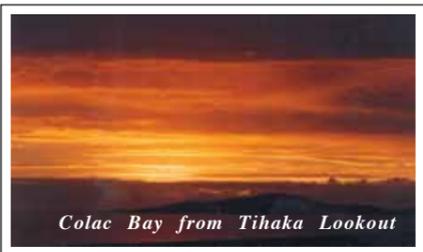


HERITAGE TRAILS **Tihaka Lookout** 8



Looking out to Foveaux Strait, the island on your left is Stewart Island (Rakiura); in the centre is Centre Island (Rarotoka) and the view to the

right reveals Oraka Point, which shelters the tiny, picturesque seaside settlement of Colac Bay (Oraka). Further to your right the distinctive timber clad hills of the Longwood Range (23,750 hectares) dominate the Riverton and Western Southland landscape. In 1888 the famous Longwood Gold Nugget weighing 36oz was found in this area.

The loop road descending to Tihaka beach leads you to one of the area's earliest known Maori occupation sites. The nearby coastal rock outcrops at the end of Tihaka Beach provided high quality green argillite rock, which was quarried and transported to nearby habitation sites for stone tool manufacturing. Midden (oven) deposit analysis indicates seasonal occupation from around 1270 AD, with later dates up to early 1400 AD. Examples of completed stone tools that have been shaped and finely ground from local rock can be viewed at Te Hikoi Heritage Centre.

HERITAGE TRAILS **Colac Bay - Oraka** 9

Known to the early Maori as Oraka, early settlement was by members of Waitaha, Ngati Mamoe and Ngai Tahu tribes. Many of their descendants reside in the area today.

How much would you expect to pay for the beautiful land along the coastline, from Colac Bay to New River (Oreti). Today it would of course be priceless, but in 1838 a whaling merchant by the name of John Jones purchased the area of land for £25, 48 spades,, 20 pairs of blankets, 50 pea jackets, 48 flushing trousers, 60 red shirts, 60 cotton shirts, 24 pairs of shoes, a cask of gun powder and a keg of tobacco!

Colac Bay - Oraka is a seaside jewel, its beautiful beaches and great surfing spots appreciated by both visitors and locals.

HERITAGE TRAILS **Round Hill** 10

There's gold in them thar hills and it was first discovered in the area at Round Hill about 1868, this being the gold rush period of New Zealand's history. Round Hill became a settlement in 1874 when European miners discovered gold there.

When Chinese miners arrived in the early 1880's they discovered that the Europeans had not been successful because they had been working on a false bottom. Beneath this 'false bottom' was a large quantity of gold.

Canton, the Chinese village boasted a hotel, as well as the requisite opium and gambling dens to cater for the needs of the many miners who flocked to the area in search of their golden fortune. The hills were home but for a short time, then with fortunes made - considered in those days as anything between £300 - £500 - most of the miners returned to China to marry and live out their lives in comfort.



Gold mining remained a feature of the Round Hill area for more than 100 years. Attempts were also made from the 1870's to exploit quartz reefs in the Longwoods but although large sums of money were invested, none of the companies produced satisfactory results.

Round Hill was commonly called 'Long Hee-Lee' by the Chinese. 'Long Hilly' is the English version of the name. Take an easy forest walk of one and one half hours and discover the remains of the Chinese water races, sluicing and a tram cutting that you can walk on.

The Te Hikoi Heritage Centre in Riverton has some wonderful artefacts and photos of the Chinese settlement on display. You can pick up a brochure and self guide booklet for Long Hilly.

Don't miss the superb views of Stewart Island and Centre Island on the road between Mantell's Rocks and Round Hill.

HERITAGE TRAILS **Mantell's Rocks** 11



In December 1851 Walter B D Mantell (1820-1895), then newly-appointed Commissioner of Crown Lands for Otago, embarked upon what we would describe today as a pedestrian 'Coast to Coast'.

Travelling on foot, Mantell was the first European to make the Southern traverse from Dunedin overland to the South Coast of Murihiku (Southland) and as far west as the Waiau River. His mission from Governor Grey was to negotiate the purchase of the 7 million acre (3 million ha) Murihiku Block from local Maori. Mantell arrived at Jacob's River (Riverton) in late December of 1851 before setting out to visit the outlying coastal Maori Settlements of Oraka, Kawakaputaputa and across the Waiau River.



On his return he set out the Kawakaputaputa Reserve (395 ha) which bounded the sea and included the old kaika (settlement) garden and urupa (burial) sites. Mantell's diary records "17th January 1852 Saturday 7.30 am began cutting the (boundary) line. It runs through excellent land and near its termination crosses a fine craggy (rock) eminence grown over with gnarled old trees."

In his honour his native companion George Wera named the rockery outcrop "Matara Crags" or "Mantell's Rocks".

In 1853 after Mantell's negotiations, the land was purchased for £2,600.

Continue your journey on to Cosy Nook and pause for a while to watch the ocean waves swell along the rocky shore of Garden Bay.

HERITAGE TRAILS **Cosy Nook** 12

There's a lot more to Cosy Nook than just its endearing name! Pahi (Pahia) as it was originally named by Maori settlers after Ngai Tahu Chief Pahi, has long been an important cultural and historical Maori settlement site. During the 1820's Pahi boasted one of the oldest and largest villages in coastal Murihiku - consisting of 40-50 whare (houses).

When English sealer John Boulton arrived at Pahi in 1826 he found Jack Price (a sealer) living as a Pakeha Maori with his Maori wife Hinewhitia. Pahi's village had by then become a bustling centre of exchange and contact between Maori and European traders. Sealers and flax merchants traded flax and potatoes for iron goods, muskets, powder and shot.

During earlier tribal hostilities between Ngati Mamoe and Ngai Tahu in the 1700s, the fortified pa on Matariki Island, which lies just offshore, was a place of refuge in times of threatened warfare. The 1997 Ngai Tahu Deed of Settlement returned Matariki Island and the small rocky islet to the Ngai Tahu Tribe.

Captain George Thomson, Harbourmaster of Bluff and brother to J T Thomson, the surveyor, was the first settler and named the property Cozy Neuk, after his homeland Scottish village.

HERITAGE TRAILS **Monkey Island** 13



Before the road from Riverton was formed, a slipway was built at the island so that boats (being the only means of delivering supplies) could be unloaded.

On the shore nearby in the late 1860s the township consisted of numerous homes, three stores, a hotel and a butcher's shop.

Today, Monkey Island is a pleasant camping and picnic spot surrounded by lush farmland.

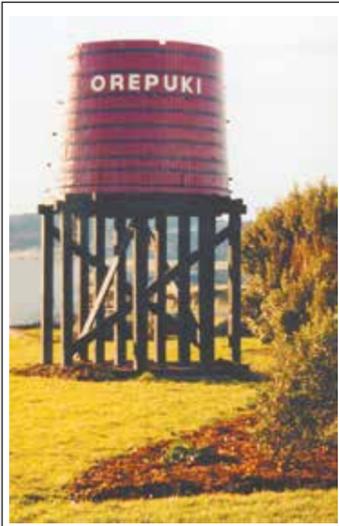
A "Monkey Winch" was used to haul boats ashore and it is presumed

that this is the reason it is called Monkey Island. The island is accessible at low tide.

Monkey Island is renowned for its magnificent sunsets. Nearby is an outstanding original homestead called 'The Turrets'. Watch for the "Visitors Welcome" sign.

HERITAGE TRAILS **Orepuki** 14

Orepuki (Crumbling Cliffs) had its beginnings adjacent to the beach at Monkey Island in 1866.



In 30 years the original settlement was moved twice to suit the phases of goldmining, coal mining, sawmilling and shale works. The rail link from Riverton was completed in 1885 to where the present township is situated. Explore the streets of this historic town.

**Women West of the Longwoods**

The cairn was erected to honour and commemorate "Women West of the Longwoods" in 1997. The cairn, built of stone sourced from the surrounding areas,

has an attractive rugged appearance, denoting the character and tenacity of the residents.

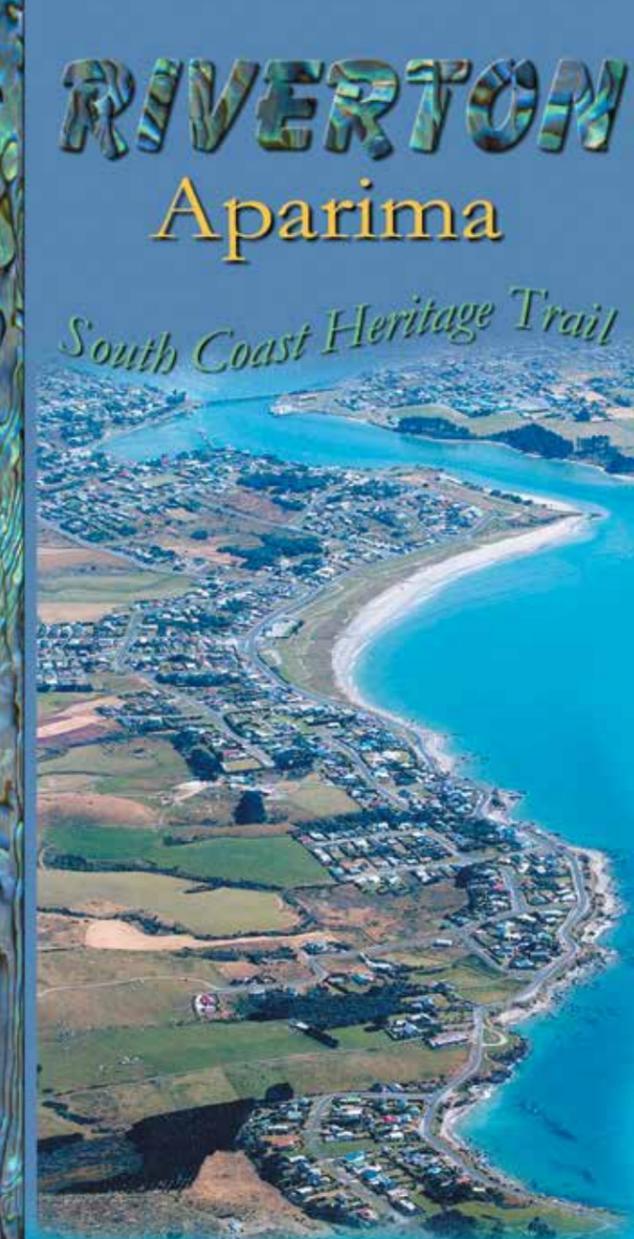
The memorial aims to recall the dauntless fortitude of women who were the pathfinders for what we enjoy today. We invite you all to view this creation and let your hearts be stirred in remembrance.

Orepuki is less than 200km from one of the Earth's major plate boundaries. A careful look at the cliffs will reveal some chunks of fossil wood that would have been left as driftwood. These sediments are about 11.5 million years old.

HERITAGE TRAILS **Gemstone Beach** 15

Half a kilometre from Orepuki lies the Gemstone Beach - beautiful, wild and fascinating. A few hours beachcombing could easily yield gems such as hydrogrossular, jasper, fossil worm casts and the elusive sapphire.

HERITAGE TRAILS **Heritage Trail**



**RIVERTON**  
**Aparima**  
*South Coast Heritage Trail*

the Real  
Discover New Zealand

Let your footsteps trace the journey of our forefathers.

# Welcome to our Heritage



The Riverton-Aparima South Coast Heritage Trail will open up a world of history, discovery and natural beauty, as it takes you on a journey around the southern coastal areas of Southland.

Before Europeans set foot on New Zealand soil, Maori had recognised the wealth of resources nestled along the sheltered shores of the river estuary. The coast and forest provided a banquet for the Maori communities who occupied this area. Subtle hints of their early settlement and cultural influences remain today, adding colour and richness to the woven history of the area you are about to explore.

Today, the seaside town of Riverton gives little clue to its vibrant past. Now a mecca for artists and craftspeople, the town started out in the late 1830's and was one of New Zealand's first established European settlements. By the late 1850's, the frontier town of Jacobs River, (as it was originally known),

had become an important base for new settler arrivals and was the centre for the development of extensive pastoral runs and agricultural holdings in the surrounding area. As the land was cleared, thriving new industries sprang up including flaxmilling, sawmilling, goldmining and boat building, which along with farming and fishing have all contributed to the area's employment and wealth.

The Riverton-Aparima South Coast Heritage Trail takes you some 80kms around the South Coast, from Waimatuku to Orepuke deviating in places from the spectacular Southern Scenic Route. The trail can be travelled from either direction. It's a cultural, historical and at times breathtaking journey that's made even more memorable if you stop a while in the townships, meet the people who call this place home, comb the beaches, even stay overnight and enjoy some world famous Southland hospitality!



**DISTANCE BETWEEN SITES**

Waimatuku - Thornbury	8km
Thornbury - Templeton's	9km
Templeton's - Te Hikoi Heritage Centre	6.3km
Heritage Centre - Howells Monument	1.3km
Howells Monument - Howells Point	4.3km
Howells Point - Mores Reserve	3.5km
Mores Reserve - Tihaka Lookout	7.5km
Tihaka Lookout - Colac Bay Cairn	6.5km
Colac Bay Cairn - Round Hill	7km
Mantell's Rock - Cosy Nook	11.6km
Cosy Nook - Monkey Island	7.7km
Monkey Island - Orepuke Cairn	3km
Cairn - Gemstone Beach	1km

The trail traverses some 80kms of spectacular coastal and resplendent rural scenery. Visitors unfamiliar with the area are urged to exercise caution and courtesy as approx 15 kms of the trail are located on gravel roads.

A tribute to an English birthplace, the farming town of Thornbury lies on the east bank of the Aparima River. Settled in 1856 by Mathew Instone and Robert Foster, the town soon became a hive of economic activity. With the opening of the railway in 1879 the village boasted hotels, a saddlery shop, blacksmith, a dairy factory, bank, store, refreshment rooms, churches, a hall and school.



To experience a real taste of yesteryear, visit the Thornbury Vintage Tractor and Implement Club Museum. Many rare tractors and machinery have been restored to their former glory. Local farming memorabilia and the district's first fire engine - the Bedford "Green Goddess" - are also displayed. The museum opens on public holidays, Sunday afternoons during the tourist season or by arrangement. Contact 03 234 8201 or 03 225 8670.

Situated at Otaitai Bush, the Templeton Flaxmill was established in 1911 by William Templeton, successfully operating under three generations of the Templeton family.



The steam driven mill provided employment for up to 25 men and became an essential industry during both World Wars. The 'golden years of milling' were experienced prior to the end of the war in 1945 and the mill continued to produce baling twine and rope, woolpacks, flax matting and slips until its eventual demise and closure in 1972.



Templeton's Flaxmill has been restored to working order and can be visited by phoning (03) 234 8463 or 021 377 997.



Southland boasts several spectacular heritage buildings and one of Riverton's gems would most likely be the restored Victorian Courthouse,

which is now part of the Te Hikoi - Heritage Centre. It's a place brimming with artefacts, relics, photos and memorabilia teeming with tales of the area's colourful past.

The way that the Te Hikoi Heritage Centre has brought the history of the South Coast alive has to be experienced to appreciate the history of one of New Zealand's earliest settlements.

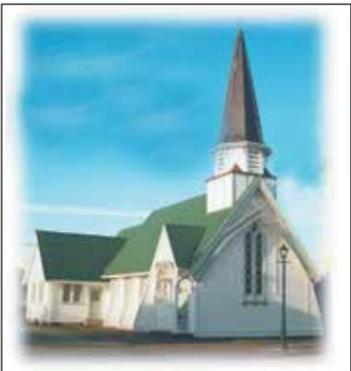


It captures the story of the coming together of Maori and Pakeha without any major clashes. Your journey begins with a film capturing several historical episodes that shaped the place and it's inhabitants. The displays are spectacular including early Maori, whaling, saw milling, Chinese miners

and much more, certainly a must see on the South Coast.

Also included in the building is a modern information centre, a research area and Western Star Newspaper.

Phone 03 234 8260 ext 1  
www.tehikoi.co.nz  
email te.hikoi@xtra.co.nz



The first Anglican Bishop of New Zealand, George Selwyn, threw pomp and ceremony to the wind when he visited Riverton in 1844, walking barefoot through the town, his boots tied awkwardly around his neck.

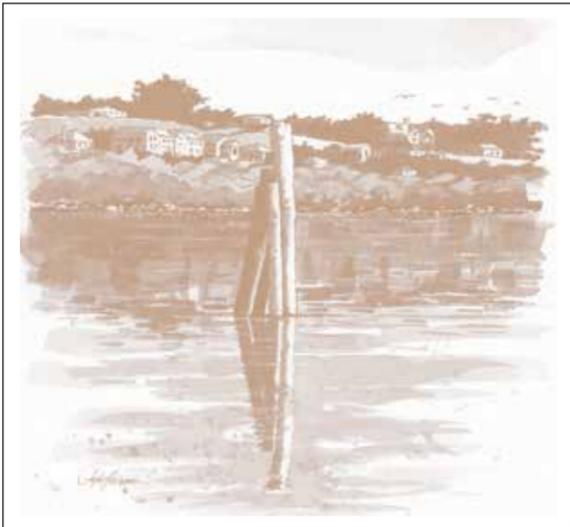


The rare broached spire of the Anglican Church today looks over a far different

community to that which attended services in the original Church (that was built a little further up the street in 1862). Inside, the beautiful rimu ceilings still echo to the song of Sunday parishioners, and the beautiful diamond shaped stained glass windows still reflect the craftsmanship and pride of the era. Key is available at Te Hikoi Heritage Centre, opposite the church.

Riverton is affectionately known as 'Southlands Riviera' and wandering down the main street you can imagine and almost feel the excitement, the bustle and romance of the town's heyday of the mid 1800's. Whaling schooners and sailing ships arrived with immigrants, livestock and stores, trading ships headed across the Tasman, the whalers, sealers and sailors frequented the port and the many other 'establishments'.

A ship was moored to the 'dolphin' and compass bearings were taken on a point such as a tree or rock. The ship was moved around and readings were noted down. Eight bearings were taken at regular intervals and totalled, with the average producing the correct magnetic bearing.



"If the bearing is best - The error is West  
If the bearing is least - The error is East"

Howell's Memorial on Towack Street lies beside the mouth of the Aparima River, overlooking the site of the earliest European activity in this area. It was on this stretch of beach that English-born



whaler John Howell (c1809-1874) and his whaling gang landed in 1835 to set up a shore whaling station. Howell and his men were welcomed by the local Iwi mutually sharing their knowledge, skills and work opportunities. In time intermarriage took place and today many families can proudly trace their Whakapapa and genealogy back to those earliest tribes and whaler settlers.

Dr Edward Shortland, Protector of Aborigines to the New Zealand Government records -

"The most westerly of the whaling stations, in 1843 and the last which we visited was Aparima (Jacob's River). This is a small bar harbour capable only of admitting vessels of some 20 to 30 tons. The huts of the residents were built on the southern slope of some well wooded hills, and being white washed, and having near them green enclosures of corn and potatoes, presented, while shone on by the morning sun, the most smiling and refreshing aspect imaginable. In my mind I at once pronounced it to be one of the loveliest spots in New Zealand".

The Memorial looks across to the site of the Aparima Native Kaika (village) and Urupa (cemetery) the resting place of Kati Mamoe and Ngai Tahu tupuna (ancestors) which is now protected by New Zealand law.

Following the sweep of Taramea Bay, a spectacular drive will reveal beautiful secluded bays and coastal views over the rugged and wild Foveaux Strait.

You feel on top of the world when you visit Mores Reserve. The view which encompasses the coast and Riverton - Aparima is complemented by the beautiful, gentle bush walks that take you quietly into a natural world of sweet smelling native bush and birdsong.