

Points of interest

Heathcote River

Its course runs over 25 km long from Halswell to the rocky base of St Andrews Hill, and then discharges into the estuary.



Sign of the Takahe

The Sign of the Kiwi and the Sign of the Takahe were originally intended as rest houses along the Summit Road. The sign of the Kiwi was built in 1916 and the Takahe was started in 1918 and completed in 1948 after many conflicts of interest. The Sign of the Takahe was originally known as the Tram Terminus Resthouse until it was

taken over by the City Council in 1942 and officially opened in 1949 as the Sign of the Takahe.

Old Stone House

Situated on Shalamar Drive, the Old Stone House was built in 1870 by Sir John Wilson, and has had many ups and downs throughout its life. Originally, the building was intended for Indian settlers that Sir John Wilson brought with him to New Zealand. The community banded together to rebuild the Old Stone House, as it is commonly referred to, after a tragic fire on 10 July



1971. After negotiations with the Heathcote and Christchurch Councils, the Old Stone House was rebuilt to become the popular community centre it is today. The well-kept gardens and quaint cottage make this an especially popular wedding venue.

Points of interest cont'd ...

The Malthouse

Located on the corner of Colombo Street and Ashgrove Terrace, the Malthouse was built in 1867 and began as a City brewery. The brewery changed hands several times and at one stage NZ Breweries owned it. From 1955-65 it was used as a storage building by Aysons Seed Merchants until it was

sold to the Canterbury Children's Theatre. After major alterations it was opened in 1969 and continues to this day with the aim of producing the best plays for children and hiring costumes.



Cracroft Caverns

Under the strictest of secrecy the Public Works Department began building caverns 30m underground in Cashmere in 1942. It was to be the nerve centre of the South Island's defence against the impending Japanese invasion. The threat faded and building ceased in 1944. The caverns were sealed and forgotten until their rediscovery in 1987. The Cracroft Caverns are now owned by the City Council and information on them can be obtained through the Beckenham Service Centre.



Beckenham Park

Located between Norwood Street and Eastern Terrace. The park boasts a small lake which is spring-fed.

The Bell Tower

The Bell Tower in the grounds of St Mary's Church, Addington, is a memorial to Richard John Seddon, former Prime Minister of New Zealand. He was born in Lancashire, England, and died at sea on the S.S Oswestry Grange, while returning from a visit to Australia. One of the groups contributing to the memorial was the Besses o' the Barn Band, a ladies' brass band from Lancashire. They were visiting Christchurch to perform at the great International Exhibition held in 1906 in Hagley Park. The band is still going today - with new members of course!

