

A DARING VISION.

AN ICY VENTURE

In 1880, William Davidson, Manager of the New Zealand & Australia Land Company, dared to dream of exporting frozen New Zealand lamb to Britain. He fitted out a sailing ship, the *Dunedin*, with a coal-powered freezing plant. Totara Estate was chosen as the butchery location. Sheep were slaughtered onsite, packed in iceboxes, and taken via rail to the *Dunedin* at Port Chalmers. The operation was a success and Totara Estate became the birthplace of New Zealand's powerhouse farming export economy.



Totara Estate Buildings

WASTE DISPOSAL UNITS

With hundreds of sheep being killed a day, Totara Estate needed a way to get rid of waste. The solution was to use pigs. Recent archaeology has revealed traces of farrowing pens. Here piglets were bred as future 'waste disposal units'. In the feeding yard two hundred hogs lingered around flaps in the slaughter house, waiting hungrily for offal and carcass trimmings to be pushed out.



Historic photo of Totara Estate piggery

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POUHERE TAONGA

MILL ON THE MAHENO.

CLARKS MILL
MAHENO, NORTH OTAGO



MILL TECHNOLOGY

Clarks Mill, built in 1866, is New Zealand's only surviving operating flour mill which was originally water-powered. The millstones were initially driven by an 'overshot' water-wheel. During the 1880s wheat was ground by rollers powered by water turbines. In 1948 the Clarks connected the mill to the national electrical grid and overhauled the machinery. It was worth the effort - production doubled! More recently skilled volunteers have restored the mill machinery to working order.



Clarks Flour Mill

THE CLARK FAMILY

The Clark family owned the Mill from 1901 to 1976. They were canny operators. In 1948 Allan Clark bought a Bren gun carrier from the army to pull trucks of flour along the siding to the main railway line.

During the Clarks' ownership the Mill became a local social hub. The Mill Cottage was nicknamed Smokey Joe's after Allan 'Joe' Clark who turned it into a 'music hall'. The hall was decorated with Hawaiian murals, Allan's war memorabilia, and a vast music collection. Locals used Smokey Joe's as a party hall, meeting room, and sports club-room.



A volunteer gets the Mill running on an operating day

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