



The Making of a ROSE TRAIL

Jean Britton

Nestled beneath New Zealand's Southern Alps near the beautiful holiday resort of Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu is the old gold mining village of Arrowtown.

Because of its historical significance, the Central Otago branch of Heritage Roses New Zealand thought it a perfect place for a mass planting of old roses. But talking was as far as we got until August 2003 when Pat Toolan, a recipient of



Australia's Churchill Fellowship and a wonderful campaigner for saving old roses, came to visit Queenstown and give a talk. Pat mentioned that she was making a map of the old roses in her area. That planted the seed of an idea. Inspired by Pat, Margaret Rogerson, Penny Wallace, Mary O'Connell and I formed the Wakatipu Group—four little women with big ideas. Our aim? To create a rose trail around old Arrowtown with a site map available at the museum,

But where to start? We wanted old roses in Arrowtown, but did the people? The first step was to contact the Arrowtown Village Association and speak at their November meeting. The Autumn Festival, the most important local event, was top of the agenda and Heritage Roses was at the bottom. As the afternoon wore on, we got increasingly nervous about the reception we would get. However, the association was enthusiastic and gave us their support as long as we were prepared to do all the work. Anne Currie, the only woman member, and John Wilson, a councilor on the Queenstown Lakes District Council, volunteered to help us select suitable sites, all of which had to be within easy walking distance from the center of town.

LEFT AND BELOW: Downtown Arrowtown and Ramblers against a cemetery wall. Photos by Jean Britton. Arrowtown Rose Trail brochure.

