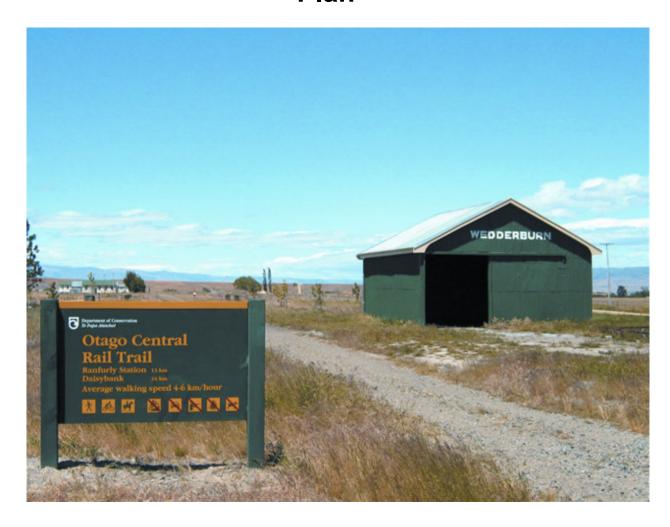
Maniototo Community Plan



February 2007

Maniototo Community Plan

Executive Summary

Process

This Community Plan has emerged from a consultative process designed to encourage community participation. Emphasis has been placed on obtaining community views regarding the Maniototo area, identifying its points of difference and determining what opportunities there might be to ensure that it remains an attractive and desirable place in which to live, work and play.

This Plan has distilled the individual opinions into a collective community vision and proposes a number of key recommendations that will assist in the development of Maniototo as a sustainable community. While the Plan has no legal status, it does provide an important insight on the direction the community would like to head for many of the organisations involved or identified in it. To this end having a community group to oversee the aims of this Plan, on behalf of the community, will be important and help to drive many of its recommendations. The Plan also notes that there is a community plan for Naseby and a proposed plan for Patearoa which need to be considered in conjunction with this Plan when looking at the Maniototo as a whole.

In defining the Maniototo community, the Plan also acknowledges that there is a wider community including both private individuals and national organisations which for historical, ancestral and heritage reasons consider themselves to hold an interest in the future of this area.

Community Plan Process

The outline planning process and time frame is as follows:

Community Workshop – held September 2006

Draft Plan developed - November 2006

Draft Plan – Available for community comment – December/January 2007

Submissions – reviewed by Working Party – late February 2007

Changes made to Plan – March 2007

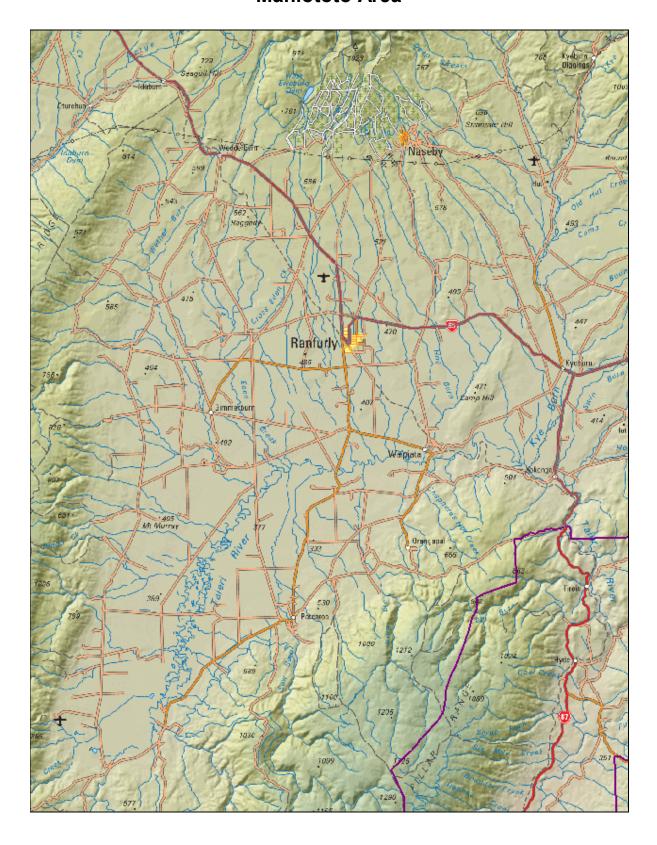
Community Plan – sign off – late April 2007

Implementation – April 2007 onwards

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Maniototo Area



Vision

WE VALUE

Our Environment

- Its distinctive landscape, mountain ranges and feeling of open space.
- Its climatic extremes.

Our History and Heritage

- Our goldfield history.
- Our agricultural history, buildings and relics from the past.

Our Economy

• A vibrant economy that continues to meet the needs of the wider community by providing a wide range of business services.

Our Community

- A vibrant, positive and inclusive community spirit.
- Peace and quiet where a relaxed lifestyle can be enjoyed.
- A safe community where people know each other.
- A good range of services available locally.
- A strong connection to the land.
- The local population be maintained or increase in numbers.

Recreation and Tourism

- The recreational opportunities in the area.
- The opportunities associated with the Otago Central Rail Trail.

Should all or any of these values be lost or degraded, the area will no longer be a 'special place'.

Community Profile

Location

The Maniototo basin runs north east to south west between the Rough Ridge mountain range and the Rock and Pillar Range with the Kakanui Mountains and Hawkdun Mountains at the northern end of the valley. The basin is located to the west of the Taieri Plain and to the east of the Manuherikia Valley. The basin's main service town is Ranfurly and is located one hour north east of Alexandra and one and a half hours from Dunedin. Other towns and settlements include Naseby, Patearoa, Waipiata, Gimmerburn, Kokonga, Wedderburn, Oturehua and Kyeburn to name but a few. State Highway 85 traverses the area from east to west. The Taieri River runs through the Maniototo Basin from south to north.

History

Ranfurly

Situated in the centre of the Maniototo Plain Ranfurly owes its existence and position to the Central Otago railway. The proposed rail trail route was a straight line from Waipiata to Wedderburn and it was inevitable that a township reserve would be placed midway. The town of Ranfurly was surveyed in 1897 with 120 town sections and 17 suburban sections being made ready for sale. The town was then named Ranfurly after the Governor of the time, Lord Ranfurly. Lord Ranfurly was also asked to name the 18 streets of the new town and he selected names from his family tree. In June 1898 the sections went on sale and half the available properties were sold. December 1898 saw the first train arrive and then in 1899 saw the first Post Office and in 1901 a school was moved to a site where the county yard was.

Ranfurly entered the twentieth century as a small collection of buildings around a railway station but within twenty years significant progress was made. In the early days most of the buildings on both sides of the line were branches of well established Naseby businesses but in the 1920's there was a move of businesses from Naseby to Ranfurly. A new post office building and a manual telephone exchange was opened in 1922 and the Ranfurly Hospital was built in 1929. The new Ranfurly school was opened on its present site in 1926 and a secondary department was added in the late 1930's. The school later became an area school in 1969 and it still operates as an area school to this day. In 1936 the Maniototo County Council held its first meeting in new offices in Ranfurly and this marked the final move from Naseby being the centre of the plain.

By 1946 Ranfurly's population was 480 and following the agricultural and wool boom of the 1950's the population expanded to 850 residents by 1961. A sewerage scheme was developed in 1962 and staged upgrades of the water supply occurred until its completion in 1985 with a treatment plant and reservoir located north of the town.

The 1970's saw the opening of the Maniototo Park sports stadium which is the centre piece of a complex which includes tennis courts, rugby fields, showgrounds, ice skating dam and hockey fields. The stadium itself is used for badminton, indoor basketball/netball, squash and social occasions.

During the 1970's and early 80's the town flourished. This was mainly due to the Maniototo Irrigation Scheme dramatically increasing the amount of work available in the area and subsequent demand for accommodation. Virtually all business space in the town was taken up and there were several building businesses that employed many men. The mid 80's saw the

completion of the irrigation scheme, tougher financial times which marked the beginnings of a rural recession and a gradual reduction of services in the town. The closure of the manual telephone exchange occurred in 1987 and the local government reorganisation in 1989 saw the amalgamation of the Maniototo County Council into the Central Otago District Council. The post office closed in 1989 and the Central Otago railway was officially closed in 1990. The rail way station is now used as the information centre with an audio display on the area and public toilets.

In spite of these setbacks the local community has proven to be resilient. The local Chalet Community Trust assumed responsibility for the Chalet Rest Home and Maniototo Health Services Ltd saw the substantial upgrading of the hospital and the successful operation of this has continued. Other opportunities were also realised with the implementation of the Art Deco weekend which successfully highlights the revitalisation of the town and promotes the art deco architecture. Further opportunities that were initially greeted with reservation are being realised with the Otago Central Rail Trail which utilises the former railway line as a walkway/cycling track. Use of this facility has increased significantly over the last five years. Of significance has been the distinctive landscape made famous by artists such as Graham Sydney and his paintings of the local area.

The Maniototo area continues to rely on its agricultural base in particular sheep farming with a reliance on the benefits provided by the irrigation schemes in the area. In recent times several dairy farms have been established in the Maniototo basin but rely heavily on irrigation to ensure their future viability.

<u>Waipiata</u> is ten kilometres from Ranfurly with a small population boosted by crib owners. By 1900 it had a school, post office, saleyards, hall, hotel, shops and several small businesses. Waipiata's big boost came in 1898 when the railway line was put through on its way to Ranfurly. On the hills above Waipiata the tuberculosis sanatorium was opened in 1914 and operated until 1961 when it became a corrective and training centre for the Justice Department until 1979. This facility is now privately owned. Near Waipiata is the site of the Hamiltons gold rush which once had 4,000 people seeking gold. The cemetery and diggings are a reminder of Hamiltons gold mining past. The last shop in Waipiata closed in 1974 and the post office closed in 1980. Local children travel by bus to Ranfurly for school.

Today Waipiata sits on the Otago Central Rail Trail, has tennis courts, a domain, bowling green, a war memorial hall and monument a hotel and private residences along with holiday homes for visitors to the area.

<u>Gimmerburn</u> is a farming locality 11 kilometres south west of Ranfurly. Formerly a goldmining area Gimmerburn is currently a sheep farming district where fine wool is produced and some beef cattle raised. Gimmerburn has a community complex that includes a hall, sportsfield and tennis courts.

<u>Kokonga</u> is about 22 kilometres east of Ranfurly on a bend in the Taieri River. The township began when the railway reached the area in the late 1890's. Kokonga had a school which was opened in 1897 and closed in 1966. Pastoral sheep and beef farming dominate the area and the Otago Central Rail Trail allows walkers and cyclists to travel through the area.

<u>Wedderburn</u> is 15 kilometres north west of Ranfurly. The township began as a staging post for the Dunstan coach to changes horses and it was also the gateway to the Ida Valley. For many decades there were popular hotels in the area where wagoners and carriers were

accommodated. The railway reached Wedderburn in June 1900 and the station was the highest point on the railway line. Sheep farming remains the main industry of the area deer and cattle farming is common. Remaining in the township is the Wedderburn Tavern the public hall and domain. Wedderburn is proving to be a popular stopping point on the Otago Central Rail Trail with accommodation being provided in the area to meet this increasing need.

Oturehua is 26 kilometres from Ranfurly and is one of the areas where early Maori travellers used to quarry the quartz from which flake tools were made. Originally called Rough Ridge, Oturehua has relics showing its role in early gold recovery. At the Golden Progress quartz mine is Otago's sole remaining poppet head. It stands 14 metres above the ground, above a 46 metre mine shaft, and supported the wheels over which the ropes ran to lift ore to the surface. In Oturehua itself locals have retained Gilchrists store which is set up to retain its historic look and while not carrying the same range of stock as the early days remains a unique reminder of the past era. To the south is the well known Hayes Engineering Works, established in 1895, and powered by water. This made farm tools which were used all over new Zealand and it is particularly famous for the Hayes wire strainer which was invented there, the Hayes windmill and the engineering works which continued on with the same name. The area is also popular in the winter when ice skaters and curlers converge on the frozen dams nearby, weather permitting. Oturehua also hosts the Brass Monkey Motorcycle Rally which sees many motorbike enthusiasts from throughout the country converge on the area in the middle of winter. The Otago Central Rail Trail passes through Oturehua on its way down the Ida Valley.

Kyeburn is 16 kilometres east of Ranfurly. Originally on the wagon track from the coast to the Maniototo it was a stopping place for diggers on the way to the gold fields in neighbouring areas such as Naseby, Kyeburn Diggings or areas further inland. Originally the Kyeburn area had to large stations which in were divided up under the government initiated subdivision of stations. This created land available for purchase but in later times it was found these sections were uneconomic and many were brought up by neighbours. The Kyeburn school was opened in 1882 and this continued until 1986. Everyone who travels from the coast into Maniototo passes through Kyeburn where Highway 85 from Palmerston joins the State Highway 87 from Outram. Today the Kyeburn district primarily consists of sheep, cattle and deer farms.

See the Naseby and Patearoa/Paerau/Styx Community Plans for history of these areas.

Economy

Central Otago has been subject to rapid economic development during the past four years. Maniototo has experienced the effects of this growth with the price of land and houses increasing from the lows experienced five or six years ago (about the turn of the century). The local economy is primarily based on agriculture and sheep farming in particular; however, in recent times there has been some diversification with the development of several dairy farms in the Maniototo basin. Thus with this reliance on agriculture the economy is inextricably linked to external factors such as the value of the New Zealand dollar and demand for farming produce over which there is little local control possible. The Maniototo area is very reliant on irrigation and water enables the basin to be a productive area. Thus the cycle of the Maniototo is related to droughts and the frequency of these events can have a significant impact on the local farming economy.

The growth of tourism to Otago and Central Lakes is also reflected in an increased number of visitors passing through the area. The area services visitors with food, accommodation, information and provides access to attractions in the surrounding area eg the Rail Trail.

Ranfurly itself is the main service centre for the area and contains the key services to support the surrounding area. For many of the government services these can be found in Alexandra, one hour away, or Dunedin.

Environment

Maniototo's distinctive landscape, climate, heritage aspects and access to recreational opportunities in and around the area are widely considered to contribute to the perception of this place being a 'special place'. There is a need to identify in detail those landscapes, ridge lines and heritage items which the community values before they come under development pressure. The area also has a unique biodiversity. For these areas to survive into the future requires increased awareness and education. A point that has come out in discussions on the Maniototo is the four distinctive seasons that many other areas do not have and this could be an attraction for the area.

As Maniototo townships continue to experience growth and development additional population may be attracted to the area and house numbers may increase which could put pressure on infrastructure such as water supply, sewage disposal methods and roading services such as footpaths and street lighting.



Lifestyle

The Maniototo area is essentially populated by families with a strong sense of connection to the area. There are many families who have been in the area for generations, be it through farming or industrial opportunities such as the railway or the development of the irrigation scheme and have stayed. It has traditionally been a popular place for retired people or as a holiday spot. The total population has provisionally increased from 1,788 in 2001 census to 1,910 in 2006 and the local community would like to see this increase further. The population increases to approximately 5,000 (conservative estimate) during the summer with the holiday homes being full and camping grounds being an extremely popular destination. Naseby, Patearoa, Ranfurly and Waipiata have a number of holiday homes. Over recent times, however, there have been significant changes in the community with new subdivisions and housing thus bringing new people into the town.

For younger people, the area will always be home, but they have had a tendency to leave for places where a wider range of employment and educational opportunities are available. In recent times this trend has changed with increasing numbers of apprenticeships in all trades helping to keep some youth in the area. The local community identified that with excellent sport and educational facilities in the area there are opportunities to have further training and apprenticeship schemes that retain people in the Maniototo.

Social Infrastructure

There is a wide range of social infrastructure available including health services via Maniototo Health Services and the Chalet Rest Home, volunteer ambulance/St Johns, a doctor, a visiting dentist in Ranfurly, several churches representing different denominations, pre school facilities, two primary schools and an area school. It should be noted that originally there had been 8 schools in the Maniototo area and now there is a total of three.

There are many hospitality businesses for both locals and visitors including eateries and motels, a variety of stores and shops. Equally there are a large number of service related businesses aimed at meeting the needs of the surrounding agricultural industries. There are volunteer fire brigades at Ranfurly and Naseby, a radio station, camp grounds dotted around the basin, swimming pool, walking tracks, golf clubs at several locations, bowling clubs Naseby, Ranfurly, Waipiata and Patearoa, Maniototo Park sports complex including stadium, sports grounds, tennis courts, squash courts and many community halls spread around the district. There is a wide range of winter sports facilities such as the International curling rink and outdoor rink at Naseby.

Specific Features of the Area

Population The community numbers approximately 1900. However the

population rises significantly to approximately 5,000 during

the summer period.

People 17.6% in Ranfurly and 20.6% of the wider Maniototo

population are aged under 15 (19.9% for Central Otago -

based on 2001 figures)

53.7% in Ranfurly and 71.2% of the wider Maniototo population are aged 25-64 (53.2% for Central Otago). 28.7% in Ranfurly and 8.2% of the wider Maniototo population are aged over 65 (17.7% for Central Otago and 12.1% for NZ)

Climate

Continental. The average rainfall is approximately 360mm per year with a range of 300mm to 600mm. There is on average 66 wet days per year.

There is a marked variation in winter (down to -15 degrees C) and summer temperatures (up to 35 degrees C).

It has over 2000 hours of sunshine per year.

Features

The Mountain ranges including Rock and Pillar, Rough Ridge, Kakanui's and Hawkduns.

The Taieri River/scroll plain

Multiple high country dams and the irrigations scheme

through the Maniototo.

Naseby forest

International Curling Rink and outside skating rink.

Rail Trail Art Deco Danseys Pass

Many places for hunting and fishing.

Mining history and features including palces like Hamiltons, Naseby, Golden Progress mine, irrigation and mining races

Old cemeteries.

Industries

Pastoralism, tourism and hospitality industry, health services, retail and commercial services, forestry and timber processing facilities are the primary industries.

Discussion Points

Product Development

1. Heritage

Maniototo has a proud heritage associated with its agricultural past and mining. A number of heritage sites are already included in the District Plan, some of which are considered significant to New Zealand's heritage. (see the attached Appendix 1 which outlines heritage items in the area).

The Central Otago Heritage Project may get underway in 2007. The project proposes to develop an integrated heritage strategy for the district that incorporates heritage management, cultural tourism and local values. Not only will this project identify those heritage items most at risk, most important and most representative, it will also identify sustainable development projects that may involve private public partnerships to enable these to be achieved. Elements of heritage in the area are likely to be highlighted by this project.

Other parties included in the project are DOC and the Historic Places Trust (HPT) who have an interest in preserving and maintaining the heritage aspects of the area. Community involvement is essential to the long term success of the project.

Heritage is very important to Maniototo. To retain its ambience full consideration should be given to existing heritage. Whether it is its farming heritage, railway history with the Otago Central Rail Trail, mining history or art deco buildings there is a wide range of history to be appreciated. Opportunities for heritage tours were identified utilising sites such as Hayes Engineering, Oturehua Store, Golden Progress mine, heritage buildings in Naseby, Art Deco buildings in Ranfurly, farm buildings, museums in the area, the Ranfurly railway station and audio visual display and many mining areas located around the Maniototo Basin. These tours could be adjuncts to activities associated with the Otago Central Rail Trail with the express aim of trying to get visitors to stay an extra night in the Maniototo. Interpretation of the heritage, through better signage, would be required to help sell the story of the area to visitors.

Objective

Enhance the heritage character of the Maniototo for the appreciation of locals and visitors alike.

Recommendations for action

- Identify a range of key heritage sites that could be developed as a heritage trail with clear signage and appropriate interpretation of the heritage values.
- Ensure there is good signage of heritage attractions in the area.



Gilchrists Store - Oturehua

2. Cycleways and Walkways

With a distinct landscape and numerous examples of its rich heritage, there are many opportunities for walking and cycling tracks in the Maniototo area. Those of note are the Otago Central Rail Trail, the Dunstan Trail and tracks around Naseby used for walking and cycling.

The Central Otago District Council (CODC) is developing an Outdoor Recreation Product Development Strategy which will identify recreational opportunities as well as providing guidelines regarding operational and maintenance matters.

The Rail Trail is proving to be a real opportunity for the Maniototo as the numbers using this increases (see Tourism section). It was identified that there needs to be improved linkage between the present rail trail and towns and attractions in the Maniototo area. The suggestion is that there is an opportunity to market package deals around the rail trail eg heritage tours, fishing and hunting, farm tours, high country 4 WD tours, mountain biking around Naseby.

Naseby was identified as an area with opportunity for walkways associated with the forest and the heritage aspects of this area (see also Naseby Community Plan).

The aim for offering package deals is to retain visitors for an extra length of time or get return visits, by having additional experiences, which have additional economic value and will ultimately benefit the Maniototo and Central Otago.

Objective

Create cycleways and walkways that showcase the Maniototo landscape and heritage.

Recommendations for action:

 Create local cycleways and walkways to appropriate track standards with signage and interpretation, in keeping with the new regional identity guidelines.

3. Events

Maniototo has several successful events that occur during the year including the Cavalcade, Art Deco weekend, the Otago Central Rail Trail Duathalon and the R & R Naseby 12 hour Mountain bike challenge.

Volunteer groups such as the Maniototo Promotions Group and Maniototo Art Deco Committee, Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust have been responsible for managing these events. However their reliance on volunteers has meant that over time people interested or able to help in organising these events has dwindled. Volunteer burnout has also been identified as a concern with many of the same people being involved in different groups.

Recreational and outdoor adventure events are drawing greater numbers to the area and include the Otago Central Rail Trail Duathalon and Cavalcade which pass through the Maniototo. Further events associated with the Rail Trail are possible.

Arts and crafts related businesses also operate in the area and the Maniototo market days in Ranfurly currently provide a venue to showcase their wares to the local community.

There is an opportunity for further development and promotion of seasonal events which utilise the strengths of the area including winter activities such as curling, ice skating or a potential luge track. There are opportunities for year round recreation activities such as heritage trails, mountain biking, fishing and boating, walking or using the many other recreational facilities in the town.

However organising any new event requires volunteers and the shortage of helpers in the community must be recognised if any new event is to considered.

Operating current events or organising any new events must be considered in light of the requirements concerning health and safety, traffic management plans and meeting the regulatory requirements of various agencies such as Department of Conservation or Council.

It was also identified that Maniototo has many good facilities that could be used to meet the small conference market or specific events such as school camps or corporate team building using facilities such as the curling rink. This market could be investigated with the aim to develop a proposal to attract these markets to the area.

Finding a way of getting cruise ship visitors from the Otago Excursion railway at Middlemarch into the Maniototo for a day or even an afternoon was suggested as an opportunity. This was identified as an affluent market that could be interested in trying activities unique to the area. A possible means of getting them from Middlemarch to Ranfurly and back (or back to Dunedin) was a scenic helicopter flight taking in many of the distinctive land features on the way.

When events are held it is critical that for meeting people and providing information on the area that the visitor information centre is open. Currently it is considered that the hours are to short and do not meet the demands of people using the rail trail and events in the area. The information centre also has a very good audio visual display that informs people about the Maniototo area.

Objective

Continue current, and further develop quality events for the area.

Recommendation for action

- Ensure that current events are sustainable with appropriate help to organise these events.
- Assess opportunities for hosting small meetings in the area.
- Assess the opportunities for other events in the area.
- That the visitor information centre be open for longer hours to meet the needs of rail trail users.



<u>Water</u>

Infrastructure is critically important for all communities. The Maniototo community needs to clearly identify what it wants for the future. If it is to capitalise on those wanting to live in Central Otago, the growing number of visitors to Central Otago, the desire for people to have second homes or continue to be an attractive place for retirement then it must put in place appropriate supporting infrastructure. However, such development is likely to place a financial burden, on what is essentially a small ratepayer base, in terms of rates required. A key will be to provide services to the public at a level that the community can afford.

A key issue for Maniototo towns is the significant extra requirements on infrastructure during the summer period when the population increases and the increased demands on the water supply, roading and other services.

Maniototo has a semi arid climate with free draining soils and an annual rainfall of around 360mm a year. Due to this dry climate this adds additional pressure on water sources for irrigation and town water supplies.

Water has been identified as critical to the area in terms of water for irrigation/industry and water for supplies such as Naseby, Ranfurly and Patearoa.

The Ranfurly water supply is sourced from the East Eweburn. There are two intake structures, a low concrete dam where the creek leaves the hills and gallery pipes in the creek bed gravels about one kilometre upstream from Smiths Road. A secondary source is water purchased from the Hawkdun Idaburn Irrigation Company and drawn off from a water race part way through the Naseby forest. The source of this water is the West Eweburn.

The dam intake frequently takes almost all of the flow of the East Eweburn, with only a small residual left for stock water. The Eweburn at the gallery intake is often subsurface source as the creek dries up. The water supply is gravity fed from source to consumers. Water flows to the Filtration Plant "Portals" via a slow sand filter. The water is disinfected by liquid chlorine then flows to the reservoir storage. From the reservoir water gravitates to the town reticulation.

See the Naseby and Patearoa plans for descriptions of their supplies.

Concern was expressed at the potential costs of future upgrading water supplies to meet possible drinking water standards. These costs could be prohibitive for local communities to meet.

Water was seen as critical for future for the area. Continued access to water sources to meet irrigation needs is important for the continued future of Maniototo for agricultural purposes and recreational opportunities. An opportunity was identified in forming Lake Taieri which would provide both as a potential source of water for irrigation but recreation purposes. A further opportunity was identified with providing a water source for rail trail users at each town that has a treated water supply.

River quality can vary in the area, especially on the Taieri river, and this is a concern to the local community. The community endorses the continued monitoring and improvement of water quality in the area.

Objective

A water supply that meet the needs of the community and access to water resources to ensure the longterm viability of the Maniototo region.

Recommendations for action

- Develop a long term strategy for the future of the water supply and assess the impact this has on the future of the town.
- Advocate for issues relating to access to water in the Maniototo.
- Where there is a treated water supply have a designated water tap for rail trail users.
- Continue to monitor and improve river quality in the area.



Community Development

1. Community

It is very clear that within the community there is a passion to preserve the character of Maniototo as well as a desire to make it a great place in which to live, work and play.

Despite the shared strong sense of connection, it is recognised that the Maniototo community consists of separate interest groups including permanent residents in the towns of Ranfurly, Naseby and Patearoa and smaller centres such as Oturehua, Gimmerburn, Kokonga, Waipiata and Patearoa, business interests, holiday home owners over the whole area, small block owners surrounding the townships and large property owners/farmers. Not surprisingly, each group offers different perspectives which contribute to different views regarding the future direction and development of the Maniototo area.

It has been identified that Maniototo wants to retain its: sense of community, friendliness, laid back pace of life, community spirit, volunteerism and being a safe community. It is these special characteristics which make people stay in the Maniototo and call this area home. Many families and businesses have been in local ownership for generations and these people have a vested interest in the welfare of their local community. As the area grows these favoured attributes could be lost.

The community has identified that there is a need to encourage population growth so as to maintain the infrastructure and services in the area. People are a valuable resource for the area. With ongoing growth, the servicing industries in terms of labour needs people with specialist skills or else the opportunities may not be able to be realised.

If new people to the area are to be encouraged we need to engage these people and welcome them into our community, as they often bring a wide variety of new skills. As a means of welcoming these new residents a "Welcome Pack" has been suggested and this is currently being developed in conjunction with Sustainable Otago and will be hosted by Otago Polytechnic in Cromwell. With new residents coming into the area the challenge will be for the local community to keep its uniqueness and maintain its cultural values and what people like about the community such as being a safe, friendly, down to earth place to live. One of the key roles identified by Maniototo Promotions is the promotion of the area for visitors but also to try and attract people to come and live in the area.

Volunteerism was noted as a real strength of the area and many groups rely on this to run many of the activities such as the health services, Rural Art Deco weekend, the development and operation of the international curling rink at Naseby or groups like the hall or recreation reserve committees in the area. There was concern expressed that with a decline in volunteerism, due to people being busier in life, whether this be work or other recreational activities, these community activities and events run the risk of not continuing. A further reason for the decline of volunteers may be the lack of confidence or skills in meeting protocol, such as meeting procedure, how to take minutes, chairing a meeting or understanding the secretary or treasurers role. The provision of basic training in meeting skills may help address these concerns.

Youth was also identified as an area where there are many opportunities. With an upbeat economy, a move to more apprenticeships and in-work training, there is more opportunity for young people to stay in the town rather that move away for further education or employment as would previously have been the case. With this section of the population increasing in

numbers there needs to be further consideration of opportunities for involving these young people in the community.

It was suggested that there could be a focus on educational opportunities for the future, eg the Otago Polytechnic operating rural training opportunities or recreation activities, using the landscape for artist courses or attracting school camps to the area, thus utilising the excellent educational and sporting facilities already in place.

Objective

A community that is safe, which people want to live in and be part of and shares a common vision for the future.

Recommendations for action

- Encourage new residents to live and work in the Maniototo area.
- Promote the Welcome Pack to new residents and business operators in the area.
- Support and assist volunteers and volunteer groups by providing appropriate training or facilitators.

2 Community services

For any community having a thriving community with a variety of services is important. The community expressed concern over the potential further loss of local services including medical and police if further residents are not attracted to the town. To maintain these services is critical for the elderly component of the community and it was recognised that to travel for health services would see a minimum of an hours travel if these services are lost. Local residents are encouraged to use local services however local services need to ensure they are meeting the needs of the local community with respect of opening hours and services offered.

The possibility of using the excellent education services in the area for small conferences or additional agricultural training services such as offered by Telford or the Otago Polytechnic may also be an opportunity in the future. A possibility may be hosting some of the courses associated with the Welcome pack in the Maniototo area.

Objective

The retention and further expansion of local services.

Recommendations for action:

Advocate for the retention and expansion of core services in the area.

3. Recreation and Culture

The area provides a convenient access point to a vast range of recreational opportunities. The surrounding mountains and rivers provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, tramping, mountain biking and walking. The Maniototo covers a large part of the Otago Central Rail Trail. (See also Walkways section under Product Development).

The Maniototo and its various communities have an abundance of recreation and sporting facilities with camping grounds, playground areas, Maniototo Park sportsgrounds and stadium, tennis courts, squash club, International Curling Rink and Ice skating rink at Naseby, Ranfurly swimming pool and the swimming dam at Naseby, many community halls, golf clubs, bowling clubs at Naseby, Ranfurly, Patearoa and Waipiata, and various small parks and gardens around the towns. An opportunity was identified to make better use of the vast range of sporting facilities and educational facilities in the area with organisations such as the Otago Polytechnic being encouraged to provide primary industry education or training associated with the recreational opportunities locally. There was suggestion of attracting corporate functions and team building activities to the area or activities based around the International Curling Rink, ice sports and a possible luge at Naseby.

There are various walkways and mountainbiking areas in the Maniototo. From the Otago Central Rail Trail, which traverses the area, to localised walks and mountain bike tracks in the Naseby forest area there is an abundance of opportunity for these activities. It was identified that there are great opportunities for further recreation such as heritage trails, a goldfields trail, pastoral trail based on the agricultural history of the area.

Hunting and fishing opportunities were identified as there are good areas like the Taieri River, local reservoirs, dams and a significant amount of highland areas which are easily accessible.

A further opportunity identified was to make better use of the unique climate and landscape. With a good climate and weather this should be a selling point for sport and recreation in the area. Cycling was identified as being an opportunity for the area. The Rail Trail combined with the landscape and favourable climate further enhances opportunities for cycling in the area. There are significant areas beyond the rail trail itself, with high recreational values, that could set this community apart. The idea was promoted of a network of recreational tracks and trails for trail bike, four wheel drive, horse, walking and cycling. This could utilise natural assets such as the Dunstan Trail where access to high country areas is already available. However it is acknowledged that any development would have to be undertaken with consent of landowners. There could be some unique totally Maniototo experiences created such as kayaking on the Hawkdun Race or Taieri River, sailing or rowing on the west Eweburn. It should be noted that in terms of experience the proposed wind farms could have a huge impact on the area.

Objectives:

Well managed recreation facilities with identification of future opportunities.

Recommendations for action

- Identify potential recreation and cultural opportunities that will be in keeping with the intent of this plan.
- Assess the current provision of tracks and trails, including the standard of these assets and assess whether there is a need for further developments.



Planning

Maniototo has been involved in significant work on planning issues in recent times. This has seen the implementation of the Rural Study project looking at unique landscapes and areas for development in the district. It has been identified that people in the Maniototo love the unique landscape, the large basin that the Maniototo sits in surrounded by rugged hills and mountains while being traversed by rivers and streams.

The Rural Study, which addresses rural development issues, is also likely to contribute ideas as to how future development and building might be sympathetically integrated within the existing environment and landscape. Certainly, the Study has provided the Maniototo community with an opportunity to identify key landscapes, skylines, ridges or rockland outcrops which it considers should remain unspoiled and to put in place, appropriate protection and management before there is any suggestion of development. Concern was expressed at the community level over the protection of key landscape areas including the issue of maintaining the feeling of space. As mentioned earlier the proposed wind farm for the Maniototo area could potentially impact on this feeling of space and openness.

While there was a call to promote planning rules that encourage development these were tempered by concerns over preserving the landscape and ensuring that development be balanced so that opportunities are not missed but is not too fast thus creating a boom-bust cycle.

Ecology has been identified as being very important for the local area. There are distinct ecological areas and flora and fauna associated with the upland areas and around the head of the Taieri that may attract people to the area but that need to be maintained for future generations to enjoy.

It was identified there is a need to ensure that there is appropriate control of township standards so that buildings are developed in keeping with parts of the town – both for Ranfurly and Naseby.

The need for clear guidelines to help reduce time in getting consents, reduce costs and and reduce levels of frustration were identified as an opportunities. The opportunity to reduce red tape was viewed as an opportunity to assist development in the area. This is not just Council but all agencies involved in the community.

Objective

Manage growth to preserve the special character of the area.

Recommendations for action

- Council completes its District wide Rural Study. This will help identify unique landscapes in the area and review the rules governing growth, development and management of these areas.
- Encourage the provision of services that have clear processes, guidelines and are carried out in a timely manner.

Economy

Tourism

Each year Central Otago attracts an increased number of domestic and international visitors. The following visitor trends in Central Otago have been noted and may be significant in regard to the future of Maniototo:

- Commercial Accommodation Monitor (CAM) records show 277,000 guest nights in Central Otago during 2005, (To Dec 2005, includes both domestic and international visitors, based on goods and services accommodation registered properties).
- The average length of stay for 2005 was on average 2.2 nights. By comparison the average stay in 1998 was 6 nights. The reason for the decline is the "transition" from Central Otago being a domestic holiday destination to one which attracts international visitors who, due to travel constraints, stay for shorter periods.
- It should be noted that while there has been a decline in domestic tourism throughout New Zealand, Central Otago has gone against the trend and experienced increased growth from the Canterbury market which, possibly, can be attributed to the success of the Rail Trail. Overall though domestic visitor numbers have declined for Central Otago.
- Otago Central Rail Trail in 2005 it is estimated that 10,000+ persons completed the whole trail. The daily spend was estimated at \$125 over an average duration of five days.

Adverse factors which may affect the visitor industry (especially the international market but also the domestic market) include increasing fuel prices and the volatile exchange rate.

The CODC is now embracing a destination management approach to tourism which focuses on sustaining the attractions which make Central a desirable place to visit. The development of the Central Otago Regional Identity has been an important project undertaken by the community. Its purpose is to identify those things which are special to us, ensure a unified understanding of them, and to consistently project these values to those outside the region. In defining our regional identity, we are creating the vision for the way we want to work, live and play, here, now and for the years to come. The creation of a unique brand for Central Otago "Central Otago – A World of Difference" provides opportunities for Maniototo. The values that underpin the brand: "making a difference, respecting others, embracing diversity, adding value, having integrity, learning from the past, making a sustainable difference, protecting our rich heritage and meeting obligations" are many of the values that have been expressed by the people of Maniototo.

As the profile of Central Otago increases, so is the likelihood of an increasing number of tourists seeking to visit and stay in the Maniototo. It has been identified that there is a need for innovative marketing of the area and promoting Maniototo's points of difference. The Maniototo could present a counterpoint to the bussle of city life and the wide open image of the area is strikingly portrayed by artists such as Grahame Sydney. Portraying the Maniototo in a representative way where all promotions are meeting an agreed marketing strategy is required.

The Maniototo Community Board provides funding to Maniototo Promotions Group, which is actively involved in the promotion of the Maniototo area as a visitor destination. We suggest there needs to be greater emphasis on selling the Maniototo. Whether this is to visitors coming to the area or to permanent residents. The need to clearly articulate what is different about the Maniototo and consistently reflect this in promotional material. Any promotion should highlight

the positive points of the great climate and friendly people, relative closeness to Dunedin and the many activities such as the Rail Trail in the area. Any future marketing strategy or promotion of the area should be developed and co-ordinated in conjunction with the local promotions group, community planning group, and Tourism Central Otago.

There is a suggestion to market package deals around the Rail Trail eg heritage tours, fishing and hunting, farm tours, high country 4 WD tours and mountain biking, the aim being to retain visitors using the Rail Trail in the Maniototo area for an extended period of time and thus would add value and experiences which would ultimately benefit the Maniototo and Central Otago.

Business

For any area to have a thriving community, a variety of businesses and professional services is important. The community expressed that it is important to retain and build on the current businesses in the town, for both residents and visitors alike. The retention of services was seen as important for Maniototo. For a healthy economy there needs to be a balance of businesses, whether this be health services or businesses that service the surrounding district such as the garages, shops or agricultural suppliers. Business and facilities also need to be open and provide good service for both locals and visitors to the area.

A challenges identified for the Maniototo area is a skills shortage. There is a demand for further accommodation associated with the Rail Trail but there needs to be people to operate and work in these businesses. It has also been identified that there is a shortage of tradespeople. With this being a nationwide problem there needs to be innovative approaches to attracting tradespeople to the area. A co-ordinated plan to develop employment opportunities and attract people to the area is required.

It should be noted that the local economy has changed in the past few years and this has had an impact on the local population. Improvements in the trade apprenticeship system has seen more young people now stay in the area. This is reflected in the number of apprenticeships in the Central Otago area now being approximately 600.

A further challenge identified for business is the rising cost of doing business and compliance costs. This includes new rules and requirements both at the local and central government level such as traffic management plans, health requirements for kitchens and concessions for land use. Red tape and the need for clear guidelines were seen as part of the key problem for businesses operating in the current environment.

Accommodation

Accommodation in the area has varied occupancy throughout the year. In the height of the season accommodation can be full yet in the winter many of the businesses shut down. Accommodation is provided through motels, hotels, camping grounds and bed and breakfasts. Much of the accommodation in Ranfurly and the surrounding area is reliant on business from the Rail Trail or visits based around school holidays and thus trade has a seasonal nature.

The camping grounds are a popular site for campers and caravans year round and particularly so during holiday periods. Areas such as Naseby, Ranfurly and Patearoa and the wider Maniototo are popular holiday spots for visitors from Otago, Southland and Canterbury.

Two issues identified with accommodation is the amount available and the quality of service provided. Undoubtedly the present lack of accommodation is inhibiting opportunities but with the provision of more accommodation there was a concern that outside operators, either national or

international, would build accommodation that would be operated year round and would have to make an economic return to the owner. This could be a risk for the local community in that during the quiet season (or even during the height of the season) they will offer very cheap rates to ensure they are full. This would drive down prices for all other providers and smaller operators may be unable to stay in business regardless of the quality of service they provide.

The second issue identified was the quality of service being provided by some operators associated with the rail trail. Visitors to the area expect a good level of service. Many value coming to an area where they can sit down with the locals for a drink but they still expect services such as a spa, a good coffee or good meal at the end of the day. For those businesses that provide services there is a need to maintain professional standards so that visitors to the area will have a positive experience. Word of mouth is one of the greatest and cheapest forms of advertising for the attractions in the area.

Objective

Promoting the area in a manner which protects the values determined by the community.

Have appropriate accommodation to meet identified needs in the area.

Recommendations for action

- Maniototo Promotions in conjunction with Tourism Central Otago develop a combined marketing strategy which outlines the market that the Maniototo wishes to attract and how this will be done.
- Develop a programme to attract skilled people to meet the needs of the area.
- Inform current and potential accommodation providers about visitor trends, and the quality of service appropriate to meeting those needs.
- Encourage facilities and businesses to be open and provide good services for both visitors and locals.



What is important to the Community?

From the community workshop the working party have attempted to identify which recommendations are a priority for the community. From these priorities, timelines for working on these recommendations can be developed. The working party would appreciate comments on these priorities.

High = Immediate action required Med = To be considered as high priorities are completed. Low – to be considered once medium priorities are completed.

Pg No	Recommendation:	Priority:
12a	Identify a range of key heritage sites that could be developed as a heritage trail with clear signage and appropriate interpretation of the heritage values.	High
12b	Ensure there is good signage of heritage attractions in the area.	Med
13	Create local cycleways and walkways to appropriate track standards with signage and interpretation, in keeping with the new regional identity guidelines.	Med
15a	Ensure that current events are sustainable with appropriate help to organise these events.	High
15b	Assess opportunities for hosting small meetings in the area.	Med
15c	Assess the opportunities for other events in the area.	Low
15d	That the visitor information centre be open for longer hours to meet the needs of rail trail users.	
17a	Develop a long term strategy for the future of the water supply and assess the impact this has on the future of the town.	High
17b	Advocate for issues relating to access to water in the Maniototo.	High
17c	Where there is a treated water supply have a designated water tap for rail trail users.	High
17d	Continue to monitor and improve river quality in the area.	High
19a	Encourage new residents to live and work in the Maniototo area.	High
19b	Promote the Welcome Pack to new residents and business operators in the area.	Med
19c	Support and assist volunteers and volunteer groups by providing appropriate training or facilitators.	Med
19d	Advocate for the retention of core services in the area.	High
21a	Identify potential recreation and cultural opportunities that will be in keeping with the intent of this plan.	Low
21b	Assess the current provision of tracks and trails, including the standard of these assets and assess whether there is a need for further developments.	Med
22a	Council completes its District wide Rural Study. This will help identify unique	Med

	landscapes in the area and review the rules governing growth, development and management of these areas.	
22b	Encourage the provision of services that have clear processes, guidelines and are carried out in a timely manner.	Med
25a	Maniototo Promotions in conjunction with Tourism Central Otago develop a combined marketing strategy which outlines the market that the Maniototo wishes to attract and how this will be done.	Med
25b	Develop a programme to attract skilled people to meet the needs of the area.	High
25c	Inform current and potential accommodation providers about visitor trends, and the quality of service appropriate to meeting those needs.	High
25d	Encourage facilities and businesses to be open and provide good services for both visitors and locals.	High

Appendix 1 – From the Amended CODC District Plan 2000.

SCHEDULE 19.4 : REGISTER OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS, PLACES, SITES & OBJECTS AND NOTABLE TREES

PART A: HERITAGE BUILDINGS, PLACES, SITES AND OBJECTS

NO.	MAP	ITEM & LOCATION	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	NZHPT DETAILS	
	NO			Reg No.	AILS Category
86	22	Cemetery, Naseby	Sections 93 & 99 Block I Naseby SD	Reg 110.	Category
87	22	St Georges Church (Anglican), Derwent Street, Naseby	Lot 2 DP 17211	2271	II
88	22	Church of the Sacred Heart (Catholic), Foyle Street, Naseby	Lot 1 DP 22905	2265	II
89	22A	Town Hall, Leven Street, Naseby	Sections 95-97 Block I Town of Naseby		
90	22A	Ancient Briton Tavern, Leven Street, Naseby	Lots 2-4 DP 9467 and Sections 26 & 30 Block I Town of Naseby	3214	II
91	22A	Watchmaker's Shop, Leven Street, Naseby	Part Section 108 & Section 27 Block I Town of Naseby	2270	II
92	22A	Museum, Earne Street, Naseby	Part Section 59 Block I Town of Naseby	2268	II
93	22A	Royal Hotel, Earne Street, Naseby	Sections 60 & 78, 114 Block I Town of Naseby	2269	II
94	22A	War Memorial and Gun, Naseby	Sections 14-17 Block I Town of Naseby		
95	22A	Cottage (originally The Stables), Derwent Street, Naseby	Section 208 and Part Section 57, 107 & 179 Block I Town of Naseby		
96	22A	All Nation's Store (original portion), Earne Street, Naseby	Section 208 and Part Sections 57, 107 & 179 Block I Town of Naseby	2262	II
97	22A	Naseby Athenaeum, Derwent Street, Naseby	Section 18 Block II Town of Naseby	4369	I
98	22A	Post Office (former), Derwent Street, Naseby	Sections 1 & 2 Part Sections 3 & 28 Block II Town of Naseby	2267	II
99	22A	Courthouse (former), Derwent Street, Naseby	Section 74 Block II Town of Naseby	2266	II
99A	22A	Masonic Lodge	Lot 1 DP 10039		
100	22A	Presbyterian Church, Oughter Street, Naseby	Lot 2 DP 6605	2264	II
101	22A	Twin Cottage (1), Derwent Street, Naseby	Part Section 6 Block II Town of Naseby	3215	II
102	22A	Twin Cottage (2), Derwent Street, Naseby	Part Section 6 Block II Town of Naseby	3216	II
103	22A	Wooden Cottage, Derwent Street, Naseby	Part Section 11 Block II Town of Naseby		
104	22A	Cottage, Derwent Street, Naseby	Lots 2-3 DP 9380 and Part Section 43-44 Block II Town of Naseby		
123	26	War Memorial, Patearoa	Section 57 Block I Upper Taieri SD		
124 125	31	Gun, Ranfurly Ranfurly Hotel, Charlemont Street East,	Section 18 Block X Town of Ranfurly Lot 1 DP 15637 Block II Town of		
126	31	Ranfurly Railway Station (former), Charlemont Street East Ranfurly	Ranfurly See NZ Gazettes 1994 p2931, 1996 p4440, 1997 p554, 555, 1069 & 1518 & 1998 p1431		
127	31	Maniototo Service Centre facade, Pery Street, Ranfurly	Lot 3 DP 8520 Section 9 & Part Section 11 Block XII Town of Ranfurly		
128	31	War Memorial, Pery Street, Ranfurly	Section 13 Block XII Town of Ranfurly		
129	31	Maniototo Hospital, Tyrone Street, Ranfurly	Sections 33, 51 & Part Section 32 Block I Town of Ranfurly	7306	II
130	32	Catholic Church, Alexander Street & Stuart Street, Ranfurly	Section 18 Block XVI Town of Ranfurly		

163	39	War Memorial, Waipiata	Legal Road		
164	40A	General Store, Main Road, Oturehua	Lot 1 DP 20367	7304	II
165	40A	Ida Valley Flourmill (former), Ida Valley Road, Oturehua	Lot 1 DP 20092	2257	II
166	40A			330	I
167	40C	Facade of Stone Building, Hills Creek	Sections 13, 20-21 Block II Town of Hills Creek		
168	40C	Memorial Gates Blackstone Hill Cemetery, Hills Creek	Section 22 Block III Blackstone SD		
169	41B & 52	Quartz Reef Point Gold Workings	Lot 1 DP 16004	5618	II
211	53	McTavish's Stone Hut, Poolburn Road, Ophir	Section 130 Block II Tiger Hill SD		
212	54	White Horse Hotel (former), State Highway 85, Becks	Lot 1 DP 21992	5221	II
213	54	Poolburn Gorge Railway Viaduct and nearby Tunnels	See NZ Gazettes 1994 p2931, 1996 p4440, 1997 p554, 555, 1069 & 1518 & 1998 p1431		
214	54	Golden Progress Mine, Oturehua	Part Section 16 Block I Blackstone SD		
215	54	Quarry	Section 1 Block XVIII Blackstone SD	5633	II
216	55	Wedderburn Railway Station Building (former)	Section 10 Block VII Naseby SD		
227	58	Remnants of Puketoi Homestead, Puketoi Runs Road	Sections 1 & 4 and Part Section 2 Block III Upper Taieri SD and Section 1 Block I Upper Taieriside SD		
228	59	Green Bridge, Patearoa-Waipiata Road, Waipiata	Legal Road		
229	59	Waipiata Sanatorium (former), Orangapai Sanatorium Road	Sections 64/65 and Part Sections 61 & 81 Block I Rock and Pillar SD		
230	59	Cemetery, Hamiltons	Section 1 Block I Rock & Pillar SD		
231	60	Cresset Stone Cairns, Swinburn Peak ridge	Sections 36-38 Block IV Part Section 13 Block V Section 6 Block VIII & Section 5 Block IX Swinburn SD		
232	60	Presbyterian Church, Kokonga	DP 5602		
264	67	Gold Diggings, Kyeburn Diggings	Part Section 22 and Sections 26, 27 & 29 Block VI Kyeburn SD		
265	67	Danseys Pass Hotel, Danseys Pass Road	Section 4 Block VI Kyeburn SD		
266	67	Cemetery, Kyeburn Diggings	Sections 3 & 12 Block V Kyeburn SD		
281	70	Linnburn Woolshed & Old Stone yards, Linnburn Runs Road	Sec 1/2 SO 21791, Sec 1 SO 22582 Blk VII, Upper Taieriside SD and Pt Sec 1 SO 21790 Manorside, Serpentine and Upper Taieriside SD		
282	70	Ovens/Artefacts	Section 1 Block I Serpentine SD	5635	II
283	70	Deep Creek Hut, Paerau	Section 3 Block VIII Long Valley SD		
284	71	Styx Gaol, Paerau	Crown Land in Block I Loganburn SD		
285	71	Styx Hotel and Stables, Paerau	Lot 6 DP 24049 and Section 3 Block I Loganburn SD		

PART B: NOTABLE TREES

NO.	MAP	ITEM & LOCATION	LEGAL DESCRIPTION
11	22	"Elizabeth" Tree - Wellingtonia (Sequoiadendron giganteum), Naseby Kyeburn Diggings Road, Naseby	Section 7 Block IV Town of Naseby
12	22	European/ Common Beech (Fagus sylvatica), Lime/Linden (Tilea europaea), Derwent Street, Naseby	Lot 2 DP 17211
13	22A	Wellingtonia (Sequoiadendron giganteum), Sitka Spruce (Picea sitchensis), Deodar Cedar (Cedrus deodara), Lawson's Cypress (Chamaecyparis lawsoniana), Weeping Cypress (Cupressus funebris),	

		Ponderosa Pine (Pinus ponderosa), Caucasian Fir	
		(Abies nordmanniana), Western White Pine (Pinus	
		monticola), Naseby Recreation Ground, Naseby	
14	22A	Monkey Puzzle (Araucria araucana), Derwent Street,	Lots 2 & 3 DP 9380 and Part Sections 43 & 44
		Naseby	Block II Town of Naseby
23	22	Ponderosa Pine (Pinus ponderosa), Lawsons Cypress	Lot 1 DP 18772
		(Chamaecyparis lawsonia), Yellow Cypress	
		(Chamaecyparis nootkatensis) Norway Spruce (Picea	
		abies), Lizard Tree (Thujopsis delobrata), Derwent	
		Street, Naseby	