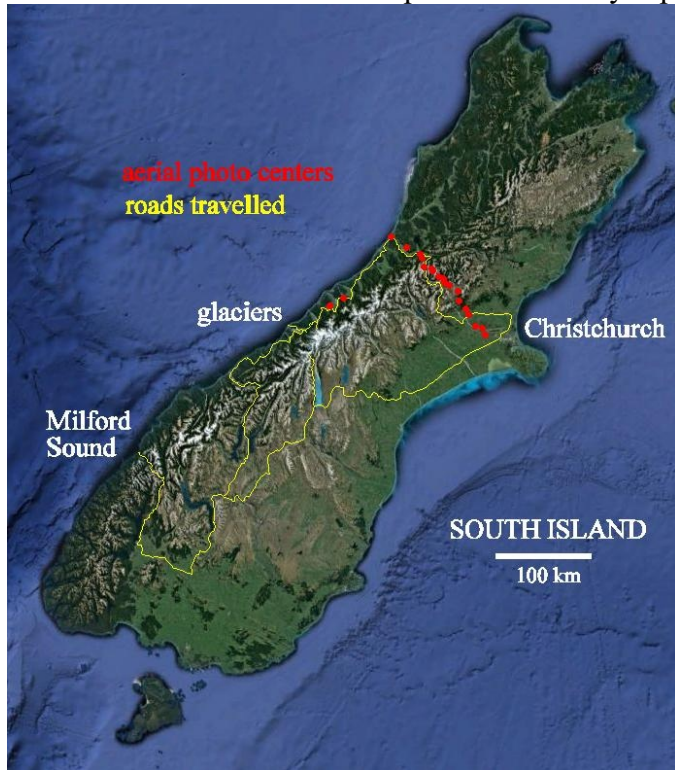


New Zealand Trip - 23 March to 3 April 1974, part 1

Gail and I worked in Australia 1971 to 1974. Before returning home to America we wanted to visit New Zealand and did so in early 1974. New Zealand consists of two main islands, simply known as North Island and South Island. They are different physically. Volcanic features dominate the North Island. The Southern Alps of the South Island is a raised mountain range. Earthquakes are occasional. The climates also vary from the north-south extent. That extent is similar to the distance from Duluth, Minnesota, to Little Rock, Arkansas, in the United States, converting latitudes from southern to northern. The Southern Alps create further climate differences, with rain forests on the west side and drier plains on the east. Glaciers are in the Southern Alps and snow may cap tall volcanoes in the North.



This map shows our travels on the South Island. The red dots are the approximate centers of photos taken from the aircraft flight to Christchurch. The thin yellow line traces the roads on which we traveled by rental car from 23 to 31 March. We initially crossed over the Alps, then followed the coastal highway with a stop to see a glacier. Milford Sound, a fjord, was our ultimate destination. The return trip had an excursion to the glaciers near the base of Mount Cook, the highest in New Zealand. Overnights were a mix of motels and tent camping. This route gave us a good exposure to many of the features of the South Island.

As seen in the following selected aerial photos, the Southern Alps are tall (snow-capped) and rugged. But the valley bottoms are comparatively near sea level. That makes it very difficult to build dams and hydroelectric facilities for water power. Wide braided rivers loaded with sediment come out of the mountains.



Crossing the Southern Alps



The wide braided Waimakariri River



Flat agricultural plains near Christchurch



Braided rivers have more sediment than water.







Many switchbacks at Arthur's Pass crossing the Alps



Red flowers on some tall western trees



Flower close-up



The western coastal highway is lined with tall trees. Notice that we were on the left side of the highway, standard practice in Australia and New Zealand.

Next we visited the Franz Josef Glacier.



The hiking route to the glacier



Thick vegetation along the trail



Ferns and mosses along the trail



Smoothed foreground rock surfaces



with scratches from rocks in glacier



Lateral moraines with mixed rock sizes



Gail beside glacier



Feeling ice covered with rock powder



Banded ice from storm cycles, thaws

Gail was seven months pregnant with Micah on this trip to New Zealand. Micah was then born in Australia.





Reflective pond near Fox Glacier town



Coastal view



Haast River and tree-covered mountains



Interior flat valley grassland, mountains



This scene was indeed bluish



Tree-less mountains near Lake Hawea



Low cloud at Lake Te Anau



Mountain barrier on Milford Sound road



Homer Tunnel penetrates this ridge

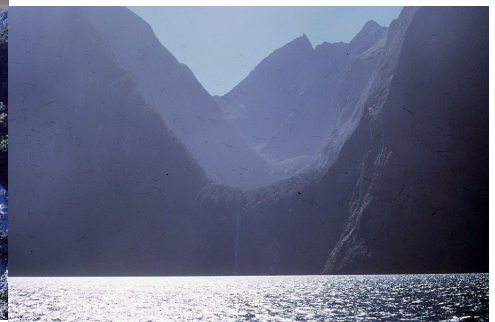
The southwestern side of South Island has many fjords carved by Ice Age glaciers. Milford Sound is one fjord.



Mitre Peak is the landmark here



To the right is this (bouncing?) waterfall



U-shaped "hanging valley" with waterfall

A hanging valley results where side glaciers join a main glacier. Glaciers turn V-shaped valleys into U-shaped.



Waterfall at end of hanging valley



Milford Sound viewed from ocean edge



Watching seals on rocks, view from boat