

The Community at Large

Riccarton Bush

Riccarton Bush originally covered 55 acres before half was given by the Deans brothers to the Canterbury settlers in 1850 for timber. A dying wish expressed by John Deans in 1854 that the bush be preserved was honoured by the Deans family in 1914 when the surviving 15 acres was gifted to 'the people of Canterbury'.

The bush is the last remnant of a forest type that once covered large areas of the Canterbury Plains.

Kahikatea - New Zealand's tallest native tree - is the dominant species. A boardwalk takes visitors alongside one specimen, estimated to be 700 years old - the oldest living thing on the Plains...



Deans Cottage

Deans Cottage, built in 1843 from pit-sawn timber cut in Riccarton Bush, is the oldest building on the Plains.

The cottage was the last home the pioneering Deans brothers shared together. William drowned in 1851 on a journey to Australia to buy sheep and John died in the cottage in 1854 after contracting tuberculosis.

Riccarton House

Riccarton House is a gracious Victorian/Edwardian mansion built in three stages by the Deans family.

As well as being full of architectural interest and contrast, the house represents the fascinating social history of Canterbury's founding family.

The original, early colonial, part of the house was built in

1856 for Jane Deans and when her son, John II, came of age in 1874 a second stage, in typical Victorian style, was added.

John II married Catherine Edith Park in 1879 and by 1897 the couple had a family of 12 children. In 1900 the final, and major stage of Riccarton House, was built.

Visitors are welcome. Within the house a detailed brochure 'The Story of Riccarton House' is available.



The Community at Large cont'd...

University of Canterbury

The University of Canterbury, New Zealand's second oldest university, was established in 1873. Since 1975 it has been housed on a 76 hectares campus in Ilam. It offers undergraduate and post-graduate courses in some 50 disciplines for approximately 12,500 students and has a staff of 1,300.

Each year some 3,000 students graduate, about 350 of them with post-graduate qualifications.

Two of the University of Canterbury's most distinguished graduates are Ernest Rutherford, the father of atomic science, and

Apirana Ngata, the first Maori graduate, whose faces grace New Zealand's highest value bank notes, the \$100 and \$50 respectively.



Canterbury Agricultural Park

Canterbury Agricultural Park is an exciting new and versatile 100 hectare outdoor exhibition venue, easily capable of coping with a crowd of 100,000 persons and their cars.

With Stage One completed, features include two superb outdoor and embanked entertainment areas, a well appointed indoor 300 seat auditorium, and all the on-site facilities needed to manage any outdoor event imaginable.

If your outdoor event plans include Christchurch, Canterbury Agricultural Park is a must.

Christchurch College of Education

Established in 1877, there are over 2,800 equivalent full-time students enrolled currently at the College, with staff numbering over 400.

The majority of full-time students on the campus are those training to become teachers

in Early Childhood Centres, Kindergartens, Primary Schools or Secondary Schools.

The College, through its Teacher Support Services based at Hornby, provides consultation, advice and support to teachers and school Boards throughout Canterbury.



The Community at Large *cont'd...*

Halswell Quarry Park

is a unique feature in Canterbury. Located off Kennedys Bush Road and covering 67 hectares, it is situated on the western edge of the Port Hills. It is rich in history and has played a significant role in the formation of Christchurch for streets and buildings. There are extensive walks throughout the grounds which provide a range of experiences and a variety of views out to the Southern Alps, Canterbury Plains and Lake Ellesmere. Sister City plantings are currently being developed in celebration of the new millennium. Consider taking a picnic lunch to the picnic area and discover the wonderful assets being developed at Halswell.

Enquiries please phone John Moore 322-7126.



Westlake Reserve Development

Converted from a waste land of old shingle pits, Westlake Reserve, with entrances off Westlake Drive, Wigram Road, Brigham and Lancewood Drives, is fast becoming a recreational area that provides something for everyone.

Two lakes are a major feature of the reserve. The lake margins and stream banks have been extensively planted with native species to benefit both wildlife and recreators.

Westlake Reserve has been developed in harmony with ecological awareness, as is apparent in the lakeside plantings. The Rotary Clubs of the Garden City have also adopted Westlake Park and have been very involved in the development in association with Japanese sister city affiliations. This is apparent with plantings of flowering cherries around the main lake edge.

Soccer, cricket fields and play equipment are available, with toilets nearby. These cater for both organised sports users and casual visitors to the reserve. Westlake Reserve is currently



being developed and will provide a wonderful asset for today's and future generations of Wigram to enjoy.