

**TABLED AT HEARING**

Date 16/11/2009

***Personal Statement from Susan Simpson***

Yester year when the ice age glacier receded,  
A ground out trough was left.  
A bed of greywacke, a place for a lake.  
The steep slopes of Ruataniwha and Ben Ohau Range  
Resisted the glacier, creating the curved shape.  
From the head of the valleys, Dobson and Hopkins rivers flow;  
Over shingle, gravel and feared quicksand, their waters feed the lake.  
I wonder when Moa's roamed did they pause to drink?

Originally named Lake Ohou, however renamed Lake Ohau  
'Place of wind' its legend remains.  
Ohau's nor' wester is brewed from clouds spilling over the Main Divide;  
Spring gales howl, summer hot winds shrivel the hay,  
Its strength can be felt on your face.  
Glen Mary sits at the top, its beauty reflected in water.  
Ohau's outlet, carved through the moraine, a river of boulder and rock  
Its water downwards flow to the Waitaki.

Ohau's Round Bush has its sand flies,  
Parsons Creek has its mistletoe beech trees.  
Ohau's lodge is a holiday place;  
A snow field for ski-ing and long summer evenings; a fisherman's dream.  
Ohau's view of Mount Cook over the tops of Glen Lyon  
Amazes you and inspires artists to paint.

Ohau Downs founded in 1916.  
Subdivided from historic Benmore Station,  
Land to graze sheep, to grow wool at its best.  
The Blue family farmed sheep; on tussock moraine for 50 odd years  
Placing a covenant to protect the tarns and the tussock.  
Ohau Blues have a thankfulness and a pull on their hearts.  
A sense of home no other can contest.

Ohau's Boat Harbour, kowhals grow in the shingle;  
A great place to camp, picnic and swim.  
For today and tomorrow without any fears of its future.  
So please don't disturb this quiet place.

