

#### 4 DANSEYS PASS

Named after William Dansey a North Otago run holder who with three companions entered the Maniototo in 1855-56, in search of grazing for sheep. These explorers discovered the route now known as Danseys Pass.

Since 1862 a hotel has stood at the entrance to Danseys Pass. This remote coach inn was an overnight stop for those travelling across the 'Pass' and served a community of some 2,000 in the gold-mining era.

Today the refurbished Danseys Pass Coach Inn retains much of its 'frontier' character and is a popular place to stop and linger for a while.

#### 5 WAIPIATA

When the railway to Ranfurly opened in 1898, Waipiata also came into being. The township originally named Komako meaning 'bellbird' was replaced by Waipiata, a name preferred by local residents. While businesses have now gone, the township's only hotel has been serving its patrons since 1898. Waipiata has a fascinating and diverse history.

You can find out more in the Waipiata brochure and from the information panels in the foyer of the Hall in the main street.

As you leave Waipiata you will drive over the historic 'Green Bridge' built in 1896. This is the only flood-free crossing of the Taieri River in Maniototo.

Danseys Pass Coach Inn



Photo: Courtesy of Danseys Pass Coach Inn

#### 6 EN HAKKORE - WAIPIATA SANATORIUM

Nestled into the foot hills of the Rock and Pillar Range some 5 minutes from Waipiata is a Christian retreat – En Hakkore. Built in 1914, this settlement was originally a private facility for the treatment of tuberculosis. The dry climate was considered a suitable cure for consumption. In the early 1920's it became government owned and continued as a Sanatorium until 1961. Over the years the Sanatorium grew with ward blocks, administration buildings, an operating theatre block, houses for staff and a farm. Today many substantial buildings remain. After the Sanatorium closed it became a youth correction centre for the Justice Department until 1979.

Today the settlement is privately owned and as you slowly drive by you gain a sense of how significant this facility was in the treatment of a dreadful disease that can thankfully now be treated with drugs.

#### 7 HAMILTONS

Gold was discovered in 1863 on Captain Hamilton's run on the northern slopes of the Rock and Pillars and this saw Hamiltons become a flourishing town for a few years. At its peak Hamiltons population reached 4,000 with some 25 hotels and 40 stores. However, by the mid 1870's most miners were gone and the town went into decline. Few reminders remain today - just the scarred areas of mining, a dam used for sluicing and a cemetery. The cemetery has been restored and provides a wonderful insight into the early history of Maniototo. Views from here are some of the most panoramic of the whole Maniototo Plain.

Hamiltons Cemetery



Photo: Steve Kewish

#### 8 PATEAROA

Settlement in Patearoa began to grow in the 1870's as its close neighbour Hamiltons declined. Many of the early inhabitants of Patearoa were miners but as gold became harder to extract more turned their hand to farming. Many of their original mud brick cottages remain and are now quaint holiday homes.

Patearoa has a traditional country pub and an interesting walkway along the Sowburn Creek that provides insights into the history of the area including the remains of a Chinese miners' settlement.

#### 9 PAERAU

The Paerau Road takes you past some of the first farming settlements in Maniototo. Rock walls and stone walled buildings dating back to the late 1870's can be viewed from the road. Along the way you will also pass an old gold dredge mounted on the side of the road.

Paerau (meaning many ridges) is remote and known for being a stopover on the Dunstan Trail for prospectors heading to the Central Otago goldfields. At the foot of the Dunstan Trail on the banks of the Taieri River look out for the Styx Jail built in 1863. Rather than for prisoners, this jail was mostly used to secure gold during overnight coach stops. Two hotels once operated either side of the river. The Styx Jail is on private property and can be easily viewed from the road.

#### 10 WEDDERBURN

In the early 1860's Wedderburn developed as a convenient overnight coach stop for those travelling to the sheep runs in the Ida Valley or to the Dunstan goldfields. With the advent of rail to Ranfurly in 1898, traditional coach travel began to decline. However, Wedderburn still thrived by being the headquarters for building the railway line further into Central Otago.

Visit the stone clad Wedderburn Tavern, built in 1885, and view photos and memorabilia of bygone days relating to the area.

#### 11 OTUREHUA

Like a number of small settlements in Maniototo, Otarehua started to develop when the railway line reached it in 1899.

Today its rich past is still felt and seen. Take a step back in time in Gilchrist's General Store where little has changed since 1902 or across the road to the Otarehua Tavern of a similar age. Just south of the village is the historic Hayes Engineering Works established in 1895 which produced and sold farm tools both locally and internationally. A little further down the road is Idaburn Dam. When the winters are harsh this frozen dam plays host to the ancient curling Bonspiel Tournament where teams have competed dating back to the 1870's. To the north of Otarehua, is the Golden Progress mine with relics that show the tenacity required to extract gold. The site is on private property and is closed in Sep/Oct.

#### 12 BLACKSTONE HILL (HILLS CREEK)

A stone cottage and cemetery is all that remains of the Blackstone Hill settlement to evoke the spirit of the past. The story of Blackstone Hill is similar to that of other gold settlements. From 1869 it was the main town for the upper Ida Valley with hotels, bakeries, stores, a school and a stop for Cobb & Co coaches, but by the end of the 1890's it was all but gone. With railway construction, Blackstone Hill dwindled and its neighbour Otarehua became the main centre for the area.

Blackstone Hill Wool



Photo: Maurice Pringle

Brochure produced by Maniototo Promotions

## MANIOTOTO HERITAGE TRAIL



[www.maniototo.co.nz](http://www.maniototo.co.nz)

**CENTRAL  
OTAGO**  
A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE



# Welcome to the Maniototo Heritage Trail

The **Maniototo Heritage Trail** tells the story of our settlement that began in the late 1850's. The rich history of Maniototo has been shaped by the early run holders, the gold rushes in the foot hills and gullies that surround the Maniototo Plain and the advent of the Otago Central Railway line. Today descendants of the some early run holders, gold miners and railway workers still live in the Maniototo.

The Maniototo Heritage Trail covers some 200kms of sealed and gravelled roads. Our Heritage Trail is vast and you may decide to

do parts of the Trail or complete it over two days. The Trail will take you to historic townships, to remote country pubs that were once overnight stops for coaches and drays, to cemeteries that speak of tragedies and hardships and to areas where the first run holders once settled. The Trail provides many places to stop and explore and to view the vast landscape that Maniototo is known for - big skies, space and solitude.

**Take your time; learn about our history and experience our special place.**

## Distances

Ranfurly - Naseby	14kms
Naseby - Kyeburn Diggings	17.2kms
Kyeburn Diggings - Danseys Pass	3.7kms
Danseys Pass - Naseby	20.9kms
Naseby - Waipiata	19kms
Waipiata - Hamiltons	10.2kms
Hamiltons - Patearoa	5.4kms
Patearoa - Paerau	16.6kms
Paerau - Wedderburn	50.8kms
Wedderburn - Blackstone Hill (Hills Creek)	13.1kms
Blackstone Hill - Oturehua	8.1kms
Oturehua - Ranfurly	25.5kms

## 1 RANFURLY

The largest township in the Maniototo, 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 a school. Many businesses moved from Naseby to service the railway and agricultural sector.

The last train departed in 1989. Today you will find the Railway Station in good working order. It houses a fascinating display on the history of railway and the Maniototo. An Information Centre (I-Site) is also located in the same building.

Ranfurly is known for its Art Deco style buildings. Be sure to visit one of our best examples of this style - the Centennial Milk Bar. This impressive building is now a gallery and showcases what life was like in the 1930's in Maniototo.

A key person in the history of Maniototo is John Turnbull Thompson, the Chief Surveyor of the Otago Province. A monument in honour of this remarkable man stands opposite the Centennial Milk Bar where you can read more about the contribution he made to our district.

## 2 NASEBY

Gold was discovered in 1863 and Naseby became a thriving settlement with hotels, churches, shops, stables, a courthouse, hospital, newspaper and more. After gold waned in the 1880's Naseby continued to be the main centre for Maniototo until the railway line through Ranfurly saw a gradual decline of the township with businesses and services moving to this new railway town.

Gold mining in its various forms, particularly sluicing, ravaged the landscape around Naseby. Today these scars are for the most part covered with conifers and commercial forestry is now well established in the area.

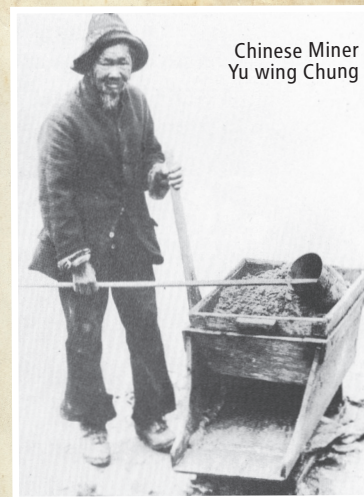
Naseby is also known for curling with the first match played in July 1876. A visit to the Maniototo Curling International Indoor Rink will provide more history on this ancient Scottish sport.

With many historic buildings in Naseby there is still a strong sense of yesteryear. The Early Settlers Museum located in the old Council Chambers provides a wonderful chronicle of our early history. Two historic pubs also provide a glimpse of a bygone era. For more information on Naseby and its historic sights be sure to visit the Information Centre in the old Post Office building.

## 3 KYEBURN DIGGINGS

Around 15 minutes from Naseby you will come across the Kyeburn Diggings Cemetery sign with its list of burial charges. The cemetery is all that now remains of a once bustling settlement that was home to many miners including 600 Chinese gold miners.

Gold was discovered in 1861 in the Upper Kyeburn Valley but prospecting only started in earnest in 1863. The naturally dry climate has helped to preserve the scars from sluicing still clearly evident today.



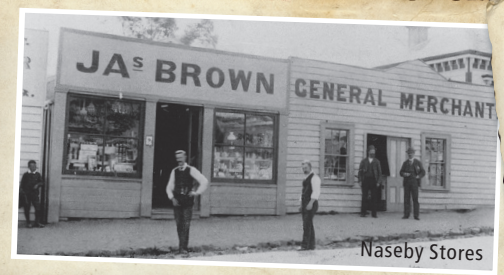
Chinese Miner  
Yu wing Chung



Ranfurly Railway Station 1930's

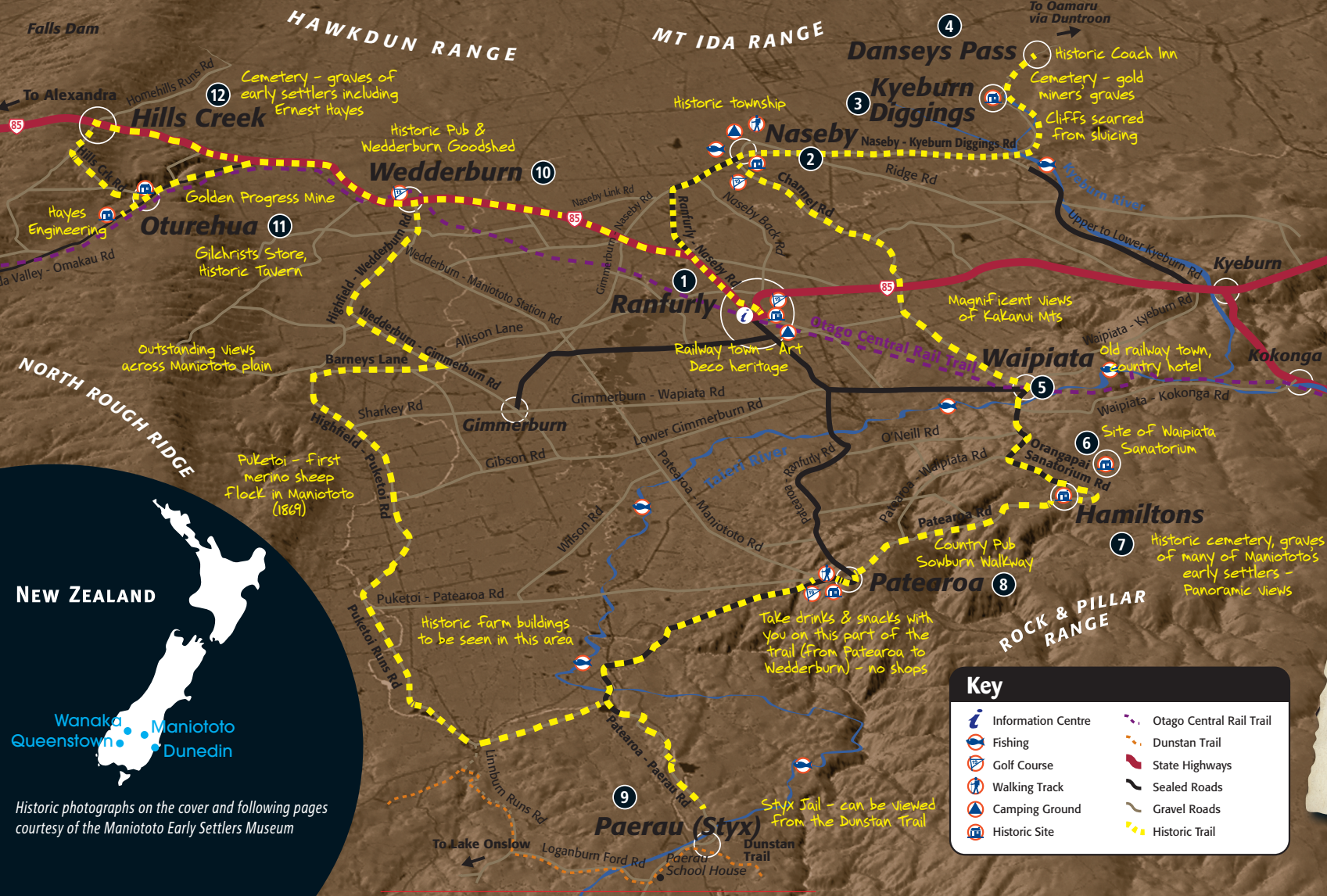


Sluicing for Gold



Naseby Watchmaker  
Store (1938)

Naseby Stores



### Key

- Information Centre
- Fishing
- Golf Course
- Walking Track
- Camping Ground
- Historic Site
- Otago Central Rail Trail
- Dunstan Trail
- State Highways
- Sealed Roads
- Gravel Roads
- Historic Trail

## NEW ZEALAND

Wanaka  
Queenstown  
Maniototo  
Dunedin

Historic photographs on the cover and following pages courtesy of the Maniototo Early Settlers Museum