

RICCARTON WARD PROFILE

February 2023



The Riccarton Ward includes the suburbs of Riccarton, Ilam, Sockburn and Upper Riccarton. The most recent representation review saw changes to the Riccarton Ward which came into effect in October 2023. Hagley Park is on the eastern border of the ward, through to Racecourse Road along Epsom Road to the Sockburn roundabout. The ward's northern boundary extends along Matai Street West, around Riccarton Bush, along Totara Street, up Clyde Road and through to Creyke and Maidstone Roads to Solway Avenue taking in the University of Canterbury's Dovedale Campus. Peer Street forms the western boundary onto Yaldhurst Road / Racecourse Road. The railway line forms most of the southern border.

The Riccarton Ward takes in the University of Canterbury campus, Riccarton House and Bush and the Christchurch Railway Station. There are two bus lounges on either side of Riccarton Road providing an interchange function for routes both in and out of the city as well as the Orbiter Route.

The busy Riccarton Road bisects much of the ward, not just physically but also demographically and socially. There are marked differences in income levels, as well as housing prices, density and ownership between the two sides of the corridor.

There are a number of older houses on traditionally larger sections on the north side of Riccarton Road, whereas the south side has seen increases in housing density as the larger sections are subdivided and developed into multiple unit housing. This includes social housing where the former state house and section model is being converted into multi storied complexes.

There are three major shopping centres in the ward; Bush Inn Centre, Tower Junction and the popular Westfield Mall, which is the largest retail complex in the South Island. Blenheim Road and Mandeville Street also comprise a mix of commercial and retail premises. There are also some light industrial businesses operating through Sockburn and south of Blenheim Road.

Profiles compiled by the Community Support and Partnerships Unit

Facts and figures

Demographic Summary (2018 Census Data)

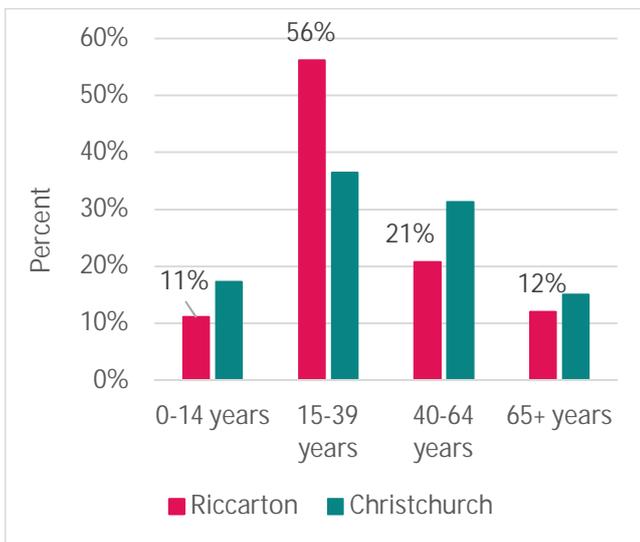
Population

The population within the Riccarton Ward boundary is: 24,861

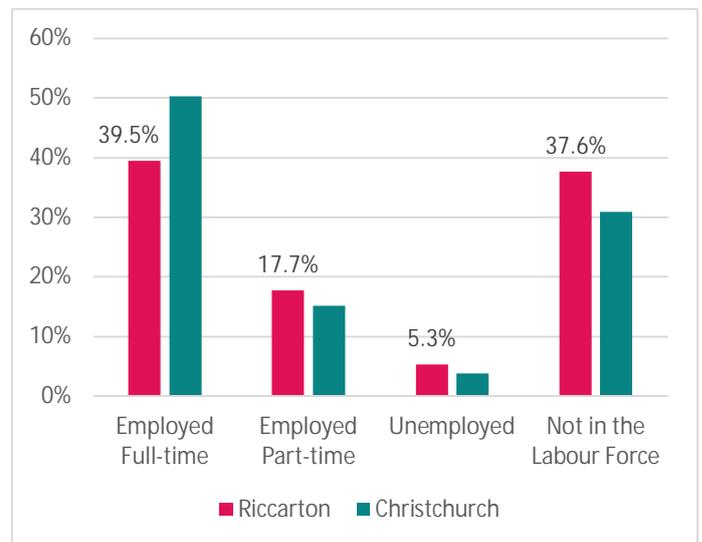
Number of Occupied Private Dwellings: 7,437



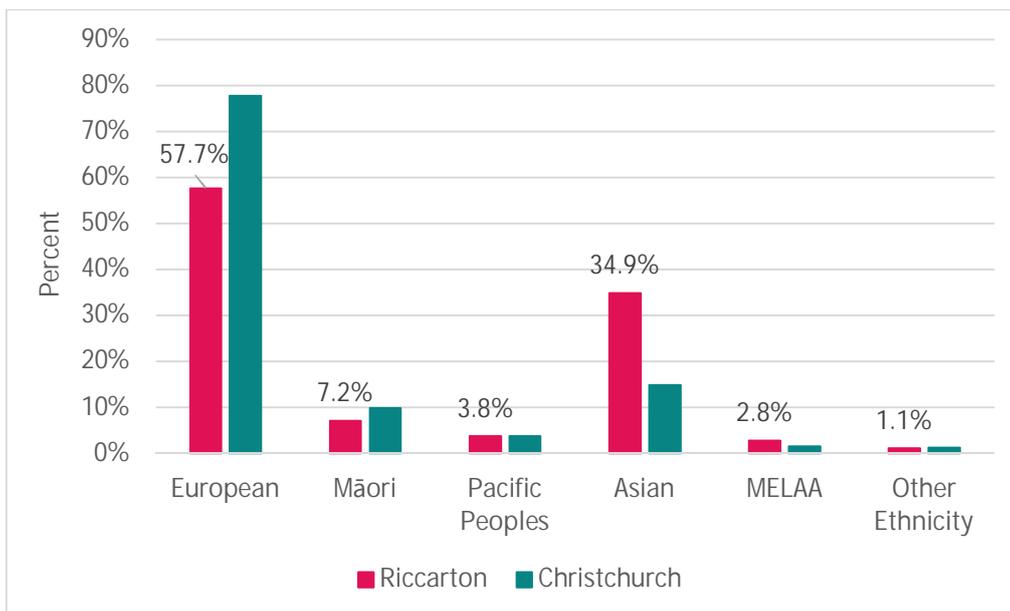
AGE



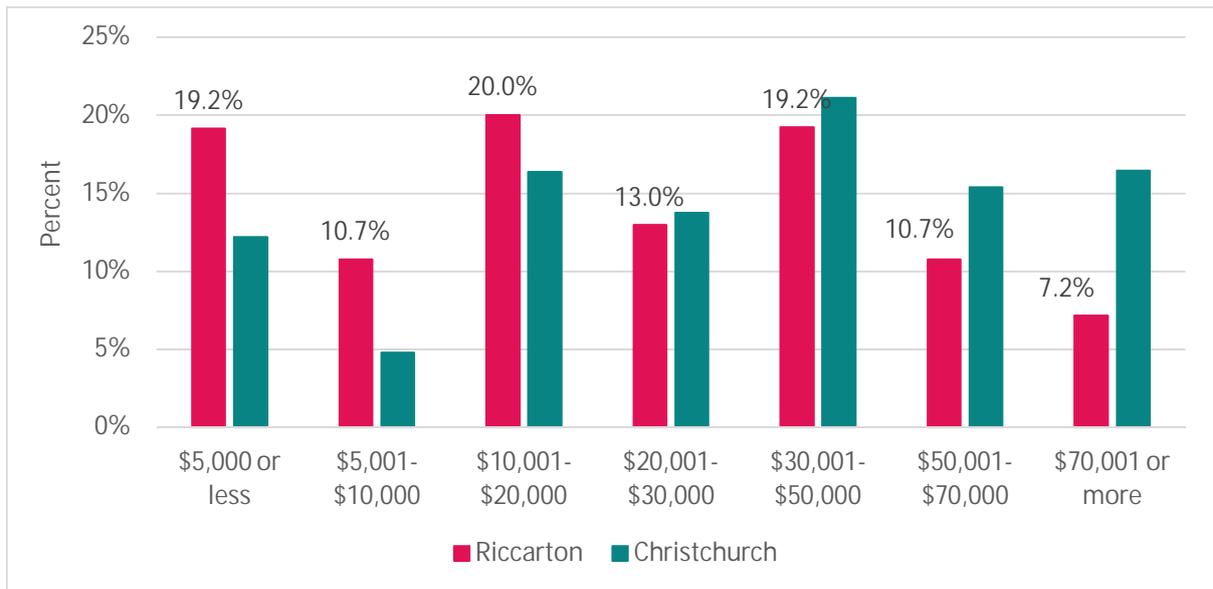
WORK AND LABOURFORCE STATUS



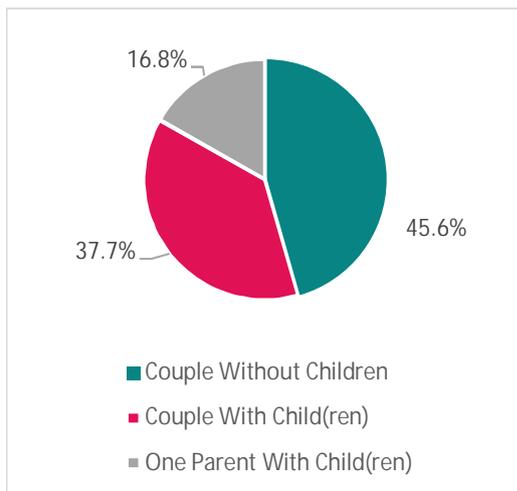
ETHNICITY



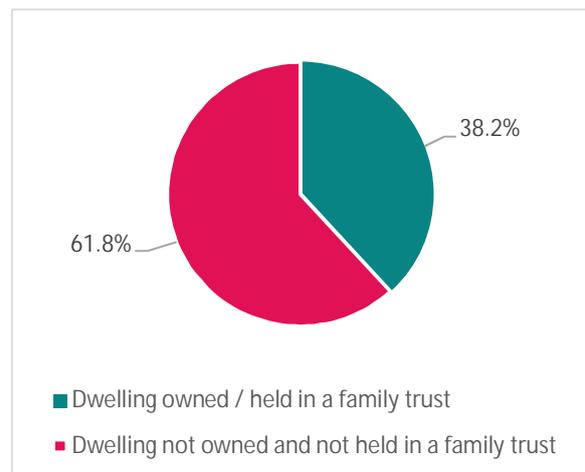
PERSONAL INCOME



FAMILY TYPE



TENURE OF HOUSEHOLDS



Facilities and Amenities

- 1 Council library: Upper Riccarton, (Community and school)
- 1 Council service centre: Rārākau: Riccarton Centre
- 6 Council owned social housing complexes with 165 units
- 3 shopping centres: Riccarton/Westfield, Bush Inn Centre and Church Corner, Tower Junction.
- 8 Schools: 4 primary, 1 intermediate, 2 secondary, 1 composite year 1-13
- University of Canterbury
- Approximately 3,441 businesses employing 20,863 people (Feb 2021)
- Two Council managed Community Facilities: Rārākau Riccarton Centre and Waimairi Road Community Centre.
- Major Sport and Recreation amenity: Wharenui Recreation Centre Stadium, Sockburn Recreation Centre, Table Tennis Canterbury Centre
- Historical properties: Riccarton House and Bush, St Peters Church and Kate Sheppard House, Antonio Hall, Middleton Grange Homestead, Chokebore Lodge and Addington Water Tower

Socio-economic Deprivation

The aim of the NZ deprivation index research programme is to develop indexes of socioeconomic deprivation for New Zealand, to support and inform:

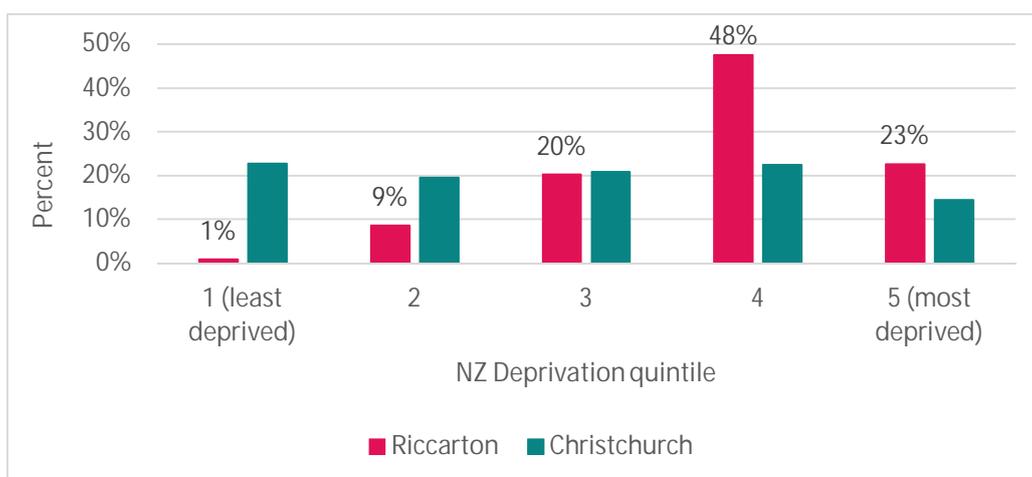
- Application in funding formulas
- Research in especially health and other social services. For example, in the health sector, many researchers use the indexes to describe the relationship between socioeconomic deprivation and health outcomes
- Community groups and community-based service providers to describe the populations they serve, and to advocate for extra resources for community-based services.

The nine variables included in the 2018 deprivation index are as follows:

- People aged 18-64 receiving a means tested benefit
- People living in households with equivalised income below an income threshold
- People with no access to the Internet at home
- People aged 18-64 without any qualifications
- People aged <65 living in a single parent family
- People not living in own home
- People living in household with equivalised bedroom occupancy threshold
- People aged 18-64 unemployed
- People living in dwellings that are always damp and/or always have mould greater than A4 size.

The scale of deprivation ranges from 1 to 10: 1 represents the areas with the least deprived scores. 10 represents the areas with the most deprived scores.

- Relative to the rest of Christchurch City, Riccarton ward had higher levels of deprivation overall.
- In Riccarton ward, around 23 per cent of this ward's population lived in the 'most deprived' areas (i.e. deciles 9 and 10), compared with 14 per cent of all of Christchurch City's population.
- Less than 1 per cent of this ward's population lived in the 'least deprived' areas (i.e. deciles 1 and 2), compared with 23 per cent of all of Christchurch City's population.

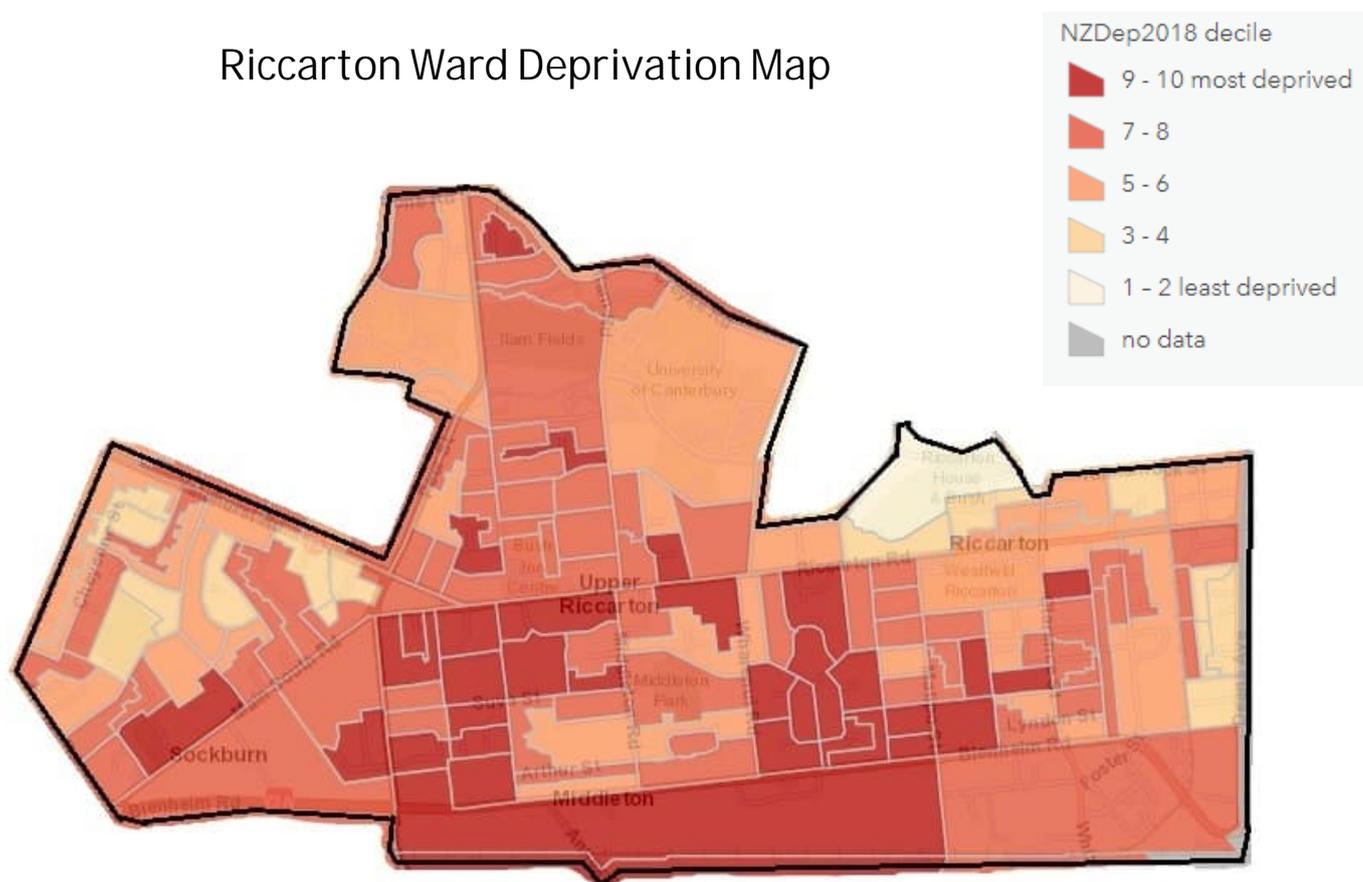


For more information and to view the full NZ Deprivation map visit:

<http://www.ehinz.ac.nz/indicators/population-vulnerability/socioeconomic-deprivation-profile/>

(Massey University)

Riccarton Ward Deprivation Map



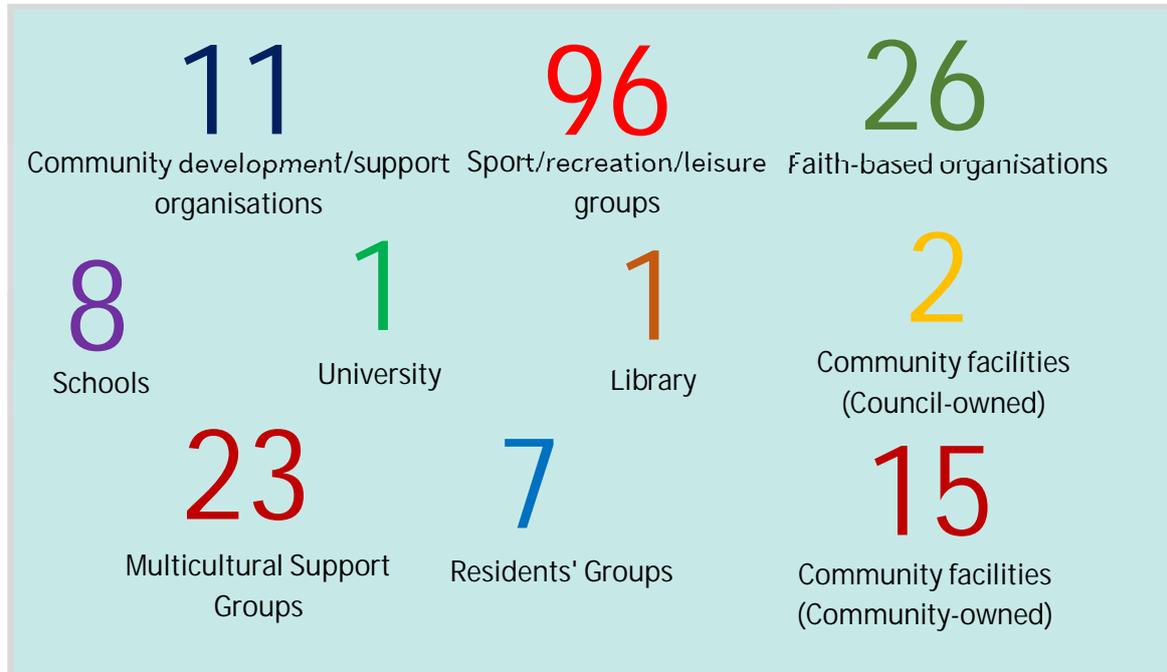
The Riccarton Ward contains some of the most and some of the least affluent areas in the city. There are areas to the north of Riccarton Road, particularly surrounding Riccarton Bush where residents live in areas considered to be the least deprived (a rating of 1 to 2 on the social deprivation index). The majority of the 24.9 percent of the ward living in the most deprived areas (rating of 9 to 10) live south of Riccarton Road. It is significant that nearly two-thirds (65.6 percent) of the ward live in areas of higher social deprivation (between 7 and 10 on the index scale).

The high social deprivation ratings can be attributed in part to larger amounts of students living in the ward, who are traditionally on a lower income and without transportation. Indeed, 9.9 percent of people aged 15 and over receive a student allowance. This is higher than the Christchurch City figure of 2.8 percent.

There are also considerably less people with an annual personal income of over \$70,000, with just seven percent of people in Riccarton aged over 15 years of age having an income of over \$70,000, compared with 16.5 percent city wide.

61.8 percent of people in the Riccarton ward live in rental accommodation.

Community Infrastructure



The 11 organisations providing community development and/or support to the local community cover a wide range of sectors.

The higher proportion of residents born outside of New Zealand (43.3 percent) is reflected in the fact that within the ward there are 23 different organisations providing support to the multicultural sector. This includes eight specialist programmes designed at maintaining the native language and culture to the young people of their communities.

There are a number of faith organisations located in the ward. Within a one kilometre radius the Muslim, Sikh and Buddhist faiths have places of worship at the Al Noor Mosque, the Gurdwara Centre and the Buddhist Light International Centre. Two new residents groups have formed, Sockburn and Church Corner with Middleton Matipo Residents Association coming out of recess.

There are a large number of organisations providing sporting, recreational and leisure opportunities within the Riccarton Ward. These range from sporting clubs such as Wharenui Gators Basketball Club to hobbyist organisations such as the Crockfords Bridge Club.

Additional to that number are over 100 student-led clubs and societies operating from the University of Canterbury. A significant number of these are also open to the wider community, the University Rugby Club being a prime example.

In addition to the two Council owned community facilities and the Upper Riccarton Library community spaces, the Riccarton area is well served by other groups opening up their facility for other use. This ranges from churches (e.g. Riccarton Baptist) to schools (Wharenui Primary) and to community organisations that have their own facilities and open them to other organisations (Crockfords Bridge Club, Christchurch Philatelic Society). The University of Canterbury also has a number of spaces within the campus that have community use.

Community Outcomes

The Community Outcomes have been developed as part of the Council's Strategic Framework, which provides a big picture view of what the Council is trying to achieve for the community.

The Community Outcomes describe what we aim to achieve for Christchurch. They are:

- Resilient communities
- Liveable city
- Healthy environment
- Prosperous economy

You can view the Council's Strategic Framework and read more about the Community Outcomes here: <https://ccc.govt.nz/the-council/how-the-council-works/20182028-vision/strategic-framework>

The narrative below provides an overview of the area in relation to each of the outcomes.

Resilient Communities

The post-earthquake environment in Riccarton has seen the emergence of a desire for community-led development. Leading the "for the community by the community" approach in the area of Riccarton to the south of Riccarton Road is Oak Development Trust. In addition to employing Riccarton's only Community Development Worker, the Trust also provides specific support programmes to migrant communities, employing three migrants in family worker roles. One of these programmes is a food bank for migrant communities supplying food suitable for ethnic cultures as well as working holistically with those receiving the parcels.

Oak Development also collaborate with other organisations to run two successful community building events. One has seen an outcome where the involvement of the local multicultural community is extended into other initiatives. The other, "Connect" is the evolution of an initiative first developed through a partnership with New Zealand Police to increase positive relationships between transient communities (often students) and the more permanent residents in the area.

Step Ahead Trust provide support to the disability sector while Presbyterian Support's offers their Enliven Positive Ageing programme to older adults. Community Development Network Trust and La Vida Youth Trust specifically work with young people, providing amongst other programmes, 24/7 youth workers in four different schools.

Canterbury Fiji Social Services Trust works with the Pasifika community in both the Riccarton and Hornby Wards, providing wraparound support.

The tragic events of 19 March 2019 at the Al Noor Mosque in Deans Avenue had wide ranging effects not only to the Muslim community, but also to the community living around the mosque. For many of these residents, their lives have also changed considerably. A positive outcome of the tragedy has been the increased relationships between the Muslim and local community around the mosque.

Seven Residents' Groups currently operating in the Riccarton Ward. Each of these work in very different ways, advocating for the members of their catchment areas and in some cases providing opportunities for residents to build relationships with each other. Two of these are newly formed, with another recently coming out of recess.

Representatives from Riccarton-based organisations met in late 2022 to develop a vision for the Riccarton area. While this is currently in draft form, participants identified the following objectives;

- Riccarton is a well-connected community where people know and watch out for each other.
- Riccarton is a visually appealing place that makes people feel safe and welcome.
- Riccarton community places a high value on retaining existing green space and the development of additional green spaces where possible.
- The diverse housing make up of Riccarton is acknowledged and celebrated.
- Riccarton is valued as a highly diverse multicultural environment where migrants are welcomed and supported.
- In Riccarton we place a high value on informal bumping spaces, both indoor and outdoor, that provide community members the opportunity to connect with others.
- Riccarton's heritage is valued and shared.
- Riccarton has opportunities for intergenerational connections.

There are three community gardens operating in the ward. Riccarton Community Garden has recently relocated to Dilworth Street with the associated Pataka Community Pantry which it operates still to change venues. The other two are based within the University of Canterbury, one in Ilam Road and one in Solway Avenue.

There are two Council managed community facilities in the Riccarton Ward. The Waimairi Road Community Centre is a smaller facility, which is the base for the Avonhead Playcentre and a number of other groups. Rārākau: Riccarton Centre is one of Christchurch's newest community facilities opening in 2019. The Waipuna Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board meets in the facility which also features a Council Customer Service desk and New Zealand Post services.

It is also notable that a number of community organisations in the ward make their facilities available for use by other community organisations. This collaborative approach allows for a greater level of community relationship-building.

There are two secondary schools in the ward, Riccarton High School and St Thomas of Canterbury College. Middleton Grange School provides Year 1 to 13 education, while Kirkwood Intermediate is one of eight Intermediate Schools in Christchurch. The ward's primary schools are Wharenui Primary School, Ilam Primary School, Riccarton Primary School and St Teresa's School.

The University of Canterbury in Ilam is looking to continue a resurgence in student numbers after the earthquakes reduced student numbers considerably. Following the earthquakes, the number of students enrolled fell from 18,783 during 2010 to 14,725 during 2014. Latest official figures from the University in its 2021 had a headcount of 20,919 students enrolled with record numbers of Maori and Pasifika students.

In 2019 student numbers rose to pre-earthquake numbers. While numbers were impacted by the start of the COVID pandemic without many of the 1,800 international students, numbers were up to 18,770 as at April 2021. This included an increase of 21 percent for Māori students and 15 percent for Pasifika students compared to 2020. The boost in domestic students is still unlikely to offset the loss of full fee paying international students, despite the introduction of an online-to-campus programme.

The University will be celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. As part of the celebrations the University received the 'Twelve Local Heroes' sculpture series as a loan from Canterbury Museum.

The University of Canterbury has accommodation available for over 2,400 students at nine venues/halls of residences through partnerships with different providers. Under the Educations (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021, the University and the accommodation providers have a number of processes that must be followed to ensure that all tertiary students can academically

succeed in a safe, healthy and supportive learning environment. This includes free counselling and a free meningitis vaccine to domestic students under the age of 25 living in halls of residence.

Liveable City

The differences in house values within the Riccarton Ward can be evidenced in the December 2021 median house values for the different suburbs as follows: (sourced from Opes NZ report on house values based on the Core Logic House Price Index). The figure in brackets is the value at December 2020.

- Fendalton – \$1,550,000 (\$1,142,450)
- Ilam - \$901,000 (\$668,600)
- Riccarton - \$702,400 (\$531,450)
- Middleton – \$680,000 (\$522,000)
- Upper Riccarton - \$665,450 (\$498,400)
- Sockburn - \$609,250 (\$456,350)

The median Canterbury house value is \$680,000.

Housing density is an acute issue within the Riccarton Ward. Property owners on the northern side of Riccarton Road have been vocal against the National Policy Statement on Urban Development which could see increased density in their Residential Suburban zoned properties. Similarly, residents groups in areas of the ward with higher density zones do not want to see the continuation of high density housing development that is becoming prevalent in the area. 29.6 percent of dwellings in the Riccarton Ward are joined dwellings as opposed to separate houses. Across the city, this figure is 19.1 percent.

Kāinga Ora has been increasing their social housing stock in the Riccarton Ward, creating multiple unit complexes. As at the 2018 census, Kāinga Ora have 570 units in the Riccarton Ward, part of the 59.6 percent of households in the ward that are rentals. Otautahi Community Housing Trust manage 84 Christchurch City Council Social Housing Units. Kāinga Ora's numbers are set to rise with new developments planned for Riccarton Road and Upper Riccarton.

Student housing is a major feature of the ward with the University of Canterbury having eleven halls of residence housing around 2,781 students.

The median household rental in Riccarton is \$380 per week which is higher than the city median of \$350. This higher figure can be attributed to the higher number of bedrooms per dwelling within the ward. 12.2 percent of households in Riccarton Ward have five or more bedrooms compared with 5.4 percent city wide. The rent by room trend is growing within the ward as once family homes are converted to maximise rental potential.

A higher proportion of households in the ward reported issues with dampness (19.4 percent) and mould (13.7 percent) than compared to the city rate (16.7 percent and 11 percent respectively).

Healthy Environment

The Riccarton Ward has only 7.3m² of greenspace per person which is considerably lower than the 158.9m² in the Halswell Ward and 60.4m² in the Hornby Ward. Of the 26 greenspaces in the ward, 14 parks have playground equipment, there are three parks with basketball half courts and one with a standalone football goal. There are no parks with skate facilities, tennis courts or fitness equipment in the Riccarton Ward.

Riccarton House and Bush / Pūtarīngamotu is a unique New Zealand heritage site consisting of two historic buildings, flanked by beautiful open parkland and ornate gardens, bordered by Ōtākaro / Avon River. It is set against extensive native bush forest featuring kahikatea trees up to 600 years old, Canterbury's sole remnant of kahikatea floodplain forest. The trees are the latest generation of a forest that established on the site 3000 years ago. They have survived through two cultural periods, Maori then

European, that saw widespread fires sweep the Plains and native vegetation give way to pastoralism and cropping.

The headwaters of the Ōtākaro / Avon River and through its Ilam, Okeover and Riccarton Stream tributaries wind their way through the ward. The University of Canterbury operate monitoring programmes of the Okeover Stream which cuts through the University. Environment Canterbury have undertaken work along the Riccarton Stream involving local residents in Picton Reserve and Paeroa Reserve. Part of the Riccarton Stream travels underground, including under Westfield Mall.

Prosperous Economy

The Riccarton Ward has the greatest number of people working in its ward outside of the central city. 20,863 people are employed in 3,441 businesses.

Of those businesses the top six industry types in order are:

- Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services
- Retail Trade
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
- Construction
- Accommodation and Food Services
- Financial and Insurance Services

There has been a slight reduction in the both business and employee numbers.

The University of Canterbury is the largest employer in the ward, employing approximately 1,900 people.

15.6 percent of people aged 15 and over working in the Riccarton Ward work in the education and training sector while 16.6 percent work in the retail sector. The Christchurch figures for these two sectors are 7.8 percent and 9.8 percent respectively.

The major shopping centres at Westfield Mall, Tower Junction and Bush Inn Centre/Church Corner are supplemented by shopping strips down Riccarton Road as well as commercial businesses surrounding Mandeville Street and Blenheim Road.

Westfield Mall is the largest retail mall in the city and New Zealand's fifth largest mall. It is also the oldest, first opening in 1965, it has undergone a number of expansions.

The Bush Inn Centre is still in the process of undergoing redevelopment, dominated by eateries. Across Waimairi Road, the Church Corner shopping centre has a multicultural vibe with a majority of business owners from various Asian cultures.

Tower Junction, owned by Ngai Tahu property group is an open air complex across 37,000m². Retail spending in this area was up by 7.8 percent in the year November 2020 to 2021.

Market View Data indicated that spending growth rates in the Bush Inn and Church Corner area rose by 3.8 percent in the year May 2021 to May 2022 and 3.5 percent in Riccarton. However it was down 2.7 percent in Tower Junction.

As at February 2023 there were 194 liquor licences issued in the Riccarton ward. The majority of these are on licences reflecting the high number of restaurants (145) with an additional 17 on licences to taverns. The others are 17 off licences and two club licences.

The number of businesses and people working in the Riccarton Ward increased substantially after the earthquakes as many central city business relocated into the ward. Although numbers of businesses and employees have dropped slightly, they are still considerably above 2010 levels. The busy area around Blenheim Road, for example, has risen from 708 businesses in 2010 to 993 in 2020, slightly below the 2019 peak of 1015.

Current Community Issues

Issue	Progress to date / outcomes
<p>Community and Road Connections Al-Noor Mosque</p> <p>Connections between the Al Noor Mosque, Hagley Park and surrounding communities to support community recovery.</p>	<p><u>February 2021</u></p> <p><i>This was a priority area under the 2019-22 Waipuna Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board priorities for the Riccarton Ward.</i></p> <p>The Community Board are advocating for funding through the Christchurch Regeneration Acceleration Facility Funding allocation for transport projects.</p> <p>Deans Avenue Precinct Society run Community Board funded events aimed at bringing communities together.</p> <p><u>February 2022</u></p> <p>Funding has been allocated from the Christchurch Regeneration Acceleration Facility Funding towards this project. Initial works will include footpath renewal.</p> <p>Canterbury Muslim Association is looking to develop a programme to assist with the implementation Royal Commission of Inquiry Recommendations into the terrorist attacks on the Christchurch mosques.</p> <p><u>February 2023</u></p> <p>The road layout on Deans Avenue has been developed to provide a safe crossing point near the Mosque.</p> <p>A number of Muslim communities have been provided with funding from the Community Activation Fund for various projects.</p>
<p>Upper Riccarton War Memorial Library</p> <p>The Upper Riccarton War Memorial building is unsafe with the area around it becoming an eyesore.</p>	<p><u>February 2021</u></p> <p><i>This is a priority area under the 2019-22 Waipuna Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board priorities for the Riccarton Ward.</i></p> <p>Investigations have been made into future use options for the site.</p> <p><u>February 2022</u></p> <p>The Upper Riccarton War Memorial Library Trust has made the decision to wind up and have made an offer to Council to transfer ownership.</p> <p>A report is due to be put to Council in February 2022 accepting ownership of the building, recommending demolition and then disposal of the site.</p>

	<p>The Waipuna Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board has recommended that staff investigate the feasibility of retaining the site as a reserve that can serve as a commemoration to those in the area who served in the defence forces.</p> <p>February 2023</p> <p>The Council resolved to accept the ownership of the War Memorial Building. While the Council initially also resolved to demolish the building and investigate disposal of the site, this was put on hold after deputations from the Civic Trust, Canterbury Heritage Trust and Christchurch Returned Servicemen Association with a plea to retain the building for community use. Investigations have been underway into this.</p>
<p>Bradshaw Terrace Street Renewal Bradshaw Terrace street renewal is overdue. Scheduled work has been deferred since 2010.</p>	<p><u>February 2021</u></p> <p><i>This is a priority area under the 2019-22 Waipuna Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board priorities for the Riccarton Ward.</i></p> <p>The Community Board are advocating for funding through the Christchurch Regeneration Acceleration Facility Funding allocation for transport projects.</p> <p><u>February 2022</u></p> <p>Funding has been allocated from the Christchurch Regeneration Acceleration Facility Funding towards this project.</p> <p>February 2023</p> <p>Work is about to commence in March 2023.</p>
<p>Housing Density Concern over the increase in housing density in the Riccarton Ward.</p>	<p><u>February 2021</u></p> <p>Density is increasing as developers, including Kāinga Ora continue to build multiple unit dwellings.</p> <p><u>February 2022</u></p> <p>Residents and other interested groups have led combined meetings across the city regarding changes to allowable density.</p> <p>February 2023</p> <p>Residents are awaiting the outcome of Council's proposed draft Plan Change 13 and Plan Change 14. Following consultation in 2023, Council's proposed changes will be submitted for Commissioner approval.</p> <p>Residents in the Church Corner area are concerned with a proposed Kāinga Ora Development on the former Workotel site for over 100 units in a multi-</p>

	<p>story development. Kāinga Ora have yet to submit any consenting applications for the development.</p>
<p>Migrant Community Support The migrant community in the Riccarton Ward needs to be supported and able to advocate effectively. This includes being aware of opportunities to participate fully in life in Christchurch.</p>	<p><u>February 2021</u> Funding is provided to organisations working with migrant communities.</p> <p><u>February 2022</u> Oak Development Trust and Canterbury Fijian Social Services have developed programmes to support migrant communities with food parcels and assistance.</p> <p>Canterbury Muslim Association is looking to develop a programme to assist with the implementation of the Royal Commission of Inquiry Recommendations into the terrorist attacks on the Christchurch mosques.</p> <p>February 2023 Oak Development Trust and Canterbury Fijian Social Services continue to operate their migrant support programmes.</p>
<p>Riccarton and Ilam Parking and Traffic Traffic and parking issues around the ward. Parking around the University and Riccarton retail areas is problematic as the demands of day users and residents are managed.</p> <p>Traffic congestion is an issue down Riccarton Road, Blenheim Road, Curletts Road and Peer Street during peak travel periods.</p> <p>Safety issues with the Ilam/Middleton/Riccarton Roads intersection. Resident and property owner concern with South Express Cycleway plans, especially in Elizabeth Street and Lochee Road. Residents in Sockburn along Middlepark Road and Takaro Ave are also concerned over the impacts of the cycleway and associated loss of parking. A reduction in parking is pushing parking associated with St Thomas of Canterbury College (students on school days and sports field users on weekends) further afield.</p>	<p><u>February 2021</u> The University of Canterbury has a parking management plan.</p> <p>30km speed limit down Riccarton Road and in streets to the north of Riccarton Road has been implemented.</p> <p>Bus Priority Measures have been implemented in Riccarton Road.</p> <p>Work is due to start on the Ilam/Middleton/Riccarton intersection, which incorporates the Nor'West Arc cycleway.</p> <p><u>February 2022</u> Work in Riccarton Road is due to be completed in early 2022 with the completion of the Ilam/Middleton/Riccarton Intersection and the replacement of infrastructure beneath Riccarton Road.</p> <p>The South Express Cycleway is nearly completed in the Riccarton ward. There has been a loss of parking in some areas and some streets have been converted into cul de sacs. New traffic lights have been installed at a number of busy intersections.</p>

	<p><u>February 2023</u></p> <p>The Ilam/Middleton/Riccarton intersection work has been completed.</p> <p>The South Express Cycleway is nearly completed within the Riccarton ward, with a small part through Taggart Reserve to be completed.</p> <p>St Thomas of Canterbury College is investigating alternative on-site parking options for student carparking. Sourcing funding could accelerate this.</p> <p>Residents concerned with proposed changes to allow higher density housing in the Riccarton area have expressed concern about the affect this would have on an area 'already under parking pressure.'</p>
<p>Greenspaces and Recreation Areas</p> <p>There are a lack of greenspaces and recreation areas in the Riccarton Ward which is exacerbated by the high density of housing in the Ward.</p> <p>There is concern over the condition of Sockburn Park and antisocial behaviour in the adjoining car park.</p> <p>There are calls from the community to retain the former Sockburn Service Centre site for greenspace.</p>	<p><u>February 2022</u></p> <p>There amount of greenspaces remains the same in the ward.</p> <p>Riccarton based groups expressed their concern over this in their feedback to the draft Otautahi Christchurch Community Strategy.</p> <p>There is a community desire to convert the land that the Upper Riccarton War Memorial Library stands on to greenspace or a passive recreation area should the library be demolished.</p> <p><u>February 2023</u></p> <p>With the changes to ward boundaries there is now less greenspace within the ward. There is concern that some residents living in some of the most socially deprived areas have a walk of over one kilometre to access their nearest greenspace.</p> <p>The former barbecue and paddling pool area in Sockburn Park has been removed. Tidying up of trees, planting and fencing is planned.</p>
<p>COVID-19 effects</p> <p>COVID-19 has impacted communities in many ways. Economically, socially, culturally and environmentally.</p>	<p><u>February 2021</u></p> <p>A shared coherent understanding of both the impacts of COVID-19 and our progress towards recovery at a local and regional level is important to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enable a deliberately focused, coordinated and integrated effort across locally-based agencies and organisations 2. Enable consistency in public facing messages from agencies and organisations 3. Enable a consistent and coherent articulation of the impacts of COVID-19, as well as our recovery efforts and progress, to local communities, mana

	<p>whenua, businesses, the tertiary sector, central government and the media.</p> <p><u>February 2022</u></p> <p>The introduction of the Traffic Light System and delayed spread of the Omicron variant has provided some breathing space for local groups to put in place measures to support their communities and guidelines to operate under. This has included the University of Canterbury, providers of community facilities and sporting groups.</p> <p>Community Board based Governance teams continues to check in with groups and communities when interruption to normal 'business as usual' takes place. This includes linking to information sources, services and agencies when and where needed.</p> <p><u>February 2023</u></p> <p>While the majority of government imposed restrictions have been lifted, measures to restrict the spread of the disease are now community and individually managed. Recent upsurges in the disease have already seen an increase in these measures and these may continue.</p> <p>Organisations report a continued request for assistance due to the effects that the pandemic has had on community members and their standard of living.</p> <p>The need for food bank and parcel support has increased. A number of organisations provide these services for the community.</p> <p>Hospitality businesses are reporting labour shortages which has restricted business opening hours.</p>
<p>Crime and Safety (new issue in 2023)</p> <p>During 2023 issues violent behaviour by young people, particularly in and around Westfield Mall received media attention. Some of these were attacks on young people by young people.</p> <p>Local people have also expressed concerns through social media outlets over the rising amount of car thefts in the Riccarton area.</p>	<p><u>February 2023</u></p> <p>Police are working with Westfield Mall management on strategies including trespassing young people from the shopping centre.</p> <p>Police continue to reiterate the need to report crime immediately through the appropriate police channels.</p> <p>Riccarton Community Patrol is in need of members which could lead to increasing patrols.</p> <p>Youth agencies are keen to collaborate on initiatives to provide positive outlets for young people.</p>