

# ART DECO GALLERY

The displays are set up as rooms, bringing Art Deco and the 1930s era to life. Fur coats, Bakelite ashtrays, amber glass and images of classy dames in tightly-fitted drop-waisted dresses and the like adorn every space in the light-filled rooms. Many delight in the memories that are rekindled by the displays or are amazed at this wonderful snapshot in time.

To add to the experience some of our talented local artists have their work on display and for sale.

The Gallery located in the Centennial Milk Bar building is open daily from mid October to the end of April from 10.30am-4pm.



# RANFURLY

The largest township in the Maniototo, Ranfurly owes its existence to the Otago Central Railway. On 1 December 1898 the first train reached Ranfurly. Within months the town grew rapidly with a post office, hotel and school. Many businesses moved from Naseby to service the railway and agricultural sector.

In the 1930s as Ranfurly was becoming established it experienced a frightening episode of suspicious fires. Many of the town's important buildings were destroyed. A building boom followed and most of the new buildings adopted the popular Art Deco style of the time. As fashions changed Art Deco faded in New Zealand but not in Ranfurly. The style was retained through the 1950s and 1960s. This has resulted in the town having around forty Art Deco buildings.

These buildings became the cornerstone for Ranfurly's continued existence many years down the track. The inspirational story of how these Art Deco buildings helped to revive Ranfurly's flagging fortunes in the late 1990s is explained in the Ranfurly Art Deco Gallery.



PHOTO: STEVE KEWISH

# RANFURLY ART DECO GALLERY AND TOWN WALK



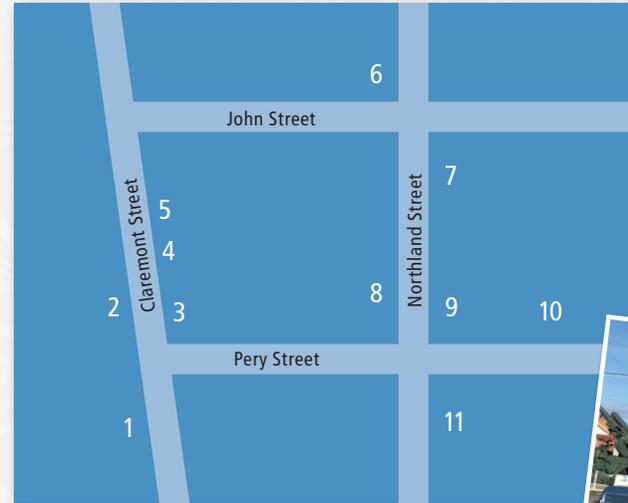
B DESIGN Brochure produced by Rural Art Deco Maniototo.

# TOWN WALK

The town walk explores the unique architectural style of Ranfurly. Follow the numbers on the map to learn the story of our town. We suggest you start your walk at the Ranfurly Art Deco Gallery located in the Centennial Milk Bar building.

- 1. The Centennial Milk Bar** – is the town's iconic Art Deco building. It was transformed into the Ranfurly Art Deco Gallery in early 2000 and houses a permanent collection of 1930s memorabilia. This building started life in 1949 as a milk bar and refreshment rooms that served the needs of hungry train and railcar passengers.
- 2. Ranfurly Railway Station** – has been restored by the community and now is the home to the i-Site (information centre), interesting displays tell the history of Ranfurly and the Otago Central Railway Line. Behind the station is the famous Otago Central Rail Trail and just beyond is a display of early 20th century farm tractors and other interesting implements and machinery.
- 3. Maniototo Four Square** – this building was constructed in 1927 for the Gilchrist family's grocery business. This shop has continued selling groceries and household items since that time. In 2015 a café was added.
- 4. Ranfurly Hotel** – following a disastrous fire the hotel re-opened for business on July 7 1934. This building was the first to be built to comply with the new by-laws introduced in the aftermath of the Napier earthquake. The dining room, on the right hand side of the foyer, is an outstanding example of Art Deco design.
- 5. Hanrahan's Shop** – opened in 1907 as a tobacconist and men's hairdresser. It is now a café.
- 6. The Practice** – built in 1950 still following the Art Deco style of the town. It was built for the first dentist in the area and it continued to be a dental practice until 2011. It is now called 'The Practice' and is an art and gift gallery.
- 7. St John Ambulance Station** – previously the offices of Jamieson, a lawyer and then the stock agent company National Mortgage. In 1997 the building was extended and refurbished for St John.
- 8. Ranfurly Town Hall** – built to replace the original Town Hall that was destroyed by fire in 1931. The building was extensively refurbished and a new foyer added in 1998.
- 9. Old Post Office** – opened in 1922 it housed the first manual telephone exchange for the area. People on 4 June 1943 queued to use the phones for news of relatives who may have been involved in the Hyde Railway accident in which 21 people were killed. The building now provides backpacker accommodation.

## RANFURLY TOWN WALK LOCATIONS



**10. Ranfurly Service Centre** – built in 1935 when the Maniototo County Council decided to relocate its administrative headquarters from Naseby.

**11. Fenton Library** – built in 1924 thanks to a bequest from a local benefactor John Fenton. The building is now home to Burn 729am, the local radio station.

