

Student Writing. This student was reading about the early Chinese gold miners. He decided to write a letter home, from the miners perspective, about life as a gold miner in Central Otago. It is very descriptive and well written.

18 May 1862

Dear Mum

I hope all is good with you and the rest of the family at home. I hope all is well with the rest of the people of our village in China. I hope the rice planting this year is easy for you all. I hope the land grows a good crop of rice for you and for the people of our village.

I am missing you all. I have been in the Land of the Long White Cloud for a year and a half or so. New Zealand is its real name and it's the home of the kīwi.

I am settled and getting over the temperature fluctuations. For most of the year it is an incredible and inspiring place to live. I search for gold in the bitter cold in winter and the boiling sun in summer. It is severely cold in winter -18C or more and in mid summer it is 35C+. You have to get up with the sun in mid winter with the snow and frost.

My rock dwelling is my shelter no matter the weather outside. It is made to keep me warm in winter with a fireplace and cool in summer. My home is down by the banks of the Clutha River. I pan for gold in the mighty Clutha River or on the banks of her. The environment is unpredictable and changeable. In this great land the Clutha River is in the Central Otago goldfields. The land with its river of golden dreams of gold is a beautiful sight.

I grow my own vegetables and catch fish. I also trade for food like back home in China.

You can never get sick of the view of this great land of Central Otago. The rocky tussock, rolling hills rise steeply to the foot of the majestic mountains of this land. You must see this with snow and frost glistening and gleaming in the first rays of sun. To me it's a heavenly paradise to the soul of life. The river and hills are always changing with each new season. I am in or on this great land not just for the gold but also it is a golden land to live in. It uplifts my soul and makes the hard work of goldmining seem like fun, but it's not.

But the best time of the year is mid autumn when the leaves change from green to brown, gold and bronze and with a light dusting of snow and frost on the backdrop of the mighty mountains of this land. The mighty Clutha River has different moods with the change of seasons too.

It's just spectacular to see Mum

As I mine for gold in this great land and in the water of the goldfields of Central Otago the days always surprise me because it is always changing each day with the sunlight.

*I hope a family friend gave you the 300zs of gold that I sent home for you all.
LOVE - All is love of what one sees and loves to think of at all times in one's life.
HOPE - Is hope but love and hope is a dream of all things great in one's life.*

To me that sums up the land I call home for now. It's the Clutha River and the rest of the Central Otago goldfields and mountains too.

It is a hard life, a dangerous life, a frustrating life but all good things are mostly hard to get aren't they? For gold is precious and precious means valuable and it means money and that means hard work does it not? I think so Mum, do you?

I miss you all. I sincerely love you and I am thinking of you all.

Lots o f Love
Your son ,
Yong Ping



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News .

Kia ora everyone,
Well, looking out the window its almost believable that Spring is here. Isn't it good to be in lighter clothing and have that extra daylight time in the evening. As school holidays approach the groups are finishing and recruitment is under way for next term. There has been a lot of colds and flu this term which makes taking a group a challenge with variable attendance. Overall there has been a lot of flu around this year. Even with the winter ills and chills, we have meet our targets and I have been able to apply where possible for some more places for the 4th term. So thank you everyone for encouraging students to achieve the out comes.
We have been approached by a wide variety of contacts to discuss how we might work together in different contexts. (Workplace, Whanau Ora, rural communities) All challenging and exciting.
After 6 years of budgeting to upgrade the car, we have traded and bought a new car. The Community Trust paid for most of the first car and said at that time ,they would not fund a second and that was fine. We appreciated the start. The sign writing has been updated and gets quite a lot of interest.
Literacy Aotearoa is undergoing a restructure at National Office. Some new staff with commercial experience have been employed, all current staff have stayed, and an upgrade of the database is in progress which will mean some changes in reporting. We will keep you posted when we know how it will unfold. I feel a new learning curve coming on!!
Up to August 31 we had 206 students and 5,593.3 hours of provision.
We had a good day at the Polyfest with Travelling Books and programme promotion. Books were also given away at the Post Shop, Countdown Gore, Pak n Save and a box has gone to Queenstown.
With daylight saving and school holidays dare I say Christmas is not far away, so it is onward and upward to the end of the year.
All the best, Nellie





From Averil –

I am recently back from two weeks in Aussie rested and relaxed. We enjoyed our time away.

Back at work, we have had a steady flow of students coming in to sign up for a variety of 1:1 tuition and the courses we offer, and most days the Centre is a hum with people. Our

Learn for Life, Beginner and Advanced Com-

puter and Drivers Licence courses have been busy, and the tutors have risen to the challenges of working with such a diverse group of students at one time.

The last couple of months have been a bit of a challenge with regards to changes with our MITO (Motor Industry Trade) apprentices, and we know that tutors have felt frustrated at times with these, but we really appreciate your ongoing support. We seem to have the changes sorted out now and hopefully things have settled down and we can get onto delivering literacy tuition and assisting the apprentices as best we can.

Remember if you have any issues or concerns at all working with a student, or queries regarding reporting, Nellie and I are just a phone call away.

Keep up the good work and enjoy the sunshine.

Queenstown Connection.

The days are getting longer and skiing combined with gardening is making it feel like the Winter months are nearly done and spring is on the way in Queenstown.

Two new workplace clients have been picked up via the Council. They have started with a tutor.

One apprentice (plumbing) is making excellent progress with positive feedback from all concerned. Unfortunately the other (auto) has had difficulty attending nth due to health problems and family commitments. He has since moved away. Contact has been made with another client who is keen for support and a career change. He has been given a local tiler's number to initiate discussions around this.

The conversation class which has been a great success and has established a model for future classes. I will evaluate and seek feedback from the 'girls' to decide a better way to advertise the next course, as emailing and phoning are difficult for those who are not confident with English. ESL clients are a reality in Queenstown and it is hoped we can source more resources in the office to support this client base in the future.

I have been away to sunny Cairns celebrating our Ruby wedding.



"It's called 'reading'. It's how people install new software into their brains"

Gore Connection–

Gore is relatively stable at present. Drivers licence classes with Maura are happening in Gore with some success. There is sporadic attendance at the Mataura course as Mataura whanau are now getting more seasonal work with the shearing season kicking into full steam. We are doing some advertising in the Mataura area through the local publications and Community Worker.



Qualifications—new and upgrades.

Just a reminder:

- * CALT 5 training assessments and practicum need to be completed and sent by November 2nd
- * NCALNE Educator assessments and practicum need to be completed and sent by October 29th
- * NCALNE vocational assessments and practicum need to be completed and sent by December 7th.

I will be phoning those involved but if you have any problems please contact me sooner rather than later..

The work all needs to be printed off and sent in hard copy. We will print them for you and courier them to Auckland.

Thanks Nellie



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Keeping in Touch

*A juicy piece of news!
I couldn't wait to tell a friend!
I Tweeted and texted but no answer did she send.
I turned on the computer, on to Facebook and on Skype,
I was overly excited, so I could barely type!
I even sent an email, but no response I got.
Desperate to share my news, I thought, "Ah! I know what!
I'll get her on her mobile!" But my battery was dead.
So, in despair, I popped next door and talked to her instead.*



Unit standards.

We now have a range of level 1 and 2 literacy and numeracy unit standards available for you to use with your students if they request them. It is a good way for your students to add credits and sometimes complete a qualification. Many students have credits in a wide range of subjects but don't have the compulsory literacy and numeracy credits to complete a qual. There are some conditions to using them but please contact the office if you are interested.



Reviews

Some of you will remember in past years that we have conducted an independent tutor and student review by telephone. It is at least 18 months since we have done this.

We will be setting this up in October /November. If you get a call don't be alarmed, we are not SKY TV or a power company.!!

We appreciate the feedback we have received in past years and with the different changes that have happened over the last 18 months it is good to get your feedback. It is all anonymous, we only get the comments by means of a report, no names.

We do listen and make changes where possible based on feedback.



New Pro-

Spring Fever

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> APRIL | <input type="checkbox"/> EASTER PARADE | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIMROSE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BEGINNING | <input type="checkbox"/> EGGS | <input type="checkbox"/> SEASON |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUD | <input type="checkbox"/> FLOWERS | <input type="checkbox"/> SEEDS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BULBS | <input type="checkbox"/> FRESH | <input type="checkbox"/> SNOWDROP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUNNIES | <input type="checkbox"/> GREEN | <input type="checkbox"/> SPRING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CROCUS | <input type="checkbox"/> LAMBS | <input type="checkbox"/> SPRING CLEANING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DAFFODILS | <input type="checkbox"/> MARCH | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUNG MAN'S FANCY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EASTER | <input type="checkbox"/> NEW | |



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motional material.

To keep our profile up to date, we have developed new material about our courses. Each course has a flier with information on the back. These have been distributed around a wide range of providers in Inv and Gore. Some will be sent to Queenstown also. Feel free to pick them up and give them out if you have people enquiring about our programme.



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