Heathcote's Lovely Lanes

By Barrie Woods

Have you ever wondered how your street got its name? There are actually quite good records of the origins of the names of public streets and roads in New Zealand, and they often tell a story about people who lived there in the past, various activities in the area, or local landforms of significance. Heathcote is no exception, and some of our street names go back to the first settlement of the area. For some reason Heathcote seems to have a disproportionate number of 'lanes'. The names of some streets have changed over the years, and others follow a different route to the early maps, and there is a rich history to explore.

Here are the origins of most of the names of our local streets. There are a couple for which records are not available, particularly private right of ways which don't feature in the council records. Maybe you can fill in any gaps, or expand on the stories?
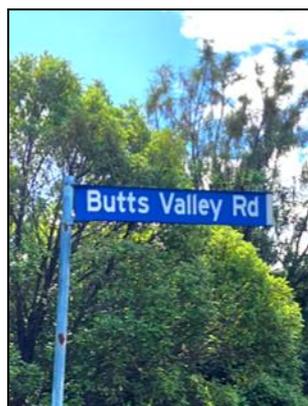
Ardtrea Lane

On Wednesday 2 July 1997 a meeting of the Hagley-Ferrymead Community Board agreed "that the right-of-way at 136 Port Hills Road be named Ardtrea Lane". Ardtrea is a parish in County Tyrone in Northern Ireland from which the lane takes its name.

Avoca Valley Road

Avoca Valley is named after The Vale of Avoca, a poem by Thomas Moore (1780-1852). The land was originally owned by William Robinson and named by him. The farm was subdivided from 1918 and the road formed. Avoca Valley Road was first mentioned in 'The Press' in 1921 and appears in street directories from the same year.

Bridle Path Road

Bridle Path Road was formerly known as Heathcote Valley Road. It is referred to by this name in 'The Lyttelton Times' between 1860 and 1904. The name Bridle Path Road first appears in street directories

in 1903, and was described as running from Sumner Road to Hills Road (Port Hills Road).

Butts Valley Road

In 1871 the Canterbury Rifle Association opened a rifle range in Horotane Valley. The range became known as 'The Butts' in reference to the butts and targets located there. Butts Valley Road was developed by John Flinders Scott (1876-1941) and is first mentioned in 'The Sun' in 1915. In 1815 Mr J. F. Scott wrote to the Heathcote County Council stating that, should the council approve the Butts Valley road extension, he would "grade and form a half chain wide road, put on nine yards of scoria to the chain, and plant English trees every half chain on both sides". The offer was accepted. The wonderful avenue of trees planted by Mr Scott endures to this day.

Carinya Lane

Named after the historic orchard from which the subdivision was developed. The name is aboriginal for "habitat". Named in **1997**.

Castleview Lane

Named because the street has a view of Castle Rock. Developed at 162 Port Hills Road. Named in 1999.

Clonbracken Lane

The name first appears in street directories in 1987. The name appears to be of Irish origin and possibly comes from an estate in Ireland of that name.

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Cooks Lane

Formerly called Cook Street, Cooks Lane is named after William Cook, a timber merchant, who built the first homes on Cooks Lane. He is listed as living there in 1907, the year Cook Street first appears in street directories. The name was changed to Cooks Lane in 1936. Though one of the early Heathcote streets, Cooks Lane has been redeveloped as a semi-rural housing estate in modern times.

Cordelia Lane

Named after the ketch, Cordelia. The Cordelia was a ketch sailed by Captain James Hines (1836? -1920). The Shipping News in 'The Lyttelton Times' in 1868-1869 refers to voyages made by the Cordelia, with Hines at the wheel, bringing firewood from Pigeon Bay to Lyttelton. Developed as a subdivision at 132 Port Hills Road, the lane was named in 2009.

Deavoll Place

Named after Daniel Deavoll (1858?-1929). Deavoll was a carpenter who lived at 123 Bridle Path Road. He named his son, Daniel Stanley Heathcote Deavoll (1898-1974). The family's fourth generation was still resident in Heathcote Valley at the time the street was named in 2003.

Flavell Street

Flavell Street was formerly called Lee Street and was named after Alfred Lee Smith (1838- 1917). In 1873 Smith developed three streets in Heathcote Valley, naming them Lee Street, Smith Street and Vogel Street. Smith operated the original malt house in the valley. Lee Street was re-named Flavell Street in 1933 by the Public Utilities Committee of the Heathcote County Council at the request of the Post and Telegraph Department. This was to avoid confusion with Lees Road in Christchurch City. The new name, Flavell Street, honours Charles Flavell (1871? - 1955). who was an original member of the Heathcote County Council which was formed in 1911.

Flinders Road

Named after John Flinders Scott (1876-1941), a pastoral farmer of Opawa, who was a member of the Heathcote County Council for twelve years. The name appears in street directories in 1955.

Fredrika Lane

Named after the daughter of the landowner where the subdivision was developed at 140-144 Port Hills Road. Named in 2008.

Gilders Grove

Named after Digby Te'Ohia Leslie Gilders (1896-1980). Gilders was a private surveyor practising in Christchurch 1930s-1970s. He surveyed the subdivision which created the allotment subdivided at 19 Avoca Valley Road by W. J. Mauger. Gilders Grove was named in 1999.

Hammerton Lane

Hammerton Lane takes its name from the 150 acre Heathcote Valley estate owned by early pioneer Isaac Cookson. The estate was named after 'Green Hammerton' a village in North Yorkshire, England. The name Hammerton was also given to the first 'township' in Heathcote Valley, which was located around the area where the Valley Inn is now located. This was part of the original Hammerton Estate and allotments were sold from about 1863. The name 'Hammerton' did not endure for the settlement, which eventually became known as Heathcote. Today it is remembered as Hammerton Lane.

Hamlet Lane

Origin unknown though it possibly relates to Pawaho Hamlet (see Pawaho Place).

Heathvale Place

Origin unknown though the name could be derived from a contraction of Heathcote Valley.

Highlight Lane

Named after Highlight, the Heathcote Valley Riding School's first pony. Named in 2003

Horotane Valley Road

Horotane Valley was named by John Flinders Scott (1876-1941), a pastoral farmer, who subdivided land in this area. The name was first mentioned in 'The Press' in 1933. Horotane was apparently never known as such by local Maori, so while the name was first used by JF Scott, its origins are otherwise obscure.

Kairūri Lane

Kairūri is the Maori word for surveyor. There appears to be a link to the Kairūri Community Charitable Trust which was established by the NZ Institute of Surveyors to promote surveying, education, diversity of the profession. The trust was established around the time the lane was being developed and may have inspired the naming.

Laing Crescent

Named after William Baillie Laing (1899-1971). Laing was a Heathcote County Councillor for over 20 years. The name first appears in street directories in 1972. Prior to that, older properties in Laing Crescent held Port Hills Road addresses.

Malthouse Lane

Named because the street is adjacent to the old Malting Company site. It was named in 1997.

Marsden Street

Marsden Street was formerly called Vogel Street. It was probably named after Sir Julius Vogel (1835-1899) who was the Prime Minister of New Zealand, 1873-1875 and 1876. The name was given by Alfred Lee Smith (1838-1917) who operated a malt house in the valley. In 1873 Smith developed three streets in Heathcote Valley, naming them Lee Street, Smith Street and Vogel Street. Vogel Street was re-named Marsden Street in 1933 by the Public Utilities Committee of the Heathcote County Council at the request of the Post and Telegraph Department. This was to avoid confusion with Vogel Street in Richmond. Joseph Marsden (1832- 1888), a butcher, was one of the earliest proprietors of the Valley Hotel in Heathcote and a member of the Heathcote Road Board. He drowned at Petone in 1888.

Martindales Road

Matindales Road was named after Robert Wilkinson Martindale (1831- 1892) who arrived in Canterbury about 1863 and lived in Heathcote Valley. He was foreman to George Holmes, a

railway contractor who built the Lyttelton railway tunnel. Information about the naming of this road was given in a letter to 'The Press' written by a descendant of Martindale in 1954. The name first appears in street directories in 1917.

Mauger Drive

Named after Warner Mauger (1934 - 2020). Mauger was a builder and property developer responsible for the subdivision of properties in the area. He was the father of Philip Mauger, the current mayor of Christchurch. The name, Mauger Drive, first appears in street directories in 1980.

Morgans Valley

Morgans Valley was named after Captain William Morgan. Morgan was one of the pioneer settlers. His home was still there in 1920 at the head of the valley. The house was built of Baltic pine and large slabs of Welsh slate brought from England. Morgans Valley has also previously been known as Scott's Valley as it backed onto the JS Scott homestead in Bridle Path Road. Today Scotts Valley Reserve is to the south of Morgans Valley, above Birdsey Reserve.

Pawaho Place

Pawaho is another form of the Māori name for the Heathcote River. The Pawaho Hamlet or Settlement (1898) was a government village settlement of 50 acres designed for workmen with jobs in Lyttelton, on land previously owned by Charles Menzies. The settlement covered the area around Railway Terrace through to the railway line by Marindales Road. In the early days the lower parts of the land were notorious for flooding. Pawaho Place is located towards the east of this block and first appears in street directories in 1978.

Port Hills Road

Formerly called Hills Road, Port Hills Road follows the lower slopes of Murray Aynsley and was once used to avoid ferry fees. Hills Road, Opawa, was renamed Port Hills Road by the Heathcote Road Board in 1909 to avoid confusion with Hills Road in Shirley/Mairehau. Port Hills Road first appears in street directories in 1914.

Railway Terrace

Actually a private right of way, Railway Terrace was named because it follows a terrace above the railway line. Original properties in this area were part of the Pawaho settlement, which was a government village settlement designed for workmen with jobs in Lyttelton.

Rollin Street

Rollin Street was formerly named Smith Street after Alfred Lee Smith (1838- 1917). In 1873 Smith developed three streets in Heathcote Valley, naming them Lee Street, Smith Street and Vogel Street. He operated a malt house in the valley. Smith Street was renamed Rollin Street in 1933 by the Public Utilities Committee of the Heathcote County Council at the request of the Post and Telegraph Department to avoid confusion with Smith Street in Woolston. It was named after Samuel Rollin Webb (1848-1933) who was mayor of Lyttelton 1883-1884, 1888-1889 and 1904- 1908.

Romar Lane

Named after the developer's wife's parents, Ron and Margaret. A small private right-ofway serving 10 properties. Developed at 110 Port Hills Road by Texco Developments Ltd in 2006.

Scruttons Road

Named after George Scrutton (d. 1874). Scrutton farmed at Ashby Farm on Scrutton's Road where he ran a dairy herd and a slaughterhouse. Scrutton's Road first appears in 'The Star' in 1877 in a report of a meeting of the Heathcote Road Board and in 1879 tenders were called for forming of the road. The name first appears in street directories in 1892.

Station Road

Part of Station Road was originally named Short Road/ Short Street. Short Road first appears in street directories in 1902 and becomes Short Street in 1924. It was incorporated into Station Road in 1950. Station Road is first mentioned in 'The Star' in 1873 in a report of a meeting of the Heathcote Road Board. It first appears in street directories in 1903. It was named because it led to the Heathcote Railway Station.

Stead Lane

Thought be named after George Gatonby Stead, one of the original owners of the malt works (1875). Stead was also notable for his interest in horse racing and breeding. He served on the boards of many early Christchurch businesses and in 1890 he purchased 'The Press' newspaper, saving it from bankruptcy.

Stedley Place

Named after Stedley Scott. Scott was a draughtsman employed by the Heathcote County Council. First appears in street directories in 1980.

The Tors

Named after the cluster of high rocks behind Castle Rock. The subdivision was developed at 118 Port Hills Road by Horncastle Homes in 2006.

Truscotts Road

Formerly called Albert Street, it may have been named Albert Street after Albert Charles Truscott (1838?- 1910). In 1933 it was renamed Truscotts Road after Frederick Truscott (1874- 1945) and his wife, Selina Truscott, (1875?- 1961). Frederick Truscott, a saddler, was a resident of Pawaho Hamlet in Heathcote in 1905. From about 1913, he farmed Truscott's Farm on Moncks Spur. His brother, William John Truscott (1870-1941), a farmer, was a resident of the street in 1933 when it was renamed.

Vega Place

First appears in street directories in 1987. The origin of the name is not known.

Warner Place

Named after Warner Mauger (1934-2020). Mauger was a builder and developer of properties in the area. The name first appears in street directories in 1987.

Wendy Place

Named after the sister of Warner Mauger, Wendy Cockram (nee Mauger). Warner Mauger was a builder and developer of properties in the area.

Sources for this article:
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