

Key dates for event & changes that occurred in the Waitaki Valley

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
	Aoraki and his brothers visit and are unable to return to the heavens
	Arrival of Waitaha
	Rock art drawn in the Waitaki
	Ngai Mamoe came south
	Ngai Tahu came south
1750	Battle at Lake Ohau
1770	Captain Cook sees fires on land (near the mouth of the Waitaki)
1773	Captain Cook introduces potato, cabbage and onions to New Zealand
1836	Whaling station already established at Moeraki
1836	Matiaha Tiramorehu comes south to Moeraki
1840s	Gorse introduced for fencing
1843-44	Shortland visits the Waitaki
1848	Kemps Purchase – the sale of land to the Crown. Mantell identifies reserves to be allocated
1849	Matiaha Tiramorehu lodges the “Ngai Tahu Claim” against the land purchase
1851	Lands are opened up for settlers
1851	Mantell writes of his intent to allocate insufficient lands to Ngai Tahu, thus preventing the perceived “barbarism” of their former lifestyle
1852	Mantell first European to travel inland and finds moa bones at Awamoa and rock art at Takiroa
1853 – 56	All land holdings up to Kurow Gorge taken up
1857	First sheep introduced on a Waitaki run
1859	First sowing of English style grass
1860	Rabbits introduced to island in Ohau River for sport. By 1880s range extended to Tasman and Hopkins Valley
1860s	Shooting ducks and quail a popular sport. Quail extinct in the Waitaki by 1880.
1861	Te Huruhuru dies
1861	Most land holdings in the Waitaki taken up
1864-65	Sweet briar introduced
1867	Deer liberated in the Waitaki
1868	Gorse and broom planted
1868	Gold found in the Maerewhenua
1868	Fenton decision in the Native Land Court awarding more reserves to Ngai Tahu
1869	3 tons of harvested birds floated downriver from Station Peak
1870	Moa skeleton found
1870s	Cats released
1872	Acknowledgement that in relation to Kemps Purchase “a promise of important character was not kept”
1873	Roads constructed
1876	Petition by Moeraki and Arowhenua Maori re Kemps Purchase and the failure to honour its terms
1876	Trout widespread in New Zealand
1877 – 1879	Heke to Omarama in 1877 with eviction in the winter of 1879
1877	Waitaki Acclimatisation Society formed
1879-1880	HK Taiaroa recorded mahinga kai sites across the Central South Island
1882	Matiaha Tiramorehu dies
1884	Hermitage built
1885 & 1887	Hooker and Tasman Valleys taken as national reserves (now national park)
1886	Weasel released
1887	Stoat released
1887	A Royal Commission into the land sales and allocation of reserves in the South Island
1888	Japanese Deer introduced to Otekaike
1889	Chamois introduced

1889	Last weka harvest in the Pukaki Valley
1892	Mining still in the Maerewhenua and Otekaike
1891	Ferret released at Lake Pukaki for rabbit control
1891	Another Royal Commission
1894	Aoraki climbed
1895	Opposums released
1893-1910	First irrigation scheme on the Lower Waitaki
1900	Quinnat salmon hatchery in the Hakataramea
1902	Sockeye salmon released into Lake Ohau
1904	Hay Report identifies hydro potential of the Waitaki Valley
1914	A Royal Commission into the SILNA (South Island Landless Natives Act) land allocation
1916	Rainbow trout introduced into the Hakataramea
1916	Last sighting of weka in the Godley Valley
1928-1934	Waitaki Dam constructed
1944	Government paid £300,000 for settlement of the Ngai Claim (to be paid over 10 years)
1951	Tekapo Power station operational
1952	Lake Pukaki raised enabling storage for hydro power generation
1960s	Mid Waitaki (Benmore and Aviemore) power stations constructed
1970s – 80s	Upper Waitaki hydro scheme constructed
1989	The Ngai Tahu Claim heard by the Waitangi Tribunal
1990	Water rights for the Waitaki Power System granted for 35 years (expiring 2025)
1998	The Ngai Tahu Claim Settlement Act
2000 -	Didymo and Lagarosiphon major are established in the Waitaki system