

The water does not seem to flow out of it as from the Waiho glacier but bubbles up in its front, where there is a remarkable fountain throwing out a great body of water, boiling up some feet in height. The effect of the whole view, like that of the Waiho glacier, is much heightened by the bright red of the rata flowers. As the party proposed to return to Gillespie's Beach the same day, but little time could be spared at the glacier, and, having christened it the 'Fox Glacier', the return was commenced soon after 2 pm. While climbing across the morain on the return journey, at one place, after Mr M'Lellan had got safely over, Mr Fox following after him had a dangerous slip on the ice, but by the timely assistance of Mr M'Lellan and Mr Mueller, he succeeded in crossing the place in safety. The rest of the party had to take a different track, for a single slip might have started tons of stone both above and below, and escaping the dangers thereby caused, would have been difficult indeed. Travelling homeward several stoppages were made and excellent views obtained of the glacier and Mount Cook range in their majestic grandeur. The river having risen considerably since the morning, the fording was effected with considerable difficulty. At the last two fords more especially, the horse Mr Fox was riding was nearly carried off its legs. The last ford was reached at dark, and though known to be too deep it was taken in preference to trying a fresh one. Crossing the lagoon, and the beach reached, the tide was found to be too far in for passing the bluff without great risk of a thorough wetting, but making a rapid rush round the rocks, the party got to Gillespie's receiving only a few splashes of spray. The return journey's end was reached at about 8 o'clock in the evening, everyone being highly pleased with the excursion...'²²

Heinrich von Haast in the life of his father²³ was bitter that the glacier his father had named 'Prince Alfred' was renamed by Fox's party. This was ironic seeing that von Haast Senior had renamed more features than any other sub-alpine traveller. To give both von Haasts justice it must be emphasised that neither of them claim discovery; von Haast Junior states 'It seems clear, therefore, that Haast never visited the Fox Glacier, but only saw it from the mouth of the Weheka.'²⁴

Who then first visited the Fox Glacier? It is likely that Charles Douglas was the first to make a *recorded* visit. His Cook River MSS in the Turnbull Library, quoted on page 23 of *Mr Explorer Douglas*; (ed. Pascoe, Wellington, 1957) make it clear his first visit was in 1868. It is more likely that unrecorded visits were made by unknown prospectors earlier in the sixties. They were in the Balfour Glacier country in 1866 and would not have neglected the Fox, so much more spectacular and more accessible. It is appropriate that the credit for an important discovery can fairly go to an unknown explorer.

When on 11 November 1847 Thomas Brunner and Kehu forded the