

The Community at Large

Geographical Features of Significance

Avon River

Named by the Deans brothers after a stream near their home in Ayrshire, Scotland, and not after the Avon at Stratford. There were, however, early attempts to have it named the Shakespeare.

Cave Rock

Topped with the flagmast that signalled the state of the bar to ships approaching the Estuary, Cave Rock is a large deposit of volcanic lava forming a spacious sea cave.

Maori legend says the rock is a whale cast up on the shore as a result of the magic of Te Ake, attempting to avenge the death of his daughter.

The Estuary

The Avon-Heathcote Estuary is relatively young, probably formed only 450 years ago. The estuary covers 880 hectares (2,174 acres) and is of significance to the people of Christchurch for its geological, ecological and recreational attributes.

Godley Head

Named after John Robert Godley, leader of the Canterbury settlement, Godley Head is the northern point at the entrance to Lyttelton Harbour.



Cave Rock and Sumner Beach

The Community at Large cont'd ...

Hagley Park

Hagley Park is the most significant metropolitan park in Christchurch. Centrally located within the city, Hagley Park is renowned for its extensive area, its wide open spaces and mature woodlands. Hagley Park is also a major sporting and cultural focal point. It offers a diverse range of entertainment, sport and recreational opportunities within close proximity to the city centre. The Botanic Gardens adjoin Hagley Park and are noted for their landscaping and for the wide range of plant species grown.



Hagley Park

Heathcote River

The Heathcote River follows a course over 25km long, running from Halswell to the rocky base of St Andrew's Hill where it discharges into the Estuary.

Moa Bone Cave

Moa Bone Cave, just beyond the eastern end of the Causeway at Redcliffs, opens on to the roadway. This is one of the oldest sites of human habitation in New Zealand, having provided a home and shelter to Moa Hunter Maori, possibly as long as 1,000 years ago. The giant moa, now extinct, and the seashore provided abundant sources of food.



Moa Bone Cave, Redcliffs

The Community at Large cont'd...

Shag Rock

Shag Rock, named by Pakeha in 1855, is a prominent feature of the Sumner scene and rises to 11.7 metres above the sea. It was known to Maori as Rapanui, a name which comes from Hawaiki, the ancient Maori homeland.

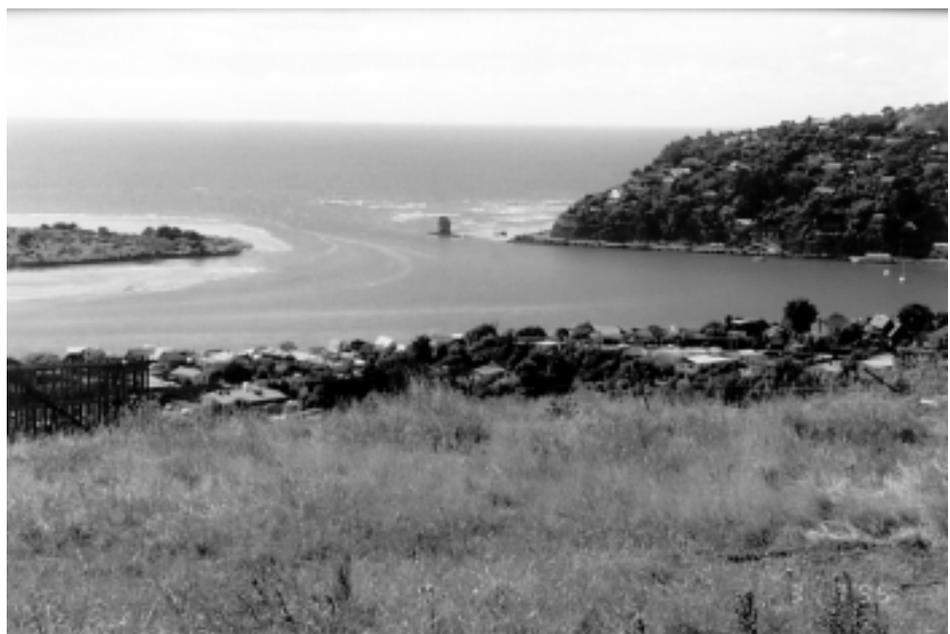
Sumner

The settlement was named in 1850 after the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Sumner.

Taylor's Mistake

The name supposedly derives from Captain Taylor of the American ship 'Volga' who mistook the bay for the entrance to Lyttelton Harbour in 1858.

The bay was formed by the erosion of the main spur running down from Evans Pass. There are two headlands - one ends in a high cliff between Whitewash Head and Giant's Nose and the other runs out to the lighthouse and becomes Godley Head.



The mouth of the Avon - Heathcote Estuary and Shag Rock - Rapanui