

HISTORY OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS

The district has eight settlements which developed during the late 19th century. Though many of these are reduced in population and services, they give glimpses of the history of pioneers who chose to venture inland.

Hororata

Hororata is an extensive and fertile farming district. The name comes from two Māori words - Horo: landside or ravine; rata: the tree. This landmark is in the hills near Windwhistle where the river starts. Thriving in the early 1900s, the Hororata village had a hotel, two churches, two general stores, a school, post office, town hall, race course, brewery, flour mill, butcher, undertaker's business and extensive blacksmith's workshop with five forges operating. The hotel, smithy, post office, St Johns 1875 and 1911 churches and the school house are still present in the Hororata Village. The Presbyterian Church is now a private dwelling. The Hororata Reserve, established in 1877 when local landowners gifted land to the community, has played a significant role in the district. As the first registered reserve board in New Zealand and the third largest public reserve this wonderful facility has played host to many community activities such as horse racing, cross country, guiding, netball, tennis, shooting and many major events. In years gone by there was ice skating on the Edwardian lake.



Glentunnel

Glentunnel Township has a close historical association with local coal, clay and sand mines of the Whitecliffs/South Malvern area. Originally named 'Surveyors Gully', 'Glentunnel', derived from the tramway tunnel in the glen that gave access to the Homebush coal mine. Coal was discovered in 1871, along with deposits of fine clay, which led to the establishment of a brick, tile and pottery works that survived until the 1980s. The Whitecliffs railway was the essential link to the outside world for the coal and clay industries and for transport of farm produce. Evidence of earlier industry can still be seen in the brick community buildings including the library and stable, and many of the miners' cottages are still lived in today.



Glentunnel Pottery, 1905. Credit: Glentunnel Museum Collection.

Coalgate

Originally called 'Bluff', the name of Coalgate was adopted in recognition that the railway station was the 'gateway' to the coalfields in the Malvern Hills. In the early 1900s Coalgate had a railway station, hotel, blacksmith's shop, general store, police station, and exchanges of mail twice a day with Christchurch. From 1911 to 1914 traction engines hauled supplies from the Coalgate railway station approximately 60 km to the construction site of the Lake Coleridge power station. The trail known as the Coleridge Run became famous for the notorious and dangerous path and the drivers' antics. The mineral industry continued to develop in later years when 10 million tonnes of high-grade bentonite was discovered in the nearby foothills. Canterbury Bentonite Ltd opened a processing plant in Coalgate in 1967 which is still running today.



Coalgate Station Yard, 1960. Credit: Canterbury Railway Society.



Truman Jones traction engine pulling wagons loaded with grain, turning out of Downs Rd.

Whitecliffs and South Malvern

Whitecliffs takes its name from the bluff above the Selwyn River, and was so named by Lady Barker, author of Station life in New Zealand, who lived at nearby Steventon. It was once the terminus of the Whitecliffs branch railway from Darfield which ran from 1875 - 1962 (the engine shed still stands). The settlements of Whitecliffs and South Malvern were for a time very important for coal, lime, sand, clay mining and pottery works, with a hotel, guest house, church, post offices and several shops. The school was located at South Malvern.

Glenroy

Situated at the head of the Wairiri valley halfway between Hororata and Windwhistle, Glenroy was named by Sir John Hall's head shepherd after his homeland in Scotland. This district was once a thriving coal mining area with its own farm, school, community hall and post office. There were many small holdings and residences of people who worked on the larger stations.



Windwhistle

The original Windwhistle settlement was located further up the Coleridge Road on the farm now known as Long Spur. At Windwhistle House, alongside a small lake known as The Whistle, locals could collect their mail or have repairs done at the blacksmith's shop. The accommodation house, originally run by Williams Adams, and the smithy were burned down in the late 1890s. The accommodation house never reopened but the blacksmith's shop transferred to the site of the current Windwhistle Garage at what is now known as Windwhistle. Positioned above the Rakaia Gorge, Windwhistle takes its name from the gale force nor-west winds that frequently batter its inhabitants.



Lake Coleridge Power Station, 1914.

Lake Coleridge Village

Lake Coleridge Village developed with the construction of the Lake Coleridge Power Station, which began in 1911. The region had previously been large sheep stations, but needed to accommodate hundreds of workers and their families. Because of the isolation from larger townships, the village community developed their own services and recreational pursuits. There was a school and many clubs, and a projector room was incorporated in the village hall in 1939. Communal gardens and community-owned cows provided reliable sources of the basic food requirements for the village right up until the 1980s. What remains today is a holiday village with beautiful picnic areas, good walking tracks and a large information board tells the history.

HISTORIC POINTS OF INTEREST



RNZAF Te Piritā World War II airfield, which is now farmland.

its construction, it was to be the largest airfield in New Zealand, but was never used.



Whitecliffs Railway Yard, 1960. Credit: Bob Hepburn.

Whitecliffs Railway

The Whitecliffs Railway operated for 86 years from 1875 - 1962. In its prime this railway line was responsible for helping to open up the prosperous Malvern Hills area for settlement and agricultural development. The volume of sheep, cattle and grain traffic was a testament of the area's new found wealth supporting this, the busiest branch line in Canterbury. A refurbished station building is located where the line originally branched from the main line in Darfield. There is a display of information about the railway line here.



The Point The Point historic cob homestead was built in 1866 by the Richards family who have farmed the property since 1862. The surrounding 4 hectare arboretum was begun 150 years ago and the large rambling garden has been landscaped with paths meandering amongst mature trees, spring flowering bulbs, azaleas and rhododendrons. The Point is a place to unwind and enjoy the surroundings, listen to the bellbirds and enjoy some country hospitality. Visiting groups can be catered for.

Address: 85 Point Road Windwhistle
Open Times: By appointment. Groups preferred.
Contact Details: Email: thepoint@rivernet.co.nz P: 03 3186 815
Costs: Price on enquiry.

Snowdon Station Snowdon Station is a 10,000 stock unit working farm in the foothills near Windwhistle. The magnificent homestead was built for the Gerard Family who owned the station from 1886-1946. In its height, before the world wide depression, the station ran up to 60,000 sheep. Snowdon was sold to the forbeers of the present owners in 1946, who preserved much of the Gerard family history. Visitors are welcome to hear the stories, enjoy the high country garden and view an informal museum which reflects the activities and interests of people who have lived and worked here.

Address: 566 Snowdon Rd, Windwhistle
Open Times: By appointment, groups preferred
Contact: P: 03 3186 875
Cost: Price on enquiry
Website: www.lakecoleridge.co.nz



Glentunnel Museum The Glentunnel Museum contains an extensive collection of items recording the history of the area which has seen much rural industrialism, particularly the pottery and brickworks. The museum has an extensive library of books written about the district and history of local service men who fought in WWI and WWII. Walk in the footsteps of the pioneers on the Glentunnel Millennium Walkway which follows the route of an abandoned mine tramway across farmland to the mouth of a former coal mine. This walkway is only open certain times of the year, contact the Glentunnel Museum for further information.

Address: Philip Street, Glentunnel
Open Times: 1pm - 4pm Sundays daylight saving hours or by appointment
Contact: Email: heather.alan@xtra.co.nz P: 03 3182 337 or 03 3182 423
Cost: Donation

World War II

The district was very involved with the home front effort of World War II. In 1942 the 3rd Field Regiment with 570 men camped and trained at the Hororata Reserve. Also in 1942 the Glentunnel Ammo Depot was constructed. In 1945 the contents of the Ammo Depot caught fire and detonated, with huge explosions continuing through the night with the flashes in the night sky seen as far away as Mt Somers.

The RNZAF Station at Te Piritā was a World War II airfield, located south of the inland mid-Canterbury town of Hororata to accommodate United States Army Air Force heavy bombers. At the time of



H.E. Hart Arboretum - a nationally significant collection of conifers from around the world.

H.E. (Harry) Hart was Superintendent of the Lake Coleridge Power Station from 1923-1953 and also loved trees. His passion for collecting conifers from around the world has resulted in one of the most diverse collections of coniferous (cone-bearing) trees in the Southern Hemisphere. Learn about some of these trees on the 'Tree Trail' and admire many more throughout the village's park-like reserves.

Early Maori History

Lake Coleridge (Whakamātau)

According to Māori legend, Whakamātau is one of the first big lakes carved out by Chief Rakaihautu on his journey down the South Island. Whakamātau means 'to attempt, teach or experiment', so perhaps the name is a reference to it being Rakaihautu's first experience of carving such a great lake. Early Māori used the area as a route to the West Coast to collect greenstone. They caught eels and birds around the lake. Evidence includes a moa hunters' cooking site discovered near the Lake Coleridge Village Cemetery in 1958. Archaeological finds from the area of early Māori tools are now in the Canterbury Museum.

The Bluff (Coalgate)

In pre-European times, Ngāi Tahu Māori occupied a small pa on the bluff south of Waikirikiri (the Selwyn River), at Coalgate. During the Ngāi Tahu kai huanga (eat relation) feud of 1810-1815, the pa was sacked and the inhabitants killed by a force led by Taununu of Ripapa Island. The site of the pa remains a wahi pakanga (place where a battle took place).

Washpen Falls

Exploring Washpen Falls takes you through an ancient volcano full of caves, waterfalls, Maori history, wonderful geology & botany, including a magnificent concentration of Southern Rata. There are stunning views in all directions. Situated within a private farm, it is an excellent two hour adventure, usually accompanied by beautiful native birdsong.

Address: 590 Washpen Road Windwhistle
Open Times: 8.30am - 4.30pm
Contact: Email: washpenfalls@xtra.co.nz P: 03 3186 813
Cost: \$10 per adult, \$5 per child
Website: www.washpenfalls.co.nz



Lake Coleridge Power Station

Commissioned to power Christchurch, construction of the Lake Coleridge Power Station began in 1911 with the scheme officially opened in November 1914. It was the Government's first venture into hydro-electric power and a massive engineering feat in its day, paving the way for the country's hydro-electric future. Today the power scheme is owned by Trustpower and is still a significant contributor to the national grid. Information panels installed for the Power Station's Centenary tell you more about the power scheme and its history.

Address: Lake Coleridge Village
Open Times: Information outside the Power Station can be viewed at any time. The Power Station does not run public tours.
Contact Details for village history: Email: mail@lakecoleridge.co.nz P: 03 3185 002
Costs: None
Website: www.lakecoleridge.co.nz

HERITAGE PLACES TO VISIT

Discover, touch, experience and hear the history by visiting these heritage properties. Most require bookings so please contact owners in advance.



Terrace Station Terrace Station was the home of Sir John and Rose, Lady Hall. Sir John was a runholder, politician and democratic reformer, remembered for leading the New Zealand parliamentary campaign for women's suffrage. The homestead was the first piece of domestic architecture in Canterbury to have a category 1 registration from Heritage New Zealand. The informal garden is full of magnificent trees under planted with woodland perennials and bulbs. Visitors can hear some of the history, view family possessions, including horse-drawn vehicles, veteran and vintage cars.

Address: 151 Milnes Road, Hororata
Open Times: by prior arrangement throughout the year
Contact: Email: katefoster@xtra.co.nz
Costs: see webpage
Website: www.terracestation.org.nz



St Johns Church, Hororata The first St Johns was built in 1875, a small wooden church which was on the site of the stone church. When Sir John Hall died in 1907, he left money for a more substantial church to be built in memory of his wife, Rose, Lady Hall. The St Johns Stone Church is a category 2 listed Heritage New Zealand building however it was significantly damaged in the 2010 earthquakes. There is much local history in these two buildings and also the graveyard. Visitors are welcomed with a local speaker to tell stories to pre-booked groups.

Address: Cnr Downs and Hororata Road
Open Times: by prior arrangement throughout the year
Contact: Email: vicar@hororata.org.nz or katefoster@xtra.co.nz
Costs: Donation
Website: www.hororataparish.co.nz



Cotons Cottage & Museum Cotons Cottage was built using cob construction by Bentley Coton in 1864. It was rebuilt in 1977-78 by local volunteer labour after it fell into disrepair. Cotons Cottage has been an important part of the Hororata community for 150 years and is a category 2 heritage building. Badly damaged in 2010 by the Canterbury earthquakes it was rebuilt by Heritage New Zealand and is furnished with period furniture. The museum has good displays of local historical items and information.

Address: Cotons Rd, Hororata
Open Times: Sept - June, Sundays 1.30 to 4pm or by prior arrangement
Contact: Rosemary Dennis P: 03 3186 876
Cost: Donation
Website: www.heritage.org.nz/places/places-to-visit/canterbury-region/cotons-cottage

Homebush Stables Homebush was the first run taken up on the plains in 1851 by William and John Deans who settled in the Christchurch suburb of Riccarton in 1843. The initial run of 33,000 acres is considerably reduced but has all the original farm buildings which are classified as category 1 with Heritage New Zealand. The Homebush museum features displays covering the full spectrum of country life from horse-drawn machinery, early petrol-driven engines, light industrial, military, sporting and domestic artefacts.

Address: 2142 Homebush Rd
Open Times: 10am - 4pm by appointment
Contact: Email: louise.deans@xtra.co.nz P: 03 3182 785
Cost: \$10 per person
Website: www.homebushstables.co.nz

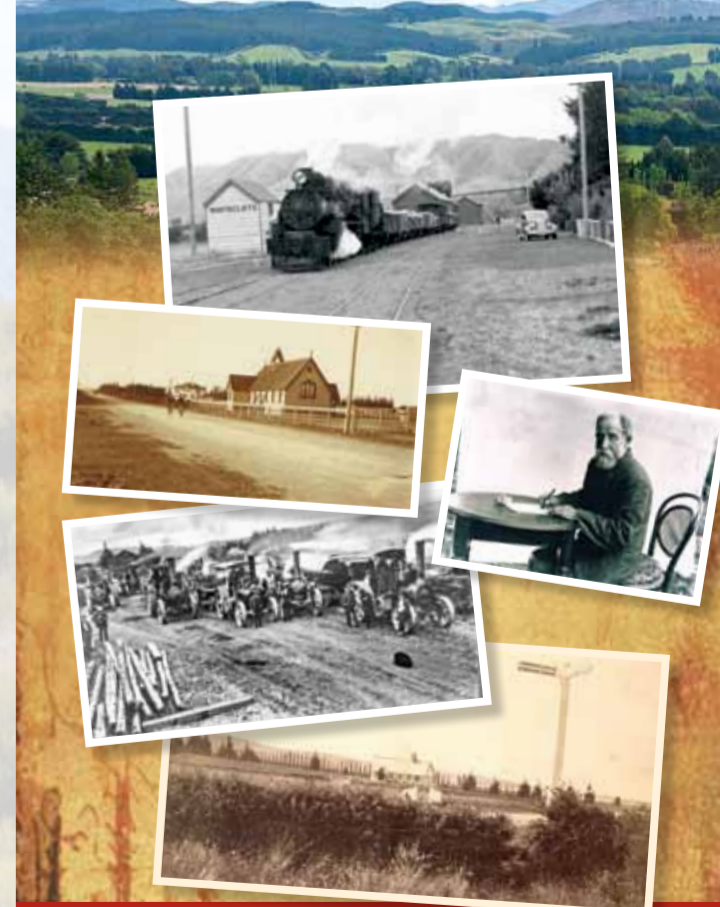
Steventon Homestead Steventon ('Broomielaw') was the New Zealand home of Lady Barker from 1865 - 1868. Two of her best known books, Station Life and Station Amusements in New Zealand are about the property. Tucked into the hills and surrounded by mature trees this listed historic house has retained many of its original features and the grounds are an oasis of birdsong.

Address: 550 Whitecliffs Rd, Whitecliffs
Open Times: By appointment
Contact: Email: hfmcathur@gmail.com P: 03 3182 615
Cost: Price on enquiry



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Our Community, Your Community
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Made possible by the:
This visitors guide is a community project.

A VISITORS' GUIDE TO THE HERITAGE OF HORORATA AND BEYOND



Nestled in the foothills of Canterbury is an extensive area rich with history of pioneering times. Hororata is the gateway to the district which encompasses Coalgate, Glentunnel, South Malvern, Whitecliffs, Glenroy, Windwhistle and Lake Coleridge.

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email: info@accommodationintheglen.co.nz
www.accommodationintheglen.co.nz

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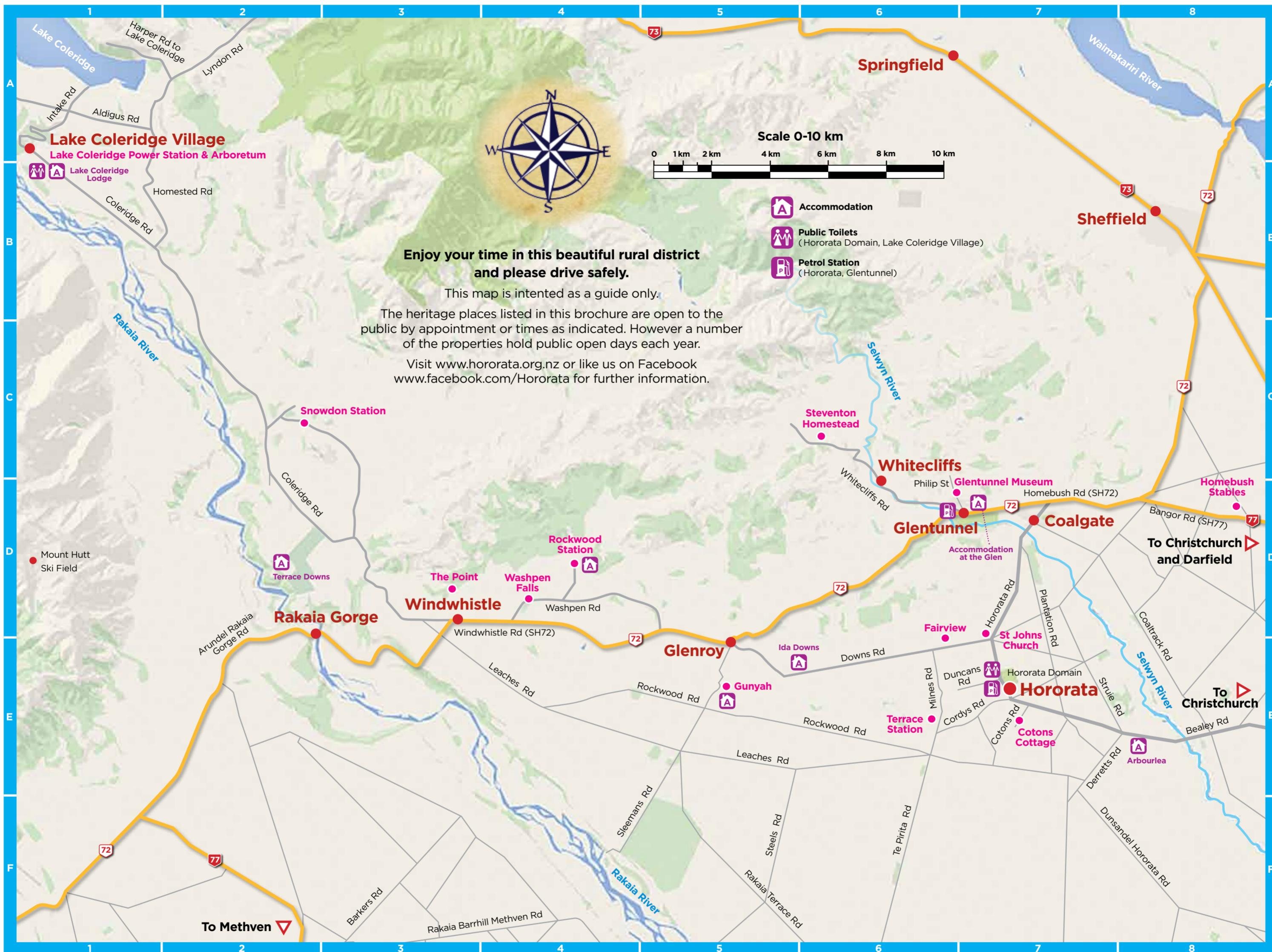
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HERITAGE OF HORORATA AND BEYOND



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www.hororata.org.nz
P. O. Box 85, Hororata, 7544, New Zealand. info@hororata.org.nz

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