

Allenton

A northwestern suburb of Ashburton. Named after the English absentee landowner of the pastoral run here, the Reverend J.C. Allen.

Alford Forest

Locality at the eastern foot of the Alford Range in the foothills of the Southern Alps, on the south side of the Ashburton River North Branch. Named after John Hume Egerton Cust, Viscount Alford (1812-51), and later 2nd Earl Brownlow, a member of the Canterbury Association formed by John Robert Godley and Lord Lyttelton in 1848, to promote the colonisation of New Zealand.

Anama

Locality on the south side of the South Branch of the Ashburton River, 42km northwest from Ashburton. Named by the first settler, William Spenser Peter who migrated from England to Australia in 1838, then on to New Zealand to settle at Canterbury in the 1850's. Apparently he named his run after the station in New South Wales where he met his future wife.

Arrowsmith Range

Mountain range in the Southern Alps, between the headwaters of the Rakaia and Rangitata Rivers, rising on the east side of the Lawrence River, a tributary of the Clyde River, and trending north-eastwards towards Jagged Point at the head of the Jagged Stream, a headwater feeder of the Rakaia River. According to A.W. Reed in this Place Names of NZ, both the peak and the range were named by Canterbury Provincial Geologist (sir) Julius von Haast in 1861, probably after the noted British cartographer, John Arrowsmith (1790-1873), one of the founders of the Royal Geographical Society and publisher of the London Atlas.

Arundel

Locality on the west bank of the Rangitata River. Reserved in 1874 as the township of Rangitata, but not surveyed until 1881, by which time it had been called Arundel, and the name Rangitata adopted elsewhere. Believed to have been named by pioneer Canterbury runholder Charles George Tripp, but the exact origin of the name is uncertain.

Ashburton

On the banks of the Ashburton River just below the point where the river forks into its north and south branches, 85km southwest from Christchurch. Originally known as Turtons after William Turton who with his wife was the first European settler in this part of the Canterbury Plains, and who kept an accommodation house, and in 1858 established a ferry station. The town site was surveyed in 1864 and named Ashburton in honour of the 2nd Baron of Ashburton, William Bingham Baring (1799-1864), one of the foundation members of the Canterbury Association.

Ashburton Forks

Locality on the arm formed by the forking of the Ashburton River into its North and South Branches, along the north branch.

Ashburton Gorge

Farming locality in rugged countryside on the south side of the defile in the upper reaches of the South Branch Ashburton River, 29km northwest of Mount Somers.

Ashburton Lakes

General name for the group of small lakes in the plateau between headwaters of the Rangitata and South Branch Ashburton Rivers. The three main lakes in the group are Lakes Clearwater, Camp, and Emma, and about 20km to the northeast, Lake Heron. Other smaller lakes in the vicinity are: Lakes Roundabout, Denny, Emily, Maori Lake, Manuka Lake, and Seagull Lake. Explored in 1857 by Canterbury pioneer and naturalist, Thomas Henry Potts, and his father-in-law, runholder Henry Phillips. Some of the lakes named by Potts and Phillips were subsequently re-named by landowners in the area but the earlier names have since been officially re-instated.

Ashburton River

Flows southeast from the Southern Alps in two main branches across the Canterbury Plains, meeting just northwest of Ashburton, from where it flows into Canterbury Bight. The North Branch, draining the Palmer, Taylor, and Black Hill Ranges, is the smaller of the two streams; The South Branch arises in the vicinity of the Arrowsmith Range. Total length is 110km.

Barrhill

Farming locality on the southwest bank of the Rakaia River, 17km northwest along the riverbank from Rakaia. Planned originally as a 'model' English village by Scotsman John Cathcart Wason who in the 1870s purchased over an 8,000ha south of the Rakaia River. His attempt to transplant English village life to Canterbury lasted little more than 20 years and was eventually thwarted by the economic pressures, which forced the subdivision of larger holdings and a concentration of larger centres. Wason names his village Barrhill after a place in Scotland.

Black Hill Range

Mountain Range rising above the south bank of the Rakaia River, trending south from Black Hill (2046m) towards the headwater of the North Branch Ashburton River.

Buccleugh

Locality on the south bank of Bowyers Stream, a tributary of the Ashburton River South Branch, on SH72, about 40km north west of Ashburton. Small stand of exotic forest to the west. Named by Joseph Thomas, selector and surveyor of the Canterbury Site for the Canterbury Association, after the 5th Duke of Buccleugh (an alternative spelling), Walter Francis Scott (1806-84) also 7th Duke of Queensberry, who was one of the foundation members of the Canterbury Association.

Cameron River

Flows from the eastern slopes of the Arrowsmith Range south-eastwards below the north-eastern slopes of the Wild Mans Brother Range, into Lake Heron, which lies in a cleft in the mountainous country between the upper reaches of the Rakaia and Rangitata Rivers.

Camp Lake

Small lake on the plateau between the headwaters of the Rangitata and South Branch Ashburton Rivers. The lake, one of a series in the vicinity known as the Ashburton Lakes, is a wildlife refuge, and a popular venue for speedboat enthusiasts and water skiers. For a time known as Lake Howards, but this earlier name has been officially re-instated.

Canterbury Plains

The long area of merged alluvial fans or deltas spreading eastwards to the Pacific Coast of the central portion of the South Island. The length is about 193km and its width 64km at the most. Formed by material brought down from the median mountain chain of the Southern Alps and the bordering foothills, the grade of descent from the high-country is at first steep but becomes more gradual until it eventually levels out towards the coast. The lower parts of the plain contain the widest area of flat land in NZ; the northern and southern extremities merge into rolling downs. Several rivers cross the plains, the largest being the Waimakariri, the Rakaia, the Ashburton and the Rangitata. The name comes from the chosen for the original settlement of the Canterbury Association formed in 1848 under the Presidency of the Archbishop of Canterbury, to be composed entirely of members of the Church of England and called Canterbury after the chief primatial See of the Church.

Carew

Farming locality on the section of the Canterbury Plains between the Rangitata and Hinds Rivers, 35km southwest from Ashburton. Named after one of the members of the Canterbury Association, William Henry Pole-Carew (1811-88), British MP for East Cornwall 1845-52.

Chertsey

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains between the Rakaia and Ashburton Rivers. Located on SH1, 19km north east of Ashburton, 9km south west of Rakaia. Railway station, 66km southwest from Christchurch. This section of the Canterbury Plains, the 303,515ha extending from the Rakaia River south west to the Rangitata River, watered by the Rakaia Rangitata Irrigation scheme, is reputed to be the largest area of flat land in New Zealand. Named, according to A. W. Reed, after Chertsey, the town in Surrey, in the south of England.

Clent Hills

Cluster of hills between the South Branch Ashburton River and one of its north bank tributaries the Stour River. Highest point in the hills is Mt Barrosa (1367m). To the south west of these hills the South Branch of the Ashburton River runs through the Ashburton Gorge, which separates these hills from Trinity Hill (1015m) to the west.

Clearwater Lake

One of a series of small lakes known locally as the Ashburton lakes on the plateau between the headwaters of the Rangitata and South Branch Ashburton Rivers, and between the Dogs Range to the north and Mt Harper rising to the south. A wildlife refuge and fishing resort – the lake is reserved for trout fishing – no motor boats allowed. It is said that these lakes were the haunt of the extinct native otter, called be the Maori the waiotereke. For a time the lake was known as Lake Tripp, after notable Canterbury runholder Charles George Tripp (1820 – 95). With fellow English law graduate John Barton Arundel Acland Tripp arrived in NZ in 1855 and subsequently took up land here, and became the owner of the Orari Gorge and Mount Somers runs. The lake's earlier name which has recently been officially reinstated, is the descriptive name, Lake Clearwater, bestowed by Canterbury naturalist Thomas Henry Potts and his father-in-law pioneer runholder Henry Phillips, who are believed to have discovered the group of lakes in April 1857 Maori name: Te Puna-o Taka," the spring of Taka".

Double Hill

Twin hillocks (682m) rising from the south bank of the Rakaia River just east of the junction with the Mathias River ad opposite Rabbit Island. The station and homestead are to the south west of the hill.

Dorie

Farming locality on the section of the Canterbury Plains between the Rakaia and Ashburton Rivers, 20km south east from Rakaia, 28km east of Ashburton. Named after Dorie House, home of early settler Captain John McLean, who gave his NZ home the name of his home in Scotland.

Dromore

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains between the Rakaia and Rangitata Rivers, just off SH1, 12km northeast of Ashburton, and 18km south east of Rakaia. Fairfield Freezing Works 5km to the southwest. From here there is a particularly good view westwards across the plains to the mountain peaks along the eastern side of the Godley Valley. One of the highest of these mountains, the triple-peaked Mt D'Archiac (2865m) is often mistaken for Mt Cook.

Ealing

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains, on the east bank of the Rangitata River on SH1, 25km north east of Temuka, 13 km south west of Hinds. Named in 1877 by former London policeman Adam Jackson, after the borough in Greater London.

Eiffleton

Farming locality on that section of the Canterbury Plains between the Hinds and Ashburton Rivers, 17km south west of Ashburton. Takes its name form the tall chimney of the brick kiln built about 1890 by pioneer Canterbury farmer John Grigg, on his famous Longbeach estate on the coast. The tower was jokingly compared with the great Eiffel Tower, which had recently been built in Paris in 1889.

Elgin

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains, on the Wakanui Creek, 6km south east of Ashburton. Named after Elgin, the royal burgh in Moray, north east Scotland, by early settler James S. Bruce.

Emma Lake

Small lake on the plateau, between the headwaters of the Rangitata and South Branch Ashburton Rivers, at the north eastern foot of Mt Harper, and to the north west of the Moorhouse Range. Together with Lake Clearwater nearby and Lake Heron about 17km to the northeast, often referred to as the Ashburton Lakes. Good trout fishing. Originally know as Lake Emma, it was later re-named after John Barton Arundel Acland (1823-1904) who, with fellow law graduate Charles George Tripp emigrated to NZ in 1855 and subsequently took up land here, Acland becoming the owner of the vast Mt Peel Station. The earlier name has since been officially reinstated. The group of lakes were discovered and named in April 1857 by Canterbury naturalist Thomas Henry Potts and his father-in-law, runholder Henry Phillips. This lake was named in honour of Potts' wife Emma, daughter of Henry Phillips.

Erewhon

High country merino stud sheep station and alpine resort of 260sq.km on the north bank of the Rangitata river, near its junction with the Clyde River, 52km north west of Mt Somers, 100km north west of Ashburton, 185km west from Christchurch. Erewhon Park is that section of the estate developed for tourists. Hunting, fishing, riding, tramping, guided tours over the station and skiing. Day trips available from Christchurch. Named after the 19th century novel of the same name, Erewhon ("nowhere spelt backwards), written in 1873 by the English philosopher, author and speculator Samuel Butler, who was the first owner of the historic Mesopotamia Station on the south bank of the Rangitata River 1860-64.

Fairton

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains between the Ashburton and Rakaia Rivers, just off SH1, 8km north east of Ashburton and 23km north west of Rakaia. Railway station at Fairfield on South Island Main Trunk line, 6km north east of Ashburton. Freezing works. Name similar to but different from the adjacent railway station because the name Fairfield already existed for the community on the outskirts of Dunedin.

Flemington

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains between the Ashburton and Hinds River, 15km south west of Ashburton. Originally part of the vast Longbeach estate to the southwest. Named after early pioneer farmer William Fleming who first came to the district in 1877.

Greenstreet

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains on the narrow strip between the North and South Branches of the Ashburton River, 13 km north west of Ashburton, 11km south east of Ashburton Forks. Named after early settler Charles H. Greenstreet who took up land here in 1863.

Hackthorne

Locality on the Canterbury Plains between Hinds and Ashburton Rivers, 24km north west of Ashburton, 18km east of Mayfield. Named by the first postmaster, Charles J. Harper, possibly after the village in Lincolnshire, east England.

Hakaterere

Coastal locality at the mouth of the Ashburton River, on the east bank, 20km south east of Ashburton, 4km south west of Riverside. The name is the Maori name for the Ashburton River, and means, "to make swift"

Hampstead

Residential area of the Borough of Ashburton, on the Canterbury Plains, 1km southeast from the Ashburton town centre. Named by local settler Frank Mayo after the locality in the north of Greater London, England. The name comes from the old English *hamstede* meaning "homestead".

Harper Range

Range of mountains trending northwest to south east along the north bank of the Rangitata River, dividing that stream from the lake Acland basin at the head of the South Branch Ashburton River. The highest peak on the range is Mt Harper (1833m). At the southern foot of the range is the Mt Harper Ice Skating Rink, a large artificial rink on the north bank of the Rangitata River, popular headquarters for winter ice-skating. Accommodation available at the Harper Lodge on the south bank of the river, opposite the rink.

Heron Lake

A small lake, linked by the Lake Stream to the upper reaches of the Rakaia River, between the Mount Taylor range and the Wild Mans Brother Range, an outlier of the Arrowsmith Range. This lake is equidistant between the west and east coasts of the South Island. Wildlife refuge, summer camping spot, and fishing (rainbow trout and land-locked salmon). The rare, crested grebe is found occasionally. Named in the 1850s by Canterbury pioneer and naturalist, Thomas Henry Potts because of the number of white herons (kotuku) that frequented the lake. Maori name: Oturoto, "the place of Turoto".

Highbank

Locality on the Canterbury Plains, on the south bank of the Rakaia River, 11km north east of Methven, 30km north west of Rakaia. Further upstream, 10km north of the settlement is the Highbank Hydro Power Station, the second power station to be constructed on the Rakaia River, although, like the Lake Coleridge station, it does not utilise the waters of the Rakaia. Water for the Highbank station is drawn across the Canterbury Plains from the Rangitata, and reaches this station by means of a 66km diversion race which crosses the Hinds River and the branches of the Ashburton River, and which also serves, through control gates placed at convenient intervals, as a means of irrigating the mixed farming areas between the rivers.

Hinds

A Township on the Canterbury Plains on the west bank of the Hinds River, on SH1, 19km south west of Ashburton. Railway, Primary school, tavern, Farming and sawmilling. View from here to the northwest along the Rangitata Gorge with the massive Two Thumb Range rising above its western side. Named after a member of the Canterbury Association, the Reverend Dr Samuel Hinds, who was regarded as an authority on the subject of colonisation.

Hinds River

Arises from branches and feeders draining the eastern slopes of the Moorhouse and Peter Ranges and the Surrey Hills, then flows south eastwards across the Canterbury Plains, through Ashburton County, Central Canterbury, to the coast of the Canterbury Bight about midway between the mouths of the Rangitata and Ashburton Rivers. Named after the Revd Dr Samuel Hinds.

Hutt Mount

Highest Peak (2188m) on the Mt Hutt range, rising about midway along the range's central ridge, between steepface Hill (1875m) at the northern end and South Peak (2076m) to the south. Named by pioneer surveyor Captain Joseph Thomas, after one of the foundation members of the Canterbury Association John Hutt (1795-1880).

Kyle

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains near the coastline of the Canterbury Bight between the mouths of the Rakaia and Ashburton Rivers, 21km south from Rakaia and 34km east of Ashburton. Named by local pioneer John Lambie, after his birthplace, the village of Kyle of Lochalsh, on the north west coast of Scotland (also the birthplace of the famous Scottish poet Robert Burns). The word Kyle is the English equivalent of the Gaelic *cael*: a stretch of water between two pieces of land or two islands.

Lagmhor

Locality on the Canterbury Plains, on the south side of the Ashburton River, 13km west of Ashburton. Named by the brothers, Allan, John and Robertson McLean, after their birthplace on the island of Coll off the north west coast of Mull, western Scotland. The Gaelic name means "Large fields"

Lauriston

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains between the Rakaia and Ashburton Rivers, 16km southeast of Methven, 20 km west of Rakaia, 22km north of Ashburton. Railway station on the Methven branch line. Said to have been named after an early settler by the name of Laurie.

Lismore

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains, on the west bank of the Hinds River, 28km west of Ashburton. Named in 1877 by an early settler, after the market town of Lismore on the Blackwater River, Waterford, one of the south eastern counties of the Republic of Ireland. The name is Celtic for "great enclosure".

Longbeach

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains near the coast to the north east of the mouth of the Hinds River, 24km southwest from Ashburton. One of the first runholders here was the First Superintendent of Canterbury; pioneer James Edward Fitzgerald who took up land in the vicinity on 1 November 1854. In 1864 Cornishman John Grigg bought up about 800ha of "impassable swamp" extending from the Ashburton River to the Hinds, and 11km inland from the coast. Over the years Grigg converted this peat, silt and clay into productive farm, the celebrated "Longbeach Station". Grigg was one of the pioneers of the frozen meat export industry in NZ. So named because of its proximity to the magnificent coastal beach stretching from Banks Peninsula down to Timaru.

Lowcliffe

Farming locality on the coastal reaches of the Canterbury Plains, between the Hinds and Ashburton Rivers, 14km south from Hinds and 32km southwest of Ashburton. About 2000ha of land here was taken up in the 1880s by a syndicate comprising runholders William Reeves John Studholme and others. Probably so named because of the low cliffs on the section of the Canterbury Bight coastline near here.

Lyndhurst

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains between the Rakaia and Ashburton Rivers, 9km south east from Methven, 28km north west of Rakaia, 28km north of Ashburton. Railway station on the Methven branch line. Established as a railway siding about 1875. Thought to have been named after the village of Lyndhurst south England. The name means "limewood"

Maori Lakes

Group of four tiny lakes in a low lying area on the north side of the South Branch Ashburton River, at the western foot of the Clent Hills, 5km north of Hakatere, 23km north west of Mt Somers. The lakes received the waters of the Gentleman, Jacobs, and Johnstone Streams, and drain southwards into the South Branch Ashburton River at the western end of the Ashburton Gorge. The lakes are designated a wildlife refuge.

Maronan

Farming locality on the east bank of the Hinds River, on the Canterbury Plains, 10km north of Hinds, 20km west of Ashburton. The name is said to originate from an Australian Aboriginal word *marouan*, which by common confusion of the handwritten "u" mistaken for "n", came to be called Maronan.

Mayfield

Township on the Canterbury Plains, on the south side of the Hinds River, on SH72, 14km south from Mount Somers, 35km north west of Ashburton. A farming district with a primary school, licensed tavern, camping facilities and convenience store. Wildlife refuge nearby. Said to have named after a sheep station in the area.

Methven

Township on the Canterbury Plains between the Rakaia and Ashburton Rivers, on SH77 at the common intersection of six roads, 13km south of Mount Hutt, 34km north west of Ashburton, 35km north west of Rakaia. The distribution centre for the population from the surrounding sheep runs and a winter holiday resort for the nearby Mt Hutt skifield, a base for mountaineering, deer stalking and fishing. Local Heritage buildings include the Methven Public Library built in 1883 as a memorial to a local man Hugh Anderson, who disappeared on a hunting expedition in 1882; and the Church of All Saints, originally constructed in 1878 for the settlement of Sherwood, 21km away to the southeast and then transported across the plains in the 1880s to be re-sited at Methven. The settlement was named by one of the early settlers, R. Patton, after the village of Methven, 10km west of Perth, Tayside Region, eastern Scotland.

Moorhouse Range

Mountain range trending from Mt Pukanui (1155m) on the north bank of the central section of the Rangitata River, north westwards between the Pudding Valley to the west and the Trinity Valley on the east side, to Mt Possession (1180m) which rises to the south east of Lake Emma, one of the Ashburton Lake. Named by Geologist (Sir) Julius von Haast, after Canterbury pioneer William Sefton Moorhouse (1825-81), twice superintendent of the province 1857-63 and 1866-68.

Mount Hutt Range

Mountain range rising steeply from the Canterbury Plains, about 13km north-west of Methven and trending from the north bank of the North Branch Ashburton River, northwards to the south bank of the Rakaia River. The Swift River flowing southwards into the North Branch Ashburton Rivers, and the Redcliffe Stream flowing northwards into the Rakaia River forms the western boundary. The Mt Hutt Skifield, one of the closest skifields to Christchurch (108km) is a popular resort for now sports enthusiasts, for a season, which usually lasts from early May into October. The range take its name from its highest peak Mount Hutt (2188m), named after John Hutt (1795 – 1880) one of the foundations members of the Canterbury Association.

Mount Possession Station

A station on the south bank of the South Branch Ashburton River, near its junction with the Sandrey Stream, at the eastern foot of the Moorhouse Range, just east of the Ashburton Gorge. Part of the run taken up by John Barton Arundel Acland and Charles George Tripp in the 1850s. The Mount Possession property was later sold in 1861 and the following year the remaining runs were divided between the two partners. So named, according to A.W. Reed's Place Names of NZ, by Acland and Tripp on 1 February 1859 "when they sent 1579 sheep from Mount Somers to take possession of the run, such land was available to runholders only on condition that it was adequately stocked". The name was also given to the northernmost peak on the Moorhouse Range.

Mount Somers Station

A station near the north bank of the South Branch Ashburton River in the foothills of the Cox Hills, to the south of the peak Mt Somers (1987m), 19km north-west Mayfield. The station was one of a number of runs taken up in the vicinity by John Barton Arundel Acland and Charles George Tripp in the 1850s. When the holdings were divided between the partners in 1862 the Mount Somers run went to Tripp. Takes its name from the nearby peak.

Punawai

Locality on the Canterbury Plains, near the east bank of Ashburton River, 10km north west of Westerfield, 25km north west of Ashburton. The name can be translated *lit: puna*: spring; *wai*: water.

Pendarves

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains, between the Rakaia and Ashburton Rivers, 16km southwest of Rakaia, 21km east of Ashburton. Named after Pendarves Point on the west coast of Cornwall, southwest England.

Possession Mount

Peak (1180m) at the north end of the Moorhouse Range, between the Pudding Valley on the west side and the Trinity Valley to the east, on the north side of the Rangitata River. So named by John Barton Arundel Acland and Charles George Tripp, when they took possession of the nearby Mount Possession run on 1 February 1859.

Potts Mount

Highest peak (2194m) on the Potts Range, the southern extension of the Arrowsmith Range, rising between the lower reaches of the Clyde River to the west and the Potts river on the east side, at the head of the Rangitata river. At the western foot of Mt Potts, at the end of the road from Mount Somers is Erewhon station, once owned by English novelist Samuel Butler. At the southern foot of the range on the south bank of the Power House Stream at the former Mt Potts homestead, is Erewhon Park, a tourist resort complex for visitors with sporting interest, offering hunting (red deer, thar and chamois), fishing, climbing, tramping, horse riding and scenic flights. On the north western flank of Mt Potts is the Erewhon Park ski field. The peak and range were named after Canterbury naturalist, Thomas Henry Potts (1824-88), author of *Out in the Open*, a collection of scraps of natural history.

Potts River

Drains the south eastern slopes of the Arrowsmith Range and flows down the valley between the Potts Range on the west side and the Big Hill Range to the east, entering the east side of the Rangitata River below Harpers Knob (841m), 19km south east of the junction of the Havelock and Clyde Rivers at the head of the Rangitata. Named after naturalist Thomas Henry Potts.

Pudding Hill Stream

Flows from the southern end of the Mt Hutt Range, southwards across Ashburton County, into the Ashburton River North Branch just south of the pudding shaped hill from which it takes its name.

Rakaia

Township on the Canterbury Plains, on the south bank of the Rakaia River, on SH1, 20km north east of Ashburton, 59km south west from Christchurch. The 1.75km long bridge over the Rakaia River here is reputed to be the longest bridge in the country. The name, the South Island variant of the word *rangaia*, is said to mean "ranged in ranks"

Rakaia Gorge

The narrow defile through which the Rakaia River flows, as it emerges from the eastern lower foothills of the Southern Alps to begin its slower course across the Canterbury Plains, on the boundary between Ashburton and Malvern Counties, Central Canterbury. The hot Canterbury nor'wester wind often bursts through the gorge out onto the Canterbury lowlands.

Rakaia River

Flows from the junction of the Lyell and Cockayne Glaciers, descending the eastern side of the main divide of the Southern Alps and following a south easterly course along the boundary between Ashburton County on the west side and Malvern and Ellesmere Counties on the east side, through the lower lateral alpine ranges, and through the narrow Rakaia Gorge. It emerges into a wide shingle bed, which crosses the Canterbury Plains out to the coast on either side of the Great Island, at Rakaia Huts and Rakaia River Mouth on the Canterbury Bright.

Rangitata

Farming locality near the west bank of the Rangitata River South Channel, at the junction of SH1 and SH79, 36km south west of Ashburton. Peel Forest, 26km to the northwest on the west bank of the river, offers good camping sites. The name means *lit.: rangi:* day, or sky; *tata:* lowering clouds.

Rangitata River

Fed by three major tributaries (the Havelock, Clyde and Lawrence Rivers) draining the ranges on the east side of the main divide of the Southern Alps, the Rangitata river flows for 121km, winding its way south eastwards through the Rangitata Gorge in the foothills of the alps, across the Canterbury Plains, forming the boundary between Strathallan and Ashburton counties. At the mouth of the Rangitata Gorge, a diversion channel carries away water for irrigation and power purposes. After skirting the foothills the water is discharged by pipelines to a power station at Highbank in the bed of the Rakaia River near Methven. Normally the diversion water is used for irrigation purposes in summer and for power generating in winter. There is good fishing for salmon and trout in the river.

Rokeby

Locality on the Canterbury Plains, near the south bank of the Rakaia River, 12km north west of Rakaia, 25km north east of Ashburton. Named by pioneer settler James Balfour Wemyss, after the village of Rokeby in north Yorkshire, northeast England.

Ruapuna

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains between the Hinds and Rangitata Rivers. 10km South west of Mayfield, and 37km north west of Ashburton. Name means *lit: rua:* cave; *puna:* spring.

Seafield

Farming locality on the Canterbury Plains, between the lower reaches of the Ashburton and Rakaia Rivers, 12km east of Ashburton. So named because of its proximity to the sea.

Somers Mount

Peak (1687m) rising to the north of the Cox Hills, a cluster of hills between the Stour River and the Bowyers Stream, both tributaries of the South Branch Ashburton River. The Mt Somers station is situated in the foothills of the Cox Hills, which lie to the south of the peak, and about 5km to the southeast is the Mt Somers Village.

Staveley

Farming locality on the western edge of the Canterbury Plains, on the east bank of the Bowyers Stream, a tributary of the Ashburton River, at the eastern foot of the Cox Hills, foothills of the Southern Alps, on SH72. 9km north east of Mt Somers and 42km north west of Ashburton. Lime deposits. Named after one of the early runholders here, Robert Staveley.

Taylor Range

Range of mountains trending north south in the complex mountain system between the headwaters of the north and south branches of the Ashburton River, to the north of the Old Man Range. One of the high points of the range Mt Taylor (2330m) at the junction of the Taylor and Old Man Ranges.

Taylor's Steam

Flows from the south flank of Mt Taylor (2330m) south westwards between the Mount Somers and Winterslow Ranges on the west side, and the Old Man and Alford Ranges to the east, across Ashburton County, to enter the Ashburton River South Branch just west of Ashburton Forks.

Tinwald

Residential suburban area of Ashburton Borough, at 92m altitude on the west bank of the Ashburton River, on SH1, 3km south west of the Ashburton town centre. Includes a Railway station on the South Island main trunk line. Named by pioneer runholder and provincial politician, Robert Wilkin, after his birthplace, the village of Tinwald, 7km north east of Dumfries, South west Scotland.

Valetta

Locality at 201m altitude on the Canterbury Plains, between the Hinds and Ashburton Rivers, 33km north west of Ashburton. Named after the city of Valetta, capital of the Island of Malta, in the Mediterranean Sea.

Wakanui

Locality on the flat between the Wakanui Creek and the lower Ashburton River, 11km south east of Ashburton. Name means *lit: waka*: canoe (or the South Island form of Whanga: bay); *nui*: large.

Wheatstone

Locality situated at the mouth of the Ashburton River on the Canterbury Bight, 16km south of Ashburton. The origin of the name is uncertain, but it may have been so named after a suburb (formerly a village in Hertfordshire) in North London, England.

Willowby

Farming Locality 11km south west of Ashburton. An early settler, Ben Ede, obtained willow cuttings from the banks of the River Avon in Christchurch and planted them by the stream that passed close to his homestead. From these trees the district got its name.

Winchmore

Farming Locality 11km north west of Ashburton where you will find the irrigation research station. Named after Winchmore Hill in North London, England, where the father of George Hart, a member of the House of Representatives and a local runholder in 1853 had a property. The Maori name is Porowhita: *lit*: circle, ring or wheel.

Windermere

Locality at 86m altitude, 13km south west of Ashburton, on the Ashburton Timaru section of SH1. Named after the Windermere Estate in the neighbourhood once owned by a Major J.A. Young, which was originally named after Lake Windermere in the Lake District, northwest England.

Winslow

Locality situated 10km south west of Ashburton. Railway station on the Main Trunk Railway line Christchurch to Dunedin. Named after Lord Winslow by John Grigg, founder of Longbeach, a famous sheep station 26km south of Ashburton.