

The Community at Large

Avice Hill Arts and Craft Centre

In 1988 Mrs Avice Hill gifted land to the city so that the area of trees on her property could be preserved and also to provide a special place for people to meet and learn about arts and crafts.

In the mid to late 1980s a formal herb garden was established, and the building of the Canterbury Potters Studio and completion of the house to be used as a community arts and craft centre was undertaken. Since 1989, the Christchurch City Council has managed and maintained the reserve, including the provision of a live-in co-ordinator for the arts and craft centre on behalf of the community. A wide variety of day and evening courses is held every term.



Avice Hill Arts'n'Craft Centre

The Community at Large cont'd...

Christchurch International Airport

In 1935 the Christchurch City Council purchased 227ha of land for the “Harewood Airport”. Commercial flying commenced in 1940 and the area was used for the next five years by the RNZAF as a Training Base. In 1950 Christchurch Airport became the first international airport in New Zealand and hosted the “Great London to Christchurch Air Race” (a journey that took under 24 hours) in 1953. The United States Antarctic Operations began its involvement with Christchurch in 1955. Eleven years later an International wing was added to the Domestic Terminal. Christchurch International Airport Limited was established as a company in 1988, owned 75% by the Christchurch City Council and 25% by the New Zealand Government. The Visitor Centre, International Antarctic Centre opened in 1992 and was the winner of the NZ Tourism Board Award for Best Attraction that year, and again in 1997 after the addition of a “Snow and Ice Experience” in 1996.

Currently the Airport employs 3,000 people and has 130 tenants, handling 3.9 million customers annually from 85,000 scheduled aircraft movements.



The car park and servicing facilities at Christchurch International Airport

The Community at Large cont'd...

Jellie Park

Jellie Park was named after Mr James Jellie, who donated the park of over 11 hectares to the people of Christchurch in 1956. Included in the original design of the park was a 100ft heated swimming pool which was opened in 1965. In 1984 three water slides were added and the name of the pool area was changed to Aqualand. The major achievement has been the inclusion of two covered pools and a gymnasium in the complex. Family groups are well catered for with picnic/barbecues areas within the confines of Aqualand.

Other features of the park are two children's play areas plus a basketball half court, sports fields and a sculptured lake. The Wairarapa Stream forms the northern boundary and a cycleway links Greers and Ilam Roads.



Jellie Park

The Community at Large cont'd...

McLeans Island/Orana Park

Unique to Christchurch is the Orana Park Wildlife Trust, which is located on 80 hectares of land within the McLeans Island Recreational Area. The aims of the Trust are to “develop a conservation centre for the protection and benefit of wildlife, with particular reference to breeding and conservation of endangered species and for the education of the public”. Native flora and fauna, a Farmyard Corner for children and a restaurant add to the attraction of endangered species such as Southern White Rhinoceros and African Wild Dogs.

To get to Orana Park visitors travel through the McLeans Island Recreation Area, which is home to numerous recreation and sport clubs including two golf clubs, car and caravan clubs, pony and kennel clubs. Many walking tracks on the banks of the Waimakariri River are accessed from this area.

Merivale Shopping Precinct

Situated in the middle of the Fendalton Ward is the Merivale shopping centre, featuring many specialist and boutique shops. A village green and man-made lake add to the ambience of this area and surrounding streets, which boast many fine private properties of architectural interest.



Merivale Mall

The Community at Large cont'd...

Memorial Avenue/Greers Roads Intersection

A feature of this intersection is the large cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*), which is listed in the Council's Heritage/Notable Trees catalogue. This tree was important as a landmark for Maori who often journeyed between the Kaiapoia Pa site, north of Woodend, and Waihora or Lake Ellesmere, before the arrival of Europeans. The landmark was needed to avoid the swampy ground where the city now stands.

Burnside High School, on whose grounds the tree stands, is one of five high schools in the Fendalton/Waimairi area and caters for over 2,000 students, making it the largest school in New Zealand.

The road through the area was known as Fendalton Road until the turn of the century when it became Burnside Road, and in 1961 was renamed Memorial Avenue. The wording on two memorial plaques (sited at the Greers/Memorial intersection and north of the roundabout at the Orchard/Memorial intersection) located in the centre of this strip reads: *"1939-1945. This avenue is dedicated to the memory of those men and women of the New Zealand Armed Forces who gave their lives in the second World War."*