

The Bradshaw Harp

Cliff Bradshaw started his sawmill at the Princess River in the Linda Valley in 1936. His son Bern born in 1929 went on to manage the sawmill with his son Ian until 1990 when the Hydro Electric Commission flooded the river to form Lake Burbury. The sawmill was subsequently relocated to Lynchford south of Queenstown where it still operates today.

In 2019 a commission to make an autoharp made of Tasmanian timber was offered to Hobart luthier Paul Mineur – who happened to have been born in Queenstown. In 2020 Ian Bradshaw generously made available select pieces of fiddleback blackwood and quarter sawn king billy pine.

In October 2022 the harp was completed with additional components of Huon pine and handed over to Tony Newport – a former west coaster who was born in Zeehan and grew up in Rosebery.

In researching Ian's grandfather Cliff's background I discovered that his father was a piano tuner. The autoharp is a member of the dulcimer family and the piano is a close relation. So in a way a circle has been completed.

'The Bradshaw Mill' Is the very first song to be played on this instrument.

Tony Newport
October 21st 2022

