

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT...

The Waimakariri District

WAIMAKARIRI IS A MAORI WORD MEANING

'river of cold rushing water'

The Waimakariri District was created on 1 November 1989, when the Kaiapoi Borough, Oxford County, Rangiora District and Waimakariri/Ashley Water Supply Board were amalgamated with a part of the Hurunui County.



It lies to the north of the Waimakariri River and covers some 225,000 hectares, extending from Pegasus Bay in the east to the Puketeraki Range in the west.

Land to the east of the District is relatively flat and fertile, while the District's western landscape is hilly and dominated by Mt Oxford, Mt Richardson, Mt Thomas and Mt Grey.

For the past 15 years, Waimakariri has been one of the fastest growing districts in New Zealand, and now, around 57,800 (Stats NZ 30 June 2016 estimate) people call it home.

The population includes relatively large numbers of children and older adults, many of whom are "New Zealanders" or "European" in origin.

Almost all of those wanting work are able to find employment, either full or part-time.

Around half choose to both live and work in the District, (mostly in manufacturing, retailing, and the community sector.)

Families make up the majority of the District's households.

Most residents own their own home.

The median household income is \$68,800.

SETTLEMENTS

In pre-European times there were several important Ngai Tahu settlements in the area, including the pa of Taurakautahi, known as Kaiapoi.

Today the hapu Ngai Tuahiriri is based at Tuahiwi, to the north of the river town.

Early European settlement concentrated on the fertile soils of the plains where, until the middle of the 20th Century, extensive agriculture and pastoral farming predominated.

More recently, horticulture and forestry have gained in importance.

Note: If you are new to our District you can find information on the North Canterbury Newcomers Network in the CINCH Community Database on the library page of our website waimakariri.govt.nz/library

MORE INFORMATION

Visit waimakariri.govt.nz for more information about the Waimakariri District, or contact Customer Services on 03 311 8900.

The introduction of the Waimakariri Irrigation Scheme on the upper Waimakariri-Ashley plain in 2000 has seen the development of large-scale dairy farms on land previously used for sheep, cattle and cropping.

Kaiapoi and Rangiora remain the two main towns.

Woodend, Oxford and Pegasus are the other major urban settlements. The District also has a number of villages and beach settlements.

During European times, Kaiapoi developed as a river port, Rangiora was the area's main market town, and the development of Oxford was based on timber milling.

Where land use has evolved over time, similarly the role of the urban areas has also changed, mainly because of the rapid population growth.

Increasingly residents are choosing to live in the rural areas with many new smallholdings created.

Some of these are used for full-time or part-time horticultural enterprises, including vegetable and flower growing.

PEOPLE TELL US WAIMAKARIRI IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

It's sandy beaches, estuaries, river gorges and braided rivers offer a range of opportunities for fishing, boating and rafting.

The foothills and mountains provide for tramping experiences, which complement a growing range of walking trails and formal recreation areas throughout the District.

Its two high schools, two composite schools and many primary schools are well supported by the community.

There are an increasing number of pre-schools in the District.

There is also an extensive range of community and recreational organisations; and a relatively high proportion of residents are involved in one or more of these.

Despite rapid growth, Waimakariri retains its rural/small town character.



MORE INFORMATION

Visit waimakariri.govt.nz for more information about the Waimakariri District, or contact Customer Services on 03 311 8900.