



Phillipstown Community Hub
Te Whare Whānau Whānui

Phillipstown Walks

Route # 1



Ferry Road Safari

Ferry Road is one of Christchurch's busiest roads. On its way through Phillipstown it passes many sites that are of key significance to local residents.

This walk explores important business, recreation & community locations as well as the stories of Phillipstown & Charleston as suburbs. For your safety we recommend crossing at the lights or pedestrian islands & watching for cyclists at intersections .

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Canterbury Maps



Edmonds Factory Garden

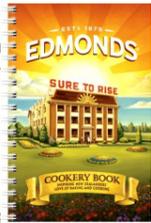


357 Ferry Road
24/7 Pedestrian access
Parking down long drive
Public toilets available

This beautiful park began in 1923 as gardens attached to the famous Edmonds Baking Powder factory.

Owner Thomas Edmonds intended the gardens to be an advertisement and also a pleasant space for factory staff to take breaks. Edmonds' well-known "Sure to Rise" sunburst logo features throughout.

The extended gardens were a key landmark of Christchurch & a popular venue for wedding photos. The factory & gardens also appear on the cover of the Edmonds Cookery Book, NZ's #1 cookbook.



The factory was demolished in 1990. The western section of the gardens with help of a \$27,000 donation by Bluebird Foods, and reopened as a public park by Christchurch City Council in 1992. More historic detail can be viewed on the photo boards near the front gate.

Suburb of Charleston



The suburb of Charleston is roughly bordered by Wilsons Rd, Ferry Rd, Ensors Rd and Laurence St.

Charleston was created in the 1980s as part of the government Community Housing Improvement Programme (CHIP).

At the time, it was a poorer area sitting on the outskirts of Roimata, Waltham, Phillipstown & Opawa. The name "Charleston" was created by combining Charles St & Grafton St, two main roads in this area.

The CHIP scheme aimed to rejuvenate cities by redeveloping existing urban areas. Residents were offered cheap loans to help make improvements to their street frontages, road berms were landscaped, and overhead cables moved underground. This suburb was even the first in NZ to have a 40k residential speed limit!

The distinctive metal signs are still going strong after 30+ years. They were paid for by Council & constructed by local engineering firm Moffat Limited (now Rolleston-based). Thanks to their strong residents' association, the locals have resisted creeping industrialisation and kept this area relatively green & peaceful.

Te Waipounamu Māori Cultural Centre



290 Ferry Road
Access by request
Phone: (03) 389 1683

Te Waipounamu began in 1909 as the South Island's only Māori girls' boarding school, founded at Ohoka by the Anglican Church.

The school moved to Ferry Rd in 1921, accommodating pupils from all over NZ. It had a reputation for excellence in teaching Māori language & culture, providing higher education and missionary training for women. The original 1927 wooden chapel, Te Whare Tapu a Tumuki, still survives.

Between 1965 & 1990 the site became a residential hostel with students commuting to lessons at Avonside Girls. The site was then reused to house the offices of the diocese (Te Hui Amorangi o Te Waipounamu) and a Whare Wānanga (training centre) for social work & chaplaincy. As at June 2021 the Church plan to build a new combined conference centre/church onsite. For additional information, please visit the diocese website: <https://huiamorangiwaipounamu.wordpress.com/>

Slick Burgers & Catering



254 Ferry Road
Sat-Wed, 12pm-late
Phone: 027 281 0756

Slick Burgers are well-known amongst the late-night denizens of Ferry Road. They've become famous over the past 5+ years for slinging tasty burgers & sides.

From their home in a rebuilt fish & chip shop, Slick offer gluten-free, vegan, vegetarian & carnivorous options, as both takeaway & dine-in. They also run a catering service and deliver to the central city area. For menus & ordering, visit them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SlickBurgers/>

Proprietor & chef Rick Harden is known for being "420 friendly" (supportive of legalising cannabis use) and his Ferry Rd site is easily spotted thanks to both quirky signage & cool street art wall murals.



Bronski's Dairy & More



243 Ferry Road
Open 7 days till 9.30pm
Phone: (03) 366 9755

For many Phillipstown residents, this iconic corner dairy is a most well-loved & frequently-visited place.

Bronski's More Than a Dairy was named by its previous owner John Wooles, who lived next door and ran it for 13 years. He created the name in 1986 with his partner & friends, brainstorming over croissants & champagne. Referencing the famous UK band Bronski Beat was a subtle message that this was a gay-owned business, in an era when being out of the closet was still considered fairly radical. Its famous murals featured a '1950s gangster' theme. They were painted in 1987 and quickly became a well-known Christchurch feature.

The original building was demolished post-quake and its replacement reopened under new ownership in 2013, complete with replicas of the iconic murals.

Bronski's continued to provide essential services to locals throughout all the 2020 covid-19 lockdowns.



Lancaster Park



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/>

Suburb of Phillipstown



Phillipstown is bordered by Cashel St, Aldwins Rd, Ferry Rd, Fitzgerald Ave.

This area began as part of extensive wetlands between Ōtākaro (Avon) and Ōpāwaho (Heathcote) Rivers, providing rich sources of food & fibre for the local Ngāi Tahu 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.

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 and lower house prices. A third of the space is currently industrial, and population tends to be transient.

Some believe gentrification will help rejuvenate the area, but others believe building a more diverse & connected community is more effective. 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/>



Phillipstown Community Hub



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 which was first opened in 1877. Despite resisting a Ministry of Education edict to merge with nearby Woolston School after the 2010-11 earthquakes, the school finally closed in Dec 2014.

Since then the 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 & community groups use the Hub. Its gardens & pantry help feed residents in need, and regular community events provide much-needed free fun for local families on low incomes.

The site's long-term fate is still uncertain, being dependent on future Ministry of Education planning, so support and advocacy by locals is really valuable. In the meantime, the Hub's staff & volunteers keep serving the local community with great enthusiasm & creativity!

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

