

THEME VII: LIFE IN THE CITY II

Chapter 27: Sport and recreation

Christchurch's sporting tradition

Christchurch was founded just as sports in Britain were becoming better organised, with formal rules and teams of set sizes. Christchurch's 'gentry' saw sport as an essential aspect of civilised city life and sporting events were staged in Christchurch from the earliest years of settlement. The first anniversary of the founding of the Canterbury Settlement was celebrated at the end of 1851 by a sports meeting in North Hagley Park. 'Mainstream' English team and other sports quickly became established in Christchurch.

Christchurch in the national sporting scene

Christchurch's strong sporting traditions are reflected in the establishment of a number of national administrative bodies for different sports in the city. They included amateur athletics (1887), cricket (1894), boxing and hockey (both in 1902) and ladies' hockey (1908). Christchurch was also for many years the most important city nationally for sports journalism, especially following the 1891 merger of the *New Zealand Referee* (founded in 1884) with the *Weekly Press*.

Christchurch has hosted international teams in various sports from the late 19th century on. The most significant international sporting event held in the city was the 1974 Commonwealth Games.

Amateur players and volunteers

Through most of the history of sporting activities in Christchurch, those taking part competed as amateurs. Professionalism did not become a feature of major codes until the later 20th century. Even this change did not alter the sporting scene in Christchurch to the extent that the attention paid to the change might suggest. The great majority of players in Christchurch remain amateurs, participating in sports as a leisure pursuit.

Like other activities in Christchurch life, many sports flourish only because of an enormous input of time and effort by volunteers. Many sporting organisations depend almost entirely on voluntary effort – from fundraising to umpiring to administration – of, especially, parents whose children are taking part in those sports.

Sports clubs and other organisations have also been a focus of social activity for many people through the arrangement of various functions, especially Saturday afternoon or evening after-match get-togethers. Marriages resulting from meetings through sports organisations were not uncommon.

Sports grounds



Figure 107. An air balloon taking off from Lancaster Park. The occasion was a demonstration by an adventurer (3 November 1899), Captain Lorraine, who sadly perished when his balloon was blown out to sea. Canterbury Public Library 48 (Pioneer Amateur Sports Club)

Hagley Park and Latimer and Cranmer Squares were the main sports grounds in early Christchurch. This use of these public areas was formalised by a Provincial Government Reserves Ordinance in 1854. Central government provisions for land for hospitals, churches, recreation and other purposes also influenced the development of parks and reserves in the city as sportsgrounds from the 1850s on. Latimer and Cranmer Squares subsequently ceased to be used as grounds for organised team sports, but a number of different sports are still played on parts of Hagley Park.



Figure 108. Cricket at Lancaster Park, 1895: Canterbury playing New South Wales. Beyond is the railway crossing on Wilsons road, with a cluster of houses marking the intersection of Opawa and Shakespeare Roads. Waltham and Opawa were then well wooded and desirable suburbs. Kinsey collection, CM 8912

The need for a private ground for which an entry charge could be made led to the establishment in 1881 of Lancaster Park. For the first 20 years of its life, Lancaster Park was the venue for many sports and sporting events, including rugby football, cricket, tennis and swimming. It eventually became a ground shared by rugby (winter) and cricket (summer). A number of stands of different vintages and an open embankment surrounded the ground until the late 20th century when a comprehensive redevelopment was associated with a 1998 change of name to Jade Stadium (though to many it has remained Lancaster Park). The park/stadium is the pre-eminent site in Christchurch which illustrates the importance of spectator sports in the city's life.

Other sports gradually acquired their own 'dedicated' grounds. The 1920s saw a marked increase in these grounds devoted to specific sports. They included English Park (in St Albans, cycling and then soccer), Monica Park, Rugby Park (in St Albans, rugby), Wilding Park (in Richmond, tennis), Porritt Park (hockey, which before about 1970 was based at Williamson Park) and Denton Park (in Hornby, cycling)

Public parks have also been used extensively for playing sport – particularly by children playing in school and club competitions. By 1914, the City Council controlled nine public parks totalling 756 acres (of which 495 acres were Hagley Park). The public park system expanded greatly in the 1920s and 1930s. By 1939 there were 13 more parks and the total area of parks had risen to 925 acres.

The city's main athletics track after 1974 was at Queen Elizabeth II Park. This had been the New Brighton Trotting Club course. It was renamed in 1963 after the City Council had taken it over, on the occasion of a visit to Christchurch by Queen Elizabeth. After it had been chosen as the venue for the 1974 Commonwealth Games a stadium and pool were built.

The Pioneer indoor sports stadium was built in Spreydon after the City Council had acquired the central city property of the Pioneer Sports Club as part of the site for the new library.

The latest indoor sport facility in the city is the Westpac sports and entertainment centre, opened in 1998 on a site next to the Addington trotting ground.

Cricket



Figure 109. Many a good innings was made at Lancaster Park, photographed here in 1883. The old No 1 stand served many seasons until it was demolished in the late 1950s

A cricket club was formed in Christchurch as early as June 1851 and cricket was played at the sports held in North Hagley Park on 16 December 1851 to mark the first anniversary of settlement. By 1862, the Christchurch and Albion cricket clubs were established on Hagley Park and Latimer Square respectively. The pavilion on the Oval in South Hagley Park is the city's oldest surviving sporting structure. By 1877 there were enough cricket clubs playing in the city for the Canterbury Cricket Council to be formed. As the dominant male summer team sport, cricket came to share the city's leading sports ground, Lancaster Park, with rugby football.

Rugby football

Something like rugby was apparently first played in Christchurch by Christ's College pupils in the 1850s and there is still a rugby field at the rear of its Rolleston Avenue site. The Christchurch Football Club was founded in 1863 and the Woolston Club in 1872. There were visits of teams from Auckland in 1875 and Dunedin in 1877. The Canterbury Rugby Football Union was formed in 1879. The sport was played on Cranmer and Latimer Squares till Lancaster Park was established in 1882. The first rugby test played by a New Zealand team on home soil was an 1894 game versus New South Wales played at Lancaster Park. The clubrooms of various rugby clubs became quite large structures in the 20th century and were important as social venues. Several stand on public parks which are used as rugby fields in the winter.

The formation of the Marist rugby club is of particular social interest because it reflected both anti-Catholic prejudice in the city and the wish of Catholics themselves to maintain a separate culture.

The place of Lancaster Park in the 20th century life of the city was largely determined by the very large crowds drawn to the Park for rugby tests. A 1930 All Blacks v. Britain game attracted 30,000. The largest crowds ever in relation to the total population of Christchurch were 1959 and 1961 crowds of more than 57,000. In the later 20th century there was a decline in spectator numbers, corresponding with the advent of television and the lessening dominance of rugby in the city's sporting life. Between 1987 and 1997, the teams in the Christchurch senior rugby competition fell from 16 to nine.

Tennis

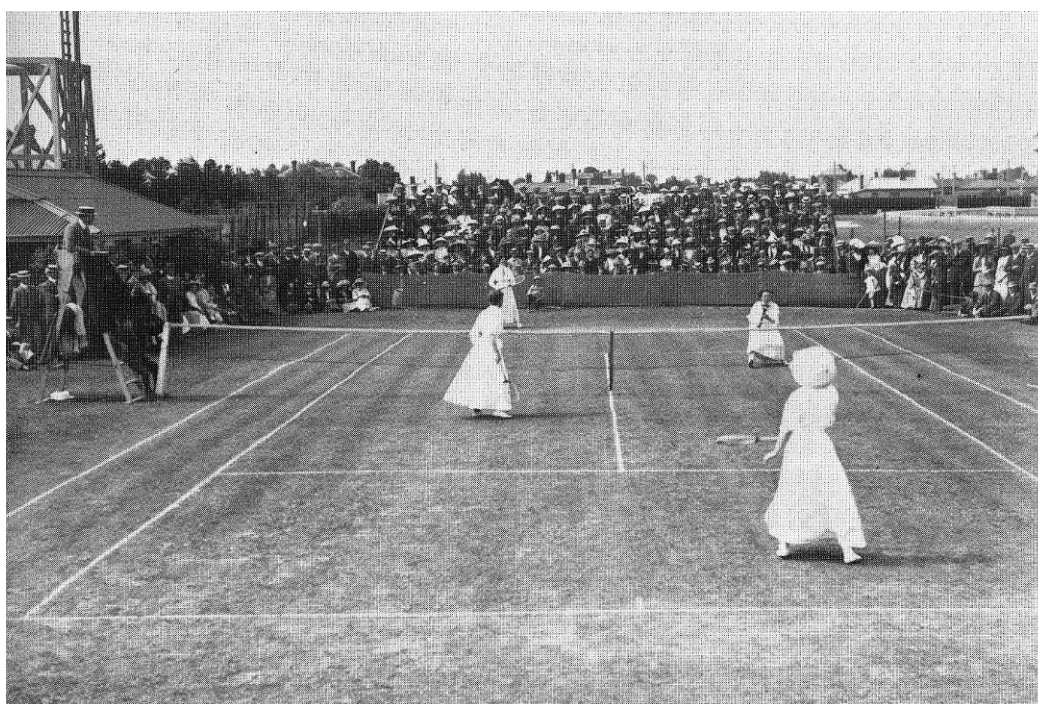


Figure 110. It's all action at a Lancaster Park tennis tournament in 1912, in spite of the players' voluminous whites. *Coates K, p67*

A lawn tennis club, with courts on Cranmer Square, was established in 1881. Five years later there were at least eight clubs in Christchurch. Tennis was played at Lancaster Park from the time the ground was established in 1881. The 1911 Australasian defence of the Davis Cup was played at Lancaster Park. Subsequently, the focus of Christchurch tennis shifted to Wilding Park, named after the city's leading tennis player who was killed in World War I. Club tennis courts were built generally in public parks. There were tennis courts in Hagley Park where the United Club was, and still is, based. One of the strongest clubs had its courts at and took its name from Elmwood Park.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many larger homes of wealthier people had private tennis courts and the sport had for many years in Christchurch distinctly upper-class connotations.

So did another racquet sport, squash. The earliest squash courts in the city appear to have been at the Christchurch and Canterbury Clubs and at Christ's College, all 'upper-class' institutions.

Croquet and bowls

Croquet was played on the lawns of the grander homes of Christchurch in the 19th century. Lawn bowls became more common as a club sport and from the 1880s greens were established at many places throughout the city – in both the inner city and the suburbs. There was a strong association between working men's and bowling clubs. Croquet was somewhat slower to become established as a club game. The Canterbury Croquet Association was not formed until 1910.

Golf

The first golf course was established in Christchurch on Hagley Park in 1873, after the Christchurch Golf Club had been formed. Subsequently golf links were established at many places on the outskirts of the city. There is still a nine-hole course on North Hagley Park. Some of the pavilions of the golf clubs, notably the pavilion at Shirley, are among the more important sport-related buildings in Christchurch.

And a host of other minor sports

Many sports have been played in the city, without gaining much space in the written historical record, partly because they were played by relatively few numbers, partly because some flourished at particular times but faded at others, and some simply because the histories of the sports in Christchurch have not yet been 'written up'. Netball, for example, judging by the area of its courts in South Hagley Park and the size of its modern pavilion beside those courts, deserves greater prominence in the history of sport in Christchurch than it has received. Cross-country running has involved numbers of sports people and the Takahe to Akaroa run has been an important event.

Marching was often sponsored by industrial concerns like Skellerups, the Kaiapoi Woollen Company and Lane Walker Rudkin which wanted their workers to engage in activities together to promote morale and the identification of workers with their employers. (There is a close parallel with the sponsorship of brass bands by various manufacturing concerns.)

In past years archery was popular and one lawn in the botanic gardens is still referred to as the Archery Lawn.

Athletics

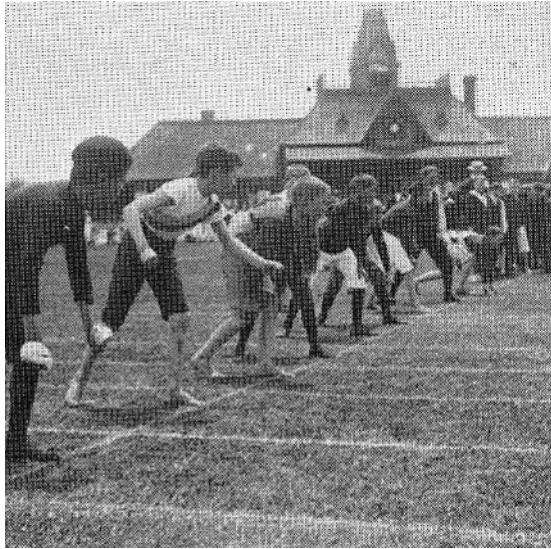


Figure 111. Schoolboys in knickerbockers all set to go in a race at Lancaster Park.

Coates K, p69

Foot races held at the sports in North Hagley Park on 16 December 1851 probably marked the birth of athletics in Christchurch. After 1881, Lancaster Park was the principal venue for athletics meetings. In the 20th century, Rugby Park was also used for athletic meetings.

When Christchurch staged the Commonwealth Games in 1974, the city acquired a new stadium that became the centre for athletics in Christchurch at Queen Elizabeth Park.

Cycling

Cycling has its greatest importance in Christchurch's history as a mode of transport, but the flat terrain also meant cycling was a popular sport. The first velocipede race was held in 1869, from Latimer Square to the railway station and back. Racing on tracks and on roads were both common from the late 19th century on. In 1879 the Pioneer Bicycle and Amateur Athletic Club was formed, followed shortly afterwards by the Touring Cycling Club. The Atalanta Cycling Club, formed in 1892, was the country's first women's cycling club.

There was a championship cycle meet in Hagley Park in 1880, the year after the Pioneer Club was formed. The Pioneer Club eventually acquired premises in central Christchurch and its name is perpetuated in Pioneer Stadium. From 1885, cycling was one of the sports which found a home at Lancaster Park, where there was a formed cycling track. Subsequently a cycle racing track was built at Denton Park in Hornby.

Cycling was also a popular recreational pursuit and for a time the city had a bicycle band (formed in 1895) whose members played their instruments while also riding their bicycles in formation.

Rowing

Rowing was included in a regatta held (to mark Queen Victoria's 32nd birthday) at Lyttelton as early as 24 May 1851. Lyttelton regattas were important as spectator events for Christchurch residents from 1862. They drew even larger crowds after the Lyttelton rail tunnel was opened in 1867.



Figure 112. Spectators watching a rowing regatta proceeding opposite from the Canterbury Club's Boatshed, 1894. Alexander Trunbull Library 60716 1/2

The Avon River provided an opportunity for rowing to become established in Christchurch. The Canterbury Rowing Club was formed in 1861. The Union Club was formed in 1864, its members drawn largely from among the men working on the Christchurch to Lyttelton railway. The later Trades Rowing Club was eventually renamed Avon. The clubs all built wooden boat sheds on the banks of the Avon in the vicinity of the Fitzgerald Avenue bridge.



Figure 113. Opening of the season at the Canterbury Rowing Club, 1893; view north from Ward's Brewery, on the corner of Kilmore Street and Fitzgerald Avenue. Beyond are the boathouses of the Avon and Union clubs. Rowing and cycling were among Christchurch's most popular sports in the 1890s.
Hayword collection, CM2358

(Christ's College later built a concrete boathouse in the same area.) The boat sheds, including the impressive Canterbury Club shed, have all disappeared.

The reaches of the river at the Fitzgerald Avenue bridge remained the city's main rowing course until Kerrs Reach was formed on the lower Avon in 1950, in time for the Canterbury centennial games. (A meander was cut off and a stretch of river dredged and widened to form the course.) The clubs built new clubhouses by the new course in the 1950s.

The Avon has also been used since the 19th century for recreational, pleasure boating. The Antigua Street boat sheds, which date from 1882, are the only surviving sheds of the several on the banks of the Avon between the Botanic Gardens and Barbadoes Street. Pleasure boating, especially in recent years past the Botanic Gardens upstream from the Antigua Street boatsheds, has been a constant delight to Christchurch residents. Punting, mainly as a service to tourists, is a relatively recent introduction to stretches of the river through the inner city.

Swimming and swimming pools

The Avon and Heathcote Rivers provided early opportunities for recreational swimming. The City Council formed a pool in the Avon in 1877. Nude bathing by men and boys at some swimming holes caused concern among more respectable citizens.

An early swimming pool was built in the 1860s at Kohler's Pleasure Ground on Lincoln Road (see below). The Christchurch Amateur Swimming Club, the first in New Zealand, was formed in 1880. A pool built at Lancaster Park in 1894 was relatively short-lived.

In the central city, indoor tepid baths, with a large swimming pool part of the facilities, were constructed on Manchester Street in the early 20th century. They opened in 1908. They were heated for some years from the nearby rubbish destructor. They continued in use until 1947.

A new swimming pool was planned to mark the national centennial in 1940, but the Centennial Pool was not constructed until after the Second World War. It was an important public pool through the second half of the century and was substantially remodelled for continued use late in the century.

Swimming pools were built in a number of public parks or in suburban locations through the 20th century. They included pools at St Albans, Sockburn, Halswell, Papanui, Ilam (in Jellie Park, 1960) and Waltham (1967). Some of these pools were 'inherited' by the city when local governments were amalgamated in 1989. Some school swimming pools (for example Elmwood) were made available for public use at specified hours.

Horse racing

Horse racing has been an important spectator sport in Christchurch again almost since the city was founded. Horse racing (like so many other sports) dates its Christchurch origins from the 16 December 1851 sports meeting held on North Hagley Park. The Canterbury Jockey Club, founded in 1854, had leased land in Riccarton by 1855 and by 1864 built a stone grandstand, the first of many structures at its course. Cup Day at Riccarton became one of the key social and sporting events in the city's calendar. As early as 1875 crowds of up to 10,000 were arriving at the course by road or rail. There was later also a tram link to the city.

Trotting apparently began in the 1860s or 1870s at various venues, including after 1881 Lancaster Park. The Canterbury Trotting Club was founded in 1888 and established its course at Addington, which became the city's main trotting course, with substantial grandstands and other structures. The New Brighton Trotting Club ceased holding meetings at its course in the early 1960s.

Motor racing



Figure 114. Starter fires his gun for a motor race at Addington race course, 1905. Canterbury Museum12393 (Bishop collection).

In the 20th century, motor racing became a popular spectator sport. Speedways were built at English Park in St Albans in 1928, then later at Aranui and Woodford Glen.

For many years, from 1949, the Lady Wigram International Grand Prix was staged at Wigram Aerodrome. For several decades it was New Zealand's premier motor racing event.

The seaside



Figure 115. New Brighton, 1930. *Alexander Turnbull 47402 ½ (S.C. Smith).*



Figure 116. 'Having a Sun Bath', New Brighton Beach, c. 1920. *S. C. Smith photograph, CM 6160*

Beaches at Sumner and New Brighton afforded Christchurch residents opportunities for recreational sea bathing. Each vied for the title of the Riviera of Christchurch. At the bathing beaches of both suburbs surf-lifesaving clubs were formed and built pavilions. The New Brighton surf club, founded in 1910, was the first such club in New Zealand. The other structures associated with sea bathing have been changing sheds.

Both Sumner and New Brighton had a number of cafes and other places to take tea and both, although they were only day-trip distance from town, especially after they were connected to the central city by tram, had places to stay – guest houses as well as hotels. These seaside places to stay form a sub-group of the hotels discussed in a previous chapter. Both suburbs also had band rotundas.



Figure 117. The beach at Sumner near Cave Rock over the summer period. *Johnson D, p82-83, Christchurch Star.*

Both seaside suburbs were interesting socially for having strong resident communities while also drawing large number of day-trippers from the city and providing some city-dwellers with places to stay. North Brighton and North Beach both also provided sites for baches, when families tended to holiday closer to home than they did in later years when roads were better and car ownership more common.

There were also significant bach settlements (some within the city's present boundaries, others just beyond it) at Spencerville, Kainga, Stewarts Gully and Taylor's Mistake. (The Taylor's Mistake baches are mentioned again just below.)

Even those not able to afford baches of their own resorted to seaside parks to picnic or camp. This was the role of the Rawhiti Domain in North Brighton and the South New Brighton Park where what was known as 'Pleasant Point' was a popular picnicking and boating place for many years.

New Brighton matched Sumner's natural attraction, Cave Rock, with piers. The first wooden pier was built in the 19th century and demolished in the 1960s. The replacement concrete pier was built towards the century's end, with a well-used new library of striking design at its

base. At the Scarborough end of Sumner, enclosed sea-water baths were built in the 1880s, but had a short life. Hot sea-water baths were also available by the small Sumner pier for some years.

Road access over the Scarborough hill to Taylor's Mistake was completed in 1915. This also became a popular bathing beach and had life-saving club pavilions. Before the road was built, from the 1890s on, adventuresome Christchurch people began building 'cave' baches right on the Taylor's Mistake foreshore. These baches later became a contentious preservation issue. Some survive.

Pleasure grounds

In the 19th and early 20th centuries there were a number of privately run pleasure gardens offering a variety of attractions. Among the earliest of these 'pleasure gardens', as they were known, were Kohler's on Lincoln Road, built in the 1860s. The most famous of these pleasure gardens were those established at Wainoni by Professor Bickerton after his controversial dismissal from the staff of Canterbury College in 1902. (Bickerton had previously established an experiment community at Wainoni. Subsequently, the Chippenham community on Browns Road was one of the longest-lasting of New Zealand's communal living arrangements.) Bligh's Garden on Union Street in New Brighton was also a popular picnic spot.

Other minor urban recreational pursuits and activities

Roller skating was popular in Christchurch from the 19th century (the first rink was built in 1867) through into the middle of the 20th. The Colosseum (on the site of New Regent Street) was used as a roller skating rink for some years. In the 1950s, the city's last roller skating rink was on Kilmore Street. The paved paths of North Hagley Park are now the most usual place to see people on roller-skates which can be hired at the Armagh Street bridge.

An ice-skating rink was built on Centaurus Road in the 20th century. It was eventually replaced by a new rink on Brougham Street.

Model yachts have been sailed on Victoria Lake since it was formed in the 1890s, just prior to the 1906-07 Exhibition on North Hagley Park.

Indoor cricket enjoyed a brief vogue in Christchurch the 1970s and 1980s.

The first City to Surf run was held in 1975, at about the time jogging and running became popular ways of keeping fit, with Hagley Park a popular location because of its proximity to the central city. The cycle tracks in Hagley Park are laid out mainly to suit people commuting or making purposeful journeys by bicycle but are also used for informal recreation.

Mountain biking became popular in the later 20th century, with designated tracks being formed on the Port Hills.

Mountaineering and tramping

Christchurch has been an important centre of mountaineering, largely because of the vigour of the Canterbury Mountaineering Club, founded in the late 1920s. It had its base in town for many years at the Pioneer Sports Club on Oxford Terrace before transferring to the new Pioneer Stadium when the old building was acquired by the City Council for part of the site of the new library. There is also a Canterbury section of the New Zealand Alpine Club based in Christchurch and the national headquarters of the Alpine Club was recently transferred to a new permanent headquarters in the city. Several tramping clubs, including a Christchurch Tramping Club and one attached to the University, have long histories in the city.

The city's easy access to Banks Peninsula and the Southern Alps have helped make tramping and climbing relatively popular sports in Christchurch. The Port Hills have been used regularly, and for a long time, for rambling and many Christchurch people keen on tramping made a natural progression, as they grew up, from the Port Hills, to Banks Peninsula to the Southern Alps. The Youth Hostel movement in New Zealand was initiated by Christchurch people (some also active in the Sunlight League) keen to provide places to stay for walkers and trampers on Banks Peninsula.

Rock climbing first became popular on the crags of the Port Hills between the wars. After World War II, Castle Rock and Rapaki Rock became the most popular crags for rock climbing. Later routes were developed on other crags. An indoor climbing wall was built at the YMCA on Hereford Street, which meant sport climbing was added to the long list of competitive sports in Christchurch. Later a second, commercial, wall was built.

The scouting and guiding movements both played a role in promoting and providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and many young Christchurch people gained their first experiences of living under canvas at scout and guide camps.

Skiing

The relatively easy access from the city to the Southern Alps and high foothill ranges, snow-covered in winter, has also given Christchurch a more important place in the history of skiing in New Zealand than any other large town or city except, in recent years, Queenstown. The Coberger family was influential over three generations, at Arthur's Pass and in Christchurch, in first establishing and then promoting the popularity of skiing. Temple Basin, one of the country's earliest ski-fields, was the home of both the Christchurch and the University ski clubs. Development of the Mount Cheeseman ski-field in the Craigieburns began in 1929.

From the period immediately following World War II, Christchurch-based ski clubs developed further ski fields along the Craigieburn Range. These fields included Broken River and Mount Olympus. The Lake Ida skating rink, on the western side of the range developed in the same period.

Two commercial ski fields, Porter Heights on the Craigieburn Range and, more importantly, Mount Hutt on a high foothill range, developed later than the club fields but became better equipped and more important to the city economically than the older club fields.

Angling and hunting

The Avon and Heathcote Rivers have afforded opportunities for angling. In more recent years, the opportunities have been confined to children, but adults fished the rivers in the past, and in earlier years took out much larger fish (usually trout) than could be caught later. Hunting within the city's present boundaries has been more or less confined to shooting rabbits and hares on the Port Hills and Waimakariri riverbed.

Introductions of fish and bird game species were haphazard in the 1850s. In 1864 a Horticultural and Acclimatisation Society was formed and granted use of an area of Hagley Park adjoining the Hospital and Botanic Gardens. (The Society split into two separate parts two years later.) From the Acclimatisation Society grounds came most of the species that made angling and hunting possible in areas of Canterbury outside the city. The species raised by the Acclimatisation Society for sporting purposes included trout and salmon, various game birds and deer. Christchurch duck-shooters have enjoyed the proximity of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere, one of the country's main water bird habitats, to the city. Other species of birds and animals which did not have sporting uses and also a number of plants, including tree species, were introduced to Canterbury through the Acclimatisation Society grounds.

For a time the grounds also attracted visitors as a small zoo and so functioned much like some of the private pleasure gardens in the 19th and early 20th century city. In 1930, the Acclimatisation Society moved to Greenpark and its former grounds reverted to being park land.

Chapter 27: Sport and recreation

Comment and recommendations

General discussion

Sport has been an important part of Christchurch life from the city's earliest days. This reflected the settlement's English inheritance and until the end of the 20th century the major sporting codes and pursuits in the city were adopted from England. This was a situation typical of many colonial settlements, elsewhere in New Zealand and in the other British settlement colonies. Until the end of the 19th century, Christchurch led the country in sporting developments and administration, a role it only lost when the North Island's population surged ahead of the South's through the 20th century. The important and ongoing emphasis on amateurism and of volunteers in running sports organisations also reflected 19th century English attitudes to sport.

The city's first sports grounds were the originally planned open spaces – Hagley Park and Cranmer and Latimer Squares. Hagley Park has remained important in the city's sporting life ever since. Lancaster Park was founded in the 1880s because it was not possible to charge for admission to public parks. It has ever since played a role in the city's sporting life different from but equally as important as that of Hagley Park. Other parks and grounds were established as the city spread following each of those different 'models' – playing fields on public parks and grounds devoted to just one or two sports, often with grandstands, for which admission could be charged.

The dominant sports – rugby, cricket, tennis, athletics and others – had different individual histories but all remained pre-eminent until a more diverse sporting scene emerged in the second half of the 20th century. In that period, some sports which had been previously minor became more popular while others became newly established. The Avon River ensured rowing would be a major sport in Christchurch. Rowing remained based close to the inner city until the post-World War II shift to the river's lower reaches. Swimming began in the rivers, but by the end of the 19th century, the first swimming pools had been built. Many more were built through the 20th century.

Horse racing was a major spectator sport from the 1850s on. Two main courses emerged, with other secondary courses eventually being closed.

For informal recreation, as opposed to organised sports, residents of Christchurch have taken advantage of the proximity of beaches and the Port Hills and the access, which became easier from the time the Midland Railway reached Arthur's Pass, to the Southern Alps. Christchurch has a more important history of involvement with mountaineering, tramping and skiing than any other larger New Zealand town or city.

Relevant listings

There are several current listings related to the place of sport in the city's life, but the listings appear to be haphazard and do not reflect the full range of sporting activity.

Of the actual grounds and parks used for sport only *Elmwood Park* and *Cranmer and Latimer Squares* have been listed.

The *Hagley Oval cricket pavilion* and the *war memorial gates at Lancaster Park/Jade Stadium* are the only structures associated with the city's two most important sports grounds to be listed.

The *Antigua boat sheds* are the only structure associated with sporting or recreational use of the Avon to be listed.

Horse-racing is represented in the current listings by the *Canterbury Jockey Club building*, Oxford Terrace, the *1902-03 grandstand and the tea-house at Riccarton Racecourse* and nearby *Chokebore Lodge*.

Two miscellaneous listings with sporting or recreational associations are the *Canterbury Club squash courts* and the *former Boys' High School/University gymnasium* at the Arts Centre (now the Academy Cinema).

Two old houses owned by the Girl Guide movement, which played a role in promoting outdoor recreation, have been listed: *Cracroft House*, Cashmere, and the *Girl Guide headquarters*, Armagh Street.

Further possible listings

The current listings provide very inconsistent coverage of places and buildings and other structures which tell the stories of sport and recreation in the city. Many individual sports are not represented at all in the listings, and there is very poor representation of grounds and parks on which sports were played. There are, for example, no listings concerning rowing (as opposed to recreational boating). The same statement could be made about a host of sports, some of them important ones.

Examples of the sort of specific buildings or structures which could be considered for listing include Queen Elizabeth II Park, the Shirley Golf Club pavilion, the surf club pavilions at Sumner and New Brighton, Wilding Park, any surviving buildings or structures relating to competitive rowing on the Avon and so on.

It would be difficult to make many further specific recommendations about possible listings until the research detailed below has been completed.

Bibliographic note

There are passing references to sporting activities in general and to specific sports or grounds in the titles listed under both I, II and III in the bibliography and also in the school histories listed under VIII. A chapter in Cookson and Dunstall, *Southern Capital*, provides the best general introduction to sport in Christchurch. Cant on the 1974 Commonwealth Games, Slatter on Lancaster Park and Saunders on rugby in Canterbury to 1979 are useful sources but on rather limited subjects.

Further research

There is probably much information in a large number of published works – books, booklets and pamphlets – put out by different sporting clubs about sporting activity in the city. Summarising and collating this dispersed information is a necessary preliminary step to identifying places and structures which could possibly be listed. Information in these sources is also probably sufficient for assessment and evaluation of the places and structures. Considerable ‘field work’ will probably be necessary to establish exactly which structures, including buildings, actually remain.

The historical information in the files of the city’s Parks and Reserves unit would be the starting point for considering new listings of areas of land that have figured importantly in the city’s sporting history and also possibly buildings and other structures.

Chapter 28: Health, hospitals and related institutions

Christchurch Hospital

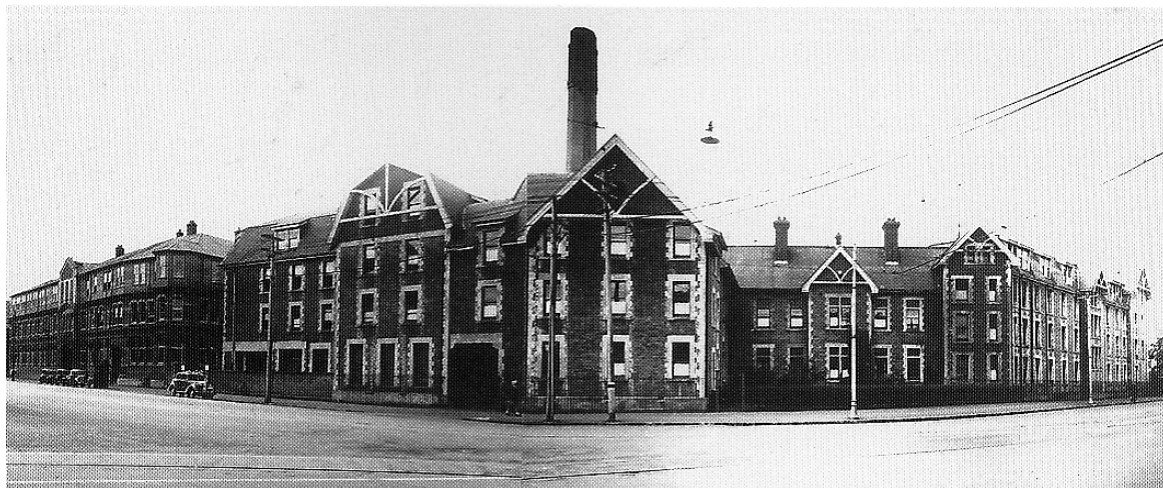


Figure 118. “Hospital Corner”, Riccarton Avenue: Christchurch Public Hospital in the 1930s. Main entrance and administration block on the left, Maids’ Quarters on the corner, Nurses’ Home (1894) on the right. Not one of these buildings exists today, the last being demolished in the late 20th century to make way for the new hospital and medical school. Canterbury Area Health Board, CHAC/CM 782



Figure 119. Antigua Street suspension bridge and a section of the original Public Hospital buildings, 1872. Lamb RC, p108, Brittenden Collection CHAC/CM



Figure 120. Christchurch Hospital c1900s, which first opened to patients in 1862. *Burton Bros., John Wilson*

A medical officer was first sent to Canterbury from Wellington in 1849 and the province's first hospital was in Lyttelton. More than a decade passed after the founding of Christchurch before its public hospital was established. The original intention was to build a hospital on the site now occupied by the Provincial Government Buildings, but recognition that site was too small led to a new site being set aside in 1859-60, part of what was originally surveyed as the Government Domain.

The location has given the hospital a 'schizophrenic' setting for its entire life. One side is hard against busy city streets; the other faces across the Avon River into the Botanic Gardens.

The first wooden buildings, in a 'Tudor Gothic' style that was peculiar to but typical of early Christchurch, were constructed on this site in 1861-62. Further wooden ward blocks were added soon afterwards and though the last of the 1862 buildings were demolished in 1917, some early wooden buildings survived until well beyond the middle of the 20th century.

The hospital came under the control of its own board in 1864. The board was later reconstituted under the 1885 Hospital and Charitable Institutions Act. Through many subsequent changes of hospital administration, a board of some sort or another, based at the Christchurch Hospital, has run the public hospital and other institutions, in Christchurch and wider afield in North and Mid Canterbury.

Beginning in the 1890s through into the 1930s, a number of separate brick ward blocks, a brick administration building, a concrete nurses home and many ancillary buildings were crammed onto the confined site. The complicated complex of buildings, however, presented imposing and unified red brick facades to Oxford Terrace and Riccarton Avenue.

The hospital was entirely rebuilt, in several stages, in the last quarter of the 20th century. In the early 21st century another major new building was erected on the site to allow the Christchurch Women's Hospital to be relocated to the main hospital site. Of the 'second generation' of brick buildings only the Nurses' Memorial Chapel survives, and it was not saved without a fight.

Other Christchurch public hospitals

Christchurch Women's Hospital began life as a St Helens maternity hospital in a converted hotel in Sydenham. In the 1950s it moved into new buildings, themselves important examples of institutional architecture of that decade, on a site north of Salisbury Street between Colombo and Durham Streets. There it was renamed Christchurch Women's. It remained on that site until after the new building for it was constructed on the main Christchurch Hospital site in 2004.

In 1902, a camp was set up at Bottle Lake, to the north-east of the city, when there were fears of an outbreak of bubonic plague in the city. Subsequently an infectious diseases hospital which had been first established on the Bromley Cemetery Reserve was transferred to Bottle Lake. Later again the hospital was renamed Burwood Hospital. It acquired buildings in an ad hoc, haphazard manner. None of the buildings were of much architectural interest or distinction. The hospital was used in conjunction with the main public hospital, with particular emphasis at different times on back injuries and burns. It has played a national role as a spinal unit and burns treatment centre.

As the central site of Christchurch Hospital became desperately overcrowded, even after the hospital expanded into buildings once owned by St Andrew's Church and into houses (later replaced) along Oxford Terrace, plans were made to build an entirely new hospital on a site at the base of the Cashmere Hills. Red-brick buildings, named the Princess Margaret Hospital, opened in 1959, were erected to a design influenced by Dutch Modern architecture, but the hospital was not completed to its original design. Like Burwood, Princess Margaret was used in conjunction with the public hospital, which remained the main centre for the provision of hospital services. At different times, psychiatric, geriatric and other services were based at Princess Margaret. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, world-leading work was done at Princess Margaret in endocrinology.

Sunnyside Hospital

Insane persons in Canterbury were held in the Lyttelton Goal until 1864, when the original wooden buildings of Sunnyside Mental Hospital were completed. Between 1868 and 1894 large masonry buildings of forbidding but interesting design were erected. Around the mid 20th century, more congenial villa blocks were added to the hospital as methods of treating mental illness changed. Later again, when the policy became to treat people with mental problems in the community, patient numbers at Sunnyside fell dramatically and most of the

19th century buildings were demolished. Some psychiatric services remained based at the renamed Hillmorton Hospital. Efforts were made to retain what remained of the 19th century buildings as evidence of how people with mental illnesses were regarded and treated in the past.

A school for mentally disabled children was established at Templeton, on the outskirts of Christchurch. It was eventually closed down completely following the changes in methods of treatment of mental illness.

Both the Crippled Children and Intellectually Handicapped Children Societies have been active in Christchurch. A sheltered workshop for handicapped children was established in Riccarton and remains on the site on Kilmarnock Street. It is near what was the disabled servicemen's workshop, later renamed Kilmarnock Enterprises.

The Sanatorium

The first person to attempt to deal systematically and effectively with the scourge of tuberculosis in Christchurch was Nurse Maude, an important figure in the history of the provision of health services in Christchurch. She established outdoor camps for those suffering from tuberculosis in the New Brighton sandhills in the very first years of the 20th century. Soon afterwards, a public campaign prompted the Hospital Board to take action. It decided in 1908 to establish a tuberculosis hospital. It chose a sunny spur of the Port Hills and the first buildings on the site were opened in 1910. The Coronation Hospital, which was for years a landmark at the base of the spur, was opened in 1914. A large number of buildings, many of historical and/or architectural interest, were subsequently built on the spur, making up three separate facilities – the Lower, Middle and Upper Sanatoriums.

After World War II, vaccination and drug treatments virtually eliminated tuberculosis. Parts of the Sanatorium were used as a geriatric hospital before the land was sold and all the buildings demolished, except for a single tuberculosis hut which remains as a reminder of the former use of the site.

One inner city site had an association with the treatment of tuberculosis. One of the last uses of the Armagh Street depot, which had had a long and varied history beginning in the 1860s, was as a tuberculosis dispensary and chest x-ray clinic. This use continued until at least the 1950s.

Private hospitals

Two church-related hospitals have played important parts in the city's medical history. The Catholic Church founded the Lewisham (also known as Calvary) Hospital on Bealey Avenue. The building designed by the Luttrell brothers for the site did not survive the change of ownership from the church to the Southern Cross Medical Society. The hospital continues to offer elective and insurance-covered surgery and certain other services.

The Anglican Church founded the St George's Hospital in Merivale. In this case the building erected for the hospital in 1928 survives, at the centre of a much larger complex of buildings in which a variety of medical services are provided.

A private hospital, Strathmore, built on Ferry Road in the 1890s, was notable for introducing to Christchurch modern antiseptic practices. In its later years, before being demolished, the domestic-styled building served as a social welfare facility. One former private hospital on the north side of Victoria Square is recalled by the name of the Limes Room in the Town Hall.

The Bethany hospital in Papanui was a maternity hospital for unmarried mothers run by the Salvation Army.

Charitable aid institutions

Charitable aid began in Christchurch with grants of money from the Provincial Council to various organisations and institutions which looked after paupers and various other classes of destitute people or people in other sorts of need. After 1885, the Charitable Aid Board, set up under the Act of Parliament of that year, took over a number of the welfare institutions which had been founded and run by voluntary organisations. In 1910, a newly constituted Hospital Board took over the responsibilities of the formerly independent Charitable Aid Board.

Essex Hospital in Linwood was a charitable aid institution set up to look after single women needing maternity assistance and also ‘elderly women of the derelict type’. The original wooden building was demolished. The institution survived in other buildings on the same site until it was closed down.

In 1889, a home for the aged, respectable poor, the Jubilee Home, was established by the Charitable Aid Board in Woolston. The brick buildings were of innovative and interesting design, but after the home was closed they were eventually demolished (with parts retained for possible re-erection elsewhere at a later date).

Orphanages

In the days when it was usual to care for orphaned children (and other children lacking adequate family support) in institutions, the city had a number of church-related and public orphanages.

The Canterbury Orphanage was one of the provincial institutions (like the gaol) which remained in Lyttelton even after Christchurch had far outstripped its port town. It moved into a large house in Waltham in 1905, only after fire had badly damaged its Lyttelton buildings. It was eventually closed down.

The Huntsbury Children’s Home, higher up the same spur as the Sanatorium, was built in 1923 as a fresh-air home for the children of tubercular parents and other children who needed time in a healthy environment.

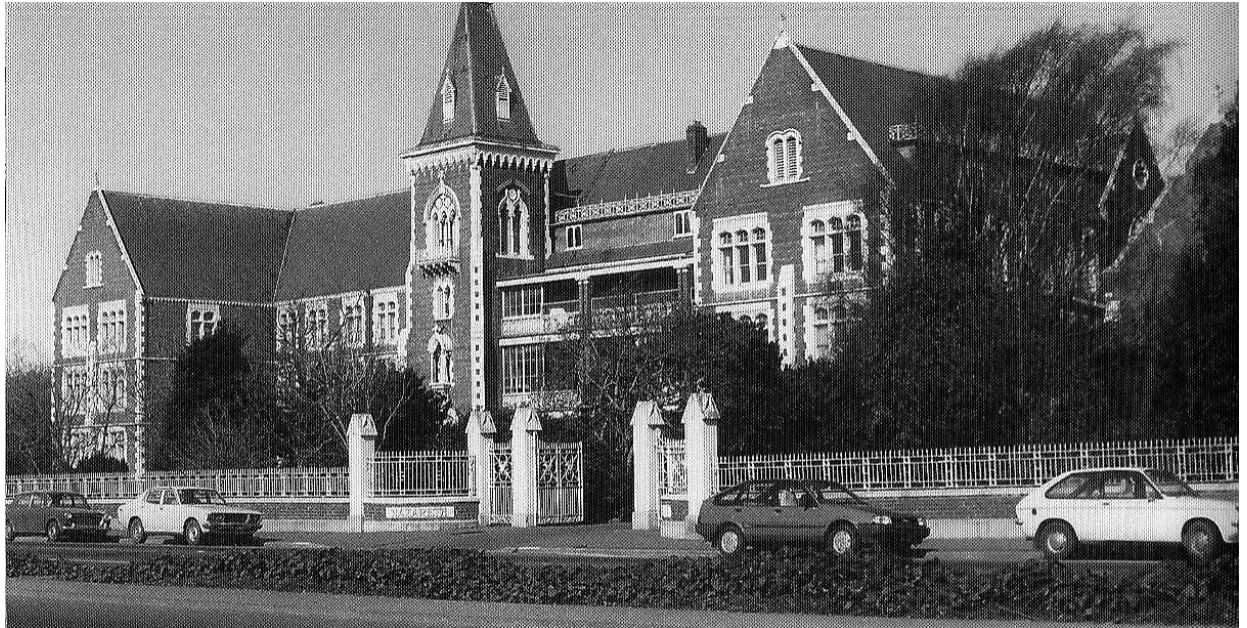


Figure 121. Nazareth House, Sydenham, survived the widening of Brougham Street (when it acquired a replica of its old front fence), but this imposing former orphanage and rest home was demolished in 1989.
Joan Woodward photograph, CM 7080/4

A Port Hills property, Glenelg, was acquired for a health camp in 1935, but the camp was not completed until 1949. Though health camps have changed in function since they were established, Glenelg remains a facility offering short-term help to children in various forms of need.

Several churches also ran orphanages. The Roman Catholic Church's three orphanages were St Saviour's, St John of God, and Nazareth House. The latter, also an old people's home, was a very large building on Brougham Street. It was the city's most telling symbol of how needy and vulnerable people, young and old, were treated in the past and a building of commanding architectural presence, but this did not prevent its demolition.

A Methodist orphanage was housed for many years in a substantial building of the 1930s on Harewood Road. The site of the demolished building is now occupied by an old people's home. The Presbyterian Church had small orphanages in large old houses, for boys on Blighs Road and for girls on Rhodes Street.

Private homes for the aged

The Jubilee Home was the main public institution looking after elderly people in need. Two private institutions with the same responsibility have histories almost as long. Each, coincidentally, has links with a building of architectural interest. The Rhodes Memorial Convalescent Home was founded by members of the pioneering Rhodes family in memory of their parents. Its imposing brick building, designed by Frederick Strouts, was built on the Cashmere Hills in 1886. The first home of the McLean Institute, founded in 1908 under the will of a wealthy sheep farmer, was a large, imposing wooden residence on Manchester Street built a few years earlier. The Institute was charged with caring for women of education and refinement who were destitute or in need. The house in which the Institute's beneficiaries were first accommodated was originally named Holly Lea but is now known as the McLean Mansion. The name Holly Lea was transferred to a property in Fendalton when the Institute sold the mansion and consolidated its work on a site it had purchased for an ancillary home early in its life.

Through much of the 20th century, elderly people in need were also cared for in church-run institutions. They included the Salvation Army's Eventide Homes on Colombo Street and Papanui Road and a home on Poulson Street, Addington, the site of a 19th century immigration barracks, the Presbyterian Church's Woodchester and the Anglican Church's Churchill Courts. More recently large commercially run rest homes have been built and the charitable, usually church-run, homes have changed somewhat in character but some remain part of the city's network of aged-care institutions, although the Presbyterian and Salvation Army churches have made conscious decisions to quit the field in order to be able to meet other more pressing needs more effectively.

The Aged People's Welfare Council has long been based on Cambridge Terrace in the inner city.

Other private charitable aid

Although the advent of the welfare state superseded the need for private charitable aid in many areas, church-related social service organisations have continued to provide assistance to people in need in the community. The most visible in the inner city have been the central missions of the Anglican and Methodist Churches. The Salvation Army has also been active as a social service organisation in the city.



Figure 122. Nurse Sibylla Maude (fourth from right) established New Zealand's first district nursing scheme in 1896 and became one of Christchurch's best-known and most-admired women. Here she is in 1914 with seven of her nurses outside their headquarters in Durham Street South. In 1919 the organisation moved into a new building in Madras Street funded by the Rhodes family. *CM 4588*

In the early 20th century, Nurse Maude resigned from her position as matron at Christchurch Hospital to head the District Nurses' Guild. She eventually founded the Nurse Maude District Nursing Association, which has remained active in the city providing nursing and, more recently, hospice services.

The Plunked Society was active in the city from the time of its foundation. It has a Karitane Hospital on the lower slopes of the Port Hills, just off Cashmere Road and there are, or were, Plunket rooms in many suburbs, including New Brighton, Fendalton and Woolston.

Medical education in Christchurch

A medical school was included in the plans of the Canterbury Association, but it was not until 1926 that medical students from the Otago Medical School began doing some training at the Christchurch Hospital and not until 1937 that final-year students became a usual part of the hospital staff. A Canterbury Medical Library was formed in 1934. The Christchurch Clinical School, an offshoot of the Otago Medical School, was not established at the Hospital until later in the 20th century. Medical research at Christchurch Hospital has been supported by private trusts and foundations.

Doctors' and dentists' surgeries and medical laboratories

Until the later 20th century, most doctors had surgeries at their own homes and paid house calls. Some old doctors' houses in the city still have evidence of separate surgery entrances. Group practice medical centres became common from the 1960s on. At the same time pathological and laboratory services began to be provided in medical laboratories separate from the hospital and medical laboratories are now part of the city's over-all medical infrastructure. Chemist shops were commonly in the past located in shopping centres, but with the growth of medical centres, some pharmacies are now located close to specific centres rather than associated with other shops.

Most dentists had their surgeries in the central city until well beyond the middle of the 20th century. Many remain in the inner city, but later in the century many also dispersed to the new suburban centres of retailing and other activity.

St John's ambulance services

St John's was founded in Christchurch in 1885, when it was thought people trained in first aid and other medical procedures would be needed if the Russians invaded. (This was in the middle of a major 'Russian scare'.) The association and brigade secured premises on Peterborough Street, in a building that had been part of a timber yard and joinery factory. It remained there until a transfer to a new building on St Asaph Street.

The St John's Association was the probably pre-eminent example in the city of the role of volunteers in the health and related sectors. The ambulance service was staffed by professionals and paid employees, but the uniformed paramedics who were (and still are) a familiar sight at sporting and other public events were volunteers. Among the other services that were provided substantially by volunteers is the meals-on-wheels service.

Alternative medicine

Alternative health and healing practices have not been important in Christchurch's medical history, but there have been herbalists in the city for many years (the best-known having been Halls on Armagh Street) and the one or two Chinese shops which were in the city through most of the 20th century stocked Chinese medicines. More recently a College of Natural Medicine has operated in the city and there are now clinics throughout the city where a great variety of 'alternative' treatments and healing techniques are provided.

Epidemics

Early in its history, Christchurch suffered frequent and sometimes serious epidemics of water-borne diseases. These epidemics were one of the reasons why the Drainage Board was set up. The Drainage Board discharged the functions of a district Board of Health for several years.

The 1918 influenza epidemic hit Christchurch as hard as other New Zealand towns and cities. In the first half of the 20th century, poliomyelitis epidemics occasionally caused school closures.

Death and funerals

Several of the city's funeral directing firms have long histories. Funeral services were almost invariably held in churches until the second half of the 20th century, though individual funeral directing firms had chapels on their premises and these became increasingly important as venues for services.

Cremation, as an alternative to burial, came to Christchurch between the World Wars with the building of the city's first crematorium on Linwood Avenue, in the vicinity of established cemeteries. The original building remains, with a now extensive rose garden behind it. A second crematorium on the north side of the city was opened on Johns Road in the 1970s.

Public funerals have not been a conspicuous feature of life in Christchurch, but among them have been the 1911 funeral of the popular mayor, T.E. Taylor, who died soon after taking office and the funeral for the victims of the 1947 Ballantynes' fire. In 1974, the body of a Prime Minister who died in office, Norman Kirk, lay in state in the Town Hall on its way to Waimate for burial.

Cemeteries

Some of the city's older Anglican churches have churchyards around them. They include St Peter's, Upper Riccarton, St Paul's, Papanui and Holy Trinity, Avonside. The perpetuation in Canterbury of an ancient English practice is a further reminder of the nature of early European settlement of Christchurch.

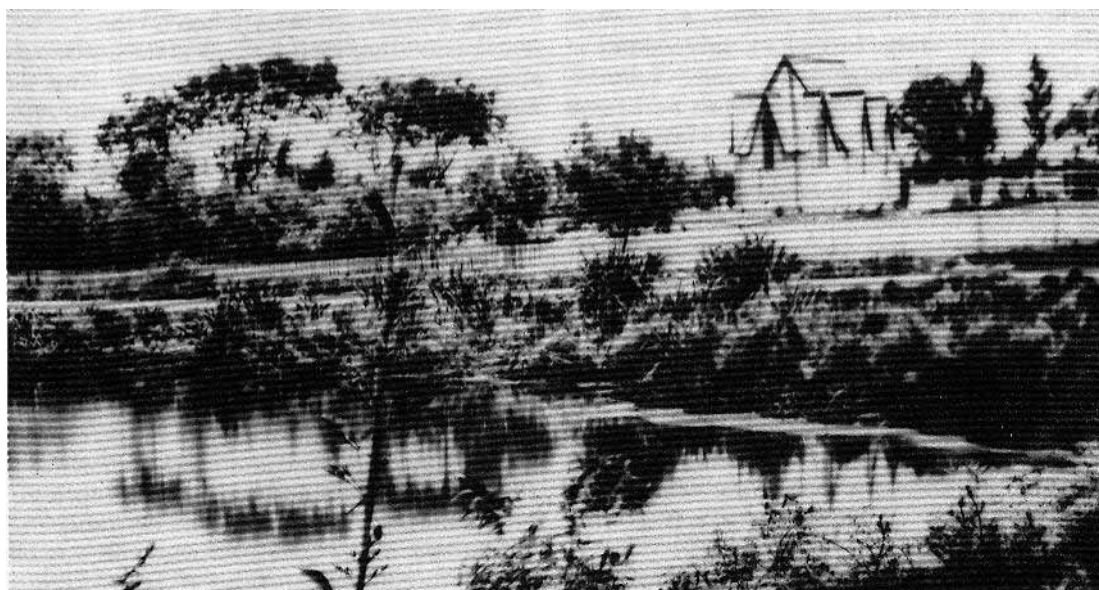


Figure 123. Barbadoes Street cemetery chapel by the Avon, 1863. *CML*

But by the time Christchurch was founded, large public cemeteries were already common in Britain. The city's oldest public cemetery, in the north-eastern quadrant of the original city, is the Barbadoes Street cemetery. It is an area of great historic significance and a valuable public open space in an area of the city without significant parkland. The other older cemeteries, in Addington (1858), Sydenham (1896) and Woolston (1852, originally the burial ground of nearby St John's Church), also have historic interest and are important local open spaces. None of these older cemeteries still have their original chapels in situ.

Later in the 19th century, a municipal cemetery was opened on sandhill country in east Linwood (1884). The attempt to run a tramways hearse to the Linwood Cemetery is mentioned in the section on transport. Other cemeteries, Bromley (1918), Ruru Lawn (1941) and Memorial Park (1956) were subsequently opened in the same area. The city's first crematorium was also built nearby, between the world wars. This concentration in one area of cemeteries spanning well more than one hundred years of use is unusual.

Christchurch's second crematorium was built on the north-west side of the city well after World War II. It is a notable building designed by Warren and Mahoney. There are also cemeteries on this side of the city – the Waimairi and Belfast cemeteries, both established in the early 1900s, and the much later Avonhead Park cemetery (1983) date from when the area was administered by the Waimairi County Council.

At periods the older cemeteries of the city have become neglected and overgrown. From the early years of the 20th century up into the 1930s, the Beautifying Association tidied up in the Linwood, Bromley and Barbadoes Street cemeteries. The public cemeteries are now better maintained than at times in the past by the City Council.

Chapter 28: Health, hospitals and related institutions

Comment and recommendations

General discussion

Since the 1860s, Christchurch hospital has been the main centre for the provision of health services in the city. It is a common New Zealand pattern that a single main institution plays such a dominant role in cities and major towns. Again as in other centres, however, a number of other institutions supplement the services available at the main hospital. The other main public institutions in Christchurch have been Christchurch Women's Hospital, Burwood Hospital, the Princess Margaret Hospital, Sunnyside Hospital and the Tuberculosis Sanatorium. Several private hospitals have also played limited roles in providing health services, notably Lewisham/Calvary (now the Southern Cross) Hospital and St George's Hospital.

Until the inauguration of the sewage system in the 1880s, Christchurch had a worse health record than other New Zealand centres, particularly for water-borne diseases. Subsequently patterns of illness and disease in Christchurch have not differed from the patterns in other New Zealand cities. As elsewhere in New Zealand, the 1918 influenza epidemic was the major event in the city's medical history.

Primary health care has been provided by doctors in private practice throughout the city's history. Within this continuity, however, there was a major change from individual doctors who regularly made house calls to the multi-doctor medical centres to which patients are generally expected to make their own way. One organisation specific to Christchurch has been the Nurse Maude District Nursing Association, founded in the early 20th century and still active, though in different ways from its early years. The national Plunket Society has also had a long presence in the city.

Until the advent of the welfare state in the 1930s, the needs of those in financial and social distress were met by a combination of public (through the Charitable Aid Board) and private (mostly church-related) organisations and institutions. The needy aged and orphans were both cared for either in church-supported homes or in public institutions. Even after the establishment of the welfare state, private welfare organisations continued to meet some need in the community and their role has probably become more important following the welfare and related economic reforms of the 1980s and early 1990s.

Relevant listings

A number of key buildings associated with health and medicine and with meeting need in the community have been listed, though the listings appear to be somewhat haphazard and do not to cover some important sub-themes and overlook some key institutions or organisations.

The two surviving older buildings on the Christchurch Hospital site – the *Nurses' Memorial Chapel* and the *Nurses' Home* – have both been listed.

Of the other major hospitals, the private *St George's Hospital* has been listed, as has the *Administration Block at Sunnyside Hospital* (the only major surviving part of the Mountfort-designed buildings at the hospital). The *mother and baby cottage at the Karitane Hospital* has been listed.

Several chapels associated with hospitals or charitable institutions (in addition to the Nurses' Memorial Chapel at Christchurch Hospital – above) have been listed: *Nazareth House Chapel* (Nazareth House itself having been demolished); *St John of God Hospital Chapel*, Halswell; *St Luke's Chapel at the City Mission* (formerly the Woolston Cemetery chapel).

The *Rhodes Memorial Convalescent Home* and *McLean Mansion*, both listed, are important in the city's history of the private provision of care for the needy aged.

Listed older, larger houses which have been put to institutional use by organisations meeting health or other needs include *Fitzroy* (the Nurse Maude Association), the *Fleming and McKellar Houses* (Wesleyan Eventide Home), and *Bishopscourt* (the Bishops Park retirement village).

Three listed inner city buildings relate to the provision of health and other services: the *Plunket Society Rooms*, Chester Street; the *Nurse Maude District Nursing Association building*, Madras Street, and *Harley Chambers*, Cambridge Terrace (which has accommodated many doctors' and dentists' suites through the years).

Further possible listings

It is difficult to specify further individual buildings or other places that could or should be listed until the necessary research (noted below), and follow-up ground surveys, have been done. It should be noted, however, that apart from the Nazareth House Chapel, the city's history of *orphanages* is not represented in the listings and that *important hospital buildings* (for example at *Burwood*, *Princess Margaret* and *Christchurch Women's*) have so far been overlooked

The city's two *crematoria* should be listed. The *Christchurch Crematorium*, which won the NZIA Gold Medal in 1964, is an example of the several buildings and structures, under many themes, that should be listed because they have won design recognition

Bibliographic note

Fenwick's 1926 book on the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board and the 1927 *Public Activities* book both provide useful background on the history of the provision of medical and other services in the city. Bennett's *Hospital on the Avon* brings the story of the Christchurch Hospital forward. Lamb's *Banks of the Avon* also touches on the hospital and some other institutions. No. 7 of the City Council's *Architectural Heritage* series deals with the Nurses' Memorial Chapel. Averill's history of St George's Hospital is useful on one of the city's main private hospitals. Wilson, *Lost Christchurch*, covers the buildings of several institutions. There is information on a great number of institutions throughout sections I, II and III of the bibliography and separate works on specific institutions in section VIII, for example Rice on the St John's Association and Brigade. Among the biographies, the life of Edward Seager covers the history of Sunnyside Hospital.

Further research

There are no histories yet about a number of important health and welfare institutions in the city, such as the Essex Hospital, but a thorough search of the existing secondary and historic sources should provide enough information to allow important surviving buildings that would be possible candidates for listing to be identified

Chapter 29: The military and war

The Drill Hall and King Edward Barracks

The first military units formed in Christchurch were volunteer corps. The Volunteer Defence Force was formed in 1860. In 1863 Canterbury volunteers departed Christchurch to serve in the Waikato war. The existence of these various volunteer corps was marked in the inner city by a wooden drill hall erected on Cashel Street. The units held exercises and mock battles at different places around the city, more commonly than elsewhere along the base of the Port Hills. They also contributed a presence to the parades and other events associated with the visits of notable people, like Lord Kitchener, to Christchurch.

The wooden drill hall was replaced in 1905 by the King Edward Barracks, a large brick structure with a steel girder roof enclosing a wide space. The Army had offices in the Barracks and in a wooden building on the same site facing Cambridge Terrace. The Army retained this 'base' in the city for long after the Burnham Camp, south of the city, was established. Even while the Army remained on the site, the Barracks were used for civic and other occasions, including animal shows, ski-gear sales, St John's Ambulance parades and university graduation ceremonies.

The establishment of the Burnham Camp diminished the immediate presence of the military in the city, but soldiers on leave from Burnham were familiar in Christchurch over the week-ends of many years.

After the Army quit the site in the 1990s, it was cleared, despite the structural and architectural interest of the Barracks and their place in the city's wider, not just military, history.

The Aerodromes

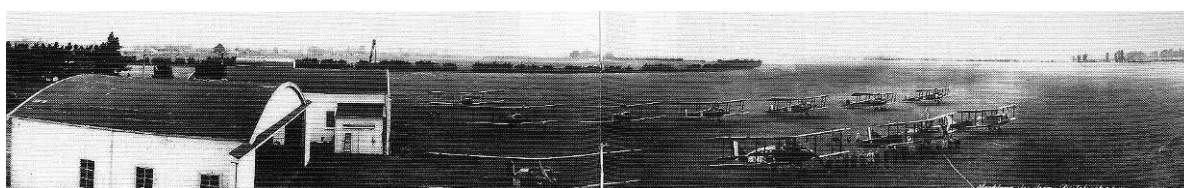


Figure 124. Wigram Aerodrome 1923 was originally called the Sockburn Aerodrome. *R. P. Moore photograph, Meers collection, CHAC/CM 828*

Christchurch's first aerodrome was formed privately at Sockburn in 1917. The Canterbury Flying School trained pilots there, some of whom flew in Europe during the First World War. After the war, the government was induced to buy the aerodrome and the school, encouraged by a donation from the city mayor and businessman, H.F. Wigram, after whom the aerodrome was named in 1923. Wigram then became an air force base, in effect the birthplace of the RNZAF. It was used to train pilots and the drone of Harvards was a familiar Christchurch sound for several decades.

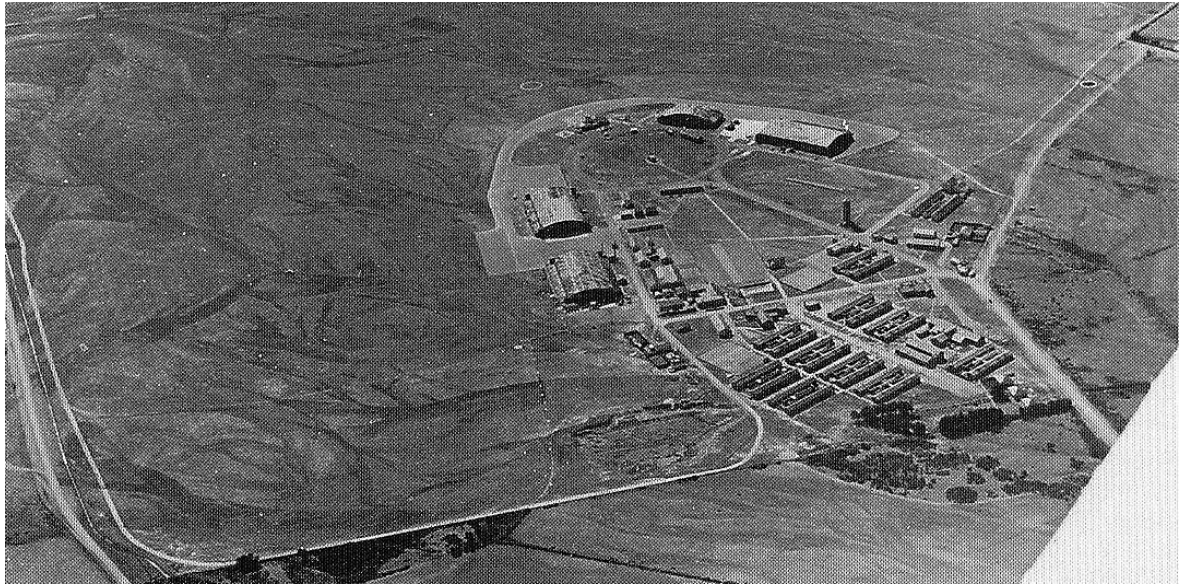


Figure 125. Harewood Aerodrome was officially opened as a city council civil airport in May 1940, but was soon taken over as RNZAF Base Harewood. Hundreds of pilots were trained here and at Wigram during the Second World War. Stan McKay photograph, CM 11959

During the defence rationalisations of the 1990s, the Wigram base was closed, in 1995. Some houses and other structures remain from the years it was a military base. A helicopter unit remained at Wigram and the Air Force Museum, founded in 1987, also remained on the site.

The city council took steps to establish a municipal aerodrome at Harewood immediately before World War II. When war broke out, the government took the new airfield over and it became an air force base for the duration of the war. Long rows of wooden barracks and other structures were built. Some of these survived in various uses until after the end of the 20th century. After the war, the airfield was handed back to the city council and developed as the city's civilian airport. From the 1950s on it was also a major stepping-off point for the American Antarctic programme. A totem pole, given to the city in 1959, which stood for many years in Little Hagley Park, was relocated to the airport in 1980. It is a reminder of the early years of this association of the airport and city with the American Antarctic programme. This led, in the later 20th century, to the establishment of an Antarctic Centre at the airport. (This topic is also covered in the following chapter.)

The Navy

The only significant presence in inner city Christchurch of the New Zealand Navy is the training establishment of the Royal New Zealand Navy Volunteer Reserve, HMNZS Pegasus, on Montreal Street. In 1965, the city granted the establishment a charter. By the early 21st century, following the closure of the King Edward Barracks, other military activities, such as army recruitment, became based at Pegasus. There is also a training facility for sea cadets, HMNZS Cornwall, on the foreshore at Redcliffs.

Rifle ranges

Redcliffs was also for many years the site of an army rifle range, in what is now Barnett Park. The other main rifle range at West Melton remains in use. In the years that there were cadet units of secondary school boys in many Christchurch high schools, the West Melton range was used by school cadets.

Returned servicemen

The Returned Servicemen's Association clubs in the central city and in many suburbs (for example, Papanui) are in a sense part of the city's military history. In Upper Riccarton, the Rannerdale Home was where many returned servicemen saw out their last days. Lower Riccarton was where the workshops of the Rehabilitation League, which gave employment to servicemen who had returned from war with some sort of handicap or disability, established itself after World War II, but the establishment has since been closed down and the building demolished. The Rehab League's shop on Gloucester Street has also long since been closed down.

Defence works



Figure 126. The Governor-General, Viscount Jellicoe laid the foundation stone for the Bridge of Remembrance, 1923. Canterbury Public Library 658



Figure 127. Opening of the Bridge of Remembrance, 11 November 1924. *CM14572*



Figure 128. Citizens' war memorial in Cathedral Square. Unveiled 9 June 1937, the sculptor was William Tretheway. *SRA 2005*

A defence reserve was created on Godley Head, at the entrance to Lyttelton Harbour, as early as 1851. The long history of New Zealand's coastal defence works began in the 1870s, but no significant defence works were built on Godley Head until 1939-42. Then the placing of gun and searchlight emplacements required relocation of the historic stone lighthouse that had stood on top of the headland. There were also minor defence works along the shore from the Causeway to Scarborough and on the Port Hills. The Army vacated Godley Head in 1983 and the area is now used for recreation, with the defence works being preserved for their historic interest.

During World War II, when fears of Japanese invasion were at their height, caverns were excavated beneath the Cracroft Estate on the Port Hills to serve as a headquarters for the final defence of the South Island. These are now used by a university department for physical experiments. When a Japanese invasion was feared, bomb shelters and tank traps were built in different parts of the city, but filled in when the threat of invasion receded.

Home guard units were formed to guard the beaches to the east and north of the city and temporary defence works were also constructed in places like the Bottle Lake forest.

War memorials

The first overseas war in which Canterbury men fought was the South African (Boer) War. The statue of Queen Victoria, planned originally to mark the 50th anniversary of the province, was not unveiled until 25 May 1903, so was also dedicated as a memorial to the Canterbury men who had fallen in South Africa.

Two civic war memorials were built between the world wars to commemorate the dead of World War I. The existence of two memorials was a result of a typically Christchurch disagreement about how and where the dead of World War I should be commemorated. The Bridge of Remembrance was dedicated on 11 November 1924. It stood on the site of the old Cashel Street bridge, across which men marched from the King Edward Barracks on their way to the railway station and so Lyttelton to embark for overseas. A notable work of the Auckland architect, W.H. Gummer, the bridge was retired from traffic use in 1976 after the opening of the nearby Durham Street bridge (on the one-way system). The War Memorial in Cathedral Square was not unveiled until 9 June 1937 after prolonged controversy over its site and design. It is one of the finest works of local sculptor W.T. Trethewey. After World War II, the memorial was also dedicated to the memory of the dead of that war and became the usual venue for the city's dawn Anzac Day services.

There are numerous other war memorials of a wide range of types around the city, commemorating men and women of specific groups or from particular districts or areas. A Church of England school, the Victory Memorial School, was built as a memorial in the St Matthews' parish. The Nurses' Memorial Chapel at the Christchurch Hospital was erected in the 1920s to commemorate three nurses killed in a specific ship sinking. Nearby, bandsmen are commemorated by a memorial rotunda in the Hagley Park woodland. The rotunda's foundation stone was laid in 1925. Sportsmen are commemorated by memorial gates at Lancaster Park (now Jade Stadium). There are war memorial lamps in Sumner and in Papanui memorial avenues of trees. Papanui's memorial hall (used later as the Barclay Cinema) has been demolished. Halswell has its own imposing memorial on a main road. There is also, more unusually, a First World War memorial at Elmwood School.

Chapter 29: The military and war

Comment and recommendations

General discussion

Although the New Zealand armed forces have never had a marked presence in Christchurch, and the city has a scant military history, there have been buildings and sites associated with military activity in the city. The demolition of the city's main military structure, the King Edward Barracks, with a history that went back to a 19th century volunteer drill hall on the same site, expunged the main evidence of the city's military history.

Although the city's other main military base, the Air Force base at Wigram, has been closed, there are still structures at Wigram that serve as reminders of the site's Air Force history, as there are at Christchurch Airport, which was an air base during World War II.

The branch of the armed forces which had the least conspicuous presence in the city, the Navy is, perhaps surprisingly, the only one which still has such a presence in the form of the Naval Volunteers' training base, HMNZS Pegasus.

During World War II, significant defence works were built and manned on Godley Head and elsewhere on the coast and along the Port Hills.

The city has a large number of war memorials of various types, scattered throughout the urban area and commemorations of Anzac Day have been significant civic occasions.

Relevant listings

The main group of listings connected with the city's military history is a number of war memorials. They include the *Bridge of Remembrance*, the *Citizens' War Memorial* in the Square, the *Elmwood School war memorial*, the *Bandsmen's memorial rotunda* in Hagley Park, the *Nurses' Memorial Chapel*, Christchurch Hospital and the *Sumner foreshore memorial lamps*. The *Queen Victoria Statue* serves, among other purposes, as the city's South African War memorial.

Seven separate listings at *Wigram Aerodrome* are associated with the long history of the Air Force at that location.

The '*Cracroft caverns*', one of the significant relics of World War II defence works, have been listed.

The presence of returned servicemen in the city is recognised in the listing of the *Rannerdale Home*.

Further possible listings

Other *war memorials* should almost certainly be listed, such as the *Halswell memorial* and the *Papanui street plantings*. (Reference to the City Council's inventory will identify more of the possible listings in this area.)

The *Godley Head and some of the other World War II defence works* on the Port Hills should almost certainly be listed.

The two *Naval Volunteer Reserve establishments* should be considered for listing.

Bibliographic note

There are no readily available sources devoted specifically to the city's military history. There are references to defence works and to 19th century volunteer activities in Ogilvie's *Port Hills* and in de Thier *Sumner to Ferrymead* to the Redcliffs rifle range. There is information on the Godley Head defence works in various City Council reports and in a recent leaflet.

The Sorrow and The Pride: New Zealand War Memorials, by Chris Maclean and Jock Phillips, provides a good overview of war memorials in New Zealand and features significant Christchurch examples. No. 7 of the City Council's *Architectural Heritage* series deals with the Nurses' Memorial Chapel, and Pryor on Trethewey covers that sculptor's work on city war memorials. Various war memorials are listed but not discussed in the City Council's inventory of objects around the city.

Noble's biography of Wigram deals with the origins of the Wigram Air Force base.

Further research

Some further research is needed to ensure that there is accessible information about all aspects of the city's military history before the task of identifying possible structures or sites for listing can be undertaken.

Chapter 30: Christchurch in New Zealand and the World

Representative or different?

In many aspects of its history and development, Christchurch has followed common, New Zealand-wide patterns. But it is distinguished from, in particular, Auckland and Wellington in having, nationally, played a less influential role in national affairs. Fewer events of national importance happened in Christchurch than in its northern counterparts. Christchurch has been more insular, inward-looking and its story is one of regional rather than national significance. Its 'historic places' in the broadest sense have to be assessed on local and regional rather than national or international significance.

Christchurch's over-all urban form and rich architectural heritage are, however, of at least national significance. The early development of an historic conservation movement in Christchurch further demonstrates that appreciation of the city's built form is long-standing and unusually strong in the New Zealand context. The appreciation within the city of its retained built and landscape heritage and acceptance of its 'garden city' image by national and international tourists also demonstrates that a unique sense of place has been a powerful influence on the development of a city conscious of its special character.

Some figures of national (and even international, given Ernest Rutherford's associations with the city) influence have emerged from Christchurch and in some areas Christchurch has played a leading, innovative role in national affairs. It has had a more important place than is sometimes recognised in the development of left-wing politics in New Zealand and in the emergence of the New Zealand Labour Party. Later, it was a key centre for the emergence of the modern conservation and 'green' movements in New Zealand.

Christchurch has tended to be less 'internationalist' and less affected by overseas contacts than Wellington or Auckland, but it does have a long history of connections, at different levels, with other parts of the world.

The Antarctic Connection

Christchurch's role as a base or staging post for explorers and then scientists travelling on to Antarctica has given it a history unique in New Zealand, and possibly in the world. The history spans the full 20th century.

The heroic age of Antarctic exploration

Christchurch's association with Antarctic exploration began in 1901, when the *Discovery*, of Robert Scott's first expedition, called at Lyttelton. Scott and his party spent some time in the city. The relief ship, *Morning*, also berthed at Lyttelton in 1902. One of the reasons Scott came to Christchurch was that a cousin of his was professor of engineering at Canterbury College. More importantly, the Magnetic Observatory established in the Botanic Gardens in 1901 could be used to calibrate scientific instruments. The observatory closed in 1969, but one building and other relics remain on the site.

Ernest Shackleton's Nimrod sailed from Lyttelton in January 1908. The expedition's personnel again spent time in Christchurch.

Scott returned in November 1910 on his last, Terra Nova, expedition. A Christchurch businessman, Kinsey, took a particular interest in Antarctic exploration and Scott was entertained at Kinsey's home on Clifton Spur. Scott stayed on this visit in a Rhodes family home, Te Koraha (now occupied by Rangi Ruru school). Quail Island was used to quarantine Scott's ponies while the expedition was in Canterbury.

Because of the association Scott had formed with Christchurch, the news of his fate and that of his companions, received in February 1913, plunged Christchurch into grief. Just four years later, in 1917, a statue of Scott, a replica of one sculpted by his widow, was unveiled on a prominent inner city site.

Operation Deep Freeze and beyond

Christchurch's association with Antarctica was renewed in the 1950s. The International Geophysical Year in the mid 1950s marked the beginning of sustained scientific research in Antarctica. The first flight to Antarctica of the United States Navy's Operation Deep Freeze left Harewood in December 1955. American icebreakers berthed in Lyttelton and American servicemen on leave were seen about the city – and introduced Christchurch youngsters to Coca Cola!, though this was only a small part of the impact of American personnel on the Christchurch community. Flights by American aircraft left Harewood for Antarctica on every following Antarctic season.

In 1959, as a gesture of gratitude for the hospitality of Christchurch people to the American servicemen and scientists, a totem pole carved in Oregon was presented to the city. It was placed in Little Hagley Park, visible from Harper Avenue, but moved in 1980 to the airport, as a more appropriate place to mark the early years of Operation Deep Freeze. There remain, in the inner city, plaques and other memorials on and in the Anglican Cathedral which commemorate the city's association with the southern continent.

An Antarctic Centre was developed at the airport by the airport company as a tourist attraction. It was purchased from the airport in 2000 by an independent company.

The Canterbury Museum also marked the city's long association with Antarctica by opening an Antarctic Wing in 1977. It has one of the most comprehensive collections of items associated with Antarctic exploration and scientific research in the world. In 1994 Sir Vivian Fuchs, leader of the 1957 Trans-Antarctic Expedition, then in his eighties, visited the Antarctic Wing.

An Antarctic Treaty consultative meeting was held in Christchurch in May 1997.

Tourism

Christchurch did not figure conspicuously in the 19th century development of tourism in New Zealand, except as a starting off point for visits to, especially, Mount Cook (where the first Hermitage was built in the 1880s). But the earliest New Zealand tour guides published,

beginning in the 1880s, to encourage people to visit the country and for them to take away as souvenirs, included beautiful etchings and later photographs of Christchurch public buildings and gardens, especially the river banks. Tourist promotion and souvenir publications devoted exclusively to Christchurch also started appearing before the end of the 19th century. The city became more popular as a tourist destination in its own right after it became known as ‘the garden city’ in the early years of the 20th century.

One event which did bring visitors (national and international) to Christchurch in numbers in the early years was the 1906-07 International Exhibition, for which imposing temporary buildings were erected in North Hagley Park. Hotels were built specially to accommodate the visitors and art and music flourished, at least temporarily. (It was an invited guest at this Exhibition, Sir John Gorst, who made the first recorded reference to Christchurch as a ‘garden city’.)

The city’s role as a starting off point for visitors to other South Island destinations persisted, and even became more marked, with the development of Queenstown, Kaikoura and the Mount Hutt ski-field as tourist destinations (and with the popularity, at a different level, of Hanmer and Akaroa as day-trip destinations and of the Trans-Alpine train trip). Counteracting this, however, has been a growing perception that the city is an interesting destination in its own right, partly because of its heritage buildings, its reputation as ‘the garden city’ and its maintenance of an historic character and high amenity value in the inner city. It seems that increasingly the tourist accommodation in Christchurch (ranging from modern hotels to backpackers accommodation in, often, recycled heritage buildings) is being used by visitors who appreciate other qualities of the city than its providing access to mountain resorts and the varied activities now offered there.

Notable visitors

Among the visitors to Christchurch through the years have been people of note of different sorts. These visitors provided both links for Christchurch to the ‘outer’ world and the occasions for civic events.

Although a reigning monarch did not make it to Christchurch until the 1953-54 Royal Tour, members of the royal family began turning up in the city from the 1860s on. These visits were often notable civic occasions. The royal visitors of the first half of the 20th century included two ‘monarchs-to-be’, Edward VIII and George VI. After the 1953-54 tour, royal visits became both more frequent and less important as events in the city’s life.

The other major category of visitors, perhaps especially in the 19th century, were leading literary figures. They included Trollope, Kipling and Twain. Major international figures of the stage and the world of music also came to Christchurch, as to other New Zealand cities, to perform. Significant visitors active in nascent environmental organisations in the United States included John Muir from California.

Sporting events

In the late 19th century, the first visits by international sports teams and individuals marked the beginning of another important form of contact between the people of Christchurch and the outside world. By the middle of the 20th century, tests between the All Blacks and the Springboks or Lions, played on Lancaster Park, drew some of the largest crowds seen in Christchurch to that point.

In terms of international participation, the 1974 Commonwealth Games was the most important single sporting event to 'open' Christchurch to a wider world.

People on the move

While New Zealand was being settled by Europeans – a process which began in the mid 19th century and continued until the 1970s – cities like Christchurch enjoyed a constant input of ideas and experiences from overseas. But relatively few of the immigrants ever returned to their home countries and their New Zealand born children had relatively few opportunities to travel overseas until after World War II.

Through the second half of the 20th century, the movement of ordinary people in and out of Christchurch made the city much more cosmopolitan and outward-looking. This was, at one level, the result of international travel becoming quicker, more convenient and cheaper. Some young New Zealanders had long been accustomed to making trips overseas, some choosing to remain away as expatriates, but many eventually returning to pursue careers and raise families 'back home'. The phenomenon of 'the big OE' became much more common as the 20th century advanced. The overseas experiences of returning young New Zealanders had a marked impact on life in Christchurch, if only from raised expectations about what it meant to eat out.

The relative ease of international travel also meant that professional and other skills could be 'imported' from overseas, in the form of people recruited for posts in Christchurch. This reinforced the impact on the development of Christchurch's intellectual and social life of young New Zealanders returning from their 'OE'.

Towards the very end of the 20th century a further development added to greater diversity in Christchurch. This was the marked increase of Asian immigration. Although Christchurch took fewer permanent Asian immigrants than Auckland (as it had, earlier, taken far fewer Pacific Island immigrants), enough arrived to have an impact on the city. To this was added the large number of young Asians who came to attend high schools or English language schools in the city and who became a notable presence in the inner city.

Sister cities

The City Council's sister city programme has been another manifestation of the stronger, more vital links with the outside world which Christchurch forged in the second half of the 20th century. The most interesting relationships have been with cities which were not only the same relative size as Christchurch but those with which it shares similar settlement histories, allowing commonalities as well as differences to be explored.

Chapter 30: Christchurch in New Zealand and the World

Comment and recommendations

General discussion

Christchurch may have been less ‘cosmopolitan’ or ‘internationalist’ than Wellington or Auckland, but has maintained regular contacts in a variety of ways with the wider world. In the 19th century and early 20th century, this was achieved through sports events, the visits of notable figures and of well-off tourists and through the holding of the 1906-07 International Exhibition in Christchurch.

After World War II, contacts between people in Christchurch and the outside world burgeoned. Tourists, New Zealanders returning after months or years spent overseas, people recruited from other countries for jobs in Christchurch, and new waves of immigration from ‘non-traditional’ source countries all contributed to Christchurch becoming a more cosmopolitan and diverse city socially as well as ethnically.

Within New Zealand, Christchurch has mostly followed country-wide development patterns and been a centre of events and trends of local and regional rather than national significance. The two areas of national life in which the city has played an influential life have been the emergence of the Labour Party and the establishment of the conservation movement (in both its natural and historical aspects).

Relevant listings

Listed places and buildings connected with Christchurch’s place in New Zealand’s history have been noted under many preceding themes.

Tourism has been covered under accommodating visitors. The two surviving 1906 *hotels*, *the Carlton* and *the Crown* (now Maddisons) are among the most important relics of the 1906-07 Exhibition to have been listed. The conversion of the *former YWCA building*, the *former Excelsior Hotel* and the *Star and Lyttelton Times buildings* (all listed) to backpackers gives them added importance, as representative of the increasing movement of young people through Christchurch in the later 20th century. The listed *façade of the Clarendon Hotel* is an important reminder of the notable visitors to Christchurch who stayed there. The *Theatre Royal* and the *Odeon/St James Theatre* (both listed) were venues where notable overseas actors, singers and other artists performed. *Lancaster Park (the Memorial Gates)* have been listed) was the scene of the most important of the international sporting events in Christchurch’s history.

For the Antarctic connection, the *former Kinsey house*, Clifton, the *Scott statue* and *Te Koraha* (at Rangi Ruru School) have all been listed.

The *Kingsford Smith landing place*, at Wigram, has been listed and is important in the development of the air links with other countries which transformed Christchurch’s relationship with the rest of the world in the second half of the 20th century.

Elizabeth House is important as the base for many years of several ‘loyalist’ organisations which maintained overseas links through the years New Zealand was a member of the British Empire/Commonwealth.

Further possible listings

Two further items which illustrate Christchurch’s important role as a base for Antarctic exploration and scientific work – the *Totem Pole now at the airport* and the surviving *magnetic observatory building in the Botanic Gardens* – should probably be listed.

Places which can be shown to have had a significant *connection with any notable visitors* to Christchurch could be considered for listing.

Buildings or items at **Christchurch airport** which illustrate its key role as the place where most travellers in the second half of the 20th century entered or left Christchurch should be identified and possibly listed.

The ‘*sister cities*’ sites in the inner city and at the Halswell Quarry should be considered for listing.

Bibliographic note

There is some information on Christchurch’s relations with the ‘outside world’ in the three most useful general sources – the three-volume Centennial history, Cookson and Dunstall, *Southern Capital*, and Rice, *Christchurch Changing*. Slatter’s book on Lancaster Park records some of the notable international sporting events in the city’s history. Mansfield gives a survey of the 1906-07 Exhibition.

Two books deal with Christchurch in comparison with other New Zealand cities and with cities with similar histories in the United States. The late David Hamer from Victoria University wrote a comparative book about New Zealand cities. Grey, a geographer, has written comparative histories which compare and contrast New Zealand cities with those in the United States.

Further research

There have been no systematic surveys of Christchurch’s place in the nation’s history vis a vis the other ‘main centres’ or of the connections between the city and other countries, but a careful reading of a number of secondary sources should provide sufficient information for the identification and assessment of further buildings or items which may warrant listing on these grounds.