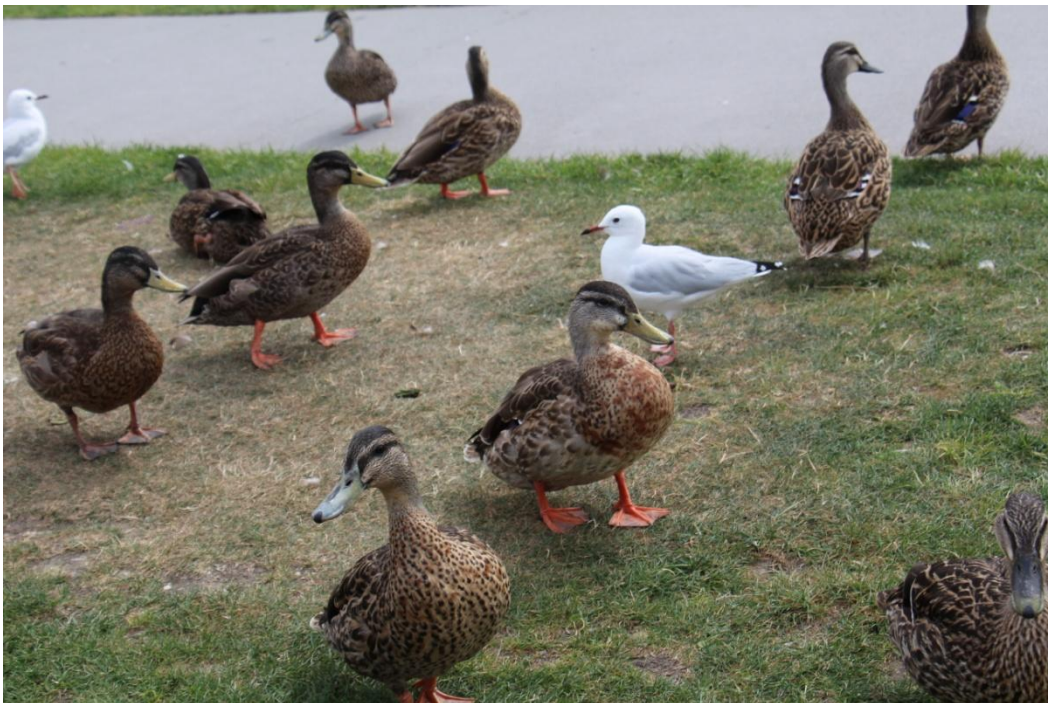


Chronicle IV

February 20. Much of the day is spent driving through more astounding scenery on the way to Queenstown. We go southwest through Haast, then south through Wanaka and Cromwell.



At a stop along the way we meet some mallards directed by a red billed gull.



Lynn must be kept under my thumb because she is shooting too many pictures.



We finally get our first glimpse of Queenstown on the shores of Lake *Wakatipu*.



Wakatipu might mean *ancestral (tipu) canoe (waka)*. Perhaps it means *ancestral war canoe*. We get a better view of a lake inlet from our room in the William Rees Hotel.



February 21. Dean must take off one day per week. Today is his second such day and we are scheduled to go for a ride in a jet boat. After that we are left to our own devices. Jet boats barely draw any water when at high speed and can perform intricate maneuvers, 360 rotations and power glides. This is done inside a narrow rocky canyon. First we must don waterproof garments and life jackets. Lynn refused to go, because of too many blackfly bites, and took this picture instead. That's, left to right, Randy , Ron, John, Nicki and Linda.



Lynn gets a look at the entrance to the canyon.



When we come by on our loop trip, Lynn gets a shot of us finishing a 360,



and a shot of us ending the ride.



We had to decide what to do for the rest of the day. Randy, Lynn and I decided to use the services of the concierge at the Rees Hotel. We chose to take a cruise of Lake Wakatipu on the steamboat Earnshaw. That would enable me to recover from the dizziness experienced on the jet boat and afterwards.



This turned out to be very scenic and relaxing, lasting a few hours. On board we get a shot of Lynn with an erupting volcano in the background.



(For those of you who are doubters, the smoke is from the steamboat.) When we landed back at the dock we made tracks to Patagonia, a gourmet ice cream and chocolate parlor.



Our next adventure is to learn how to ride a Segway and then take a tour of some of Queenstown by Segway. This turns out to be one of the biggest treats of the entire trip. Randy, Lynn and I become adept in about 10-15 minutes (great instructors) and then we are off on our tour. Eventually we learn to negotiate hills, up and down, and gravel roadways.



The Segway people told us to meet at the big Moa for pickup by van so we could be taken to the training grounds. We were led to believe that if you pull on the Moa's neck she will lay an egg. Much effort was to no avail. Someone was pulling our legs.



We negotiate a downhill on gravel.



We pass through a park downtown.



And we stand around getting instructions.



When we finish I ponder what William Rees and his ram are looking at.

