

# Our community today



## Our Community Today

### Introduction

There is archaeological evidence that Maori were in the Christchurch area 1,000 years ago. These first inhabitants were moa-hunting tribes. They were followed by the Waitaha, who migrated from the east coast of the North Island in the 16th century, 500 years ago. This migration was joined by the Ngati Mamoe and Ngai Tahu people and continued until about 1830.

The first Europeans landed in Canterbury in 1815, 45 years after Captain James Cook sighted what is now known as Banks Peninsula from his ship, the *Endeavour*. He incorrectly named it “Banks Island” after the expedition’s famous botanist, Joseph Banks.

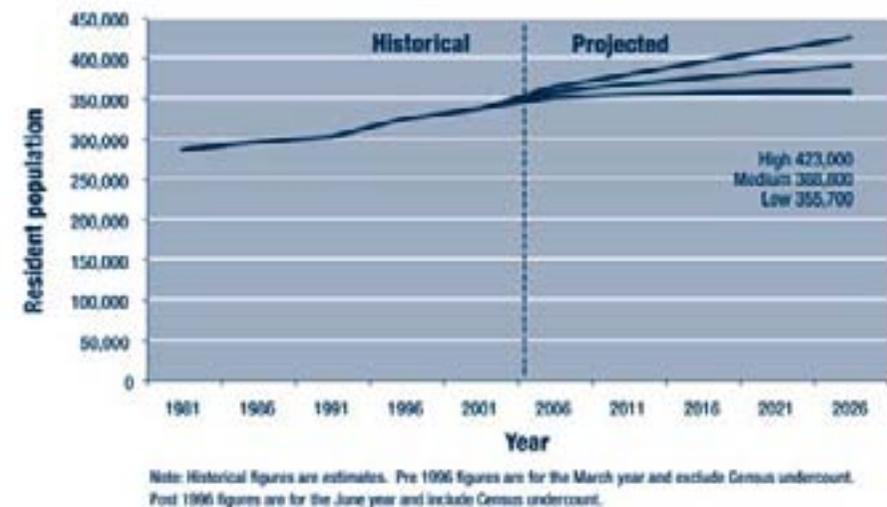
In the late 1840s the City of Christchurch was planned, from England, to be a model Anglican (church) settlement. The city’s English links are still evident in the design of our older buildings and gardens. Christchurch became a city by Royal Charter on 31 July 1856, making it officially the oldest established city in New Zealand. The original municipal district was bounded by the “four avenues”; Bealey Avenue, Moorhouse Avenue, Fitzgerald Avenue and Rolleston Avenue. It was laid out in a north/south, east/west grid pattern<sup>i</sup>.

### Our Community Today

- Christchurch is the largest city in the South Island, with a population of 344,100 people<sup>ii</sup>. It is the second largest city in New Zealand.
- Christchurch’s population increased by nearly 12% between 1991 and 2001, and is projected to grow by another 16% by 2026 (to 388,800, medium projection). Population growth is projected to occur at 2.3% per annum between 2001 and 2016, and then at a slower annual rate of 0.8% between 2016 and 2026<sup>iii</sup>. The main reason for the city’s population growth is external migration.

Please note that, unless otherwise stated, “Christchurch” and “the city” refer to Christchurch City Council’s entire area, including Banks Peninsula.

Christchurch Historical and Projected Population (2001 Base)

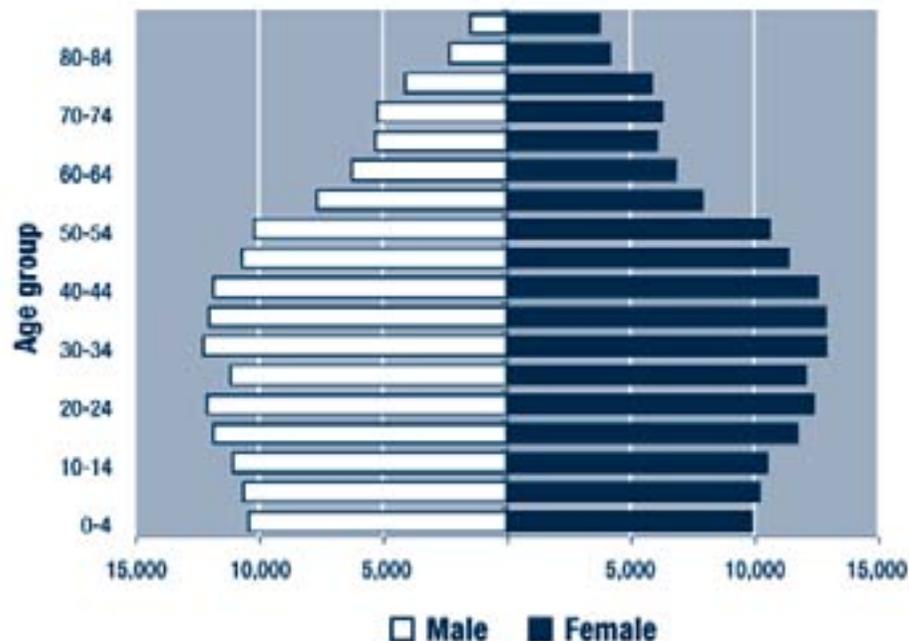


- Christchurch’s population is less ethnically diverse than the New Zealand population. It is dominated by Europeans, with this group making up 90% of the city’s population. Maori make up 7% of the population, Asians 6%, Pacific people 2.5%, and other ethnicities 3%. In comparison, 70% of the New Zealand population identify as Europeans, 8% Maori, 5% Pacific people and 6% Asian. (Note percentages can add to more than 100% as people can identify with more than one ethnicity)<sup>iii</sup>.
- The city has an ageing population, which is consistent with national trends. Christchurch’s median age was 35.5 years in 2001, compared with 34.8 for all of New Zealand<sup>ii</sup>. By 2026, Christchurch’s median age is projected to be 42.5 years<sup>iii</sup>.
- Christchurch has a larger proportion of older people and a smaller proportion of younger people than the national average. By 2016 the elderly (65 years and over) will outnumber children (under 15 years) in Christchurch<sup>iii</sup>.



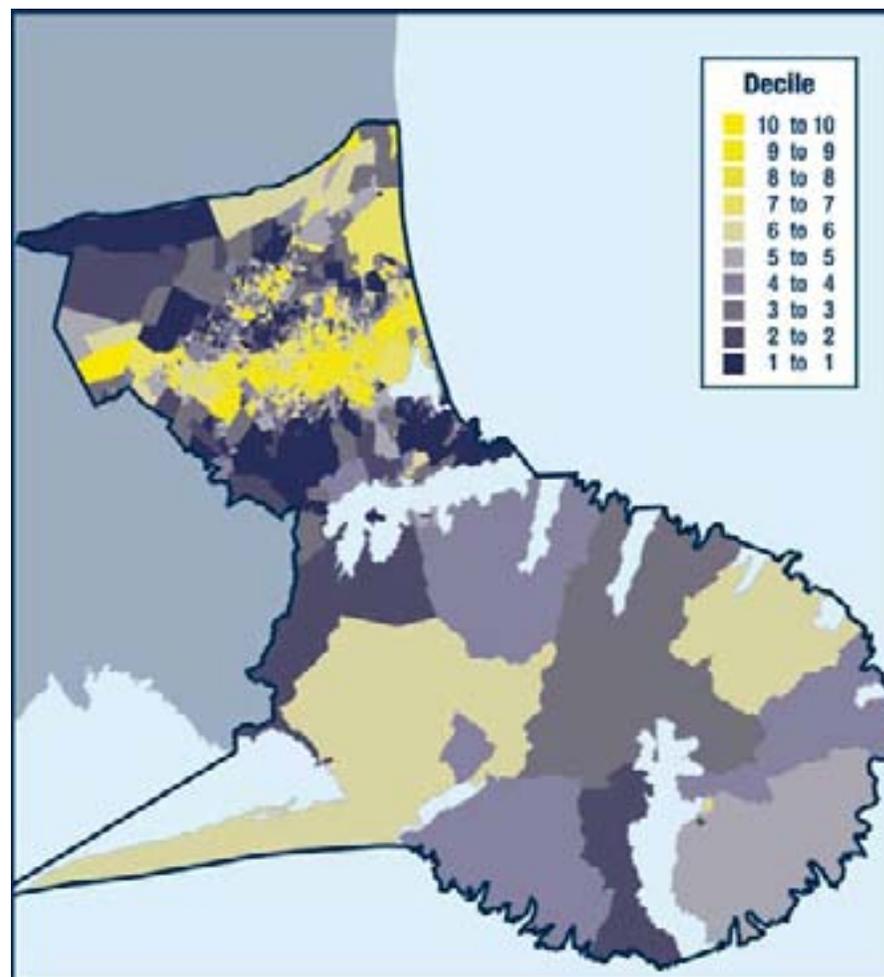
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Age and Gender, 2001



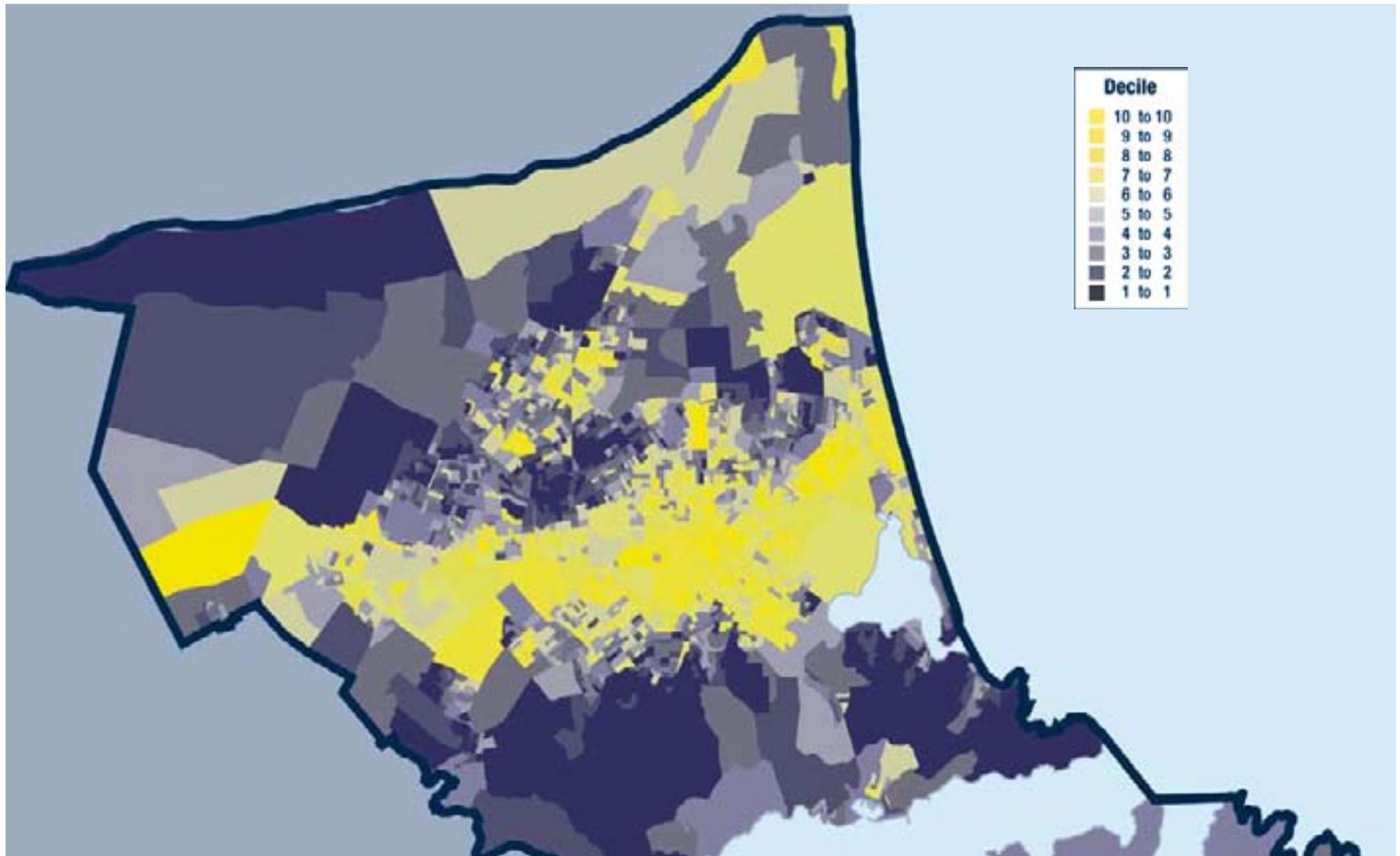
- In 2001, 29% of Christchurch residents aged 15 years and over had some form of tertiary qualification, compared with 28% nationally. The proportion without a qualification was slightly lower than the national average (23% compared with 24%)<sup>ii</sup>.
- Christchurch has less poverty than New Zealand as a whole. Thirteen percent of Christchurch residents live in areas of high deprivation (deciles 9 and 10), compared with 20% nationally<sup>iv</sup>. Twenty-one percent of people live in the least deprived areas of Christchurch (deciles 1 and 2).

New Zealand Social Deprivation Index 2001



Source: Health Services Research Centre, Victoria University  
(See next page for more details)

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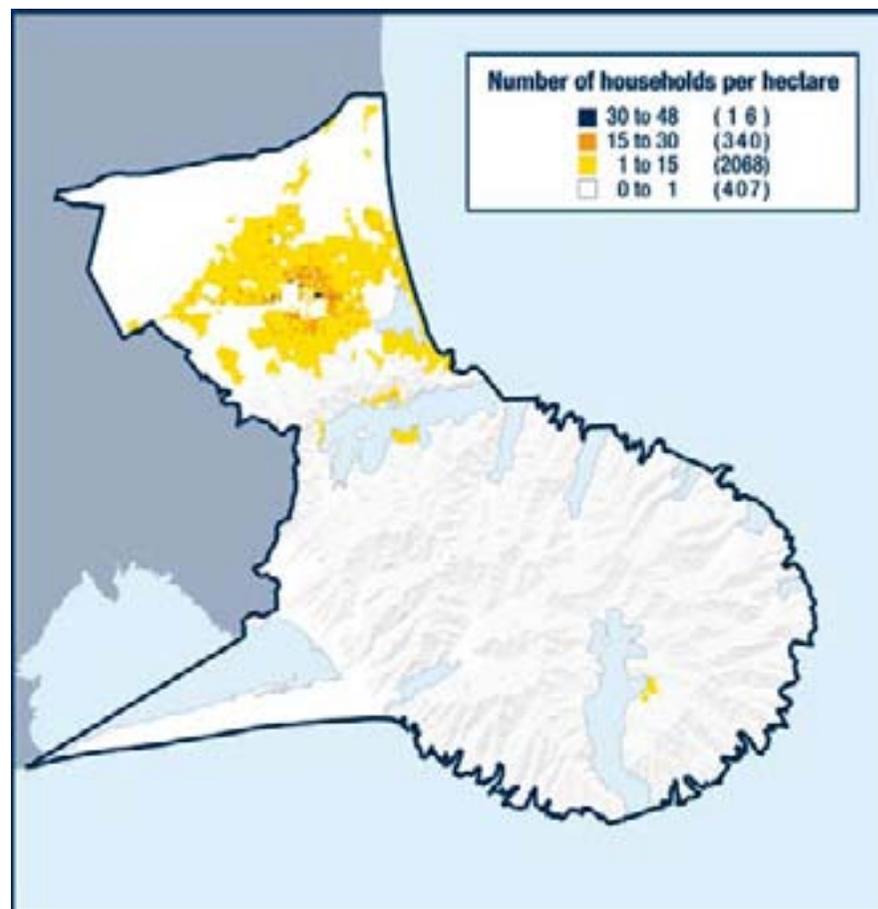




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- Ninety-seven percent of the city’s population is concentrated within the urban area, which covers about one third of the land area of Christchurch (excluding Banks Peninsula).
- The city’s population density increased from 20.3 to 20.9 people per hectare between 1996 and 2001 (figures exclude Banks Peninsula). Areas close to the central city or around some of the suburban commercial centres (such as Riccarton) tend to have higher population densities. Banks Peninsula has a comparatively low population density of 2.5 people per hectare.
- The average number of people living in each household is getting progressively smaller. In 1981, there was an average of 2.9 people per household, decreasing to 2.6 in 2001. It is projected to drop to 2.4 people by 2021<sup>v</sup>. This reflects a nationwide decrease in household size.
- One-person households make up an increasing share of total households. In the 10 years to 2001, the proportion of one-person households grew from 23% to 26% of all households. During this time there was a national increase from 20% to 23%.
- High-density housing (30 to 48 households per hectare), surrounds the central city, becoming less dense towards the outskirts. Banks Peninsula has a sparse household density. Lyttelton and Akaroa areas have the least sparse household density on the peninsula with one to 15 households per hectare.

Housing Density 2001



Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2001 Census of Population and Dwellings.  
(See next page for more details)

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.christchurch.org.nz/About/>

<sup>ii</sup> Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 2001

<sup>iii</sup> Statistics New Zealand, Sub-National Population Projections, 2001 base, February 2005

<sup>iv</sup> The New Zealand Index of Deprivation was developed by the Health Services Research Centre, Victoria University. The Deprivation Index is split into 10 deciles with decile 1 being the least deprived and decile 10 being the most deprived. Each decile contains 10% of the national, usually resident, population.

<sup>v</sup> Statistics New Zealand, Sub-National Household Projections (2001 base).

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