

Lancaster Park Sports Grounds



30 Stevens St
**Formerly Jade Stadium/
 AMI Stadium**

This park was originally named after its first Pākehā purchaser, wealthy English landowner Benjamin Lancaster, who on-sold it to a local sports club in 1880.

Events onsite were halted by World War I (1914-18) and resulting costs forced the club into bankruptcy, despite fundraising efforts such as growing potatoes on the playing fields. A local tradesmen's association paid off the debt and arranged for ownership to be vested in the Crown via the 1919 Victory Park Act, funding the marble Memorial Gates (built 1924) to commemorate all Canterbury soldiers & sports enthusiasts lost in the war. Ownership of the site passed to City Council in 2008.

Christchurch residents have enormously varied memories of exciting events here - everything from rugby & cricket to Pink Floyd and a visit by the Pope!

The site was shut for a decade following severe damage from the Feb 2011 earthquake. When insurance negotiations & community consultations concluded, the stadium was finally demolished in 2019 and work began in Apr 2021 to convert the land to public green space & sports fields. The site officially reopened in Jun 2022. For more, see the Council's webpage: <https://ccc.govt.nz/rec-and-sport/projects/lancaster-park>

Linwood Congregational Church



Cnr Ferry Rd/Leyden St
Services Sun 10.30am
Phone: (03) 389 2909

This church, also known as Linwood Multicultural, is actually located in the middle of Phillipstown. It's known for its international congregation and its long-serving church officers. As at 2022, Audrey the Church Secretary has served for 36 years, and Rev. Moe has been there for at least 20 years!

The church began in 1864 as an offshoot of Trinity Congregational (now defunct). Current chapel was moved to this site in 1885, and adjacent hall was built in 1892. The pulpit & communion table were donated by the family of Miss Florence Boon, who died in 1918 due to her hard work nursing those stricken by the global influenza epidemic. Past reverends have come to the church from NZ, England, Australia & even Peru. During WWII, the current minister's wife (Mrs Garner) actually stepped in to cover her husband's absence whilst he served as a National Reserve padre (military pastor).

At various times in the past, the church has been home to a Temperance League; an active choir & Sunday school; social groups for girls, young men & young wives; and even troops of Boy & Girl Scouts! Rev. Moe & his wife are Samoan, and the church currently has a strong focus on reaching out to Pasifika & Māori residents, through events like Sat afternoon Pasifika Ladies Group.



32 Cross St: In Memory of Mr Hu

This property was the former home of Mr. Loo-Chi Hu, nicknamed 'Huloo'. Mr Hu was a NZ T'ai chi legend, skilled master mariner, and recipient of the Queen's Service Medal (QSM).



Photo Credit: Stuff Limited

Huloo was born in China in 1924. When Mao Zedong came to power, he was in Taiwan working as a fisherman & his father advised he stay there for safety.

His famous exploits included sailing a 65 -year-old junk *Free China* from Taiwan to freedom in the USA, after the current Taiwanese government also began to be oppressive. Despite a brush with Typhoon Annie & never having previously crewed a sail ship, all those onboard survived! He also helped rescue explorer Thor Heyerdahl & crew in 1970. Hu moved to Chch in 1967, working as a marine industry consultant, designing fishing and navigational equipment.

Hu offered free t'ai chi instruction for years, wanting to ensure economic barriers didn't stop people accessing its potential health benefits. His daily 6am classes were held at Phillipstown School, Hagley Park, and later in a converted shed behind his house in Cross St.

Hu's former students helped found the NZ National Tai Chi Association, and his charitable efforts were awarded a QSM in 2002. He was also the subject of *Huloo*, a 2008 documentary film by Robin Greenberg, Mr Hu passed away in Sep 2013. His house later became a rental property, deteriorating under poor ownership & being demolished in 2022... but his memory and legacy live on.

Kidsfirst Kindergarten



533 St Asaph St
Mon-Fri 8.30am—2.30pm
Phone: (03) 366 7233

This site has been the home of local kindergartens for over a hundred years! The photo below, dating from 1941, shows the same building which now houses Kidsfirst.

The current preschool serves kids aged 2-5 & is a key networking point for the local neighbourhood, particularly after closure of the local primary school.



Kidsfirst Phillipstown provides an amazing range of activities & facilities including a veg & fruit garden (which the children help to maintain), a mud kitchen, sand & gravel pits, small bike hill and even a flock of very free-range chickens!



Staff encourage children to engage in uninterrupted & sustainable play, develop problem solving skills, and engage with their learning environment. Te reo and tikanga Māori (Māori language and traditions) are incorporated into the daily curriculum.

For more on enrolling kids, see their website: <https://www.kidsfirst.co.nz/christchurch/philipstown>

Welcome Rest Reserve (Corner of Tuam St & Nursery Rd)

The name of this small green space is of unknown origin, although we do know there was once an old dairy here.



After that building was demolished, the site was converted to a basic park. Antisocial behaviour became a problem with night-time drinking & drug abuse, and use of the giant flax bush as a sort of outdoor urinal.

This worried local resident Heath, who lived next door with his daughter. Heath and long-term Phillipstown resident Gerard began planting rose bushes to successfully block off the flax bush. After Heath moved away in 2017, Gerard & his friends and neighbours continued maintaining the park.

In June 2022, the Community Board approved installation of an official Christchurch City Council sign to recognise the park's name. Watering, weeding & planting by local community will continue with support from staff & volunteers at the nearby Phillipstown Community Hub.



Suburb of Phillipstown



Phillipstown is bordered by Cashel St, Aldwins Rd, Ferry Rd, Fitzgerald Ave. It began as part of extensive wetlands between Ōtākaro (Avon) and Ōpāwaho (Heathcote) Rivers, providing rich sources of food & fibre for the people of Ngāi Tahu, the local Māori iwi/tribe.

The suburb and Phillips St are both named after Henry Phillips, a rich English settler. He immigrated on the *Sir George Seymour* in 1850 (with his wife and 6 of 12 children), purchasing extensive tracts of the local land.

The earliest colonial residences in the area were constructed in the 1890s, and the majority of the current houses were built in the 1970s. In the past Phillipstown was made up of large sections with many vegetable gardens & fruit trees, but it's now subject to rapid infill building. In comparison to national averages it has more overseas-born residents, lower incomes & lower house prices. A third of the suburb's land is currently zoned industrial & the population tends to be transient.

Some believe gentrification will help to rejuvenate the area, but others believe that building a more diverse & connected community will be more effective.

The Phillipstown Community Charitable Trust are helping to form a residents association (POP, People of Phillipstown) so locals can develop a more effective collective voice:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/150535015520567/>



St Mary's Romanian Orthodox (Former Church of the Good Shepherd site)



40 Phillips St
Services Sun 9.30am
Phone: 021 181 3978

St Mary's official name is the Church of the Dormition of the

Theotokos (i.e. death of Mary Mother of Jesus). The Romanian branch of the Eastern Orthodox Church separated out in 1865 and has had a very eventful history. Most Romanian families in Christchurch arrived after the 1989 revolution. This parish was founded in 2004 and is the farthest in the world from Romania.

Services were originally held in the local Greek Orthodox building, until this site (formerly the Church of the Good Shepherd) was purchased from the Māori Anglican Diocese in 2008.

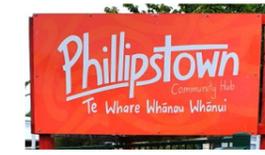
Dating from 1885, the old historic chapel (photo at right) was the last surviving brick church designed by Benjamin Mountfort. After severe damage from the 2011 quake it was demolished and the congregation met in the adjacent parish hall until the new replacement wooden chapel was built in 2014.



Credit: Schwede66 (Wikipedia)

See the Church's website for photos of the inside of the new church: <https://saintmary-christchurch.co.nz/>

Phillipstown Community Hub (Former Phillipstown Primary School site)



39 Nursery Rd
Mon-Fri 8.30am-4.30pm
Phone: (03) 379 3256

This site was previously the Phillipstown School, a state co-educational primary opened in 1877. Despite resisting Ministry of Education edict to merge with nearby Woolston School after 2010-11 earthquakes, the school finally closed in Dec 2014.

Since then Phillipstown Community Hub have continued to operate out of the site, providing ongoing space for locals to connect (something sorely lacking in this area). Many different essential services & groups use the Hub. Its gardens & pantry help feed residents in need, and regular community events provide much-needed free fun for families on low incomes. The Hub also helps to support initiatives like the new residents association (POP, People of Phillipstown).

The site's long-term fate is still uncertain, as it's dependent on Ministry of Education planning. Outside support & advocacy is therefore really valuable. In the meantime, the Hub's staff & volunteers will keep serving their community with great enthusiasm & creativity!



<https://www.phillipstown.org/>