Sent to prison, but pleaded to be sent to Dunedin Jail
- ‘traps’ and ‘nabs’ = policemen
- ‘prigging wipes’ = stealing handkerchiefs

'The Bendigo Horse'

- April 1863
- Tune: Joe Bowers
- Cobb & Co ran coaches in the goldfields in Australia and also in Otago
- A 'puddler' turns pig iron into wrought iron; here the forge bellows were powered by a horse pushing round a capstan

'The Old Identity'

- Original version, Dunedin, March 1862
- This version, early March 1863
- Clash between 'old' Scottish settlers and 'new' young men seeking their fortune on the goldfields
 - In Queenstown, 'Old Identity' becomes the attempt by Invercargill to get access to the gold – a safe and an agent.
- 'French girls' = 'Blanche' prosecuted for performing an indecent dance in a Dunedin café