

# Plains, Port Hills & Peninsula

## FINDING OUR WAY

This year there are some significant anniversaries relating to the cultural and physical development of the district and its identity as a place to live, enjoy and explore.

The Port Hills link the Plains to the Peninsula and play a landmark role in our history and environment – including as a vantage point, an access route and a recreational escape. The completion of the Lyttelton Railway Tunnel, one hundred and fifty years ago, linked the Port at Lyttelton to the city and plains beyond, allowing Canterbury to more fully realise its economic potential. The opening of the Sign of the Kiwi in 1917 was the genesis of a new perception of the Port Hills as an important recreational asset for the city - a relationship which continues today.

The identity of the city was in part shaped by the prevalence of bicycles, an invention now 200 years old. The bicycle became an important aspect of life in the city both as a means of transport and leisure - with the formation of cycling clubs such as the Atalanta Cycling Club formed 125 years ago.

One hundred years ago many young Cantabrians passed through the railway tunnel before embarking to fight in WWI. In 1917 New Zealand was at war, on an international stage in key World War I battles, and at home, defending Plains and Peninsula with operations on the Port Hills.

### 2017 Anniversaries include:

(Information based mainly on the second edition of John Densem's Christchurch Chronology: a history of settlement. Environmental Policy and Planning Policy Unit, Christchurch City Council, 1990.)

- 200 years since the invention of the bicycle in Germany
- 150 years since the unveiling of the Godley statue in Cathedral Square.
- 150 years since Canterbury Museum first opened to the public in the Canterbury Provincial Government Buildings.
- 150 years since the Lyttelton Railway Tunnel opened.
- 125 years since the Atalanta Cycling Club was formed in Christchurch.
- 100 years since significant WWI Battles including Messines, Passchendaele and Sinai.
- 100 years since Captain Robert Falcon Scott statue unveiled in Oxford Terrace.
- 100 years since the Sign of the Kiwi opened.
- 100 years since Canterbury Aviation Company makes first flights from Sockburn Aerodrome.
- 100 years since the introduction of and 50 years since the end of 6 o'clock closing in NZ bars.
- 75 years since Dame Ngaio Marsh produced Hamlet for the University Drama Society, beginning a 20 year association with the society and a classical theatre revival in the City.
- 50 years since Waltham Lido pool opened.

The theme for Beca Heritage Week 2017 reflects this year's anniversaries which offer the chance to explore and celebrate the cultural and physical development of our district and the pursuit of leisure activities in a unique landscape, defined by Plains, Port Hills and Peninsula.

