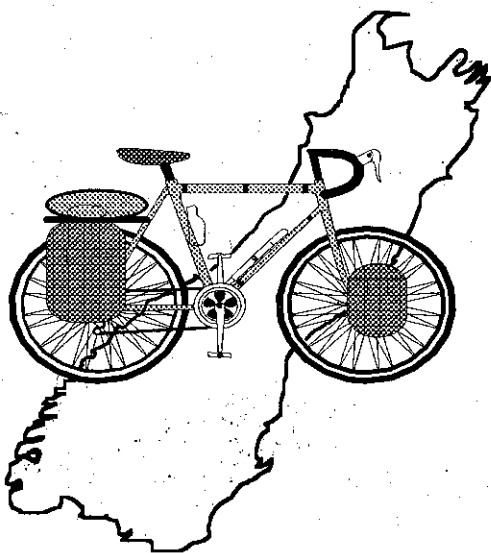


A NEW ZEALAND
CYCLE TOURING GUIDE

PEDALLERS' PARADISE

SOUTH ISLAND



By

Nigel Rushton



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I would like to say a special thank you to all the people who have helped
one way or another, voluntary and involuntarily!

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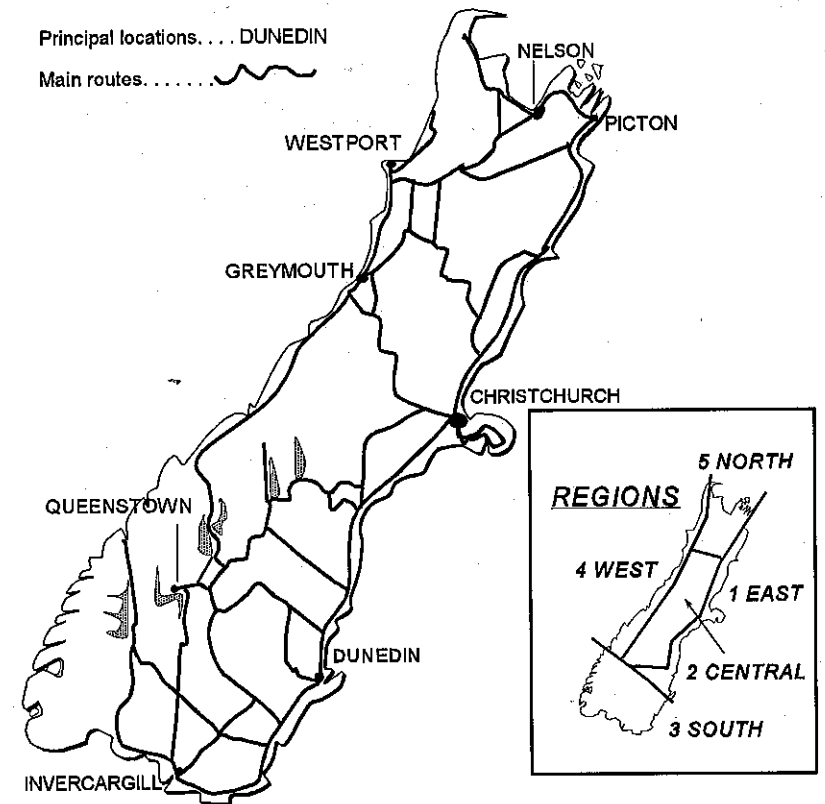
Dedicated to "Silver" my trusty rusty 10 speed steed,
without whom this wouldn't have happened.

While every effort has been made to provide accurate information, the author and publisher
accept no responsibility for the safety and/or enjoyment of any person using the guide.

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INTRODUCTION



ABOUT THIS GUIDE The purpose of this book is to provide a concise, practical, and (hopefully) easy to follow guide for cycle tourists of New Zealand's South Island. The intention is to inform while still leaving something for the user to discover.

CHAPTERS There are five chapters representing the following regions:

1. **East** of the island. Picton - Christchurch - Dunedin - Cromwell. Also Bank's Peninsula.
2. **Central** Christchurch - Lewis Pass - Greymouth - Arthur's Pass - Christchurch. Christchurch - MacKenzie Country - Queenstown. Also Mt Cook & Waitaki Valley.
3. **South** of a line between Dunedin & Queenstown, including Te Anau - Milford Sound.
4. **West** Coast. Queenstown - Wanaka - Haast - The Glaciers - Greymouth - Westport - Karamea.
5. **North** of the island. Westport - Buller Gorge - Nelson - Picton and Nelson - Golden Bay.

MAPS: Are on the first page of each chapter showing the area covered. It includes routes, highways and some localities. Rivers and coastlines have been omitted due to lack of space and author's computing ability to make them look like highways... but I'm getting better!!

SECTIONS: Each chapter is divided into sections and contain the following:

DISTANCES: Are calculated using convenient points such as city centres or highway junctions.

ROUTE: The routes described are usually main highways, presumes them to be sealed and says so when they're not. When an ALTERNATIVE, SIDE TRIP or LINK ROAD to/from the main route is available, there is a brief mention here with a more detailed account later. Major OPTIONS have their own sub-section. Influencing where a reader stops for the night is not intended. In most cases routes are in their logical chapters. The obvious exception would be Dunedin - Ranfurly - Cromwell in Chapter One (East). This has been done to try to help with the "flow" from one area of interest to another, rather than use the shortest distance between two points. Does it achieve the desired effect, or is it too confusing?

PROFILE: This is the side view of the route and is intended as a rough guide to the terrain. Distances in kilometres, elevation in metres. Only a selection of localities are shown and are in chronological order. The steepness is exaggerated due to the distances covered, don't be put off!

SERVICES: Indicate what to expect in a location in terms of information, food, accommodation, cycle shop and sometimes transport. Most providers are open 7 days. The following brief definitions are for those new to New Zealand:

FOOD: 1. DAIRY: Is the smallest of food outlets. Usually found in suburbs or small locations. Similar to a corner shop or delicatessen. Sometimes sells takeaways. This is the place to try the famous New Zealand ice cream. Yum!

2. STORE: Comes between a dairy and a supermarket. Often linked to a grocery chain like Four Square or Pricerutter. Sometimes closed Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

3. SUPERMARKETS: Like others worldwide, even their names may be the same. Usually the cheapest place to buy food but only found in larger population centres.

4. TAKEAWAYS: Sell food to be taken away. Do not sit inside and eat without permission!

5. TEAROOMS: or coffee shops/cafés. An inexpensive place to sit for lunch. Pots of tea are often good value. Ice cream and takeaways are usually available.

6. RESTAURANT: Same as anywhere in the world, the most expensive of all food outlets.

7. PUB: Public house or tavern; licensed premises where alcoholic beverages are purchased, sometimes combined with a restaurant and/or accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION: 1. CAMPING: there are three categories as follows:

1a. DoC CAMPING: Run by Department of Conservation. Often located in scenic reserves. Those adjacent to highways also make good rest stops. Basic facilities usually prevail such as long drop toilets, picnic tables and water. Most are "self registration" where users deposit fees in an honesty box.

1b. DOMAIN CAMPING: Local council operated and located on public land (Domain). Those with basic facilities have a small charge or donation. Some are not advertised and only found by asking locals. Those similar to regular motor camps are listed as such.

1c. MOTOR CAMPS: These are usually the most expensive camping. Facilities vary but communal kitchens and bathrooms are standard. Guests use their own bedding and cooking utensils but sometimes these can be hired. Many have cabins; small simple huts containing beds. Said to be the best places to meet Kiwis. Sometimes a minimum two person charge applies, even for solo cyclists. Obviously such situations need to be challenged.

2. HOSTELS: Provide inexpensive communal accommodation. Dormitories, common-rooms, bathrooms and equipped kitchens are standard. They're useful for up-to-date information. Some hostels allow camping. There are two basic types of hostel:

2a. BACKPACKER, (or Bkpr) usually owner operated, standards tend vary.

2b. YHA, run by Youth Hostels Association, membership card required. Standards fairly uniform but usually more expensive than backpacker hostels.

Note: All known camping grounds & hostels are listed.

3. MOTEL: Are self contained units, sometimes includes a kitchen.

4. HOTEL: Is often a pub with accommodation attached, sometimes a modern motor lodge.

5. B & B: A guest house, farmstay or homestay. Usually small intimate places providing bed & breakfast, sometimes with 5 beds or less. Not normally listed in this guide. Local lists are available at visitor information. Note: No's 3, 4 & 5 are the most expensive accommodation available.

6. LODGE: This is a difficult one. This term is used by every level of accommodation. Often a wide selection is available in the same complex.

7. WOOF: Willing Workers On Organic Farms. A work exchange scheme usually more suited to cyclists on extended tours and those interested in growing food the healthy way.

BICYCLE SHOP: A brief mention is found in the main text with a list at the back. All known ones are listed except in the big cities, where a selection is made. If possible check addresses for current listings before making contact, some may have changed. In places with no bicycle shops the mechanic at the local auto repair centre (garage) may be able to help.

TRANSPORT: Information on this is limited. "Bus" refers to the regular 40 seater type, these are generally more reliable, comfortable and expensive than shuttles. "Shuttles" are often small, fast, cheap and independently operated. Most take bikes, usually for a fixed fee regardless of distance. Subject to available space bikes sometimes go separately from their owners.

GRADIENTS: These attempt to describe the terrain to expect. Flat, undulating, rolling and steep are the basic variants. "Quite" or "fairly steep" are less steep than "steep" and "very steep". "Mostly flat" means at most, a few minor rises and falls. "Undulates or rolls uphill" suggests the climb can vary with some short descents. "Variable steep" means expect the gradient to vary. Confused? So am I. It must be time for a cup of tea.

Gradients are probably the hardest part of the guide to get right. Wind, fitness and load are important factors when assessing the degree of difficulty. I have presumed the reader is reasonably fit. When battling a headwind it is common to think you're going uphill only to find it's an optical and cyclogical delusion! Not all hills are listed, sorry.

ATTRACTIONS: Include popular or unusual sights or activities an area has to offer, like swim with dolphins, tramping, sea kayaking and sheep-spotting. Boring activities such as golf, tennis etc are usually omitted. Although it is not always mentioned fishing is possible almost anywhere there is water, a valid licence is required.

OPTIONS: Are an ALTERNATIVE route, SIDE TRIP up a no exit or LINK ROAD to another major highway that may be worth considering, subject to preference and available time. Major options have their own sub-section, minor ones are listed under Options.

STREET MAPS & DIRECTIONS: Are only in Christchurch, Dunedin & Nelson Sections. They provide information for getting into and out of the cities and replace Route & Distances. The easiest routes are described and take no account of how busy they are. Cycling on motorways is prohibited. The Christchurch section has an arterial route map. Dunedin has a profile due to the city's hilly nature.

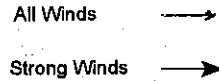
MISCELLANEOUS: WEATHER: This is the third most important thing in the entire universe, after Pedallers' Paradise and a bike. Obviously it can only be described in general terms, like weather everywhere it is largely unpredictable and renders the next paragraphs useless.

Anyway, temperate climate predominates. The West Coast has the most rainfall, with some areas recording up to 8 metres. Central high country tends to be the driest but are sometimes plagued by strong north westerly winds that can blow intermittently for weeks. The East Coast comes somewhere in between, although not suffering extremes of other areas, it has no protection from cold southerlies. Spring and autumn are generally said to be the best times to tour in terms of lower temperatures, smaller

crowds and variety of hues. Unfortunately these seasons are susceptible to long periods of unsettled and windy weather, especially after the equinox. February and March are reputedly the best months for calm spells. In other words "Good luck"!

WINDFLOW CHARACTERISTICS

Prominent Wind Direction



Winter cycle touring is possible for the well equipped. Apart from Milford & Cardrona Roads, it is rare, even for highways in alpine regions to be closed for more than a couple of days due to snow. Occasionally winter temperatures reach -20°C.

BOOKS & MAPS: This guide can be used independently but an additional map is recommended. The NZ Tourism Board produce a general give-away map of New Zealand with some useful addresses. They might be available from visitor information centres, although may not be give-away much longer. The Automobile Association have excellent District Maps that are free to members. Otherwise several companies produce a variety of maps.

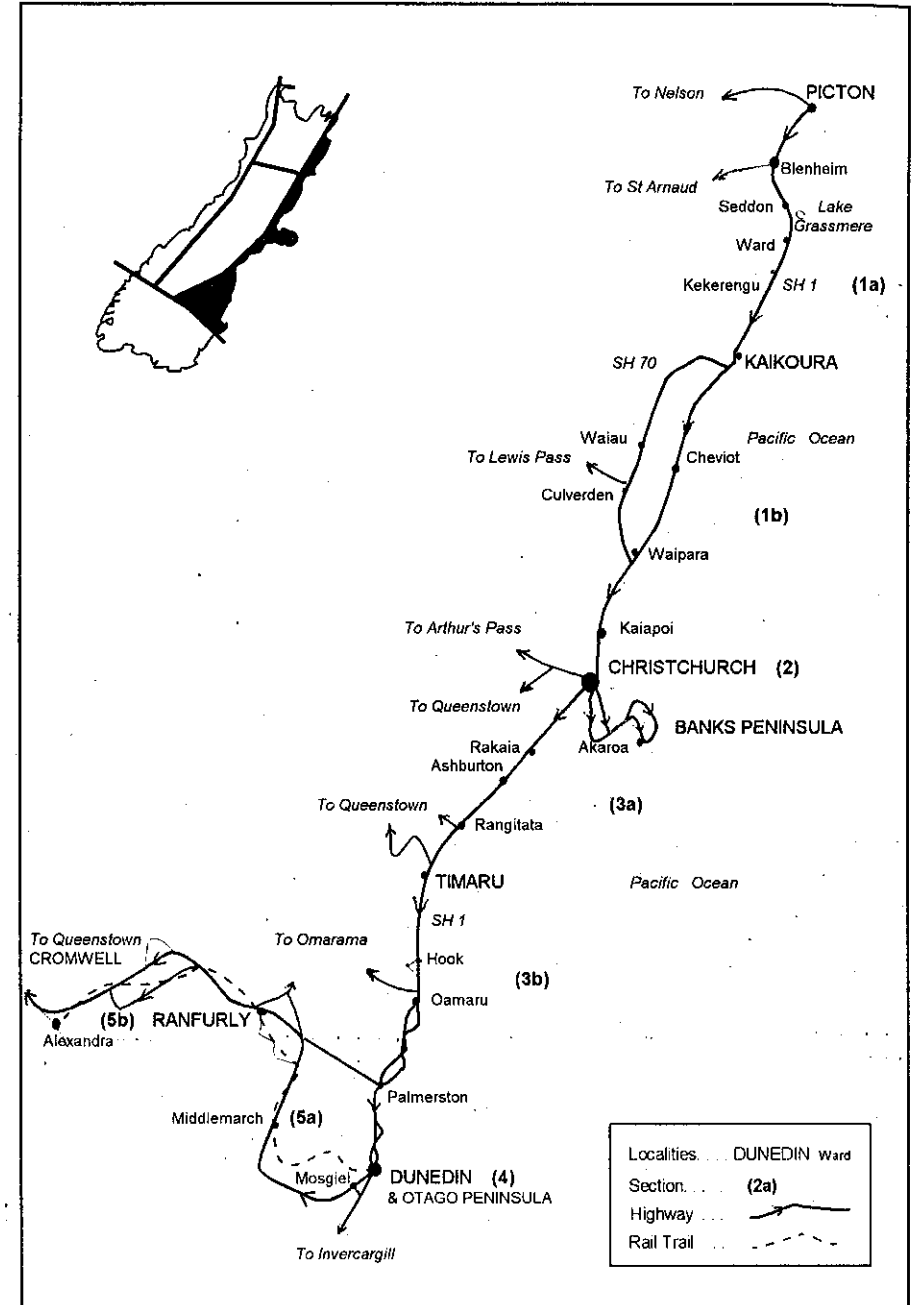
Those people with lots of cash or needing extra ballast have a choice of several general guide books. The popular ones are Lonely Planet's "NZ Travel Survival Kit" and Moon Publication's "NZ Handbook". Other cycle guides include; "NZ by Bike" a combined North and South Island general touring guide by Bruce Ringer and "Classic NZ Mountain Bike Rides" by Kennet Brothers, specialising in off-road trips.

GENERAL: The South Island is generally less hilly than the North Island. It is recommended novices or unfit cyclists should begin their journey on the South Island and start with short daily distances. New Zealand is a relatively small country but there's a lot to see. The routes described try to follow the prevailing wind but this is not a tailwind only guarantee! Try to allow at least six months for a good loop round. The less touristified places can be very rewarding places to visit.

The telephone area code for the entire South Island is 03. Suggestions from users for cost effective improvements will be appreciated. Things change; we'd be interested to know if they do, also any deliberate mistakes that you find. All routes described in the guide have been travelled by the author; although not all by bicycle. Yet. The author has tried to be humorous, so if something seems odd, that is probably it! Cyclists heading in the opposite direction to the guide will need to read back-to-front, or possibly ride backwards. A Pedallers' Paradise for the North Island is also available. Cycling is not permitted in national parks and on most motorways. Due to the flawed decision-making process, cycle helmets are compulsory. Happy pedalling!

SPECIAL NOTE: The finger prints on the back cover are your proof this work of art and reference is the genuine article - Hand made by Dab Hand! They have nothing to do with the wonderful, hard working salesperson's grubby fingers! It is recommended you complain if there are no fingerprints.

CHAPTER ONE: EAST.



This chapter covers the east coast of the South Island all the way from Picton through Christchurch (Chch) to Dunedin. It also includes Banks Peninsula and from Dunedin to Queenstown. If arriving by ferry from the North Island then Picton is the gateway to the South Island, or Mainland as it is sometimes known. On the way pass through the beautiful Picton Sounds, a myriad of bays and inlets that borders Marlborough Sounds Maritime Park. A perfect hors-d'œuvres for the journey ahead.

Picton Sounds, Kaikoura Coast, Bank's and Otago Peninsulas are the main scenic gems. This is the only one of the five regions that doesn't have a national park and overall is probably the most lacking in visual terms. The landscape is the most modified with only a few pockets of native flora remaining. See countless sheep farms interspersed by the occasional orchard and pine plantation. Pass small settlements and large towns with much pastoral and coastal scenery along the way. Spring brings vigorous green growth but the countryside usually browns off in late summer.

More than half of the South Island's population (human not sheep) of 1 million live along or near to the eastern seaboard. The South Island's two biggest cities of Chch & Dunedin are here, offering the most options of a civilised nature. Here are the highest traffic flows for the cyclist to contend with but by Northern Hemisphere standards this is still puny. In spite of the presence of so many people, wildlife enjoy the environment with colonies of whales, dolphins, seals, penguins, albatross, possum & sheep.

1. PICTON - KAIKOURA - CHRISTCHURCH.

DISTANCES:	SH 1
1a) PICTON - KAIKOURA	158 km
1b) KAIKOURA - CHRISTCHURCH	187 km
Total	345 km

ROUTE: PICTON - CHRISTCHURCH on SH 1.

ALTERNATIVE 1a) PICTON - BLENHEIM. The busier, easier SH 1 or the quiet, scenic & mostly gravel Port Underwood Road. Both options meet near Spring Creek.

1b) KAIKOURA - WAIKOURA. The busier, easier SH 1 via Cheviot or the quiet scenic but difficult, partly gravel SH 70 through Waiau. See Chapter Two, Section 1a Options.

SIDE TRIP 1a) LAKE GRASSMERE - MARFELLS BEACH.

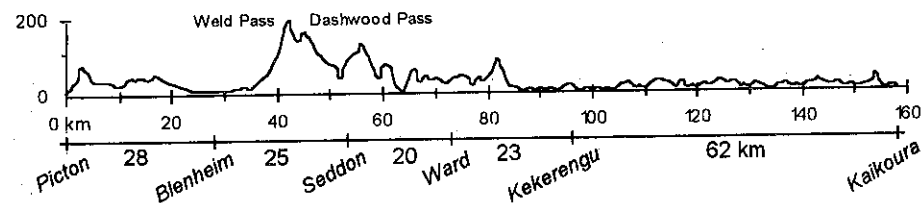
1b) I CHEVIOT - GORE BAY - PORT ROBINSON. II GRETA VALLEY - MOTANAU BEACH.

LINK ROAD 1a) I BLENHEIM - ST ARNAUD on SH 63. See Chapter Five (North) Section 1b Options.

II DASHWOOD (SH 1) - MOLESWORTH STATION - HANMER SPRINGS (SH 7).

1b) WOODEND (SH 1) - RANGIORA - OXFORD (SH 72) - SHEFFIELD (SH 73).

1a. PICTON - BLENHEIM - KAIKOURA.



SERVICES: PICTON: Altitude 30m ASL, population 4,000. *i:* The Foreshore ☐ 573 7477.

Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Motor camp 5; hostel (bkpr 5, YHA 1); motel 10; hotel 4. Bicycle shop: See Appendix.

Transport: Ferry to/from Wellington. Train to/from (Chch). Bus & shuttles to/from Nelson & Chch.

KOROMIKO: Store, motel. **SPRING CREEK:** Store, motor camp, hotel. **GROVETOWN:** Hotel.

BLENHEIM: Alt 10m, pop 19,000. *i:* Queen St ☐ 578 9904. **Food:** All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp 3; bkpr hostel 2; motel 9; hotel 5. Bicycle shops.

SEDDON: Alt 95 m, pop 550. Store, tearooms, takeaways, pub. Motor camp.

WARD: Alt 35m, pop 200. Dairy/tearooms, pub. Motel (possible camping also).

WAIMA RIVER: Cyclists' hostel (also camping & small shop), 1½ km up Ure Valley Road.

KEKERENGU: Tearooms. **CLARENCE RIVER:** picnic area.

WAIKOURA BAY: DoC Motor Camp (no cabins or kitchen). **HAPUKU RIVER:** picnic area.

KAIKOURA: Alt 15m, pop 2,600. *i:* The Esplanade ☐ 319 5641. **Food:** All types of outlets except supermarket. **Accom:** Motor camp 3; hostel (bkpr 3, YHA 1); motel 12; hotel 3.

Transport: Train to/from Chch & Picton. Bus & shuttles to/from Chch & Picton.

GRADIENTS: Apart from a moderate climb out of Picton, SH 1 has mostly easy gradients through to Blenheim and continues flat for another 8 km beyond. Then a long gradual 6½ km climb starts becoming steeper and winding for the last 2½ km to Weld Pass (196m). Then follows a gradual descent and short ascent to Dashwood Pass (163m), ending with a long 3½ km quite steep drop. SH 1 then levels out to undulate with a short dip and rise to cross Awatere River before arriving at Seddon. Departing Seddon the 11 km to Lake Grassmere are rolling with two larger hills to cross, from where the terrain becomes easier for the last part to Ward. Rolling country after Ward(!) ending with a 1 km climb and a 2 km gradual descent to join the coast at Waima (Ure) River. The road then undulates along a narrow shelf, Pacific Ocean to the left, cliffs to the right, with no more difficult hills before Kaikoura. Only the last 11 of the 74 km from Waima River leave the coast to roll across the plains around Kaikoura. Apart from a hour before and after the ferry sails, SH 1 traffic flows are usually light.

ATTRACTIONS: See Picton and the beautiful Sounds. Sunny Blenheim and Wairau Plains have an ideal climate for producing some of the world's best wines. En route pass the historic Cobb Cottage near Blenheim and NZ's only solar powered salt works at Lake Grassmere, whose white mounds and sometimes pinkish water are visible from the highway. It is here that plans are being made to build a new ferry terminal to replace Picton.

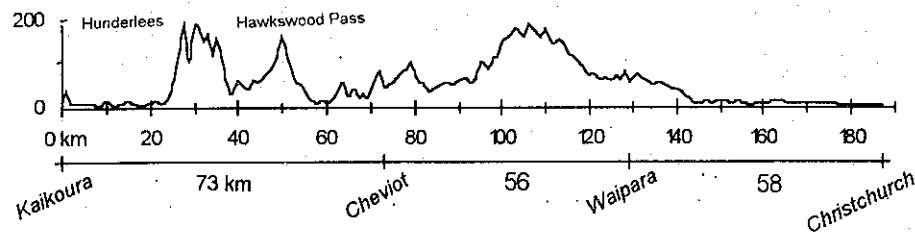
One of the outstanding scenic attraction of the region is the Kaikoura Coastline with the high peaks of the Kaikoura Mountains a magnificent backdrop. In Maori Kaikoura means "eat crayfish" and an abundance of marine life just off shore in the deep Kaikoura Trench provides a variety of seafood to sample. Whales are not on the menu yet but watching them is, as is swimming with dolphins. Added attractions include tramping, horse trekking & sniffing the local seal colony.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE PICTON - BLENHEIM via PORT UNDERWOOD along a scenic but rough, narrow, gravel, winding, in short, difficult road! Beware of logging trucks. DoC camping at WHITE'S BEACH and WHATAMONGA BAY both have toilets and water, otherwise no services. Rejoin SH 1 at Spring Creek just north of Blenheim.

SIDE TRIP LAKE GRASSMERE - MARFELLS BEACH: DoC camping (toilet, table, water, fireplace). Off SH 1 for 8 km east along the south side of Lake Grassmere on an easy, partly gravel road.

LINK ROAD DASHWOOD - MOLESWORTH STATION - HANMER SPRINGS via Acheron Homestead. Starts 5 km north of Seddon on SH 1 and heads inland for 164 km along a mostly gravel and sometimes rough toll road. Managed by DoC and open for about two months in summer. No services except DoC campsites & accommodation house. Obtain up-to-date information before leaving.

1b. KAIKOURA - WAIPARA - CHRISTCHURCH.



SERVICES: KAIKOURA: See previous section. **PEKETA BAY:** Motor Camp (small shop). **GOOSE BAY:** DoC Motor camp has small shop, across railway track adjacent SH 1. They also manage other DoC camping/picnic areas nearby. **OARO:** Alt 10m. Tearooms/Motel, cabins. **OKARAHIA STREAM:** picnic area (table). **CONWAY RIVER:** picnic area. **HAWKSWOOD:** Alt 160m, farm hostel/camp. **PARNASSUS:** Alt 35m, store (over railway). **WAIU RIVER:** picnic area. **ST ANNE'S LAGOON:** picnic area. **CHEVIOT:** Alt 46m, pop 1,000. Food: All outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motel (also tent sites & cabin); hotel (also tent sites). **DOMETT:** Small shop in petrol station. **HURUNUI RIVER:** picnic area. **GRETA VALLEY:** Alt 180m. Store, pub/restaurant/caravan park. **WAIPARA:** Alt 60m, pop 270. Tearooms, hotel/restaurant, store, bkpr hostel. **AMBERLEY:** Alt 30m, pop 900. Store, tearooms, takeaways, dairy, pub. Motel/caravan park. Beach motor camp 5 km E of SH 1. **LEITHFIELD:** Beach motor camp with small shop, 2 km E of SH 1. **WAIKUKU:** Beach motor camp with small shop, 3 km E of SH 1. **WOODEND:** Alt 10m, pop 1,000. Food: Tearooms, takeaways, dairy, restaurant, pub. Accom: Motor camp/shop/restaurant (3 km S at Main North Rd/motorway junction). Motor camp with small shop at beach, (no cabins), 3 km E of SH 1. Motel 2. **KAIAPOI:** Alt 10m, pop 5,500. All types of food outlets. Motor camp (no kitchen); motel. Bicycle shop. **CHRISTCHURCH:** See next section.

GRADIENTS: After climbing the small hill to leave Kaikoura, SH 1 resumes its gentle undulations, rejoining the coast at Peketa Bay for the 14 kms to Oaro. After Oaro the highway heads inland to cross the Hunderlees, three sometimes steep and winding hills in 15 km, the first and last being the steepest, reaching 200m and descending to 100m. After the Conway River is a long gradual ascent to Hawkswood Pass (165m), then a steep drop with switchbacks to Hawkswood Overbridge. Gradients then ease to a gentle descent to Waiau River, followed by moderate rolls into Cheviot. The terrain is of a mostly gentle nature from Cheviot with only a few hills, mainly to cross watersheds of minor rivers, continuing the same until 6 km south of Greta Valley. Undulations to Waipara and after crossing Waipara River SH 1 flattens as it approaches Amberley. The Canterbury Plains begin with a vengeance here, having hardly a bump or bend and only increasingly heavy traffic to excite the passing pedallist! Cyclists are prohibited on the motorway, so 3 km south of Woodend bear left onto Main North Rd to Kaiapoi. See next section for directions into Christchurch.

ATTRACTIONS: The coast south of Kaikoura is as spectacular as its northern counterpart and has several scenic reserves around Goose Bay. A private tramping track begins at Hawkswood and goes down to the coast. St Anne's Lagoon & Cheviot Hills Domain are pleasant spots near Cheviot and a few scenic areas dot the adjacent shoreline, see detours below.

Short side trips are possible to several beach resorts along the coast to the east of SH 1 between Waipara and Christchurch, see Services above. Christchurch is surrounded by the patchwork Canterbury Plains, a flat relief from the stunning scenery of the rest of the South Island.

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP i 8 km along an easy sealed road from Cheviot to the small settlement of GORE BAY: Domain camping (water, toilets, coin showers, no cabins or kitchen). A gravel road, steep in places, links Gore Bay with HURUNUI RIVER MOUTH Domain camping (toilets, water, donation payment). Nearby CATHEDRAL CLIFFS & PORT ROBINSON WALKWAY are the local attractions. Return to SH 1 the same way or directly to Domett along a sealed road from Hurunui River Mouth. 24 km S of Cheviot on a gravel track is NAPE NAPE: DoC camping (toilets, water), a remote coastal scenic reserve. Rejoin SH 1 along Blythe Rd S of Domett. Confused? So am I! Then seek local help. **SIDE TRIP ii** GRETA VALLEY - MOTUNAU BEACH: Domain camping (water, toilets) no cabins, a seaside village 16 km from SH 1, hilly at both ends. A wildlife refuge is off the coast at Motunau Island.

LINK ROAD WOODEND (SH 1) - SHEFFIELD (SH 73) on SH 72. Distance 57 km.

Either direct on SH 72 or along an alternative skirting Mt Thomas. Both routes are sealed with a gradual climb as they head inland. Mostly rural countryside & towns. Leave Woodend passing through: RANGIORA: Alt 30m, pop 6,000. All types of food outlets. Motor camp & 2 motel. Bicycle shop. Then OXFORD: Pop 1,000. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: B&B. Cross the Waimakariri River Bridge before arriving at SHEFFIELD: Alt 300m, Pub. & SH 73. Alternatively from Rangiora go 5 km N to ASHLEY (hotel) then LOBURN (motor camp), followed by MT THOMAS: DoC camping (toilet, water, table) then ASHLEY GORGE (motor camp/shop). This way is 11 km longer than SH 72 but is more interesting with slight side trips to Ashley Gorge & Mt Thomas.

2. CHRISTCHURCH.

DIRECTIONS: These directions follow the main non-motorway routes into and out of the city and in most cases will be busy with other road users.

NORTH: From PICTON: Main North Rd changes at Kaiapoi to Marshlands Rd and then to North Pde. Take this route through to the end, going right (east) at the T junction along North Avon Rd, straight ahead to the T junction and left (south) into Fitzgerald Ave. At the first traffic lights turn right into Bealey Ave going 5 blocks then left into Colombo St. Cathedral Square is straight ahead. The information centre is to the right (east) 1 block along Worcester St.

To PICTON: Head north from Cathedral Square along Colombo St going right (east) onto Bealey Ave, then left (north) onto Fitzgerald Ave. This becomes Hills Rd and then Akaroa Rd, at the round-about go left (north) onto Marshlands Rd. Follow this road eventually arriving at Kaiapoi.

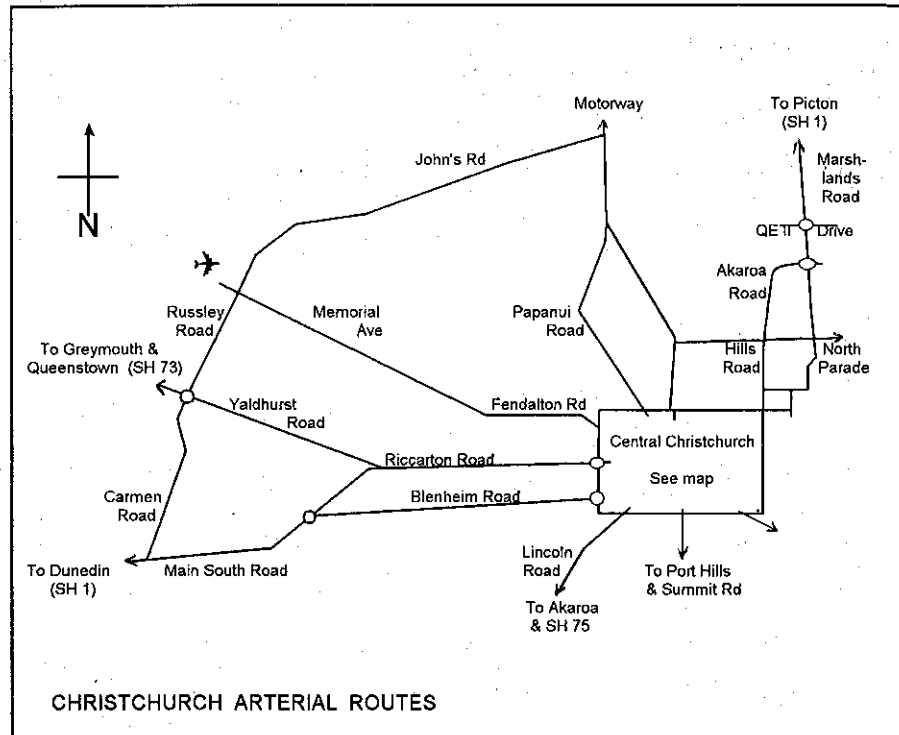
SOUTH From DUNEDIN: At the round-about just after the Sockburn Overbridge, take the third exit onto Blenheim Rd and continue to the round-about at the other end. At take the second exit (right) skirting Hagley Park to the left joining Moorhouse Ave. At first traffic lights go left onto Hagley Ave which flows into Oxford Terrace then Lichfield St. Go left (north) into Colombo St, arriving at Cathedral Square, visitor information is left (west) 1 block along Worcester St.

To DUNEDIN: from Cathedral Square head south along Colombo St going west (right) along St Asaph St and left onto Hagley Ave. Skirt round Hagley Park by going right at the lights onto Moorhouse Ave. At the round-about take the first exit (left) onto Blenheim Rd and continue to the round-about at the other end. Follow Timaru direction signs crossing Sockburn Overbridge and continue along this road.

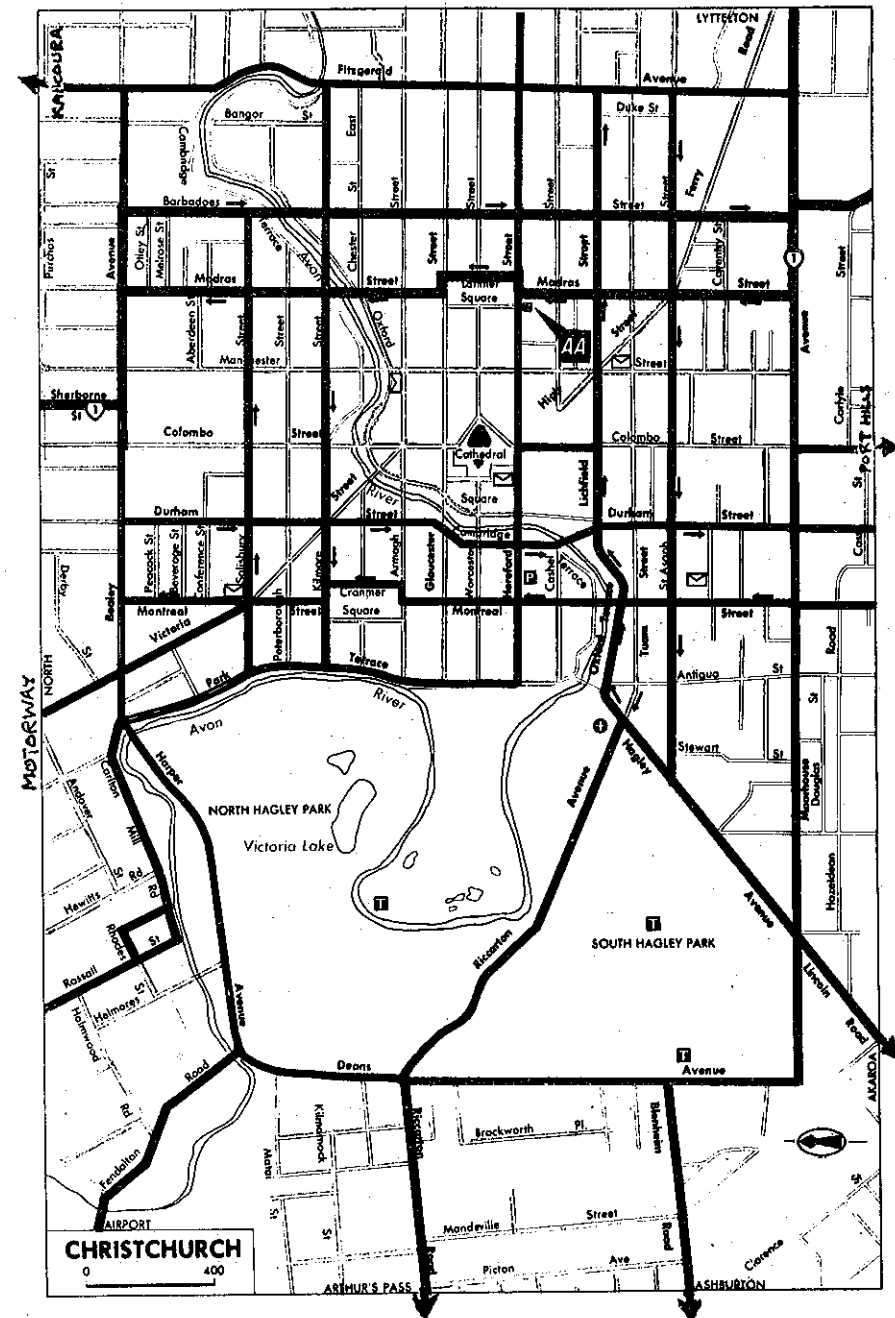
WEST & SOUTH WEST: From GREYMOUTH & QUEENSTOWN: Follow SH 73 through to the end of Yaldhurst Rd. At Church Corner bear left onto *Riccarton Rd, go straight through the busy Riccarton Shopping Centre to the round-about at Hagley Park. Take the second exit (straight) onto Riccarton Ave, bear left at the hospital onto Oxford Terrace joining Lichfield St. Go left (north) into Colombo St arriving at Cathedral Square, visitor information is left (west) 1 block along Worcester St.

*An alternative is to take first exit at the first round-about onto Russley Rd going towards the airport and take third exit (right) at the next round-about onto Memorial Ave. This road becomes Fendalton Rd, follow to the end and go right at the lights onto Deans Ave. At the round-about take first exit (left) join Riccarton Ave going through Hagley Park.

To GREYMOUTH & QUEENSTOWN: From Cathedral Square head south along Colombo St going right along Tuam St and through Hagley Park to the round-about. Go straight along *Riccarton Rd through the busy Riccarton Shopping Centre. Bear right at Church Corner onto Yaldhurst Rd and follow this road out of the city and onto SH 73. This way goes through the busy Riccarton Shopping Centre. An alternative is to go along Fendalton Rd & Memorial Ave until the airport round-about and then go left along Russley Rd. At the next round-about take the third exit (right) onto SH 73. To go south follow the directions to Hororata at Aylesbury Corner or go left at Darfield, further along SH 73.



ATTRACTIONS: Christchurch is the biggest city of the South Island with a population of 330,000. Often said to be the most English of NZ's cities it has plenty of parks & gardens to justify calling itself the "Garden City". They also call it "the city that shines" whatever that means, one doesn't see many locals out polishing the streets! Cathedral Square is the heart of the city and comes complete with a cathedral, genuine Wizard (subject to weather and spells) and ethnic food stalls. There are several other attractions to help pass the time, including a world famous Museum, Art Centre, Botanic Gardens, Hagley Park, Ferrymead Historic Park and Antarctic Centre. There are several ocean beaches nearby. Panoramic views of the city and surrounding area are had by going up to the PORT HILLS. They're reached using any one of several routes, the main two being . . . Dyer's Pass Rd at the south end of Colombo St, passing the fine gothic Sign of the Takahe (restaurant, devonshire teas) & Sign of the Kiwi (refreshments) joining Summit Rd or . . .



Evan's Pass Rd reached by going along Ferry Rd and through Sumner, at the opposite end of Summit Rd. Both routes can be used to go to LYTTTELTON PORT & HARBOUR with the historic Timeball Station. Continue around the harbour to GOVERNOR'S BAY. An extended trip can include: DIAMOND HARBOUR (B&B) and PARAU (motor camp, shop) on south side of harbour. Note: These trips involve some steep hill climbs and descents and can either be separate day trips, combined as one, or part of a journey to Banks Peninsula via Port Levy where the road becomes a steep rough gravel track arriving at Pigeon Bay. See the next section for Banks Peninsula.

SERVICES: CHRISTCHURCH: Altitude 20m, population: 330,000.

i: 1) Cnr Worcester St & Oxford Tce ☎ 379 9629. 2) Chch Airport. Food: Many of all types of outlets. Accommodation: Motor camp 9; hostel (bkpr 13, YHA 3); motel multitudes; hotel many. Transport: Train to/from Picton, Greymouth & Dunedin. Bus & shuttles to/from just about everywhere. Bicycle shops: See Appendix.

2. SIDE TRIP: CHRISTCHURCH - AKAROA (Banks Peninsula).

DISTANCES:

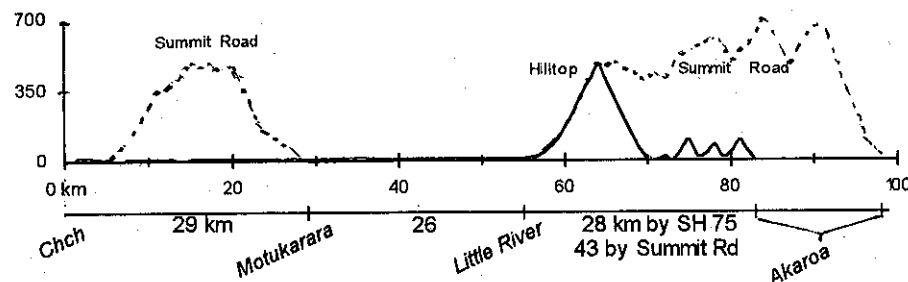
	SH 75	Summit Roads*
CHRISTCHURCH - AKAROA	83 km	98 km

* The middle section of Summit Rds joins SH 75 between Motukarara & Hilltop.

ROUTE: CHRISTCHURCH - AKAROA on SH 75.

ALTERNATIVE CHCH - AKAROA. The busier, easier SH 75 via Taitapu and Duvauchelle or the quieter, scenic, more demanding Summit Roads. Both options meet at Motukarara, separate at Hilltop and meet again at Akaroa.

SIDE TRIP i PIGEON BAY, ii LITTLE AKALOA BAY, iii OKAINS BAY, iv LE BONS BAY.



SERVICES: HALSWELL: Store, pub. **TAITAPU:** Store, pub. **MOTUKARARA:** Tearooms **LITTLE RIVER:** Alt 40m, pop 200. Dairy, takeaways, pub, motor camp (5 km off SH 75). **HILLTOP:** Alt 476m. Pub, tearooms. **BARRY'S BAY:** Cheese factory. **DUVAUCHELLE:** Pop 150. Store, restaurant, pub, domain camping (no cabins); hotel/motel. **AKAROA:** Altitude 10m ASL, population 1,700. i: 80 Rue Lavaud ☎ 304 8600. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; hostel (bkpr 2); motel 4; hotel 3. Transport: Bus & shuttle to/from Chch. Week day mail bus to outer bays.

GRADIENTS: Via SH 75 from the Cathedral head south along Colombo St turning right into St Asaph St and bearing left along Hagley Ave. Cross Moorhouse Ave joining Lincoln Rd and the start of SH 75. This goes all the way to Akaroa. SH 75 skirts round the bottom of the Port Hills being mostly flat until Little River. Climb 8 km, 6 km quite steep & winding to the aptly named Hilltop (476m) and SH 75 & Summit Road junction. Drop 6 km of variable steepness to Barry's Bay and then rolls and undulates to Akaroa with three quite hard hills to cross.

ATTRACTIONS: Not much before Little River except Lake Ellesmere, a large area of water but only a few metres deep; really a lagoon. Summit Rd traverses the crater rim of an extinct volcano. Fine views of the outer bays spreading like a fan on one side and long arms of the inner harbour on the other. The principal settlement of Akaroa sits in the bottom of the ancient caldera. This is NZ's only French colony, established in 1840, now a pleasant village & tourist resort, including Canterbury's oldest house. It retains some of its Gallic essence with French street names. The Banks Peninsula Track is a private walking track, starting and returning to Akaroa. A few scenic reserves contain remnants of a native forest that once covered most of the peninsula. Sea fishing & kayaking are possibilities.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE VIA SUMMIT ROADS. Head south from Cathedral Square being flat all the way along Colombo St to Dyers Pass Rd. Up steep from there passing SIGN of the TAKAHE (restaurant, devonshire teas) to SIGN of the KIWI (refreshments). Then continues up gradually before dropping along Gebbies Pass Rd and going right at the junction. Continue down eventually joining SH 75 at Motukarara and go left. Mostly flat until Little River then climb 8 km, 6 km quite steep & winding to the aptly named Hilltop (476m). Go left onto Summit Rd leaving SH 75. This narrow sealed road bobs and weaves along the lip of the crater. There are opportunities to drop down and explore the many bays of the outer harbour, see Side Trips below. Hilly. There is a final 600m descent in 6½ km into Akaroa, much of it steep. This way is 16 km longer than SH 75.

SIDE TRIP i 6 km down from Summit Rd to PIGEON BAY: Domain camping (toilets, water), hostel, access to Port Levy & Lyttelton along a rough steep track.

SIDE TRIP ii 8 km down from Summit Rd to LITTLE AKALOA BAY.

SIDE TRIP iii 7 km down from Summit Rd to OKAINS BAY: Store, museum, Domain camping (toilets, water, pavilion), bkpr hostel, farmstays. The village is 1 km before beach.

SIDE TRIP iv 10 km down from Summit Rd to LE BONS BAY: Motor camp/shop, bkpr hostel.

3. CHRISTCHURCH - TIMARU - DUNEDIN.

DISTANCES:

	SH 1
3a) CHCH - TIMARU	163 km
3b) TIMARU - DUNEDIN	200 km
Total	363 km

Note: If time allows a more interesting option goes inland through the MacKenzie Country and Waitaki Valley from Chch to Oamaru. See Chapter Two (Central) Section 3.

ROUTE: CHRISTCHURCH - DUNEDIN on SH 1.

ALTERNATIVE 3b) i HOOK - WAIMATE on SH 82.

ii OAMARU - DUNEDIN. The busier SH 1 or quieter, more interesting Kakanui Coast, Trotter's Gorge & Karitane Coast routes. Both options meet several times.

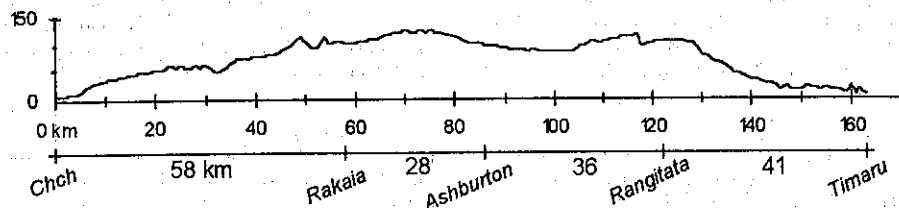
LINK ROAD 3a) i RAKAIA (SH 1) - THOMPSON TRACK - MAYFIELD (SH 72).

ii RANGITATA (SH 1) - GERALDINE on SH 79. iii TIMARU - FAIRLIE on SH 8.

3b) i OAMARU (SH 1) - OMARAMA (SH 8) on SH 83. See Chapter Two (Central) Section 3b Options.

ii PALMERSTON (SH 1) - RANFURLY on SH 85. See Section 5a Options.

3a. CHRISTCHURCH - ASHBURTON - TIMARU.



SERVICES: CHRISTCHURCH: See Section 2 for details. **TEMPLETON:** Dairy, tearooms, pub. **ROLLESTON:** Altitude 55m, pub. **BURNHAM:** Alt 65m, pub, army camp. **SELWYN RIVER:** Restaurant, picnic area. **DUNSANDEL:** Store, tearooms, pub. **RAKAIA:** Alt 105m, pop 800. Store, takeaways, tearooms, pub, motor camp. **DROMORE:** picnic area. **ASHBURTON:** Alt 90m, pop 15,000. *i:* East St \approx 308 1064. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 2; motel 8; hotel. Bicycle Shop. **WINSLOW:** picnic area. **HINDS:** Alt 80m, pop 300. Store, pub. **EALING:** picnic area. **RANGITATA:** Alt 105m. Tearooms/cabins. Motor camp (S of river mouth, no cabins). **ORARI:** Store, Farm motor camp (off SH 1 towards Geraldine). **WINCHESTER:** Alt 40m, pop 270. Food: Store, dairy, takeaways, tearooms, pub. Accom: Domain Motor camp (no cabins, open Labour W/E to May); motel; hotel. **TEMUKA:** Alt: 20m, pop 3,900. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; motel 3; hotel 2. **TIMARU:** Altitude 10m, pop 28,000. *i:* 14 George St \approx 688 6163. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 3; bkpr hostel; motel 16; hotel 8. Bicycle shops. Transport: Train to/from Dunedin & Chch. Bus & shuttles to/from Dunedin, Qtn & Chch.

GRADIENTS: Almost flat for 163 km to Timaru apart from a noticeable drop at Rangitata to cross the river. Elevation rarely climbs above 100m. Can be demoralising in headwinds.

ATTRACTIONS: Cross the narrow shoulderless bridges of the broad braided rivers that drain the flat Canterbury Plains. SH 1 travels near the coast but never touching it until Timaru. Most towns and villages service the surrounding rural communities. Apart from the odd short walkway or minor historic site there is little to interest the passing cyclist unless a fisherman or sheep fetish. A place to escape mass market tourists! Timaru is a bustling port city and has an annual Caroline Bay Carnival during the summer school holidays.

OPTIONS: A number of highways head inland from SH 1 to link up with SH 72 to join the Chch to Queenstown route (see Chapter Two). The main ones being . . .

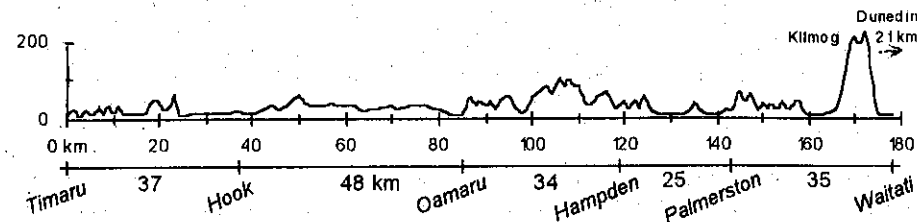
LINK ROAD i RAKAIA - THOMPSON TRACK - MAYFIELD. No services, barely noticeable climb. **LINK ROAD ii RANGITATA - GERALDINE** is the mostly flat SH79/72.

LINK ROAD iii TIMARU - FAIRLIE. 5 km north of Timaru at Washdyke SH 8 heads inland with a gradual, barely noticeable climb most of the way passing small villages and settlements.

PLEASANT POINT: Alt 65m, pop 1,000. All types of food outlets. Motor camp (Labour W/E to Easter). **CAVE:** Alt 155m, pop 100. Store. Maori rock drawings nearby.

ALBURY: Alt 225m, pop 80, pub. **TENGAWAI RIVER:** picnic area (table). Finally arrive at **FAIRLIE** Alt 305m, pop 800. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel 2; hotel 3.

3b. TIMARU - OAMARU - DUNEDIN.



SERVICES: TIMARU: See above for details. **PAREROA:** Dairy. **St ANDREWS:** Alt 50m, pop 250. Store, tearooms, pub. Domain camping. **MAKIKIHI:** Store, hotel. **HOOK:** Tearooms. **STUDHOLME:** Pub (½ km E of SH 1). **GLENNAVY:** Alt 30m, pop 170. Store, pub. Motor camp 3, Hotel. **WAITAKI RIVER:** picnic area (toilets, water, table) on north bank. **OAMARU:** Alt 10m, pop 13,000. *i:* 1 Thames St \approx 434 1656. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; hostel (Bkpr 1, YHA Oct to April); motel 11; hotel. Transport: One train to/from Chch, Dunedin & Invercargill. Several bus & shuttles to/from Chch, Dunedin & Waimate. One to/from Oamaru, Mon to Fri. Bicycle shop. **MAHENO:** Store. **HERBERT:** Alt 50m, pop 350. Store. DoC camping (toilet, table, water, gas bbq) 2 km W of SH 1. Domain camping (toilet, water, table) about 2 km S of Herbert. **WAIANAKARUA:** Restaurant, picnic area. **KAKAHO RIVER:** picnic area. **HAMPDEN:** Alt 50m, pop 300. Store, takeaways, pub. Motor Camp, motel. **KATI KI BEACH:** Two picnic area (at each end of the beach). **MOERAKI BOULDERS:** Tearooms. **MOERAKI VILLAGE:** Alt 30m, pop 140. Motor camp, motel. **PALMERSTON:** Alt 20m, pop 900. Food: All outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp/shop (3 km S); motel; hotel 2. **WAIKOUAITI:** Alt 30m, pop 900. Store, dairy, takeaways, tearooms, pub. Motor camp; motel 2. **EVANSDALE:** Tearooms/store. **WAITATI:** Store, motor camp. **DUNEDIN** See next section for details.

GRADIENTS: Becomes rolling over low hills after Timaru until Hook but nothing too difficult, then returns to almost flat country again from there to Oamaru. Climb the hill out of Oamaru, the start of long rolling hills alternating with easier gradients to Moeraki. Mostly gentle gradients from there until Palmerston apart from a small hill south end of Katiki Beach. Rolling hills from Palmerston until Karitane turn off, south of Waikouaiti. A short distance beyond here the Kilmog Hill (225m) starts, a long, sometimes steep climb of 5½ km followed by a steep 3 km descent. Flattens out from Evansdale for 3½ km to Waitati, the motorway starting here so take the Mt Cargill Rd.

ATTRACTIONS: The low hills of North Otago take over from the flat Canterbury Plains, still heavily populated by sheep. Continue travelling near the coast but still rarely seeing it. A short detour inland goes to the pleasant village of Waimate (see options below) complete with a couple of scenic reserves and White Horse on the hill. Pukeuri has a freezing works, is on the 45th parallel and junction for SH 83 going inland to Mt Cook. Oamaru has several attractions, the Whitestone Historical Conservation Area (a collection of commercial buildings from last century), excellent botanic gardens, little blue and yellow eyed penguin colonies (in season) and the usual walks and fishing. They have a heritage festival here every November featuring NZ Penny Farthing Championships. The famous Oamaru stone quarry is at nearby Weston.

Further south are more attractions; Totara Estate, Clark's Mill, Waianakarua Bridge and Millhouse. Look out for the giant man (& woman) eating bird (and egg) adjacent SH 1 at Waianakarua just after the bridge, waiting to pounce on unsuspecting pedallers!! The Moeraki Boulders (Devil's Marbles) and penguins, Katiki Beach, Shag Point, with quaint villages such as Herbert and Waikouaiti, perhaps see a rare royal spoonbill in the lagoon here. Access the Pigroot from Palmerston inland to Ranfurly. Note: Kakanui Coast, Trotter's Gorge & Karitane Coast are pretty, quieter alternatives to the busy SH 1 to Dunedin. See Alternative ii below.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE i HOOK - WAIMATE Join SH 82 going the 9 km to the rural town of WAIMATE: Alt 55m, pop 3,000. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; Domain camping (toilet, water, table, hot showers, no cabins); motel 2; hotel 2. Bicycle shop.

There are three scenic reserves nearby; Kelcey's, Gunn's and Hook Bush, informal camping may be possible. See the White Horse of Waimate, a memorial to the Clydesdale horses, on the hill side above the town in the direction of Kelsey's Bush (Farm camp, no cabins).

Return 6 km to SH 1 heading south in the direction of Oamaru & Dunedin. Alternatively SH 82 continues inland past WAIHAO FORKS: (hotel) joining SH 83 at KUROW heading up the Waitaki Valley, see Chapter Two section 3b Options.

ALTERNATIVE ii OAMARU - DUNEDIN weaves across SH 1 as follows.

KAKANUI COAST: From Oamaru head up Severn St, at the top bear left onto Awamoa Rd and continue until the T junction. Go left on to Thousand Acre Road and on reaching the coast go right to

KAKANUI (store, bkpr hostel, domain camping). Mostly easy gradients and staying with the shoreline much of the way. Rejoin SH 1 at the historic Waianakarua River Bridge & Millhouse. Go left onto SH 1 for 15 km passing the big bird & Moeraki Boulders. Shortly after Moeraki Village turn off go right onto:

HORSE RANGE ROAD: Pass the secluded TROTTER'S GORGE Scenic Reserve, 5 km along Horse Range Rd, then right down a track for a short distance and fording a stream. After the gorge there is a 190m climb in 3 km to the HORSE RANGE SADDLE (240m) with a 2 km gravel section just past the summit. A twisting descent before levelling out for the last bit into PALMERSTON, 9 km S of the saddle. Rejoin SH 1 for another 18 km. Go left after Waikouaiti to.

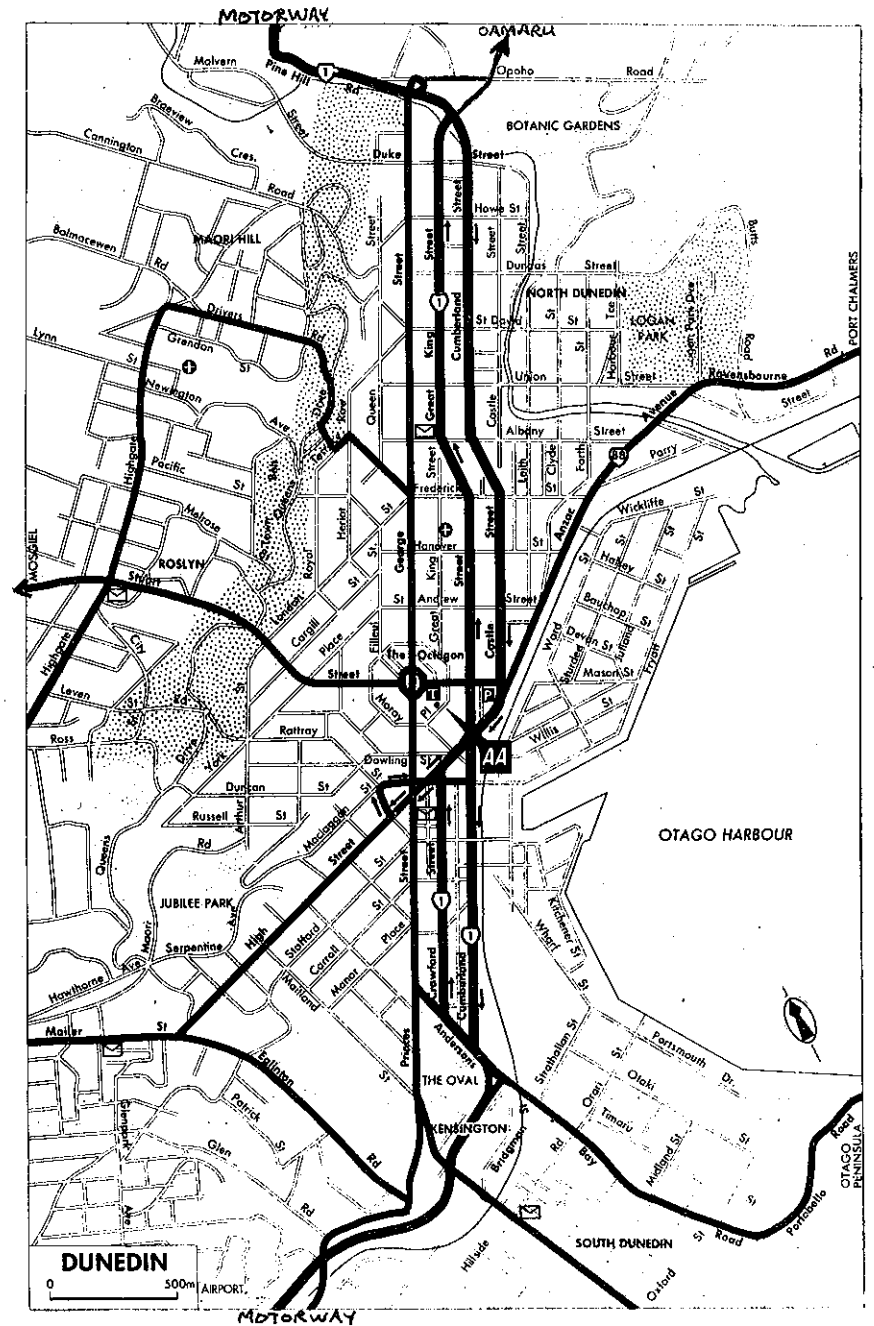
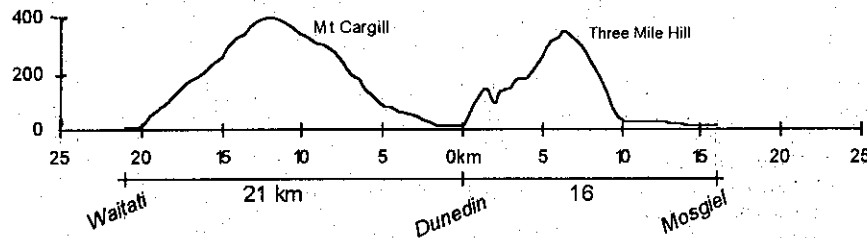
KARITANE COAST: This avoids the Kilmog Hill but has plenty of ups and downs of its own with one very steep climb just after Karitane and splendid views. Pass the holiday villages of

KARITANE (dairy, motor camp), SEACLIFF & WARRINGTON before rejoining SH 1 at Evansdale. Directions for the last 21 km into Dunedin are in the next section.

LINK ROAD i OAMARU - OMARAMA (SH 8) on (SH 83). See Chapter Two, Section 3b.

LINK ROAD ii PALMERSTON (SH 1) - KYEBURN (SH 87) near Ranfurly on SH 85. See Section 5a.

4. DUNEDIN AND OTAGO PENINSULA.



DIRECTIONS: Very hilly whichever way is taken into and out of Dunedin.

NORTH: From OAMARU. Just before the motorway, turn off at WAITATI taking Mt Cargill Rd. A long sometimes fairly steep 8½ km climb up Mt Cargill (400m) and descending for 7 km of variable steepness, then gentle down arriving in Dunedin along North Rd, passing Baldwin St. At the first traffic lights go right onto Bank St then left under the motorway onto George St and direct to the Octagon. George St can be very busy. Note: The motorway has fast traffic & steeper gradients than Mt Cargill.

SOUTH & WEST: To QUEENSTOWN & INVERCARGILL: A steep 1 km climb up Stuart St begins from the Octagon with an equally steep ½ km descent down the other side. Suburbia ends 4 km from the Octagon with the highway rolling and undulating uphill until Taieri Lookout picnic area (350m). It then drops, steep for much of the Three Mile Hill to the Taieri Plain, from where it becomes mostly flat. Go left onto Dukes Rd. At the Junction of SH 87, go right to Outram & Ranfurly, left to Mosgiel, Balclutha & Invercargill. Reverse the order if coming from Invercargill or Queenstown

Note: The motorway system south of Dunedin begins and ends several times en route. This means law-abiding pedallers must find alternatives when encountering a stretch of motorway, sometimes crossing busy intersections with fast moving traffic. It is for those reasons the direct SH 1 route has not been included in these pages. The route described goes via Mosgiel, Halfway Bush and Three Mile Hill.

SERVICES: DUNEDIN: Altitude 50m, population 114,000. i: 48, The Octagon □ 474 3300.

Food: Many of all types of outlets.

Accom: Motor Camp 3; hostel (bkpr 5, YHA 1); motel lots; hotel many.

Transport: Train to/from Chch & Invercargill. Bus & shuttles to/from Invercargill, Queenstown, Te Anau & Chch. Shuttle to/from the Catlins. Bicycle shops.

OTAGO PENINSULA: MCANDREW BAY: Store, takeaways.

PORTABELLO: Store, pub, motor camp. **LARNACH CASTLE:** Lodge.

ATTRACTIONS: Known as the the Edinburgh of the South, Dunedin is the Mainland's second biggest city and is an important cultural and educational centre. The Octagon is at the heart of this vibrant university city with plenty of things to see and do. Guided tours of Cadbury's Chocolate Factory & Speight's Brewery are popular. Mt. Cargill Scenic Reserve is on the route north and has beautiful views of Dunedin, the Harbour & Otago Peninsula. On the way, try to cycle up Baldwin St, officially the world's steepest street at 38°. Take the Taieri Gorge Scenic Railway as a day excursion or on the way to/from Central Otago. Culture vultures can try the museum and art gallery.

Explore the Otago Peninsula, either by bus or bike. The main attractions are Larnach Castle & Glenfalloch, Fort Tairua & the disappearing gun, Tairua Head Nature Reserve with the Royal Albatross Colony and yellow-eyed penguins. Spectacular views can be had from the aptly named Highcliff Rd that traverses a ridge of the old volcano.

5. DUNEDIN - RANFURLY - CROMWELL (Queenstown).

DISTANCES:	SH 87/85/8
5a) DUNEDIN - RANFURLY	146 km
5b) RANFURLY - QUEENSTOWN	173 km
Total	319 km

ROUTE: DUNEDIN - KYEBURN - CLYDE on SH 87 & 85. CLYDE - CROMWELL on SH 8.

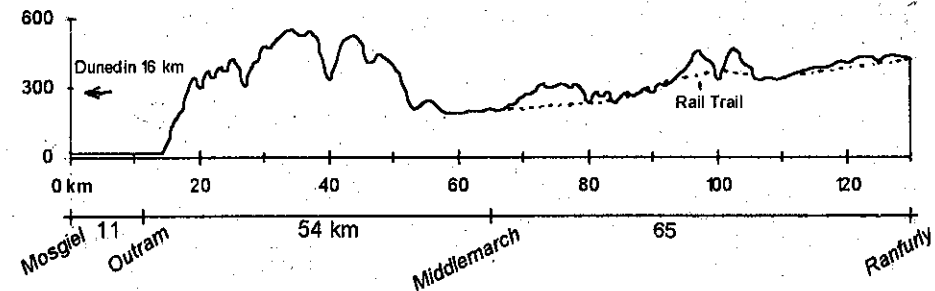
ALTERNATIVE 5a) MIDDLEMARCH - CLYDE. The partly gravel SH 87 & sealed SH 85 or gravel Otago Central Rail Trail. See Options.

5b) IDABURN - OMAKAU on SH 85 or Ida Valley Road.

SIDE TRIP 5b) BECKS - ST BATHANS - LAUDER.

LINK ROAD 5a) i) KYEBURN (SH 87) - PALMERSTON (SH 1) on SH 85, the Pigroot.
ii) RANFURLY (SH 85) - DANSEY PASS - DUNTRON (SH 83).

5a. DUNEDIN - MIDDLEMARCH - RANFURLY.



SERVICES: DUNEDIN: See previous section.

MOSGIEL: Alt 10m, pop 9,200. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motel; hotel. Bicycle Shop:

OUTRAM: Alt 17m, pop 500. Store, pub. **CLARKE'S JUNCTION:** Alt 540m, Pub.

MIDDLEMARCH: Alt 200m, pop 200. Store, pub, motor camp. **HYDE:** Pub?

KOKONGA picnic area. **WAIPIATA:** Pub, farm hostel (closed July & August) 12 km S of Ranfurly & off SH 87 W of Kokonga. **KYEBURN:** picnic area.

RANFURLY: Alt 425m, pop 950. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Motor camp; motel; hotel (also bkpr beds). Transport: Shuttle to/from Dunedin & Queenstown.

GRADIENTS: Gentle gradients from Mosgiel until 2 km after Outram when SH 87 climbs long and steep for much of the next 5½ km. The steepness eases near the top and rolling country begins, some quite long and steep to Lee Stream. Rolling uphill from there until 5 km before Clarke's Junction when the gradients ease to undulating. Continues the same for another 2 km then plunges steeply for 2 km to cross the aptly named Deep Stream before climbing just as steeply for another 2 km. This is the first and hardest of three depressions in 17 km, the others are Shannon & Sutton Streams. After climbing out of the last hole there is a moderate descent into Middlemarch, the last 8 km being gentle.

Note: The most difficult hills can be avoided and the above description rendered useless by taking the Taieri Gorge railway from Dunedin to Pukerangi and an easy 20 km, partly gravel ride to Middlemarch. After Middlemarch the highway rolls and undulates most of the way to Ranfurly. There is an 11 km stretch of gravel between Rock & Pillar and Hyde and another 6½ km between Teroiti and Kokonga where the gradients get steeper and longer. Becomes SH 85 at Kyeburn.

ATTRACTIONS: Near Sutton, a few km off SH 87 is New Zealand's only natural salt lake and a rare skink has been discovered in the surrounding hills. Fascinating rock outcrops are scattered throughout the entire region which is dominated by the Rock and Pillar Range. Middlemarch is a sleepy little village and first settlement of any size since leave the Taieri Plains. The recently closed Otago Central Railway is being restored as a cyclists, trampers & horse trail. When finished it will stretch 150 km from Middlemarch to Clyde.

A few km off SH 87 near Hyde is Macraes Flat, with an historic Stanley's Hotel and an open-cast gold mine where a mountain is being moved to reach the precious metal below. To commemorate the importance of gold to the region the Otago Goldfields Park protects a number of historical sites scattered throughout the region. Ranfurly with its broad streets is the main town of the Maniototo.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE MIDDLEMARCH - RANFURLY (62 km) on the Otago Central Rail Trail as it passes through some spectacular scenery using a variety of bridges, viaducts, tunnels, cuttings and embankments. It is gravel and generally suitable for mountain bikes with some sections rough enough even for young masochists on unburdened bikes. If too rough, take SH 87, which is now all sealed and runs parallel to the trail until Kokonga. More information in Section 5b Options.

OPTIONS: LINK ROAD I KYEBURN (SH 87) - PALMERSTON (SH 1) on SH 85: 63 km.

This is called the Pigroot. A gradual climb from the Junction of SH 87 & 85 at Kyeburn for 15 km to the summit (640m) then roller-coasters for much of the 33 km to the Macraes Flat turn off.

PIGROOT STREAM: picnic area. **DEAD HORSE PINCH:** picnic area.

Gradients ease from Macraes Flat turn off and a steady descent follows to

DUNBACK: Store, then almost flat for 13 km to

PALMERSTON: See Chapter One (East) section 3b for onward travel.

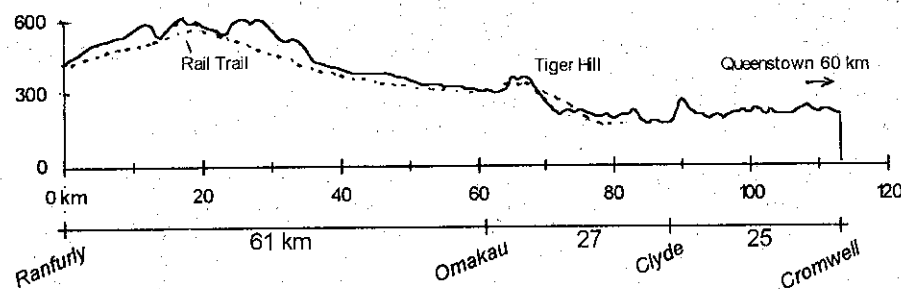
LINK ROAD II RANFURLY - DUNTRON much of it gravel. 14 km north of Ranfurly is

NASEBY: Alt 600m, pop 130. Food: Dairy, pub. Accom: Motor camp; hotel (also bkpr & motel accom).

Naseby is another old gold mining town with period charm. Then over remote

DANSEY'S PASS: Historic hotel/restaurant (before the pass); motor camp (after the pass, 14 km before Duntron). Isolated and gravel track much of the way between the hotel and motor camp.

5b. RANFURLY - OMAKAU - CROMWELL.



SERVICES: RANFURLY: See previous section.

WEDDERBURN: Pub. **HILLS CREEK:** picnic area.

BECKS: Alt 380m. Store, hotel. **LAUDER:** Alt 350m. Store, pub.

OMAKAU: Alt 300m, pop 200. Store, motor camp, hotel. **CHATTO CREEK:** Alt 240m, pub.

CLYDE: Alt 170m, pop 500. All types of food outlets except supermarket. Motor camp; motel 4.

LAKE DUNSTAN: picnic areas at Dairy Creek (also toilets), Champagne Creek & Jacksons.

CROMWELL: Alt 220m, pop 3,300. t: 47 The Mall ☎ 445 0212.

Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp 2; bkpr hostel; motel 5; hotel.

Transport: Bus & shuttles to/from Chch, Queenstown, Dunedin & Fox.

GRADIENTS: Easy terrain much of the way from Ranfurly except for moderate rolling hills between Wedderburn & St Bathans's turn-off, a 3 km beyond Hills Creek and a steep 1 km uphill and 4½ km quite steep descent at Tiger Hill between Omakau & Chatto Creek. Leave Rail Trail at Chatto Creek if going to Cromwell. Go right onto Springvale Road for Cromwell (or for Alexandra continue straight ahead). Mostly gentle gradients except for a steep drop mid way to Clyde.

At Clyde is a 1 km quite steep climb to join new Lake Dunstan. Going through Clyde and taking the dam road reduces the elevation gain. At the top long sweeping rolls skirt alongside the lake going all the way to Cromwell, the town centre is 1 km off SH 6 across the bridge.

Note: See Chapter Two (Central) Section 3c for onward travel to Queenstown or Chch and Chapter Four (West) for the West Coast.

ATTRACTIONS: The wide-open spaces and silence of the Maniototo Plains can be quite intimidating. It is hard to imagine in their hey-day a century ago, the quaintly named Naseby, St Bathans and other localities had several thousand inhabitants, also see Options below. Time seems to have stood still with many retaining the atmosphere of the pioneering days. Ranfurly to Lauder is the only stretch of Rail Trail still closed and may remain so for some time due to a lack of funds. Interesting rocky outcrops continue to dot the route.

Clyde is a charming place despite the dam looming over it. The old Cromwell Gorge has now become the new Lake Dunstan. Filled in 1992, years late with huge cost over-runs this marvel of modern engineering seemed it would never be completed. Ponder as you pedal alongside the lake what might happen if the two fault lines the dam is built on suddenly move or the unstable hillsides slide into to lake. Observe the subsidence on the highway!

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE IDABURN - OMAKAU along Ida Valley Road through

OTUREHUA (vintage store, pub). POOLBURN (pub) & OPHIR (bkpr hostel, pub). Very quiet road, mostly easy gradients except for one large hill between Poolburn and Ophir. Near Otarehua is the historic Hayes Engineering Works. Ophir also has a number of historic buildings remaining from the gold rush era.

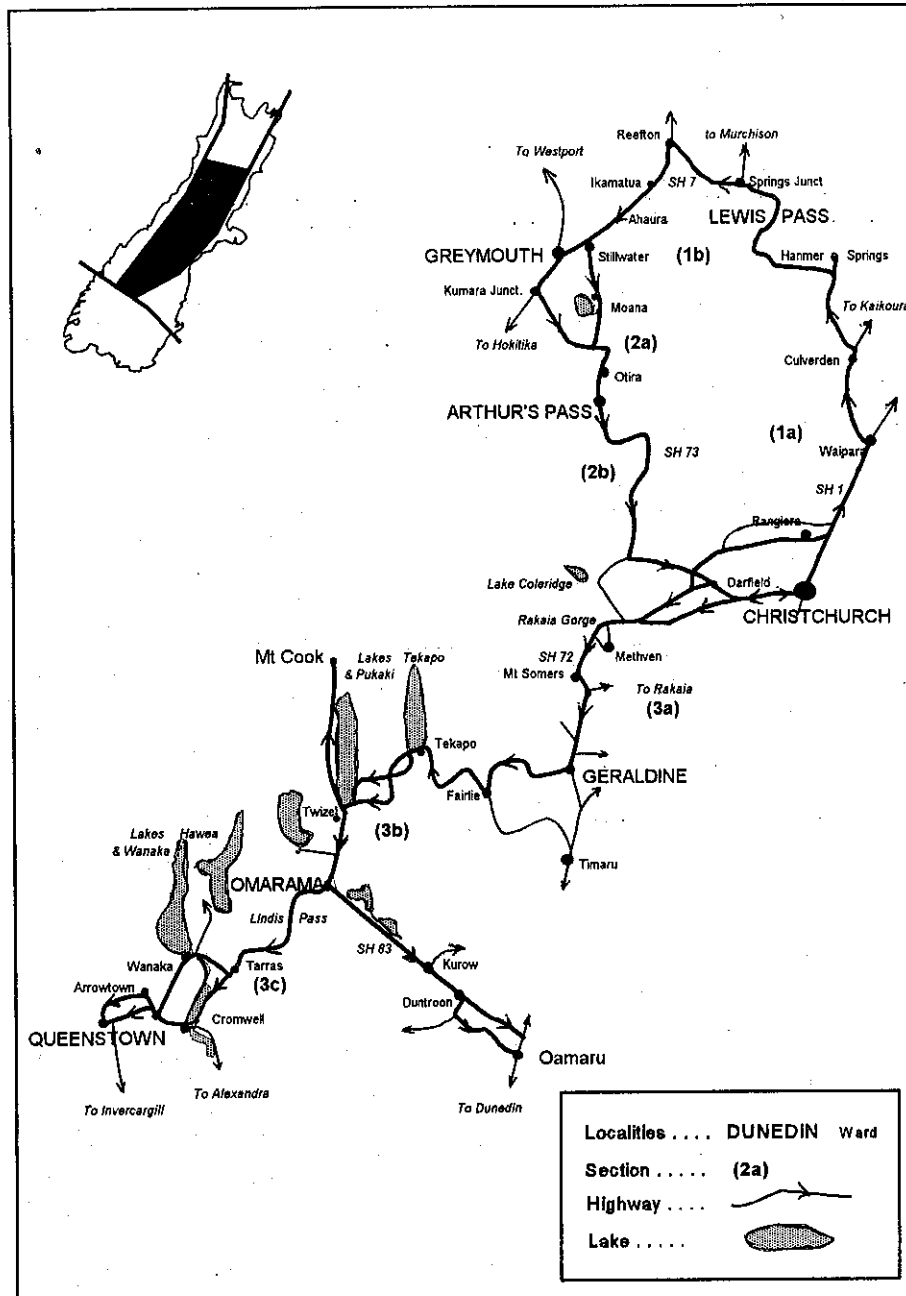
SIDE TRIP 10 km W of SH 85 is ST BATHANS: Alt 580m, pop 50, hotel. All that remains of this once thriving mining town is the Vulcan Hotel, Post Office, Gold Office and hall.

The Blue Lake of St Bathans was formed by hydraulic elevating after miners turned a 120 metre high hill into a 70 metre deep hole. Mining only stopped when it threatened the main street with plenty of gold said to remain underwater. The Vulcan Hotel is reputed to be haunted.

ALTERNATIVE II RANFURLY - OMAKAU - ALEXANDRA - CLYDE on the OTAGO CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL. This is a continuation of the 150 km rail corridor between Middlemarch and Clyde being converted to a cycling, tramping and horse riding trail. See Section 5a Options for Middlemarch - Ranfurly. Ranfurly - Lauder section is closed and may remain so for some time due to lack of funds. Lauder - Omakau - Alexandra - Clyde (45 km) is open and has some rough bits to it. If by-passing Alexandra, leave the rail trail and join SH 85 at Chatto Creek until Springvale, then go right to Clyde. DoC have produced two information sheets for users.

CHAPTER TWO:

CENTRAL.



This chapter covers most of the central areas of the South Island. The routes include Christchurch to Greymouth and back, going over Lewis and Arthur's Passes. Then south from Christchurch to Queenstown skirting the Canterbury Plains, through McKenzie Country and Central Otago. Includes side trip to Mt Cook and link road from Omarama to Oamaru.

Mt Cook and Arthur's Pass National Parks with Lewis Pass National Reserve are the outstanding features, in addition to many scenic reserves and forests. Towering snow capped mountains, rivers of ice, broad steep sided valleys, huge sheep stations, isolated settlements, small towns, deep gorges, beautiful turquoise lakes, hydro canals, high plains and basins.

Here in the high country dwells the merino, a hardy sheep bred for its fine wool and not fine looks. Being mostly high country, extreme weather conditions can occur. The lucky ones may get the chance to ride on the nor'wester, a strong föhn wind that sometimes blow. Freewheeling on the flat at 40 km/h beats bungee jumping any day! It's just too bad if you're going the wrong way.

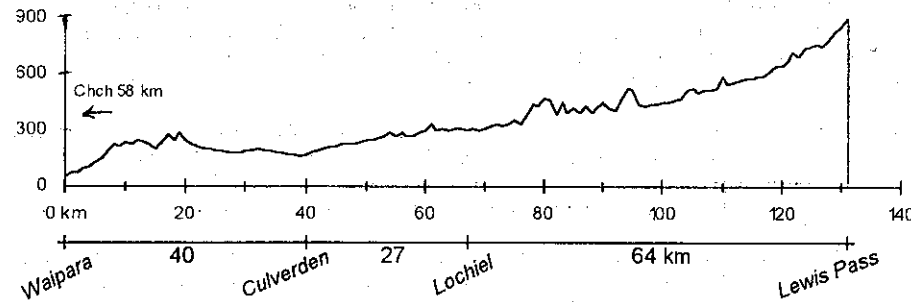
Although most of the highest mountains of Australasia are in this region the highways have surprisingly few hills apart from the occasional mountain pass. Most of the routes covered are inland passing through dry, rain shadow areas with generally low humidity. The highways are usually deserted, except in the summer holidays, making this a true pedallers' paradise.

1. CHRISTCHURCH - LEWIS PASS - GREYMOUTH.

DISTANCES:	SH1/7
1a) CHCH - LEWIS PASS	189 km
1b) LEWIS PASS - GREYMOUTH	143 km
Total	332 km

ROUTE: CHRISTCHURCH - WAIPARA on SH 1: WAIPARA - GREYMOUTH on SH 7.
ALTERNATIVE 1b) REEFTON - GREYMOUTH. The easier SH 7 via Ngahere or the hilly route passing Blackball. Both options separate at Ikamatua and meet at Greymouth.
SIDE TRIP 1a) To HANMER SPRINGS. 1b) NGAHERE - NELSON CREEK, partly gravel.
LINK ROAD 1a) i) CULVERDEN - WAIU - KAIKOURA on the partly gravel SH 70.
 ii) HANMER SPRINGS (SH 7) - MOLESWORTH TRACK - SEDDON (SH 1).
 iii) HANMER SPRINGS - RAINBOW TRACK - St ARNAUD (SH 63).
 1b) i) SPRINGS JUNCTION - MURCHISON (SH 6) on SH 65. See Chapter Five (North) Section 1a.
 ii) REEFTON (SH 7) - INANGAHUA (SH 6) on SH 69. See Chapter Five (North) Section 1a.
 iii) STILLWATER (SH 7) - LAKE BRUNNER - JACKSONS (SH 73). See Section 2a.

1a. CHRISTCHURCH - WAIPARA - LEWIS PASS.

**SERVICES: CHRISTCHURCH:** See Chapter One (East) Section 2.**KAIAPOI:** Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp (no kitchen); motel. Bicycle shop.**WOODEND:** Alt 10m, pop 1,000. Food: Tearooms, takeaways, dairy, restaurant, pub.

Accom: Beach motor camp (also shop, no cabins), 3 km E off SH 1; motel 2; motor camp (also shop & restaurant) 3 km S at Main North Rd/motorway junction.

WAIKUKU: Beach motor camp with small shop, 3 km E off SH 1.**LEITHFIELD:** Beach motor camp with small shop, 2 km E off SH 1.**AMBERLEY:** Alt 30m, pop 900. Food: Store, tearooms, takeaways, dairy, pub.

Accom: Motel/Caravan Park; beach motor camp, 5 km E off SH 1.

WAIPARA: Alt 60m, pop 270. Tearooms, restaurant, store, bkpr hostel, hotel.**WAIKARI:** Alt 220m. Tearooms/store, pub, domain camping. **HURUNUI:** Alt 190m. Hotel.**BALMORAL FOREST:** DoC style camping (toilet, table, water) pay at Hurunui Hotel 2 km S.**CULVERDEN:** Alt 175m, pop 400. Store, takeaways/tearooms, pub. Motel.**LOCHIEL:** (Hanmer Springs turn off) Alt 305m. refreshments at nearby Waiiau Ferry Bridge.**HANMER SPRINGS:** (10 km off SH 7) Alt 365m, pop 1300. i: DoC, Amuri Ave, ☎ 315 7128.

Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp 3; bkpr hostel; motel 7; hotel.

Transport: Shuttle to/from Chch. **HORSE SHOE LAKE:** Alt 450m, picnic area.**WINDY POINT:** Alt 475m, picnic area (toilet, shelter). **BOYLE SETTLEMENT:** Alt 580m, shelter.**SILVIA FLAT:** Alt 590m, picnic area (toilet, water, table, sandflies) adjacent SH 7.**DEER VALLEY:** DoC camping (toilet, water, table, sandflies) adjacent SH 7.**St JAMES WALKWAY:** Alt 860m, DoC camping (toilet, table, shelter), 1 km E of . . .**LEWIS PASS:** Altitude 905m, picnic area. No Services for 80 km between Hanmer & Maruia.

GRADIENTS: Mostly flat from Chch to Waipara, then join SH 7 and gradually climb to Weka Pass (247m). Rolls for 7 km through Waikari with two quite steep hills before Hurunui. After Hurunui the highway becomes almost flat passing through Culverden to Red Post Corner and SH 70 junction. Continues similar for next 25 km to Lochiel (Hanmer Springs turn-off) except for a couple of minor hills near Brown's Stream.

Apart from a small drop soon after Lochiel the terrain is mostly flat for the first 10 km. Then the gradients start to roll as the highway leaves the plains behind and enters the Waiiau Valley. 10 km of hills follow as the road negotiates bluffs, dipping and climbing to cross side valleys. Though not very long some gradients are steep, climbing high above the valley floor, particularly between Handyside & Gorge Streams. A couple of steep hills follow, one between Glynne Wye and Hope River Bridge and another to cross Boyle Bluffs with the ups longer than the downs. After Boyle Settlement SH 7 undulates to Silvia Flat followed by a stepped climb for 14 km to reach Lewis Pass.

ATTRACTIONS: The Weka Pass between Waipara & Waikari has a historic reserve and walkway containing Maori rock drawings, interesting limestone rock formations and a vintage railway. See the distinctive Frog Rock that looks amazingly like a goat or big pussy cat! Beyond Waikari pass the restored 1860's historic Hurunui Hotel, Balmoral Forest and small village of Culverden. At Lochiel, (Hanmer Springs turn-off) is the Waiiau Ferry Bridge where bungy jumping and jet boating take place. On an easy 10 km side trip off SH 7 is Hanmer Springs, a popular health resort with hot springs, forest walks, mountain biking, horse treks and skiing. Access Molesworth & Rainbow Tracks from here. A track goes from Windy Point to Lake Sumner Forest Park. A few kilometres north of Boyle settlement adjacent to the highway by the Lewis River are the undeveloped Silvia Flat Hot Pools, or more tepid actually. Boyle is one end of St James Walkway a sub-alpine tramp of several days on the eastern side of Lewis Pass.

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP 10 km off SH 7 is HANMER SPRINGS, the South Island's première thermal resort, see above for services and attractions.

LINK ROAD i CULVERDEN SH 7) - WAIU - KAIKOURA (SH 1) on SH 70. Distance: 105 km.

This can be used part of as an alternative between Chch & Kaikoura, in which case it is 16 km longer than SH 1. When the cattle trucks are not running then solitude is the main attraction of SH 70 with isolated sheep stations and riverside picnic areas. Pass Mt Lyford, currently NZ's newest ski field.

ROTHERHAM: Store, hotel. **WAIU:** Alt 140m, pop 230. Store, takeaways, tearooms, pub, motor camp, bkpr hostel. No Services for 83 km to KAIKOURA: See Chapter One (East) Section 1a.

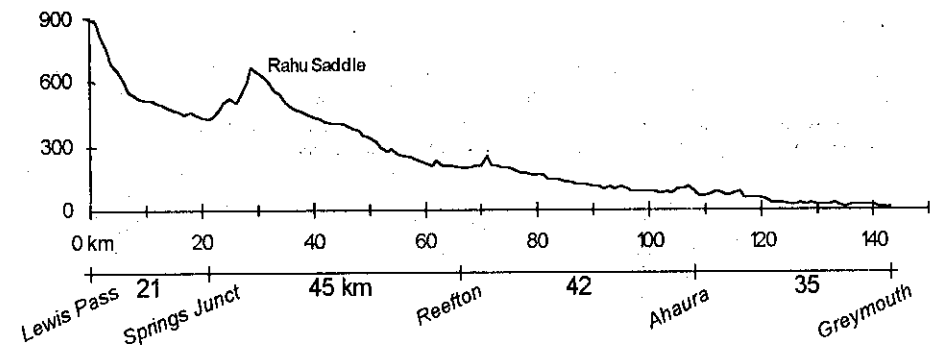
Easy gradients from Red Post Corner, where SH 70 leaves SH 7, to Waiiau. Although there are a few flattish bits, much of the highway from Waiiau is of a hilly nature with many bends as it dips into one river valley and climbs over the hill to the next. The last 12 km are downhill, steeper at first but becoming gentle as SH 70 nears the coast.

The gravel starts 22 km after leaving Waiiau at the Mt Lyford turn off and continues for 28 km. Returns to seal for the last 28 km to SH1, 5½ km south of Kaikoura. The gravel road can be dusty in dry weather and expect some corrugations but the surface generally is of a reasonable standard.

LINK ROAD ii HANMER SPRINGS - MOLESWORTH STATION - SEDDON on the Molesworth Track via the historic Acheron Homestead. 164 km along a mostly gravel and sometimes rough toll road ending 5 km north of Seddon on SH 1 at Dashwood. Managed by DoC and only open for a couple of months in summer. No services apart from DoC campsites and an accommodation house.**LINK ROAD iii HANMER SPRINGS - RAINBOW TRACK - St ARNAUD (SH 63).**

This goes to St Arnaud along a gravel track. Permission needed to use this road, very isolated with no services. Obtain up-to-date information before using.

1b. LEWIS PASS - REEFTON - GREYMOOUTH.



SERVICES: LEWIS PASS: Alt 905m, picnic area. No Services for 80 km between Hanmer & Maruia.
MARUIA SPRINGS: Alt 605m. Thermal Resort. Hotel/restaurant/tent sites/hostel. Hot springs with Japanese style bath house included in price. **MARBLE HILL:** DoC camping (toilet, table) adj SH 7.
SPRINGS JUNCTION: Alt 430m, Tearooms/restaurant/motels.
RAHU SADDLE: Alt 670m, picnic area. **TOBIN'S:** picnic area.
REEFTON: Altitude 190m, population 1,200. i DoC, Broadway \approx 732 8391.
 Food: All types of outlet except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel. Bicycle shop.
SLAB HUTT CREEK: DoC camping (toilet, table, water, fireplace) gold panning. **MAWHERAITI:** Pub.
IKAMATUA: Alt 110, pop 200. Store. Hotel (also tent sites & bkpr accom). **TOTARA FLAT:** Pub.
AHAURA: Alt 90m. Store, pub, domain camping (toilet, shower, cabin). **NGAHERE:** pub.
STILLWATER: Alt 60m. Pub, store. **DOBSON:** Pub.
GREYMOOUTH: Alt 10m, pop 10,000. i: Cnr Mackay & Herbert Sts \approx 768 5101.
 Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 2; hostel (bkpr 2, YHA 1); motel 10; hotels 6.
 Transport: Train daily to/from Chch. Bus & shuttles to/from Fox, Westport & Nelson. Shuttle to/from Chch via Arthur's Pass. Bicycle Shops.

GRADIENTS: A steady quite steep downhill from the top of Lewis Pass for 6 km to just past Maruia Springs, after that SH 7 tracks a mostly gentle down to Springs Junction. The climb begins immediately on leaving Springs Junction, sometimes steeply, for most of the 8 km to Rahu Saddle (670m). A long variable steep descent follows gradually easing as Reefton nears. A flattish 5 km from Reefton ends with a steep $\frac{1}{2}$ km climb to Reefton Saddle and a similar $\frac{1}{2}$ km descent on the other side. Becomes a gradual descent alongside Grey River to Greymouth, apart from a couple of small hills near Ahaura.

ATTRACTIONS: Lewis Pass National Reserve has extensive mountains, river flats and beech forest within its boundaries with plenty of walks along the way. Maruia Springs is the second of only two commercial hot springs on the South Island and features a Japanese style bathhouse. Marble Hill is a hill of marble, with an important fault line nearby and the start of the Lake Daniells Track. After Springs Junction enter Victoria State Forest Park going over Rahu Saddle and into the Inangahua Valley. A few kilometres off SH 7 is Garvey Creek, a coal mine burning since 1951 and comes complete with smoke pouring from vents in the ground. Black's Point has a working gold stamping battery in the museum. Once called Quartzopolis, Reefton was one of NZ's richest gold producing regions and boasts having the world's first street lighting, is now yet another sleepy village. Gold mining relics and ghost towns abound and panning without a licence is allowed in some areas. Pass through several small communities between Reefton and Greymouth, the route is notable for the number of pubs. Grey by name, grey by nature especially on cold wet days, Greymouth is the largest town on the West Coast. See the Great Wall of Greymouth, built to stop the Grey River from flooding the town centre and ruining shop keepers' merchandise. Point Elizabeth walkway and fossicking on the beach are other popular activities. The Brunner Mine a few kms north on SH 7 is where NZ's worst mining disaster occurred in 1896.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE IKAMATUA - GREYMOOUTH along the sealed Atarau Rd on the west bank of the Grey River and skirting the eastern foothills of the Paparoa Mountains. More hilly but quieter than SH 7 which itself is deserted. A 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ km detour from the road goes to famous **BLACKBALL:** Alt 150m, pop 350. Store, pub, salami factory, Dominion (nee Hilton) bkpr hotel. Blackball is the eastern access point for the Croesus Track to Barrytown on the West Coast. **TAYLORVILLE:** Store, pub. A bridge crosses the Grey River between Blackball & Stillwater. **SIDE TRIP NGAHERE - NELSON CREEK:** Pub, store, DoC camping (toilet, table, water) also gold panning. This a small settlement 10 km E of SH 7. Access from here on a gravel road to the remote **LAKE HOCHSTETTER** (DoC camping).

2. GREYMOOUTH - ARTHUR'S PASS - CHRISTCHURCH.

DISTANCES:

	SH 73
2a) GREYMOOUTH - ARTHUR'S PASS	99 km*
2b) ARTHUR'S PASS - CHRISTCHURCH	154 km**
Total	253 km

* Add 4 km if going via Stillwater & Moana. ** Add 31 km if going via Lake Coleridge & Glentunnel.

ROUTE: GREYMOOUTH - CHRISTCHURCH on SH 73.

ALTERNATIVE 2a) GREYMOOUTH - JACKSONS. The busier SH 6 & 73 via Kumara or the quiet, more interesting route via Stillwater and Moana. Both options meet near Jacksons.

2b) i **LAKE LYNDON - LAKE COLERIDGE - GLENTUNNEL - DARFIELD.** Partly gravel.

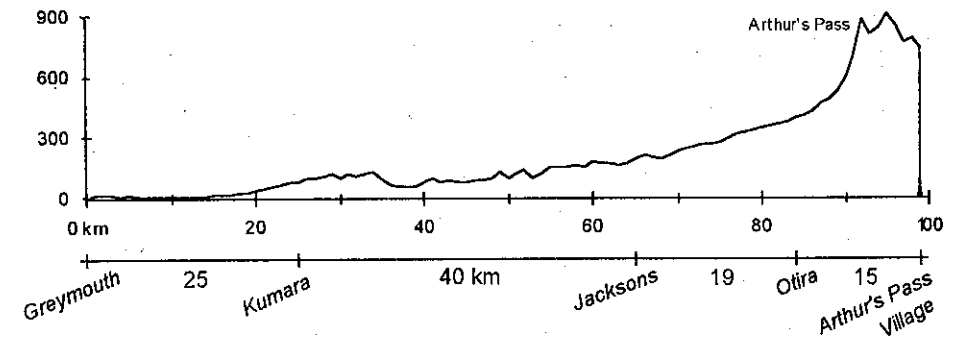
Can be used as an alternative to the steep Porter's Pass between Arthur's Pass & Christchurch or a link for heading south via Rakaia Gorge.

ii **SHEFFIELD - YALDHURST.** The busier SH 73 via Darfield or quiet Old West Coast Road.

LINK ROAD 2b) SHEFFIELD (SH 73) - OXFORD - WOODEND (SH 1) on SH 72 north of Chch.

See Chapter One (East) Section 1b.

2a. GREYMOOUTH - KUMARA - ARTHUR'S PASS.



SERVICES: GREYMOOUTH: See Section 1b.

KUMARA: Alt 85m, pop 370. Food: Dairy/takeaways, pub. Accom: Hotel, motel.

DONEGAL'S: picnic area. **THE AVENUE:** picnic area.

JACKSONS: Pub; cabins. **KELLY'S CREEK:** (shelter, toilets, water) camping permitted.

OTIRA: Alt 420m. Hotel/tearooms (also bkpr accom). **ARTHUR'S PASS:** Alt 922m, picnic area.

ARTHUR'S PASS VILLAGE: Alt 730m, pop 80. i: DoC, Main Rd \approx 318 9211.

Food: Store, tearooms, restaurant. Accom: Hostel (bkpr 1, YHA 1); motel; B&B.

Transport: Train to/from Greymouth & Chch. Shuttle to/from Chch, Greymouth & Hokitika.

GRADIENTS: Easy terrain heading south on SH 6 to Kumara Junction, then go east towards Arthur's Pass on SH 73. Rolls and undulates through Kumara and after Dillsmantown join Taramakau River heading upstream past Moana turn off & Jacksons. Beyond Aickens the highway joins Otira River and begins to climb in earnest with the mountains closing in. 4 km past Otira enter the Otira Gorge climbing for 6 km, becoming very steep with switch-backs passing the Look-out. This is for people who like a challenge and are fit! There follows a short dip to Pegleg Creek before a final climb to the Pass (922m). The highway then rolls mostly down for the 4 km to Arthur's Pass village.

ATTRACTIONS: Kumara is the site of the first gold rush on the West Coast, once having 46 hotels and nearby Dillismantown another 12. Richard Seddon, a famous Prime Minister lived there for several years. A few scenic reserves dot the foothills and small settlements nestle in the shadow of the Southern Alps. At Jackson's is the last remaining of five coaching inns that catered to travellers before the railway went through. Arthur's Pass National Park is one of the less glamorous and uncrowded, though no less spectacular, trampers will be satisfied. The main activities are tramping, climbing, skiing, glow worm and bird (especially keas) watching.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE GREYMOUTH - MOANA - JACKSONS.

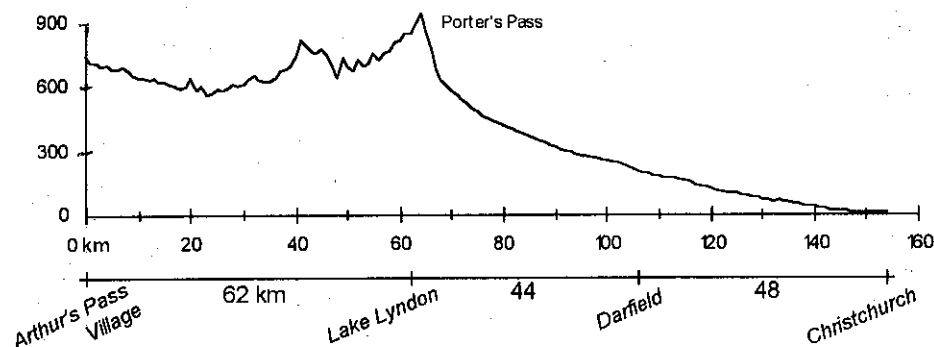
head out of Greymouth towards Reefton on SH 7, go right (east) at

STILLWATER: Pub, store, passing . . . KAIMATA: DoC style camping (toilet, water, table) and MOANA: Alt 90m, pop 100. Store/takeaways, motor camp, hotel (also cabins).

Transport: One train to/from Greymouth & Chch. The highway undulates gently most of the way with an occasional hill. Joins SH 73 near Jacksons.

Moana nestles on the shores of Lake Brunner where, we are told "the fish die of old age". Other features include the Brunner Mine Historic Reserve, an interesting look at a bygone era where 67 men died in 1896 in NZ's worst mining tragedy. Arnold River Power Station down a short detour.

2b. ARTHUR'S PASS - PORTER'S PASS - CHRISTCHURCH.



SERVICES: ARTHUR'S PASS VILLAGE: See previous section above.

GREYNEY'S FLAT: DoC camping (shelter, toilet, table, water, fireplace) adjacent SH 73.

KLONDYKE CORNER: Alt 670m, DoC camping (shelter, toilet, table, water, fireplace) adj SH 73.

BEALEY: Alt 635m, hotel. **CAVE STREAM:** DoC camping (shelter, toilet, water) adj SH 73.

FLOCK HILL: Lodge. **LAKE PEARSON:** picnic area (toilets, water, table).

LAKE LYNDON: Alt 850m, picnic area (shelter, toilets, water, table). **PORTER'S PASS:** Alt 945m.

SPRINGFIELD: Alt 390m, pop 350. Store, tearooms, Domain camping (toilet, water, coin showers, no cabins); bkpr hostel; hotel. **SHEFFIELD:** Alt 300m, Pub.

DARFIELD: Alt 200m. All types of food outlets except supermarket. Hotel.

KIRWEE: Pub. **WEST MELTON:** Pub, dairy. **YALDHURST:** Pub, takeaways.

CHRISTCHURCH: See Chapter One (East) Section 2.

GRADIENTS: On leaving Arthur's Pass SH 73 continues to roll down through the beech forest, emerging at Klondyke Corner where the Bealey and broad Waimakariri Rivers meet and surrounding mountains recede. Long easy gradients follow for much of the way to Lake Lyndon, interspersed by minor saddles or steep drops and climbs to cross streams.

An undulating climb from Lake Lyndon to Porter's Pass (945m) before a very steep 400m descent in 4 km, easing to a gradual decline into Springfield. Join the Canterbury Plains all the way into Chch, although barely noticeable the highway is tracking downhill. For directions into Chch see Chapter One.

ATTRACTIONS: Spectacular scenery continues after Arthur's Pass as beech forest gives way to open tussock country but still surrounded by high bare mountains. Craigieburn Forest Park, Cave Stream, Broken River, Castle Hill limestone outcrops, Lakes Grasmere, Pearson & Lyndon are some points of interest. Several ski clubs have fields in the mountains. Descend the steep Porter's Pass join the Canterbury Plains.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE i LAKE LYNDON - LAKE COLERIDGE - GLENTUNNEL - DARFIELD. Add 31 km if using this route instead of Porter's Pass. Although there are some hills, it avoids the steep Porter's Pass. A usually not too bad gravel road between LAKE LYNDON: picnic area (shelter, toilets, water, table) and LAKE COLERIDGE (B&B).

Then sealed and rolling to SH 72, going left to rejoin SH 73 at Darfield through GLENTUNNEL: Dairy, pub, domain motor camp. & COALGATE: Pub, cabins. or right (south) to Rakaia Gorge.

ALTERNATIVE ii SHEFFIELD - YALDHURST on the quiet Old West Coast Road, mostly gentle downhill, no services. This is about 5 km shorter than SH 73.

3. CHCH - GERALDINE - OMARAMA - QUEENSTOWN.

DISTANCES:	Various	SH 83
3a) CHRISTCHURCH - GERALDINE	*172 km	
3b) GERALDINE - OMARAMA	**178 km	
3c) OMARAMA - QUEENSTOWN	170 km	
link OMARAMA - OAMARU		118 km
Total	520 km	

* deduct 3 km if going from Alyesbury Corner to Rakaia Gorge through Hororata.

** deduct 2½ km if going from Tekapo to Pukaki along the hydro canal.

ROUTE: CHRISTCHURCH - GERALDINE on SH 73/72. GERALDINE - FAIRLIE on SH 79.

FAIRLIE - CROMWELL on SH 8. CROMWELL - QUEENSTOWN on SH 6.

ALTERNATIVE 3a) ALYESBURY CORNER - RAKAIA GORGE. SH 73/72 through Darfield or the easier, quieter route through Hororata. Beware fords in wet weather.

3b) LAKE TEKAPO - LAKE PUKAKI. SH 8 or the more interesting hydro canal road.

3c) i TARRAS (SH 8) - WANAKA on SH 8a. See Chapter Four (West) Section 1.

ii ARROWTOWN - QUEENSTOWN On the quieter and longer Malaghan Road or SH 6.

SIDE TRIP 3a) i To METHVEN. ii ARUNDEL - PEEL FOREST.

3b) i LAKE TEKAPO - LAKE ALEXANDRINA, gravel road. ii To LAKE OHAU.

iii OMARAMA - CLAY CLIFFS, gravel road. iv To Mt COOK.

3c) i QUEENSTOWN - GLENORCHY. ii QUEENSTOWN - SKIPPERS CANYON.

LINK ROAD 3a) i MAYFIELD (SH 72) - RAKAIA TOWNSHIP (SH 1) on THOMPSON TRACK.

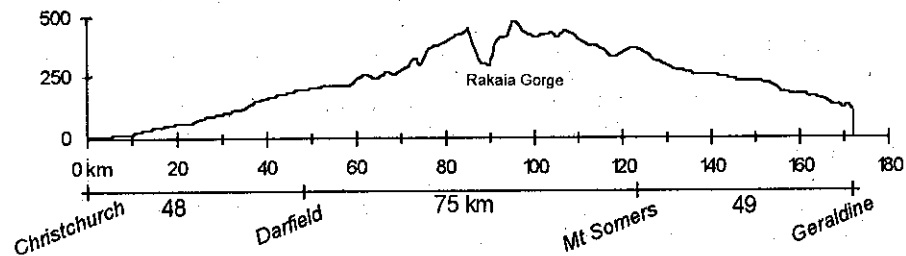
ii ORARI BRIDGE (SH 72) - RANGITATA (SH 1).

See Chapter One (East) Section 3a Options for the above link roads.

3b) i TIMARU (SH 1) - FAIRLIE on SH 8. See Chapter One (East) Section 3a Options.

ii OMARAMA (SH 8) - OAMARU (SH 1) on SH 83.

3a. CHRISTCHURCH - RAKAIA GORGE - GERALDINE.



SERVICES: CHRISTCHURCH: See Chapter One, Section 2.

YALDHURST: Pub, takeaways. **WEST MELTON:** Pub, dairy. **KIRWEE:** Pub.

DARFIELD: Alt 200m, pop 700. Store, tearooms, takeaways, hotel. **COALGATE:** Pub, cabins.

GLENTUNNEL: Alt 230m. Dairy, pub, domain motor camp (no cabins).

RAKAIA GORGE: Alt 275m. Domain camping (toilets, water, table); lodge (expensive).

ALFORD FOREST: Alt 425m. Store/tearooms/moas, picnic area.

STAVELY: Alt 360m. Store, picnic area. **PUDDING HILL:** Chalets.

Mt SOMERS: Alt 360m, pop 290. Store, restaurant, pub. Motor camp; Domain camping (toilet, water, table, coin showers); motel. **MAYFIELD:** Alt 260m, pop 200. Store/tearooms, pub.

ARUNDEL: Alt 200m, picnic area (toilets, water, table) adjacent SH 72 & Rangitata River.

GERALDINE: Altitude 120m, population 2,100. *i:* 50 Talbot St ☎ 693 8597.

Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Motor camp 2, (1 is 7 km E of Geraldine); motel 2; bkpr hostel; hotel.

Transport: Bus & shuttles to/from Chch, Queenstown & Timaru.

GRADIENTS: Gentle climb out of Chch across Canterbury Plains. At Darfield go left (west) joining SH 72 at Homebush, remaining fairly flattish until Glentunnel then rolling hills to Wind whistle. At Rakaia Gorge the highway suddenly plunges 200m in 2 km from the upper terrace before levelling out for a short distance to the bridge. A steep climb begins immediately after crossing the river, gradually easing but becoming steeper again as the top nears at the Methven turn-off. Easy gradients follow, mostly gentle down all the way to Geraldine as the highway skirts the foothills of the eastern ranges.

ATTRACTIONS: Mostly standard farming country while on the Canterbury Plains, the exception being the impressive Rakaia Gorge, the river is a popular fishing and jetboating. After the Gorge, several scenic reserves such as Mt Somers, Peel Forest, Orari & Waihi Gorges, dot the foothills of the eastern ranges, all are a few kilometres off SH 72. They contain walkways of variable length and remnants of native bush that once covered much of the area. Other activities the area offers are skiing at Mt Hutt, hot air ballooning from Methven, parachuting from Pudding Hill, Moa spotting at Alford Forest and rafting the Rangitata. Geraldine is a pleasant, compact town servicing rural communities and has a country music festival in summer.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE ALYESBURY CORNER - HORORATA - RAKAIA GORGE.

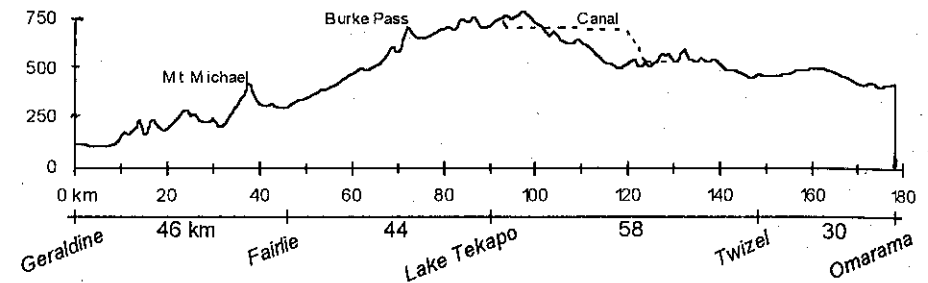
This is 3 km shorter than through Darfield. at Aylesbury Corner leave SH 73, cross railway tracks to HORORATA: Alt 190m. Store, pub. Several km before Hororata three normally dry fords may have water flowing in them if there has been recent heavy rain. At Hororata take first exit at the round-about to Rakaia Gorge. The highway rises all the way but is barely discernible until after Hororata.

SIDE TRIP i 5 km south of Rakaia Gorge and 14 km off SH 72 is the typically rural town of METHVEN: Alt 310m, pop 1,000. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel 2; motel 3; hotel. Transport: Bus to/from Chch & Qtn. It comes alive in winter with skiers & snowboarders using the nearby Mt Hutt.

SIDE TRIP ii ARUNDEL - PEEL FOREST: Store, DoC Motor camp (no cabins). Set in one of the last remnants of native bush found on the eastern foothills. Nearby are...

ORARI GORGE: DoC camping (toilet, table) & **WAIHI GORGE:** DoC camping (toilet, table).

3b. GERALDINE - LAKE TEKAPO - OMARAMA.



SERVICES: GERALDINE: See Section 3a. **HAPPY VALLEY:** picnic area.

OPUHA RIVER: Alt 235m. Domain camping (toilet, table, water) adj SH 79 at Skipton Bridge.

ALLANDALE: Alt 420m. Tearooms (at the top of the hill).

FAIRLIE: Alt 305m, pop 800. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Motor camp; motel 3; hotel 2. **KIMBELL:** Alt 390m. Pub, motel.

BURKE PASS VILLAGE: Alt 550m, pop 50. Store/tearooms/motel. Hotel (closed due to fire).

BURKE PASS: Alt 709m, picnic area. **EDWARD STREAM:** picnic area.

LAKE TEKAPO: Alt 715m, pop 340. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Motor camp (also motels); hostel (bkpr 1, YHA 1); motel; hotel. Cyclists' hostel (see back page).

LAKE PUKAKI: Alt 545m, Domain camping (toilets, water, table), 1 km N of Mt Cook turn off. Information kiosk (shelter, toilet). **LAKE WARDEL:** picnic area (table) 1 km S of Mt Cook turn off.

TWIZEL: Alt 470m, pop 1200. *i:* DoC, Wairepo Rd ☎ 435 0802. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; motel; hotel; lodge (incl bkpr hostel).

AHURIRI RIVER: Domain camping (toilets, water, table) adjacent SH 8, 3 km N of ...

OMARAMA: Alt 430m, pop 300. Food: Store, tearooms, takeaways.

Accom: Motor camp 2 (one 7 km E of Omarama on on SH 83); bkpr hostel (8 km N); motel; hotel 3.

Transport: Bus & shuttles to/from Queenstown & Chch. One to/from Oamaru Mon to Fri.

GRADIENTS: Mornings between Geraldine and Tekapo can resemble rush hour in downtown Tokyo as hordes of rental cars and buses trundle along the Blue Ribbon Route from Chch to Queenstown carrying the next wave of snoozing, jet lagged, packaged, processed tourists on their annual 7 day whistle stop holiday of a life time. Things quieten down after Lake Tekapo and lunch.

As the Canterbury Plains are left behind the low hills close in and terrain becomes steeper. SH 79 undulates and rolls much of the way to Fairlie with a couple of long gradual climbs and steep descents at Gapes Valley and then Mt Michael. On leaving Fairlie SH 8 starts with a gentle ascent that becomes undulating as Burke Pass village nears. At the village, steady, fairly steep climb starts, dips then climbs again becoming steep for the last 1 km to the pass (709m). A gentle descent into the MacKenzie Basin where gradients undulate, apart from an occasional steeper up and down. Try the canal from Tekapo instead of the highway but beware of strong north west winds. Details in Options.

SH 8 continues in a similar fashion between Lakes Tekapo and Pukaki with some fairly long gradual up and downs. At Lake Pukaki the highway rolls along the lakeshore for several kms. On passing the Mt Cook turn-off the road descends fairly steeply, easing to almost flat into Twizel. A similar almost flat past Lake Ruataniwha to Omarama. Note: strong north westerly winds blow periodically.

ATTRACTIONS: Sample some of Barker's fruit wines shortly after Geraldine a few km off SH 79. Mostly pastoral scenery on the way to another pleasant rural service town of Fairlie, with spectacular views from Mt Michael. Dramatic changes to the scenery occur on entering the MacKenzie Basin with tussock grassland and the majestic mountains of the Southern Alps as a backdrop. MacKenzie Country is named after a sheep rustler who is credited with its discovery.

Lake Tekapo often has an incredible azure blue colour caused by rock flour suspended in the water that contrasts with the surrounding stark brown landscape. One of NZ's best scenic flights round Mt Cook depart from here. Tekapo is the highest point of the Waitaki Hydro Power Scheme and with Pukaki holds 26% of NZ's storage water for generating hydro-electricity.

Try the canal linking Tekapo with Pukaki; another glacier fed lake with Mt Cook as a backdrop. Twizel has a special breeding centre for black stilts, one of the world's rarest birds and has rowing regattas on Lake Ruataniwha. Omarama is popular for gliding and has interesting clay cliffs nearby.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE LAKE TEKAPO - HYDRO CANAL - LAKE PUKAKI.

Take first left out of Tekapo following "scenic route" sign, when joining canal cross the bridge. SH 8 crosses the canal about half way. Continues similar until a quite steep drop at the end to Lake Pukaki. At the bottom go left following lake until joining SH 8.

Total distance is 2½ km shorter than by SH 8. Avoid when strong north westerlies blow.

Going north; where SH 8 leaves Lake Pukaki take Hayman Rd alongside the lake. Go first right, just before power station and up a quite steep hill joining the canal at the top.

SIDE TRIP i LAKE TEKAPO - LAKE ALEXANDRINA: Domain camping (water, toilet) on a gravel road. Popular for fishing, has a wildlife refuge for bird spotters. A get away from it place.

SIDE TRIP ii between Twizel & Omarama to LAKE MIDDLETON: Domain camping (toilet, table, water) & LAKE OHAU: Lodge (also bunkhouse, no kitchen). 10 km west of SH 8. Motel, 32 km from SH 8. TEMPLE FOREST: DoC camping (toilet, water, table).

SIDE TRIP iii CLAY CLIFFS of Omarama, commonly called "badlands". The elements have sculptured the rock into interesting formations. Access along a rough track a few km before Omarama. They're also visible to the right on the way to Lindis Pass.

LINK ROAD i FAIRLIE - TIMARU on SH 8. See Chapter One (East) Section 4 Options.

3b SIDE TRIP IV: MT COOK.

PUKAKI CORNER - GLENTANNER 33 KM GLENTANNER - MT COOK 23 km

SERVICES: LAKE PUKAKI: See above. **GLENTANNER:** Store/tearooms/motor camp.

Mt COOK: Alt 725m, pop 200. i: DoC, Bowen Dr # 435 1818. Store, takeaways, restaurant.

DoC camping (toilet, table, water) 3 km from village; Hooker & Mueller Huts (3 - 4 hour walk); Bkpr & YHA hostel; Hotel/motel/chalets. Transport: Bus to/from Chch & Queenstown daily.

GRADIENTS: At Pukaki Corner join SH 80 to Mt Cook as it undulates and gently rolls alongside Lake Pukaki with distant Southern Alps slowly looming closer. Elevation gain is only about 180m in 56 km. The only climbs of any length are to go a short way into side valleys to cross a couple streams near Glentanner. Beware heading into north westerly winds.

ATTRACTIONS: Spectacular views unfold all the way up the valley from Pukaki corner. Mt Cook National Park has within its boundaries almost all of Australasia's 3,000m mountains, making it a natural centre for climbers. Also tramping and scenic flights are favoured pastimes in this majestic environment. Tramping possibilities include to Mueller Hut, Tasman Valley up Ball Road, Red Lakes & Mt Sebastopol and Hooker Glacier to perhaps Hooker Hut, although this is becoming more dangerous. This is an alpine environment so care must be taken if venturing beyond the village.

The Tasman Glacier is NZ's longest and resembles a huge gravel pit. Hard to imagine only 14,000 years ago during the last great ice age it reached to the bottom end of Lake Pukaki with ice 600m deep at the Hermitage. Mt Cook recently lost more than 50m³ million of rock and ice in a huge avalanche, reducing its height by several metres. The village doesn't suffer the excesses of Queenstown with controlled development requiring buildings to blend with the environment. Sir Edmund Hillary trained here for the first successful attempt on Mt Everest. Being a long way from civilisation, food is expensive.

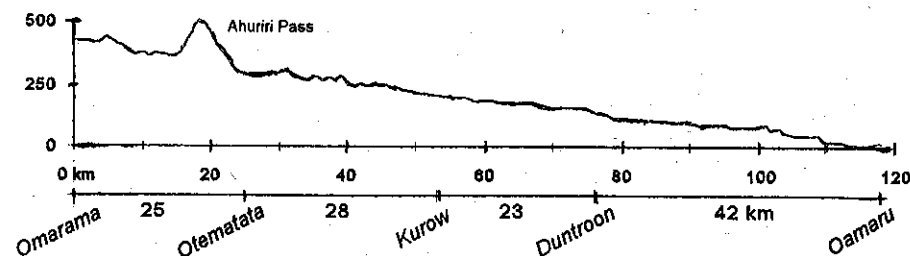
3b LINK ROAD ii: OMARAMA - KUROW - OAMARU.

OMARAMA - OAMARU 118 km on SH 83 & 1. Add 4 km if going via Ngapara.

ROUTE: Links SH 8 with SH 1 through the Waitaki Valley on SH 83.

ALTERNATIVE DUNTROON - OAMARU. The busier, easier SH 83 & 1 via Pukeuri or the quieter, hilly, more interesting route through Ngapara.

LINK ROAD DUNTROON - DANSEY'S PASS - RANFURLY.



SERVICES: OMARAMA: See Section 3b.

SAILOR'S CUTTING: Alt 425m. Domain camping (toilet, table, water) adjacent SH 83.

OTEMATATA: Alt 300m. Store, pub, motor camp, (also bkpr hostel & shop); hotel.

BOAT HARBOUR: Alt 270m. Domain camping (toilet, water, table) adjacent SH 83.

PARSON'S ROCK: Domain camping (toilets, table) adjacent SH 83. **AWAKINO RIVER:** picnic area.

KUROW: Alt 210m, pop 580. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Motor camp; motel; hotel 2. Transport: Bus to/from Oamaru & Omarama (Fri).

DUNTROON: Alt: 175m, pop 130. Tearooms, domain camping (showers, kitchen, cheap cabins); hotel.

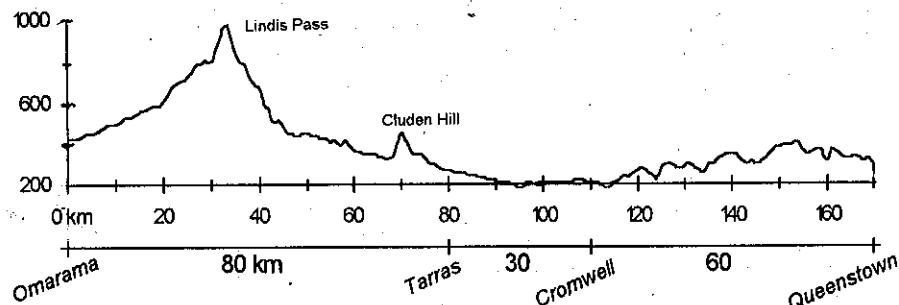
OAMARU: See Chapter One, Section 3b.

GRADIENTS: Easy rolling country until after Sailor's Cutting then a fairly steep climb for 2 km to the Ahuriri Pass (505m) before a 3 km gradual descent to Otematata. SH 83 then undulates gently down to Kurow, thereafter hardly a hill to speak of as the road travels gently down to Oamaru.

ATTRACTIONS: Pass Lakes Benmore, Avimore & Waitaki of the Waitaki Hydro Power project. Lake Waitaki was the last hand made dam using just pick and shovel. NZ's social welfare system has its roots at the deserted Waitaki Village. Pass the small towns of Kurow and Duntroon. Maori rock drawings can be seen adjacent SH 83 a few km before Duntroon. Go to Oamaru on the more interesting Ngapara route and avoid SH 1, pass Elephant Rocks & Oamaru stone quarry. at Weston.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE DUNTRON - OAMARU passing Elephant Rocks and . . . NGAPARA with its large flour mill and WESTON (dairy) where the famous Oamaru stone is quarried. This route is sometimes hilly, 4 km longer but more interesting, and avoids the busy SH 1.
LINK ROAD DUNTRON - RANFURLY, much of it gravel, over the remote . . .
DANSEY'S PASS: Motor camp, 14 km from Duntroon before the pass; historic hotel//restaurant after.
NASEBY: Alt 600m, pop 130. Dairy, pub. Motor camp; hotel (also bkpr & motel accom). Naseby is another old gold mining town with period charm, "2,000 ft above worry level" 14 km before RANFURLY: See Chapter One, Section 5.

3c. OMARAMA - LINDIS PASS - QUEENSTOWN.



SERVICES: OMARAMA: see Section 3b. No services for 80 km between Oamaru & Tarras.
DALRACNEY CREEK: Alt 630m, picnic area (tables). **LINDIS PASS:** Alt 970m, picnic area.
TARRAS: Store, tearooms. Possible camping at the school (toilet, water) donation.
LAKE DUNSTAN: picnic areas with tables adjacent to the lake at Bendigo (also toilets), Crippletown, Lions, Devil's and John Bulls Creek.
CROMWELL: Alt 220m, pop 3,300. i: 47 The Mall ☎ 445 0212.
 Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp 2; bkpr hostel; motels 5; hotel.
 Transport: Bus & shuttles to/from Chch, Queenstown, Dunedin & Fox.
KAWARAU GORGE: Mining centre, tearooms. **CAMP CREEK:** picnic area.
KAWARAU BRIDGE: bungy jumping, toilets. **LAKE HAYES:** Alt 320m, picnic area, motel.
FRANKTON: Alt 314m, pop 800. Store, takeaways, tearooms, motor camp, hotel.
QUEENSTOWN: Alt 310m, pop 4,500. i: 1) Cnr Shotover & Camp St ☎ 442 4100 for tours.
 2) DoC, 37 Shotover St ☎ 442 7933 for track information. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.
 Accom: Motor camp 4; hostel (bkpr 7, YHA 1); motel lots; hotel many. Bicycle shop.
 Transport: Bus & shuttles to/from Chch, Invercargill, Milford Sound, Fox & Dunedin.

GRADIENTS: SH 8 climbs gently from Omarama with the surrounding hills slowly closing in. The gradients become more noticeable from Dalracney for the long 10 km gradual climb to Lindis Pass (970m) with the last 2 km becoming steep. After the Pass the road drops steeply at first, then rolls mostly down for 11 km. Gradients ease at Forest Hills Station then gently descends alongside the Lindis River but becomes fairly steep through two narrow Gorges. There's a 2 km variable steep climb being on leaving the river to negotiate Cluden Hill (460m), then a 3 km quite steep descent before resuming the gentle downhill again for the last bit to Tarras.

At Lindis Crossing the highway starts to roll gently as it skirts new Lake Dunstan to Cromwell. On leaving Cromwell, the highway begins flattish before heading up-river into the narrow steep-sided Kawarau Gorge. Moderately steep up most of the way with an occasional down until the Kawarau Bridge. Fairly gentle rolls and undulations from there all the way to Frankton except for a moderate climb and short downhill at Lake Hayes and dip to cross the Shotover River. After Frankton the road undulates beside Lake Wakatipu, run the gauntlet of the urban traffic into Queenstown. Try the quieter Arrowtown alternative see Chapter 4 (North) Section 1 alt.

ATTRACTIONS: Near Omarama are the Clay Cliffs, an outcrop of unusual rock formations sculptured by the elements. See them to the right on the way to the Lindis Pass, a region of stark beauty and remote sheep stations. Just after Tarras is a track going up to Bendigo a ghost town from the gold rush era, shortly before new Lake Dunstan. Nibble on the giant fruit at the entrance to Cromwell. A town transformed from a tatty backwater into a lake side resort and fruit growing region of repute. It looks out of place somehow.

Travel through the stark spectacular Kawarau Gorge passing old gold mining sites, a bungy jumping bridge for those people with a deprived childhood, vineyards and pretty Lake Hayes before arriving at Queenstown. The undisputed tourist mecca of NZ, this town has a mind boggling array of activities to blow your budget on and locals expert at helping. Central Otago can be hot and dry in summer and very cold in winter (they put the beer in the fridge to stop it freezing!).

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE TARRAS - WANAKA - QUEENSTOWN over the Crown Range, see Chapter Four (West) Section 1, also link to West Coast see Section 2.

SIDE TRIP i QUEENSTOWN - Mt ASPIRING National Park. This park borders Fiordland National Park and has more of the same spectacular scenery (less the fiords). Note that huts on the Routeburn and Milford Tracks are now for the walking wallets of the world. If these appear expensive and restrictive then try others such as Greenstone/Caples or Rees/Dart Tracks. The base for exploring the many tramping tracks and last stop for supplies before heading into the mountains is . . .

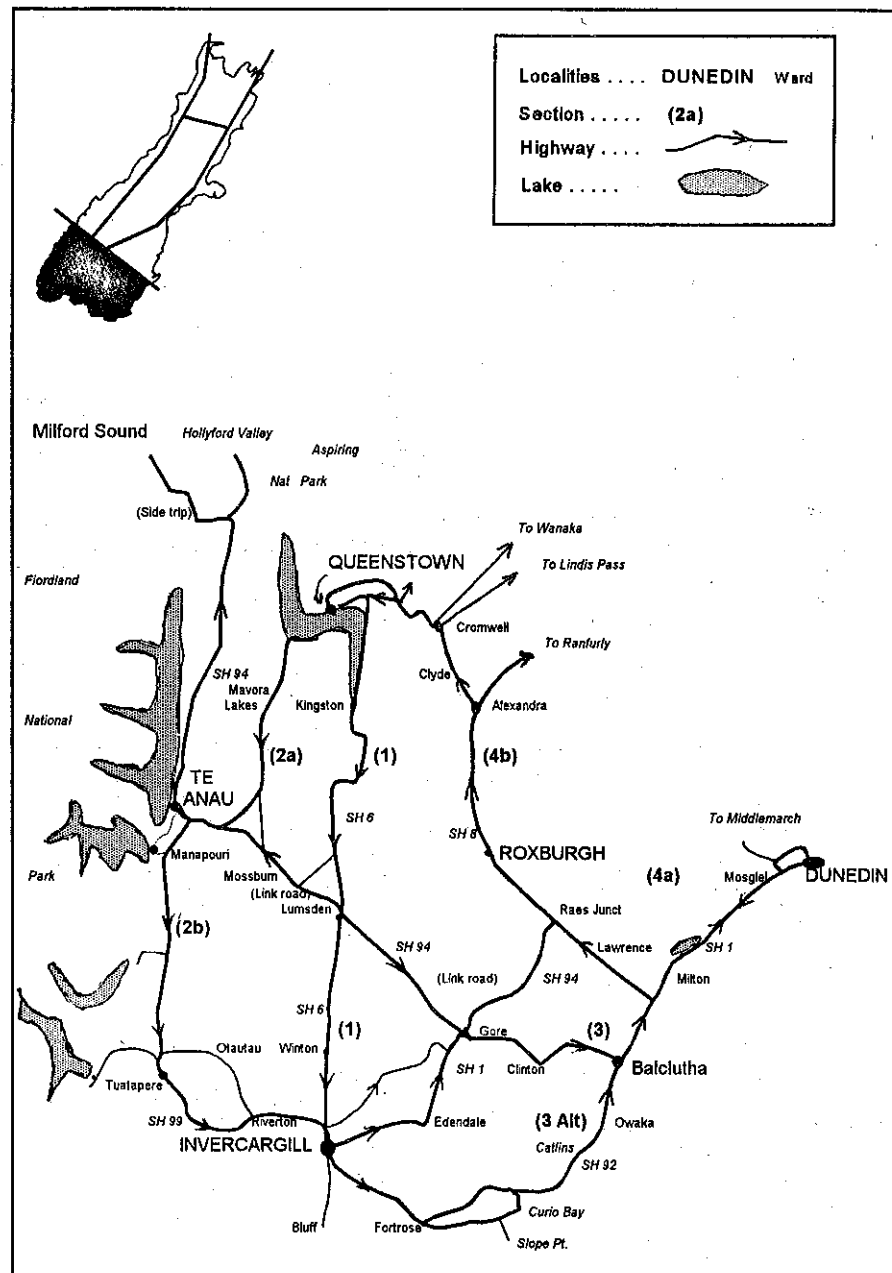
GLENORCHY: Alt 310m. i: DoC, Main Rd ☎ 442 9937. Store, takeaways, tearooms, restaurant. Motor camp, hotel. Shuttle to/from Queenstown and the tracks during the tramping season.

Travel west alongside Lake Wakatipu on a no exit road for 47 km with the lake and distant mountains always visible. The highway is sealed about 25 km to Mt Creighton and planned completion date is late 1997. Undulates and rolls much of the way with some longer, steeper hills to traverse 12 mile & Bennett's Bluffs. Can be quite busy in summer and dusty in dry weather.

SIDE TRIP ii QUEENSTOWN - SKIPPER'S CANYON. Part way up Coronet Peak Road a narrow tortuous gravel road branches off to go to Skipper's Canyon. Once an important gold mining area it was one of the richest fields in the country. Very spectacular scenery and dangerous road. At Skipper's Bridge is another bungy jumping operation, at 71 metres (232ft) it is much higher than at the Kawarau Bridge and the highest of AJ Hackett's land based operations. Four wheel drive tours, white water rafting and helicopter rides are other activities. Gold mining may recommence here soon.

CHAPTER THREE:

SOUTH.



This chapter covers the area south of a line between Dunedin and Queenstown. The routes include Queenstown to Te Anau, Milford Sound and Invercargill. From Invercargill a choice through the Catlins or Gore to Dunedin returning to Queenstown through the Clutha districts of Central Otago.

Fiordland is the only National Park within region, which includes famous Milford and Doubtful Sounds and a host of lakes, mountains, drowned valleys and other magnificent natural features. Te Anau claims to be "the walking capital of the world" is the gateway to all this splendour. The scenery does not end there, the Southern Scenic Route links Fiordland with Invercargill and the Catlins Coast. Beautiful sandy bays, bush clad hills and mountains, fertile farming country, remote settlements, wildlife sanctuaries and ghost towns make the region an interesting place to visit.

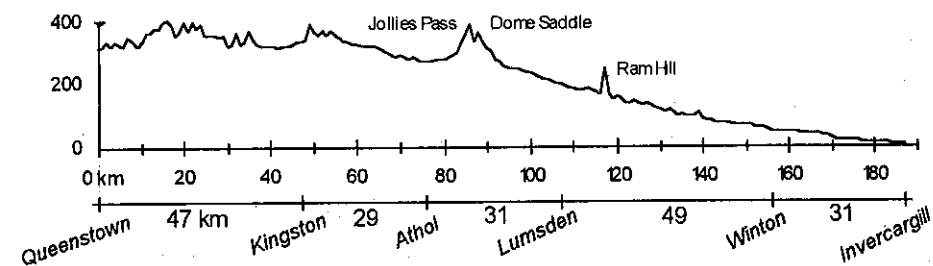
Both Dunedin and Invercargill have strong Scottish links reflected in their names. These are the cultural, commercial and administrative centres of Otago and Southland respectively. Southland is famous for ? & Queenstown is the tourist mecca of New Zealand. Last century gold played an important role in the economic development of New Zealand. Much of it came from Central Otago where a Goldfields Park has been created to preserve the scattered sites throughout the region. The climate and soils of Central Otago are ideal for growing pip and stone fruit which is now a major industry.

1. QUEENSTOWN - LUMSDEN - INVERCARGILL.

ROUTE: QUEENSTOWN - INVERCARGILL on SH 6. 187 km on SH 6.

LINK ROAD i LUMSDEN (SH 6) - TE ANAU on SH 94.

ii LUMSDEN (SH 6) - GORE (SH 1) on SH 94



SERVICES: QUEENSTOWN: See Section 4b.

FRANKTON: Alt 314m, pop 800. Store, takeaways, tearooms, motor camp, hotel.

KINGSTON: Alt 310m, pop 100. Store/tearooms, pub, motor camp. **GARSTON:** Alt 305m, hotel.

ATHOL: Alt 290m. Store, motor camp. **JOLLIES PASS:** Alt 396m, picnic area.

LUMSDEN: Alt: 200m, pop 600. i: Railway Station \approx 248 7334.

Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp (no cabins); motel; hotel 2.

Transport: Bus & shuttles to/from Invercargill, Qutn, Dunedin, Te Anau & Milford.

DIPTON: Alt 100m, dairy. **BENMORE:** pub.

WINTON: Alt 50m, pop 2,500. All types food of outlets. Motel. Bicycle shop.

LORNEVILLE: Lodge (also tent sites).

INVERCARGILL: Alt 20m, pop 57,000. i: Queens Park \approx 214 6243. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp 3; hostel (bkpr 1, YHA 1); motel 20; hotel 6. Transport: One train to/from Dunedin & Chch. Several bus & shuttles to/from Dunedin, Chch, Te Anau & Qutn. Bicycle shops.

GRADIENTS: Undulates alongside Lake Wakatipu to Frankton then right (south) onto SH 6. The highway leaves the lake for 10 km to pass Kelvin Heights with a dip to cross the Kawarau River. Rejoin the lake for the rest of the 30 km to Kingston, a gentle rolling road with some steeper, longer bits around the Devil's Staircase.

After Kingston there is a short hill to climb, the terrain then becomes easier through to Lumsden with few hills apart from Dome Saddle & Jollies Pass (396m) between Athol and Five Rivers. Ram Hill is the only hill between Lumsden and Invercargill, having a quite steep 1 km climb to 240m followed by a 1½ km stepped descent. Never far from the Oreti River the gradients flatten out with traffic flows becoming heavier as Invercargill nears. SH 6 goes straight to the centre of Invercargill.

ATTRACTIONS: The highlight of the journey is at the beginning, travelling alongside Lake Wakatipu and skirting below the Remarkables with spectacular views for many kilometres until Kingston where train buffs may see and/or travel a short distance on the Kingston Flyer, a vintage steam engine, whose future seems always in doubt. Lumsden is a small pleasant rural settlement.

Apart from some gorgeous sheep in the paddocks, the countryside becomes less interesting as pastoral country takes over from the high mountain ranges. SH 6 follows the Oreti River, a popular fishing river all the way from Lumsden to Invercargill. As the name suggests, Invercargill has strong Scottish links. This is a sprawling rural service city, administration centre and biggest population of Southland. The even spread of rainfall throughout the year means the countryside rarely browns off as in other parts of NZ. In pre-Europeans times much of the plains around Invercargill were covered by a dense impenetrable forest of which little remains today.

OPTIONS: LINK ROAD i LUMSDEN (SH 6) - TE ANAU on SH 94. Distance 78 km.

LUMSDEN - MOSSBURN 20 km, MOSSBURN - TE ANAU 58 km. SH 94 undulates and rolls, climbing for the middle part of the route and ending with a long gradual descent to Te Anau.

LUMSDEN: See Above. MOSSBURN: Store, tearooms, motor camp (3½ km on Five Rivers Rd), hotel, THE KEY: Tearooms. WHITESTONE RIVER: picnic area.

TE ANAU: See Section 2a.

LINK ROAD ii LUMSDEN (SH 6) - GORE (SH 1). Distance 62 km on SH 94.

Gentle descent through the Waimea Valley from Lumsden to Gore. Waimea Plains, once forest then tussock grassland, now fertile farming country. The Hokonui Hills border to the south with remnants of native bush that once covered much of the region. At Mandeville the Croydon Aircraft Company restores vintage aircraft. 17 km from Lumsden is . . .

BALFOUR: Alt 170m. Dairy, pub. Another 15 km to . . .

RIVERSDALE: Alt 130m. Store, takeaways, tearooms, restaurant, hotel. Then 13 km to . . .

MANDEVILLE: Alt 100m, pop 150. Motor camp/tearooms/shop/bkpr accom all in historic building.

Finally 17 km more to . . . GORE: See Section 3.

2. QUEENSTOWN - TE ANAU - INVERCARGILL.

DISTANCES:

2a) WALTER PEAK - TE ANAU	114 km	
2b) TE ANAU - INVERCARGILL	186 km	
Side Trip TE ANAU - MILFORD SOUND		119 km
Total	300 km	

ROUTE: 2a) QUEENSTOWN - MAVORA LAKES - TE ANAU on the Back Road & SH 94.

2b) TE ANAU - TUATAPERE - INVERCARGILL on Blackmount Rd & SH 99.

ALTERNATIVE 2b) CLIFDEN - OTAUTAU - RIVERTON.

SIDE TRIP 2a) TE ANAU - MILFORD SOUND on SH 94.

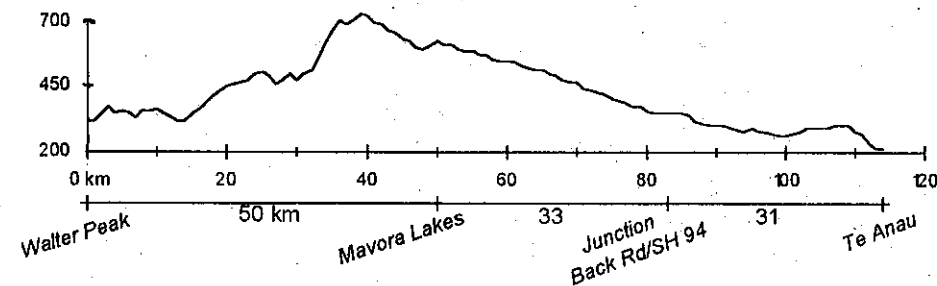
2b) i LAKE MANAPOURI - DEEP COVE - DOUBTFUL SOUND ii To LAKE MONOWAI.

iii CLIFDEN - LAKE HAUKOKO. iv TUATAPERE - PORT CRAIG. v INVERCARGILL - BLUFF.

Note: Except to Bluff these side trips are mostly gravel roads or tracks.

LINK ROAD 2a) TE ANAU - LUMSDEN (SH 6) on SH 94. See Options, Section 1.

2a. QUEENSTOWN - MAVORA LAKES - TE ANAU.



SERVICES: MAVORA LAKES: DoC camping (toilets, water, tables).

THE KEY: Tearooms. **WHITESTONE RIVER:** picnic area.

TE ANAU: Alt 200m, pop 1,700. i: 1) Fiordland Travel, Te Anau Terrace # 249 7900 for tours. 2) DoC, Lake Front Drive # 249 7921 for track information. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

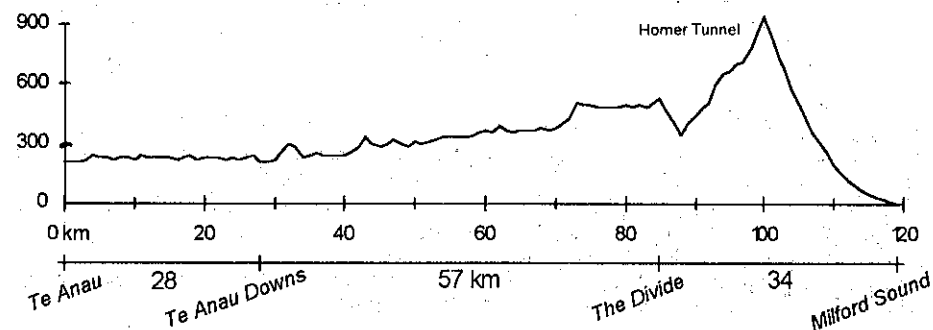
Accom: Motor camp 3; hostel (bkpr 2, YHA 1); motel 10; hotel 5. Bicycle Shop.

Transport: Bus & shuttles to/from Milford Sound, Chch, Invercargill & Queenstown.

GRADIENTS: The Back Rd avoids much of the traffic and tourist buses that use SH 6/94. Considering it is gravel, the condition is usually quite good apart from the first part. After rolling alongside Lake Wakatipu to Mt Nicolas Station, climb sometimes steeply away from the lake along the Von River. Only one saddle to cross, then mostly flat to undulating to SH 94. A long gradual descent to Te Anau with a final small hill into the village. Note the lack of services along this route.

ATTRACTIONS: Take the vintage steamer SS Earnslaw from Queenstown to Walter Peak Station. On a short side trip are idyllic Mavora Lakes with the Livingstone Mountains a back drop. Quiet.

2a SIDE TRIP: TE ANAU - MILFORD SOUND.



SERVICES: TE ANAU DOWNS: Hotel/restaurant. Between 16 & 80 km from Te Anau, starting at **TEN MILE BUSH** & ending at **LAKE GUNN** (Cascade Creek closed due to flooding) are 12 DoC camp sites, most with toilets, water & tables. **THE DIVIDE:** bus shelter, water, toilets.
HOLLYFORD VALLEY: Gunn's Camp (also cabins, shop and museum) 8 km off SH 94.
MILFORD SOUND: Alt 10m. Restaurant, bkpr hostel (also shop & tent sites); hotel (expensive). Note the lack of services along this route.

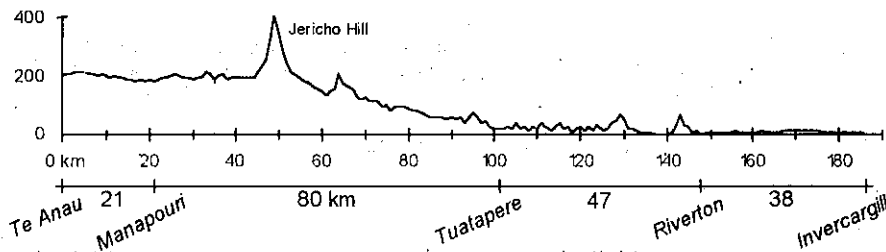
GRADIENTS: SH 94 is now sealed all the way to Milford Sound. Starts easy but soon becomes hilly some quite long and steep. The steepest gradients are between the Divide (520m) down to Hollyford turn off (350m) and up Homer Tunnel (945m). A steep descent from Homer Tunnel to Milford, the last few km becoming gentle. Now turn round and go back!

Note: Beware the Homer Tunnel, a narrow 1.2 km of unsealed, unlit, and unlined one-way blackness with a 10 in 1 gradient downhill towards Milford Sound. Those not wanting to do this section can: 1) Take a day trip by bus from Te Anau or Queenstown. 2) Leave the bike at the last DoC camp site at Lake Gunn and hitch or go by bus for the last bit. 3) Combine a visit there with tramping some tracks.

ATTRACTIONS: Fiordland National Park has high snow capped mountains, deep U shaped valleys, river flats, native bush, abundant bird life to feast the eyes on. Te Anau claims to be the "Walking capital of the World" with many tracks nearby, including three of the Great Walks. Note that huts on the Routeburn and Milford Tracks are now for the walking wallets of the world. If these appear expensive and restrictive then try others such as Greenstone/Caples or Kepler Tracks. Some of the many scenic attractions along the highway are Mirror Lakes, Eglinton Valley, Avenue of the Disappearing Mountain, Cascade Creek, Lake Gunn, The Divide, Hollyford Valley, Homer Tunnel, The Chasm, Milford Sound with Stirling Falls & Mitre Peak. Sea kayaking is possible at Milford Sound and nearby lakes. All the lush vegetation means high rainfall.

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP HOLLYFORD VALLEY to GUNN'S CAMP and the Hollyford Track along the Hollyford Valley. This tramping track goes all the way to the coast at Martin's Bay via Lake McKerrow and Jamestown. Experienced trumper can continue on to Haast from Martin's Bay.

2b. TE ANAU - TUATAPERE - INVERCARGILL.



SERVICES: TE ANAU: See Section 2a. No services for 80 km between Manapouri & Tuatapere.
MANAPOURI: Alt 185, pop 300. Store, tearooms/dairy, restaurant, motor camp 2, hotel, bkpr hostel.
WHARE CREEK: picnic area. **CLIFDEN:** DoC camping (toilets, water, table).
TUATAPERE: Alt 70m, pop 850. Store, dairy, takeaways, tearooms. Motor camp; motel; hotel.
OREPUKI: Pub, domain camping (toilets, water, shower).
COLAC BAY: Tearooms/dairy, hotel (also tent sites & bkpr accom).
RIVERTON: Alt 10m, pop 1600. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel; hotel 3. **INVERCARGILL:** See Section 1 or 3.

GRADIENTS: Easy gradients to begin with as the highway crosses the broad plain of the Waiau Valley followed, by a couple of short steep ups and down to cross Whare Creek and climb onto the river terrace. Gentle terrain until the 2½ km climb to cross Jericho Hill with the last 1½ km becoming steeper. The 3 km downhill begins steeply, easing to gentle undulations. Apart from a few low rolling hills near McIvors, north of the Wairaki River, easy terrain follows for the rest of the way to Tuatapere. On leaving Tuatapere the highway continues its easy way for 10 km. It then becomes rolling as the coast nears with many ups and down most of the way to Colac Bay. Fairly flat from there for 14 km followed by a straight 1½ km climb and a 4 km descent in a series of steps to Riverton. The rest of the way to Invercargill is mostly flat as the highway crosses the broad coastal plains.
 Note: The south coast is a popular area for strong westerly winds.

ATTRACTIONS: The road from Te Anau to Invercargill and Catlins is known as the Southern Scenic Route. After Te Anau comes Lake Manapouri, the second deepest and said to be the prettiest lake in NZ. Departing from the wharf are guided tours to the Manapouri Power Station and Doubtful Sound. Kayaking is possible on these lakes. Short side trips off the highway go to Lakes Monowai & Hauroko, the latter being the deepest in NZ. Clifden has the historic wooden suspension bridge and limestone caves nearby.

Tuatapere is a small rural village claiming to be the sausage capital of NZ? A side trip on a tramping track goes to Port Craig & Waitutu Forest at the south end of Fiordland NP using old wooden viaducts. The Percy Burn Viaduct is said to be the highest in the Southern Hemisphere. Near the pretty windswept Colac Bay is a gold mining museum at Midlands Farm. Riverton has a pleasing ambience and claims to be the oldest European settlement in NZ being established before 1820. Originally named Jacobs River, it began life as a whaling station.

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP i LAKE MANAPOURI - DEEP COVE & Westground Underarm Power Station by boat, then by road to DOUBTFUL SOUND over the Wilmot Pass (670m). Annual rainfall is up to 8 metres here. Access the remote Dusky Sound Track from here.

SIDE TRIP ii LAKE MONOWAI: DoC camping (toilets, water, table) by the lakeside. Lodge (also bkpr accom). Mostly gravel road, 14 km west of the highway.

SIDE TRIP iii CLIFDEN - LAKE HAUROKO: DoC camping (toilets, water, table) 6 km before the lake. 32 km west along a gravel road, this is NZ's deepest lake.

SIDE TRIP iv TUATAPERE - PORT CRAIG: DoC hut, is on the Southern Coastal Track. Goes along beaches and through native bush of the Waitutu Forest where the Southern Hemisphere's highest wooden viaduct at Percy Burn forms part of the route.

SIDE TRIP v INVERCARGILL - BLUFF: Alt 20m, pop 2,500. i: Marine Pde = 212 8305. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; hotel 3. On an easy road. Fred & Myrtle's Paua House is a collection of paua and other shells from around the world, hand collected by Fred himself. World famous Bluff Oysters are a delicacy in season. Bluff Pt is not the most southerly point of mainland NZ, Slope Pt has that honour.

ALTERNATIVE CLIFDEN - RIVERTON a quiet inland route through . . .
 OTAUTAU: pop 900. Store, tearooms, takeaways, restaurant, motor camp (no cabins), hotel.
 POURAKINO: DoC camping (toilet, water, table).

3. INVERCARGILL - BALCLUTHA - DUNEDIN.

DISTANCES:

	SH 1	SH 92
INVERCARGILL - GORE - BALCLUTHA - DUNEDIN	220 km*	
INVERCARGILL - OWAKA - BALCLUTHA		161 km**

* Add 9 km if going via Hedgehope (SH 96).

** 24 km longer than SH 1 & add another 15 km if going via Curio Bay.

ROUTE: INVERCARGILL - DUNEDIN on SH 1.

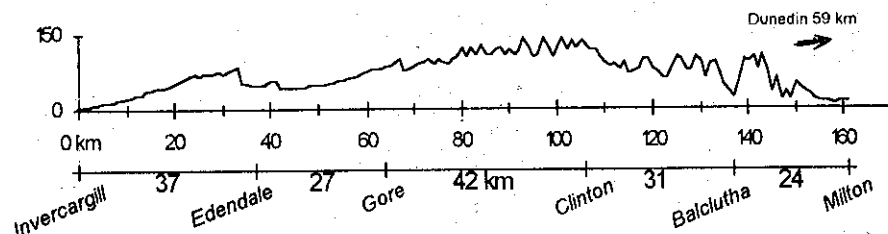
ALTERNATIVE i) INVERCARGILL - BALCLUTHA. The easier SH 1 through Gore or the quiet, partly gravel, hilly but more interesting SH 92 through the Catlins. These do not meet at any point.

ii INVERCARGILL - GORE. SH 1 or the quiet SH 96 via Hedgehope.

3 alt) alt FORTROSE - WAIKAWA. SH 92 via Tokanui or more interesting, gravel Curio Bay Road.

LINK ROAD 3) i) GORE (SH 1) - LUMSDEN (SH 6) on SH 94. See Section 1 Options.

ii GORE (SH 1) - RAES JUNCTION (SH 8) on SH 90. See Section 4a Options.



SERVICES: INVERCARGILL: Alt 20m, pop 57,000. *i:* Queens Park ☎ 214 6243.

Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 3; hostel (bkpr 1, YHA 1); motel 20; hotel 6.

Transport: Train to/from Dunedin & Chch. Bus & shuttles to/from Dunedin, Christchurch, Te Anau & Queenstown. Bicycle Shop.

WYNDHAM: Alt 25m, pop 750. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Domain camping (no cabins); hotel.

MATAURA: Alt 50, pop 2,000. All types of food outlets except supermarket. Hotel/motel.

Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel. Transport: Train to/from Dunedin & Invercargill. Bus & shuttles to/from Te Anau Invercargill & Dunedin. Bicycle shop.

PUKERAU: Tearooms. **CLINTON:** Alt: 130. Food: Store, tearooms, takeaways, hotel.

BALCLUTHA: Alt 20, pop 4,000. *i:* 63 Clyde St ☎ 418 0388. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel. Transport: Train daily to/from Dunedin & Invercargill. Bus & shuttles to/from Dunedin, Te Anau & Invercargill.

LOVELL'S FLAT: Tearooms, B&B. **CLARKESVILLE JUNCTION:** picnic area.

MILTON: Alt 20m, pop 2,000. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; motel. Bicycle shop.

LAKE WAIHOLA: Store, takeaways, pub, motor camp, motel.

ALLANTON: picnic area. **EAST TAIERI:** Dairy.

MOSGIEL: Alt 10m, pop 9,200. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motel; hotel. Bicycle shop.

DUNEDIN: See Chapter One (East) Section 4.

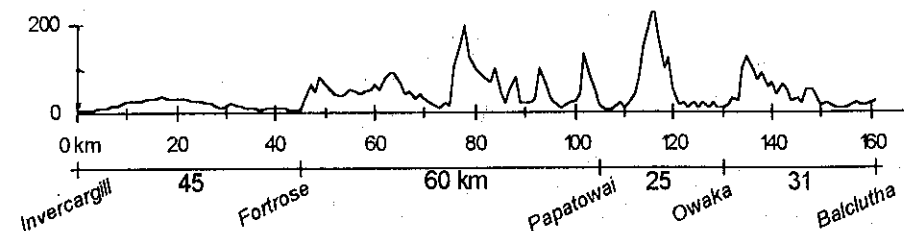
GRADIENTS: SH 1 begins flat as it leaves Invercargill heading east, the only hills of note are a short ½ km descent before and after Edendale. Mostly gentle gradients all the way to Gore. After Gore the highway alternates between undulations and rolling, with some quite steep section. No high passes to cross. A final long and quite steep descent past Peggydale arrives at Balclutha.

Starts with a long gradual 2 km climb out of Balclutha then rolls with some quite long and steep hills for much of the way to Lovell's Flat, then becomes gentle terrain approaching Clarkesville. Easy gradients continue from there through Milton until the outskirts of Dunedin. The hills start again at the Mosgiel turnoff. Very hilly whichever way is taken in and out of Dunedin, see Chapter One (East) Section 4.

ATTRACTIONS: A short distance from Edendale, off SH 1 is the pleasant olde worlde town of Wyndham whose streets are named after battles fought during the Crimea War. Mataura has oldest paper mill in NZ. Gore is the country music capital of NZ and is famous for its brown trout. The giant fish in the centre of town is only a statue so don't be afraid.

At Pukerau there is a reserve of rare red tussock adjacent to the highway. Clinton and Gore will be of interest to Americans and so close together. After Balclutha is Lovell's Flat, with historic Garvan House and old sod cottage. Lake Waihola is the main attraction of the fertile Taieri Plains. See Chapter One (East) Section 4 for details on Dunedin.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE ii to SH 1 from INVERCARGILL - GORE is SH 96. Mostly undulates and rolls with an occasional steeper section. Much quieter than SH 1. Access is by going north a few km on SH 6 toward Queenstown then east at LORNEVILLE: Lodge (also cabins & tent sites).

3 ALTERNATIVE i: INVERCARGILL - CATLINS - BALCLUTHA.

SERVICES: INVERCARGILL: See Section 3a for details.

FORTROSE: Alt 10m, pop 100. Picnic area (toilet, table).

TOKANUI: Alt 45m, pop 150. Store, pub. **CHASLANDS:** Lodge. **LAKE WILKIE:** picnic area.

PAPATOWAI: Alt 20m. Motor camp/shop (no cabins); motel.

PURAKAUNUI BAY: DoC camping (toilets, water) several km off SH 92.

TAWANUI: DoC camping (toilets, water) several km off SH 92. **MATAI FALLS:** picnic area.

OWAKA: Alt 20m, pop 350. *i:* Catlins Information, ☎ 415 8371. Food: Store, dairy/tearooms, takeaways, pub. Accom: bkpr hostel; motel 2; hotel (also tent sites). Transport: Shuttle to/from Dunedin & Invercargill (not every day). **POUNAWEA:** DoC Motor Camp (4 km off SH 92 from Owaka).

BALCLUTHA: See Section 3.

GRADIENTS: Head south towards Bluff on SH 1 for 2 km and go left (east) onto SH 92. Begins flat as it leaves Invercargill with few undulations to speak of most of the way to Fortrose. Although no high passes to cross the road has plenty of rolling hills to negotiate, some having quite steep ups and down occasionally climbing to 200m such as Chaslands, Florence Hill & Table Hill. Beware deep gravel on the verges. Gravel starts several km after the junction to Waikawa Harbour and should end at Papatowai by March 1997. After Owaka there's the moderate MacDonald's Hill before the highway first rolls then flattens out as it nears Balclutha.

ATTRACTIONS: The Catlins Coast has many interesting natural and historic features. Like many other places in the south, whaling and gold formed the basis of early development followed by forestry and then farming when much of the extensive native forests were cleared. At Fortrose an ALTERNATIVE route goes to Curio Bay where one of the world's best examples of an ancient 170 million year old petrified Jurassic forest is visible at low tide. Nearby Slope Point is the southern point of the South Island, not Bluff Pt as commonly believed. Dolphins are sometimes seen body surfing in the breakers at nearby Porpoise Bay. Rejoin SH 92 shortly after Waikawa Harbour, see options below for services. Catlins Forest area contains several scenic beauties including Cathedral Caves, Fleming River Historic Reserve, Lake Wilkie and Florence Hill (all near Tautuku Beach), Papatowai, Pounawea, and Nugget Point.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE to SH 92 is via CURIO BAY, see attractions. The middle section is gravel, some rough. HALDANE: Farm hostel. Slope Point: Weir's Beach Domain camping. WAIPOHATU: Recreational Reserve DoC style camping (toilets, water, tables) near Haldane. CURIO BAY: Motor camp (summer shop, no cabins). WAIKAWA: picnic area, (toilets, table).

4. DUNEDIN - ROXBURGH - QUEENSTOWN.

DISTANCES:	SH1/8/6
4a) DUNEDIN - ROXBURGH	155 km
4b) ROXBURGH - QUEENSTOWN	134 km
Total	289 km

ROUTE: 4a) DUNEDIN - MILTON on SH 1. MILTON - CROMWELL on SH 8. CROMWELL - QUEENSTOWN on SH 6.

ALTERNATIVE DUNEDIN - ALEXANDRA. SH 1 & 8 via Roxburgh or quieter and partly gravel SH 87 & sealed SH 85 through Middlemarch & Ranfurly. See Chapter One, Section 5.

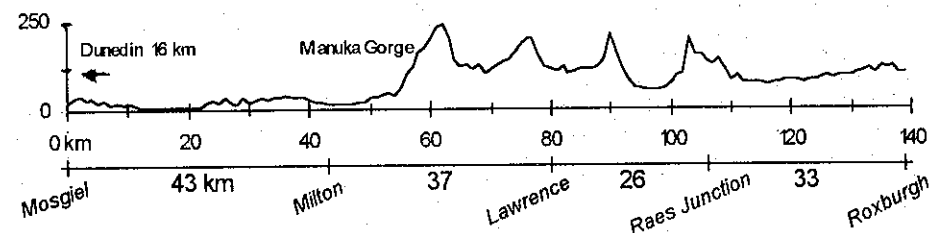
Note: These routes do not meet at any point between Mosgiel & Alexandra.

4b) ARROWTOWN - QUEENSTOWN quieter Malagan Road or SH 6.

SIDE TRIP 4b) I QUEENSTOWN - GLENORCHY. II SKIPPER'S CANYON.

LINK ROAD 4a) RAES JUNCTION (SH 8) - TAPANUI - GORE (SH 1) on SH 90.

4a. DUNEDIN - MILTON - ROXBURGH.



SERVICES: DUNEDIN: See Chapter One (East) Section 4.

MOSGIEL: Alt 10m, pop 9,200. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motel; hotel. Bicycle Shop.

EAST TAIERI: Dairy. **ALLENTON:** picnic area.

LAKE WAIHOLA: Store, takeaways, pub, motor camp; motel.

MILTON: Alt 20m, pop 2,000. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; motel. Bicycle shop.

CLAKESVILLE JUNCTION: picnic area. **MANUKA GORGE:** picnic area.

LAWRENCE: Alt 110m, pop 600. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel; B&B.

BEAUMONT: Alt 75m. Hotel (also tent sites). **RAES JUNCTION:** Alt 130m, pub.

MILLER'S FLAT: Alt 85m. Dairy, pub, motor camp. **ETTRICK:** Alt 90m. Dairy/tearooms, pub.

ROXBURGH: Alt 140m, pop 700. All types of food outlets except supermarket. Motor camp; motel 2.

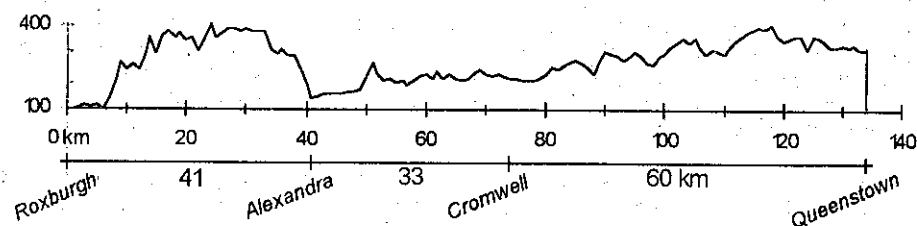
GRADIENTS: See Chapter One (East) Section 4 for details in/out of Dunedin. Go through Mosgiel and right onto SH 1. Mostly gentle gradients from there while crossing the Taieri Plains through Milton to Clarkesville Junction to join SH 8. The first few kilometres are almost flat as it heads inland. The highway then climbs variable steep for 7 km up through Manuka Gorge Scenic Reserve to Round Hill from where it drops steeply then rolls and undulations down to Waitahuna.

Apart from a flattish area around Lawrence the highway rolls and undulates to Beaumont, then the hills become longer and steeper and more winding until 5 km beyond Raes Junction at Island Block. Emerging from the hills gradients level out as SH 8 travels near Clutha River to Roxburgh. Only the last few km are are gently rolling.

ATTRACTIONS: Lake Waihola is the main attraction of the fertile Taieri Plains. Gabriels Gully near Lawrence was the site of the first gold rush in 1861 and named after the gentleman credited with the find. At its peak 11,000 prospectors lived there, twice the size of Dunedin at the time. They extracted 200,000 ounces of gold during the first year. Like many other towns founded during the gold rush era Lawrence became a sleepy backwater servicing local farmers. Almost the entire Central Otago region owes its development to gold discovered here in large quantities in the 1860's. There are a number of the Otago Goldfields Park sites are strung along or near the highway as reminders of those pioneering days. When the gold ran out, the soil and climate were found to be suitable for horticulture and with the help of irrigation has become an important part of the Central Otago economy. Apricots and a wide variety of stone and pip fruits are harvested in summer and autumn with seasonal work available during this time.

OPTIONS: LINK ROAD RAES JUNCTION (SH 8) - TAPANUI - GORE (SH 1) on SH 90, 64 km. 20 km from Raes Junction to BLACK GULLY: Recreation Reserve (cabins, no kitchen). Then 9 km to TAPANUI: Alt 190m. Store, tearooms, takeaways, caravan park (no kitchen), hotel. Tapanui's claim to fame is having a strain of flu named after it. Then 30 km to SH 1 before a final 5 km into GORE: See Section 3.

4b. ROXBURGH - ALEXANDRA - CROMWELL - QUEENSTOWN.



SERVICES: ROXBURGH: See previous section. **SHINGLE CREEK:** Pub, picnic area.

GORGE CREEK: picnic area (tables, monument). **FRUITLANDS:** Tearooms/restaurant.

ALEXANDRA: Alt 150m, pop 5,000. i: 22 Centennial Ave ☎ 448 9515.

Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 2; YHA hostel; motel 7; hotel. Bicycle Shop.

CLYDE: Alt 170m, pop 500. All types of food outlets except supermarket. Motor camp; motel 4.

LAKE DUNSTAN: picnic areas at Dairy Creek (also toilets), Champagne Creek & Jacksoms.

CROMWELL: Alt 220m, pop 3,300. i: 47 The Mall ☎ 445 0212.

Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp 2; bkpr hostel; motel 5; hotel.

Transport: Bus & shuttles to/from Chch, Queenstown, Dunedin & Fox.

KAWARAU GORGE: Mining centre tearooms, gold panning. **CAMP CREEK:** picnic area.

KAWARAU BRIDGE: bungy jumping, toilets. **LAKE HAYES:** Alt 320m, motel, B&B, picnic area.

FRANKTON: Alt 314m, pop 800. Store, takeaways, tearooms, motor camp, hotel.

QUEENSTOWN: Alt 310m, pop 4,500. i: 1) Cnr Shotover & Camp St ☎ 442 4100 for tours.

2) DoC, 37 Shotover St ☎ 442 7933 for track information. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Motor camp 4; hostel (bkpr 7, YHA 1); motel lots; hotel many. Bicycle shop.

Transport: Bus & shuttles to/from Chch, Invercargill, Milford Sound, Fox & Dunedin.

GRADIENTS: A gentle climb begins to Roxburgh Hydro then up variable steep for 3 km. Enter rolling country sometimes quite long and steep much of the way to Alexandra, ending with a long rolling descent. The gradients are gentle to Clyde whether using the rail trail or SH 8. At Clyde is a 1 km quite steep climb to join new Lake Dunstan. Going through Clyde and taking the dam road reduces the elevation gain. At the top long sweeping rolls skirt alongside the lake going all the way to Cromwell, the town centre is 1 km off SH 6 across the bridge.

On leaving Cromwell, the highway begins flattish before heading up-river into the narrow steep-sided Kawarau Gorge. Moderately steep and sometime long rolls tracking uphill for much of the way until the Kawarau Bridge. Fairly gentle rolls and undulations from there all the way to Frankton except for a moderate climb and short downhill at Lake Hayes and dip to cross the Shotover River. After Frankton the road undulates beside Lake Wakatipu, run the gauntlet of urban traffic into Queenstown. Try the quieter Arrowtown alternative see Chapter 4 (North) Section 1 alt.

ATTRACTIONS: Pass Roxburgh Hydro, another lake made by man to generate electricity and more Otago Goldfields Park sites such as the Gallery & Mitchells Cottage at Fruitlands. Alexandra is the administrative centre of Central Otago has a rock around the clock, blossom festival in spring and ice skating in winter. Central Otago can be hot and dry in summer and very cold in winter (they put the beer in the fridge to stop it freezing!).

Use part of the Otago Central Rail Trail for the 9 km to Clyde, a disused rail corridor being restored for cyclists, trampers and horses. When completed it will go 150 km from Clyde to Middlemarch. Clyde is a charming place despite the dam looming over it. The old Cromwell Gorge has now become the new Lake Dunstan. Filled in 1992, years late with huge cost over-runs this marvel of modern engineering seemed it would never be completed. Ponder as you pedal alongside the lake what might happen if the two fault lines the dam is built on suddenly move or the unstable hill sides slide into to lake. Observe the subsidence on the highway!

Nibble on the giant fruit at the entrance to Cromwell. A town transformed from a tatty backwater into a lakeside resort and fruit growing centre of repute. Seems a little out of place somehow. Travel through the stark spectacular Kawarau Gorge passing old gold mining sites, a bungy jumping bridge for those people with a deprived childhood, vineyards and pretty Lake Hayes before arriving at Queenstown. The undisputed tourist mecca of NZ, this town has a mind boggling array of activities to blow your budget on and locals expert at helping. Access the spectacular Mt Aspiring National Park & some of the tramping tracks from Queenstown.

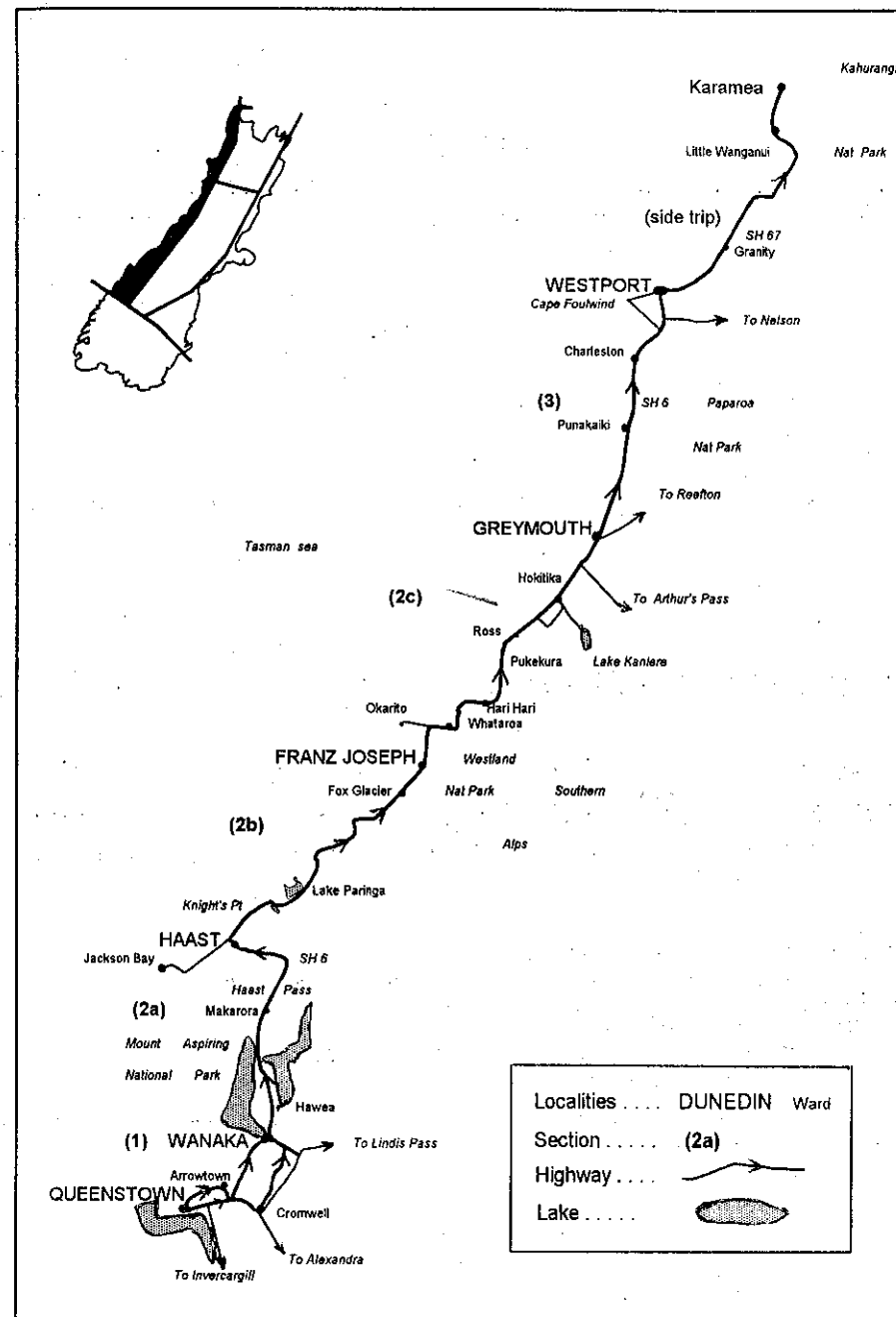
OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP i QUEENSTOWN - Mt ASPIRING National Park. This park borders Fiordland National Park and has more of the same spectacular scenery (less the fiords). Note that huts on the Routeburn and Milford Tracks are now for the walking wallets of the world. If these appear expensive and restrictive then try others such as Greenstone/Caples or Rees/Dart Tracks. The base for exploring the many tramping tracks & last stop for supplies before heading into the mountains is GLENORCHY: Alt 310m. i: DoC, Main Rd # 442 9937. Store, takeaways, tearooms, restaurant. Motor camp, hotel. Shuttle to/from Queenstown and the tracks during the tramping season.

Travel west alongside Lake Wakatipu on a no exit road for 47 km with the lake and distant mountains always visible. The highway is sealed about 25 km to Mt Creighton and planned completion date is late 1997. Undulates and rolls much of the way with some longer, steeper hills to traverse 12 mile & Bennett's Bluffs. Can be quite busy in summer and dusty in dry weather.

SIDE TRIP ii QUEENSTOWN - SKIPPER'S CANYON. Part way up Coronet Peak Road a narrow tortuous gravel road branches off to go to Skipper's Canyon. Once an important gold mining area it was one of the richest fields in the country. Very spectacular scenery and dangerous road. At Skipper's Bridge is another bungy jumping operation, at 71 metres (232ft) it is much higher than at the Kawarau Bridge and the highest of AJ Hackett's land based operations. Four wheel drive tours, white water rafting and helicopter rides are other activities. Gold mining may recommence here soon.

CHAPTER FOUR:

WEST.



This chapter covers the area west of the main divide between Queenstown and Westport. The route starts in the dry mountainous region around Queenstown and Wanaka then goes through Haast Pass to the West Coast. Travelling all the way up the coast past the Glaciers and Greymouth as far as Westport including a side trip to Karamea.

The diversity in the scenery is probably greater here than anywhere else in New Zealand. The region contains five national parks, (Aspiring, Westland, Arthur's Pass, Paparoa and Kahurangi) plus countless forest parks and scenic reserves. The region sits on a narrow ledge between the mountains and the sea. The Southern Alps dominate the scene to the east, being only 30 kilometres from the Tasman Sea between Haast and Hokitika.

The mountains are always in sight, unless obscured by cloud and rain, but don't let a little precipitation put you off. Indeed, a West Coast Experience wouldn't be complete without a drenching! Westland, or sometimes called "Wetland", is famous for its rain. Some areas have recorded up to 8 metres (25 ft) of precipitation in a year, 2 metres can fall in a month! The result of all this rain is luxuriant vegetation, see it growing on the old fence posts and power lines. On occasions the West Coast has so much rain that mildew grows on the back of livestock! Even when wet it is still worth the journey through this the last outpost of the cowboy. Though renowned for its rain, the coast also records high sunshine hours and the climate is mild. In winter snow rarely falls on the coastal plains.

This is a perfect environment for the famous sandfly. They are said to prefer forest margins and penguins. Only the female sandfly bites, needing water and blood to fertilise the eggs. They are more active just before rain and in muggy weather. So make friends with penguins but bring the insect repellent just in case!

1. QUEENSTOWN - WANAKA.

DISTANCES:	SH 6	Malagan Rd/SH 89
QUEENSTOWN - WANAKA	112 km*	77 km**

* Add 7 km if taking Arrowtown/Malagan Road option.

** SH 89 can be difficult for low quality or heavy loaded bikes due to the usually poor condition of the gravel surface near the top.

ROUTE: QUEENSTOWN - WANAKA on SH 6.

ALTERNATIVE QUEENSTOWN - WANAKA. The easier SH 6 via Cromwell or the quiet Malagan Rd to Arrowtown and challenging, partly gravel SH 89 over the Crown Range through Cardrona.

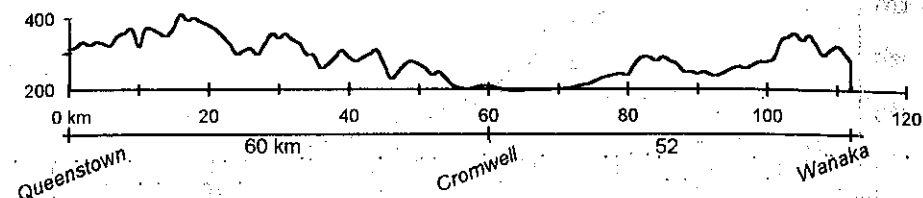
Both routes meet at the junction of SH 6 & 89 near Lake Hayes & at Wanaka.

SIDE TRIP 1) WANAKA - MT ASPIRING NAT PARK & Matukituki Valley.

1 alt) i SKIPPERS CANYON & Coronet Peak. ii ARROWTOWN - MACETOWN.

Note: These are all mostly gravel roads or tracks.

1. QUEENSTOWN - CROMWELL - WANAKA.



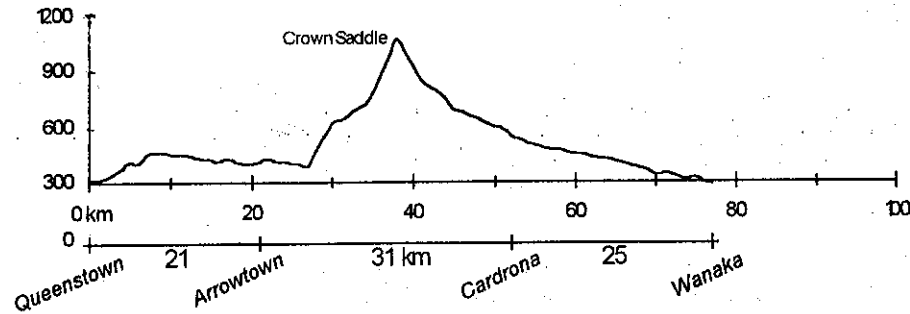
SERVICES: QUEENSTOWN: See Chapter 3 (South) Section 4b or Chapter 2 (Central) Section 3c.
FRANKTON: Alt 314m, pop 800. Store, takeaways, tearooms, motor camp, hotel.
LAKE HAYES: Alt 320m, motel, picnic area. **KAWARAU BRIDGE:** bungee jumping, toilets.
CAMP CREEK: picnic area. **KAWARAU GORGE:** Mining centre tearooms.
CROMWELL: Alt 220m, pop 3,300. i: 47 The Mall ☎ 445 0212.
 Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp 2; bkpr hostel; motel 5; hotel.
 Transport: Bus & shuttles to/from Chch, Queenstown, Dunedin & Fox.
LOWBURN: picnic area (toilets, water, table). **SCHOOLHOUSE BURN:** picnic area.
LUGGATE: Alt 250m, pop 300. Store, pub. Domain camping. **WANAKA:** See Section 2a.

GRADIENTS: Run the gauntlet of the urban traffic as SH 6 undulates alongside Lake Wakatipu to Frankton. Then fairly gentle undulations apart from the dip to cross the Shotover River and a climb at Lake Hayes. This is followed by a variable downhill past SH 89 turn off then undulates for 5 km to Kawarau Bridge. The road rolls and undulates down through the Kawarau Valley from here (but with some uphill bits), part of it through the spectacular, narrow, steep-sided Kawarau Gorge. After emerging from the gorge the highway becomes flatter to Cromwell, the town centre being 1 km off SH 6. Easy gradients most of the way to Wanaka except for a few rolling hills between Mt Pisa & Queensberry Stations, a short steep climb after Luggate and moderate rolling hills for the last part to Wanaka. Note: Central Otago can get hot and dry in summer.

ATTRACTIONS: Pass pretty Lake Hayes, vineyards, orchards and a bungee jumping bridge for those people with a deprived childhood before going through the Kawarau Valley. Jet boating, gold panning and demonstrations are at the reconstructed Kawarau Gorge Mining Centre, one of the many Otago Goldfields Park sites that dot the region. Cromwell, once a gold mining centre is now an important fruit producing region on the shores of the new Lake Dunstan with water sports & fishing the main attractions. After Cromwell there is little except sheep stations and Luggate Village until Wanaka. Wanaka is a year round resort in a beautiful setting. It is a base for many activities like mountain biking, water sports, tramping, skiing, climbing, horse riding & scenic flights. Unusual ones being water sledging, aerobatic bi-plane rides and canyoning. There is a Warbirds Museum with occasional flying displays of their vintage aircraft & NZ's original maze and puzzle centre. It is the gateway to Matukituki Valley & Mt Aspiring Nat Park. Note: Wanaka has the last banks until Hokitika over 400 km away.

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP WANAKA - MT ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK. The gravel begins 13 km from Wanaka at GLENDHU BAY. Motor camp. Pass the turn off to Diamond Lake Walk & Treble Cone Ski Field. The not too difficult road ends after 45 km at RASPBERRY CREEK: car park (toilet). No bikes on national park tracks so walk from there deeper into Matukituki Valley & Mt Aspiring National Park. Plenty of climbing and tramping opportunities available. Details from Wanaka DoC Visitor Centre. See the spectacular Rob Roy Glacier on a side trip up the Rob Roy Valley. Access the Rees/Dart Valleys over Cascade Saddle. Overnight stays at Cascade or Aspiring Huts, no shops.

1. ALTERNATIVE: QUEENSTOWN - CARDRONA - WANAKA.



SERVICES: QUEENSTOWN: See Chapter 3 (South) Section 4b or Chapter 2 (Central) Section 3.

ARROWTOWN: Alt 420m, pop 1,100. Food: All outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; motel 4; hotel (also bkpr accom). **PLANE TABLE:** picnic area.

CARDRONA: Alt 550m. Hotel, informal camping nearby. **WANAKA:** See Section 2a.

GRADIENTS: Apart from the descent and ascent to cross the Shotover River at Arthurs Point the gradients are fairly easy through to Arrowtown and continue almost flat to SH 6. Go left a short distance and left onto SH 89. Immediately begins a stiff 3 km climb through several switchbacks to a plane table and start of the gravel. It then undulates up across Crown Terrace for 5 km before starting another stiff 3½ km climb up a narrow winding road, the top being the highest highway in New Zealand at 1080m. The descent begins quite steeply, twisting down through the narrow upper Cardrona Valley for the first few kilometres. The gradients gradually ease and at Cardrona the valley broadens, gravel ends and terrain becomes a mostly gentle descent. On leaving the Cardrona Valley the mountains fall back further, then undulating until a final quite steep descent to enter Wanaka township.

ATTRACTIONS: At Arthur's Pt is the Oxenbridge Tunnel, started in 1907 to divert the water to get at gold on the river bed. Taking 4 years to complete it was a financial disaster and is now used for rafting. Arrowtown is a picturesque village and very different to its near neighbour Queenstown. Worth a visit, especially in autumn when poplars become a blaze of gold. Here was once the centre of a major gold rush, Arrowtown retains the period atmosphere of the time. See the interesting museum and reconstructed Chinatown. Activities include horse treks, gold panning and several walks of varying length. After the switch-backs on SH 89 a plane table has the names of surrounding mountains. Stunning views get better all the way up to the top. Ski in winter on the mountains in the vicinity of Cardrona, including the only commercial nordic ski area in NZ. The historic hotel was built in 1865 at the height of yet another gold rush. Wanaka is a popular year round tourist resort in a beautiful setting. See Section 1 above for details on Wanaka, Section 2a for Services.

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP i QUEENSTOWN - SKIPPER'S CANYON. Part way up Coronet Peak Road a narrow tortuous gravel road branches off to go to Skipper's Canyon. Once an important gold mining area it was one of the richest fields in the country. Very spectacular scenery and dangerous road. At Skipper's Bridge is another bungy jumping operation, at 71 metres (232ft) it is much higher than at the Kawarau Bridge and the highest of AJ Hackett's land based operations. Four wheel drive tours, white water rafting and helicopter rides are other activities. Gold mining may recommence here soon.

SIDE TRIP ii ARROWTOWN - MACETOWN another ghost town from the gold rush era of last century. Walk or cycle up the old rough track for about 14 km, crossing more than 40 fords of the Arrow River. Ask locally for directions and up to date conditions. No services.

2. WANAKA - HAAST - FRANZ JOSEPH - GREYMOUTH.

DISTANCES:	SH 6
2a) WANAKA - HAAST	145 km
2b) HAAST - FRANZ JOSEPH	142 km
2c) FRANZ JOSEPH - GREYMOUTH	172 km
Total	459 km

ROUTE: WANAKA - GREYMOUTH on SH 6.

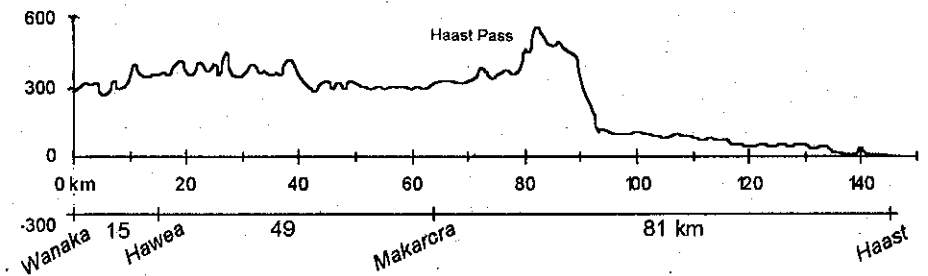
ALTERNATIVE 2c) MAHINAPUA - HOKITIKA. SH 6 or via Kaniere.

SIDE TRIP 2a) HAAST - JACKSON BAY. 2b) FOX - GILLESPIES BEACH.

2c) i FORKS - OKARITO. ii HOKITIKA - LAKE KANIERE. iii HOKITIKA - GOLDSBOROUGH.

Note: All roads sealed except to Gillespies Beach.

2a. WANAKA - MAKARORA - HAAST.



SERVICES: WANAKA: Alt 275m, pop 1,500. i: DoC, Ardmore St # 443 1233.

Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Note: Wanaka has the last banks until Hokitika.

Accom: Motor camp 3; hostel (bkpr 2, YHA 1); motel 12; hotel 4.

Transport: Bus & shuttle to/from Fox, Queenstown, Chch, & Dunedin. Bicycle shop.

ALBERT TOWN: DoC camping (toilet, water). Bkpr hostel.

LAKE HAWEA: Alt 350m, pop 300. Dairy, motor camp, motel, hotel.

HAWEA LOOKOUT: Alt 470m, picnic area. **KIDD'S BUSH:** DoC camping, (water, toilet, shelter) 6 km off SH 6 on gravel track. **BOUNDARY CREEK:** picnic area (toilet, water).

WHARF CREEK: DoC camping adjacent SH 6 (closed due to flooding).

MAKARORA: Alt 310m, pop 60. i: DoC. Store/tearooms/motel/motor camp.

note: backpacker buses overnight here. **BOILER FLAT:** picnic area.

CAMERON FLAT: Alt 335m, DoC camping. (water, toilet, table, sandflies).

DAVIS FLAT: Alt 380m, DoC camping, (water, toilet, table, sandflies).

HAAST PASS: Alt 563m, picnic area. **GATES OF HAAST:** picnic area.

PLEASANT FLAT: Alt 100m, DoC camping (water, toilets, table, sandflies).

ROARING BILLY: picnic area. **DEPOT CREEK:** picnic area.

HAAST: Alt 10m, pop 200. i: DoC, Haast Bridge # 750 0809. Food: restaurant, store, pub.

Accom: Motor camp 2 (1 at Okuru 15 km S on Jackson Bay Rd); bkpr hostel; motel 2; hotel.

Transport: Bus to/from Fox and Queenstown.

GRADIENTS: Gradients vary between Wanaka and the Neck, but predominantly rolling with more substantial stretches like Hawea Lookout (470m) and the Neck (405m). After the Neck SH 6 returns to the shores of Lake Wanaka with a long 5 km gradual downhill to Camp Creek, then rolling to Wharf Creek, near the head of lake. This is followed by mostly flat to Makarora. Beyond Makarora SH 6

alternates between uphill through beech forest and gentle undulations over open river flats, the valley becomes narrower and mountains close in up to Davis Flat. At Davis Flat the road climbs through the forest, steadily and quite steeply, except to cross two streams, for 3½ km with the last 1 km the steepest, to Haast Pass (563m). This is the lowest pass to the West Coast.

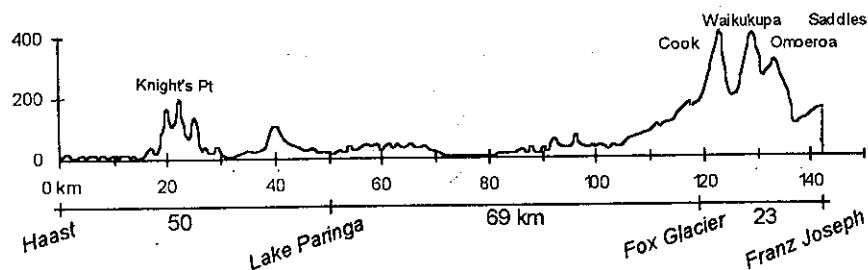
Quite steep down for 1 km then gently for 5½ km. Becomes a steep descent for 4 km as it goes through the Gates of Haast to Thunder Creek Falls (120m). The road then flattens out, undulating gently down for the next 52 km travelling alongside Haast River to the coast with only an occasional short hill to climb on the way. Note: The last stretches of highway between the Neck and Haast Pass have been sealed. No services for the 81 km between Makarora & Haast.

ATTRACTIONS: Albert Town Recreation Reserve is a historical site where once dwelt a large population. Between Lake Hawea and Haast there are many natural splendours to feast the eyes on, swift flowing rivers, snow capped mountains, alpine meadows, beautiful lakes and beech forest. Makarora has jet boat rides and scenic flights and is the base for exploring the northern region of Aspiring National Park such as Wilkin and Young Valley systems.

After Makarora pass many scenic reserves, some include short walks such as Blue Pools, Bridal Track, Fantail Falls and Roaring Billy. The brooding, steep-sided, bush-clad mountains are ever present. Haast offers plenty of sport of an aquatic nature. Things here are a little complicated & spread out here; Haast Township is 2½ km towards Haast Pass from Haast Bridge. The information centre and hotel are located at Haast Bridge. Haast Beach has a general store, 4 km south of Haast Bridge on Jackson Bay Road, Haast motor camp is 15 km south at Okuru! In recent times a local farmer came to national prominence for cutting down some ancient rain forest trees on his land - for firewood!

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP HAAST - JACKSON BAY. A small fishing village 48 km SW of Haast at the end of the road is one New Zealand's ultimate places in remoteness. A desolate looking place in foul weather, no facilities except a rest area with a shelter and information display.

2b. HAAST - FOX GLACIER - FRANZ JOSEPH.



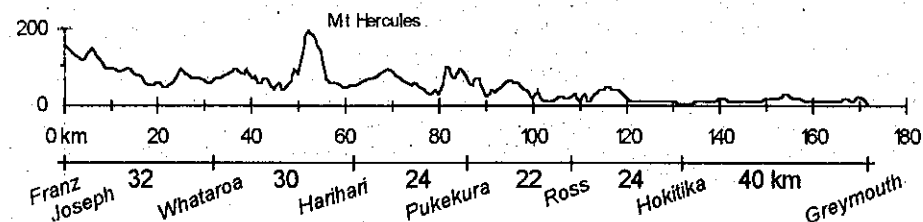
SERVICES: HAAST: See Section 2. **WAITA RIVER:** picnic area. **SHIP CREEK:** (shelter, toilets & tables, sandflies) not an official camp site. **KNIGHT'S POINT:** picnic area (tables & monument). **LAKE MOERAKI:** Lodge (guest restaurant, motel & cottages). Picnic areas. **LAKE PARINGA:** Alt 100m, DoC camping (toilets, water, tables), 2 km N is a lodge (tearooms with limited off-season hours, motel, cabins). **BRUCE BAY:** picnic area. **JACOB'S RIVER:** Motel/cabins (3 km N). **KARANGARUA RIVER:** (Copland Track) bus shelter. **FOX GLACIER:** Alt 175m, pop 300. *i:* DoC, Main Rd ☎ 751 0807. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor Camp 2; bkpr hostel; motel 4; hotel 2. **FRANZ JOSEPH GLACIER:** Alt 150m, pop 350. *i:* DoC, Main Rd ☎ 752 0796. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; hostel (bkpr 2, YHA 1); motel 5; hotel 2. Transport: Bus to Greymouth Nelson & Queenstown. *Note: Backpacker Buses overnight at Fox & Franz.

GRADIENTS: Quite easy gradients from Haast Bridge for the 32 km to Lake Moeraki, except for three steep hills (in 8 kms) of Knights Point between Bishops Folly and Murphy Creek. The road is narrow winding and climbs to 200m. Lake Moeraki has an easy 3 km lakeside ride; then undulates and rolls 18 km to Lake Paringa with another similar 6 km to Paringa River. The 63 km from there to Fox are generally flat to undulating, apart from short rolling hills each side of Karangarua River. Between Fox to Franz there are three major hills of the Cook (410m) Waikukupa (405m) and Omoeroa (320m) Saddles to cross for the first 18 km of the 23 km. Apart from the last climb, each hill has an elevation gain/loss of 200m. The road is often steep, narrow and winding.

ATTRACTIONS: Travel up the narrow West Coast corridor, sea to the west, the mountains always a backdrop to the east. Go through dense rain forests, passing river flats, dark still lakes, isolated farms and tiny settlements. Occasionally touch the coast with the seascapes of Ship Creek, Knights Point & Bruce Bay. As with many hilly sections in the South Island, the views make the effort rewarding and Knight's Pt is no exception. Pass the forest fringed lakes of Moeraki & Paringa. Karangarua River is the start of the Copland Track to the hot springs at Welcome Flat. The Copland Pass beyond is an alpine pass recommended only for the experienced. The twin tourist towns of Fox and Franz Joseph are bases for exploring Westland National Park. Activities include visits to the glaciers, numerous walks, glow worm grottoes and Lake Matheson with the View of Views. Guided glacier walks, helicopter rides, scenic flights, horse treks and rafting are the main fee paying activities.

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP FOX - GILLESPIES BEACH. DoC camping (toilets, tables) at north end of beach where old gold workings and a seal colony may be seen. Go 19 km down a no exit gravel road.

2c. FRANZ JOSEPH - HOKITIKA - GREYMOOUTH.



SERVICES: FRANZ JOSEPH GLACIER: See Section 2b. **LAKE MAPOURIKA:** picnic areas (toilets & tables). **FORKS:** Lodge (2 kms on Okarito Rd). **LAKE WAHOPA:** picnic area. **WAITANGI TAONA:** picnic area. **WHATAROA:** Alt 70m, pop 200. Store, tearooms, motel/cabins/tent sites, hotel. **HARIHARI:** Alt 90m, pop 600. Food: Store, tearooms, restaurant, pub. Accom: Motel (also cyclists' accom); hotel (also bunkroom). **LAKE IANTHE:** Picnic area (toilets, tables). **PUKEKURA:** Tavern/cabins. **FERGUSONS BUSH:** Alt 100m, Farmstay/camping. **ROSS:** Alt 40m, pop 450. *i:* at the museum. Food: Store/tearooms, restaurant, pub. Accom: Motel 2; hotel 2(1 with motor camp). **LAKE MAHINAPUA:** DoC camping (toilets, water, tables, sandflies) entrance opposite pub (also bkpr accom). Note: backpacker buses overnight here.

HOKITIKA: Alt 10m, pop 3,300. *i:* Weld St \approx 755 8322. Food: All types of food outlets. Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel 3; motel 5; hotel 4. Transport: Bus to Greymouth, Nelson & Fox. Shuttle to Chch. Bicycle shop. Note: First banks since Wanaka.

GREYMOUTH: Alt 10m, pop 10,000. *i:* Cnr Mackay & Herbert Sts \approx 768 5101. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 2; hostel (bkpr 2, YHA 1); motel 10; hotels 6. Transport: Train daily to/from Chch. Bus to/from Fox, Westport & Nelson. Shuttle to/from Chch via Arthur's Pass: Bicycle shops.

GRADIENTS: Gentle gradients for the 32 km from Franz to Whataroa, on the way the highway travels alongside Lake Mapourika, passing Forks/Okarito turn off, and Lake Wahapo. Continues similar to Whataroa River, then 2 kms of small hills through Whataroa Scenic Reserve and a few kms of flat before reaching Mt Hercules, the last major hill before Greymouth. Narrow and twisting it climbs 4 km to 185m with several places suitable for rests, then a 3 km descent of variable steepness before arriving at Harihari. After Harihari apart from a few kms of rolling hills around Lake lanthe, Pukekura and Ferguson's Bush the highway is mostly flat to undulating all the way to Ross. Easy gradients from Ross to Greymouth.

ATTRACTIONS: An interesting side trip goes to Okarito, see options below. Mapourika & Wahapo are two pretty lakes between Franz and Whataroa. Seasonal guided tours of the white heron colony leave from Whataroa. Harihari, Whataroa and Ross are small towns servicing the local farming community and passing tourist traffic. 20 km after Harihari is the Giant Matai Tree near Lake lanthe, over 1,000 years old, a lumberjack's dream! Pukekura Bush Museum has a monster sandfly above the door, so watch out!

Ross owes its origins to gold and has a large working mine behind the town. Here the Honourable Roddy was discovered, at 99oz it is/was the biggest nugget found in NZ. As large as a man's hand it eventually became tableware at Buckingham Palace. Pass Mahinapua Hotel made famous by the cheese adverts and Lake Mahinapua.

Native bush gradually gives way to fertile farmland as Hokitika nears. Hokitika has the first banks since Wanaka, it is famous for greenstone (jade) where local factories process the raw material. Enjoy the road/rail bridges. Grey by name, grey by nature especially on cold wet days, Greymouth is the largest town on the West Coast. See the Great Wall of Greymouth, built to stop the Grey River from flooding the town centre and ruining shop keepers' merchandise. Point Elizabeth walkway and fossicking on the beach are other popular activities. The Brunner Mine historic site is a few kms north on SH 7 where NZ's worst mining disaster occurred in 1896. Combine it with a trip to Blackball and Lake Brunner, where "the fish die of old age".

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE MAHINAPUA - KANIERE - HOKITIKA. This is 6 km longer than SH6 and has more hills with a significant drop to join Kanier River. Passes through bush and small settlements. It can be combined with a journey to Lake Kanier, see Side Trip ii below.

MAHINAPUA FOREST: DoC style camping (toilet, water, table), 2 km S of Rimu.

WOODSTOCK: pub. **KANIERE:** Dairy.

SIDE TRIP i FORKS - OKARITO: DoC camping (toilets, tables, coin showers, sandflies), hostel (bkpr, YHA shelter hostel), motel. Once a thriving port town of several thousand is now a small peaceful settlement. Hard to imagine 120 years ago Okarito had 31 hotels and 3 banks. Donovan's Store (now closed) is reputedly the 2nd oldest building on the coast. Take food supplies. Okarito tends to be drier than at the glaciers being further away from the mountains. Spectacular views of the Southern Alps from Okarito Trig on a 30 minute walk. Explore Okarito Lagoon's white heron colony (seasonal). See the International Airport usually complete with sheep waiting for the next flight! Turn off SH 6 at the Forks 17 km north of Franz Joseph going 11 km on a sealed, mostly easy road.

SIDE TRIP ii HOKITIKA - LAKE KANIERE: Hans Bay DoC camping (toilets, water, table) is 18 easy km inland, a typical bush fringed west coast lake with walks, fishing & visit to Kanier Gorge possible.

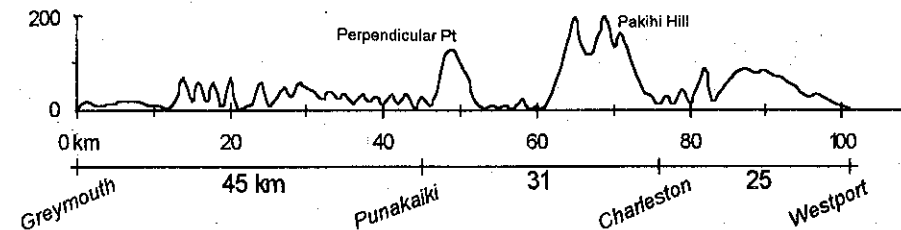
SIDE TRIP iii to GOLDSBOROUGH: DoC camping (toilets, water, tables) also gold panning, a ghost town, 9 km north of Hokitika on SH 6 and 8 km inland.

3. GREYMOUTH - WESTPORT.

DISTANCES:	SH 6	SH 67
GREYMOUTH - WESTPORT	101 km	
WESTPORT - KARAMEA		97 km

ROUTE: GREYMOUTH - WESTPORT on SH 6.

SIDE TRIP i CAPE FOULWIND. **ii WESTPORT - KARAMEA** on SH 67.
iii DENNISTON INCLINE. **iv KARAMEA - COLLINGWOOD** on Heaphy Track.



SERVICES: GREYMOUTH: See Section 2c. **RUNANGA:** Alt 40m. Store/takeaways, pub.

RAPAHOE: Motor camp. **9 MILE CREEK:** picnic area. **13 MILE CREEK:** picnic areas.

BARRYTOWN: Alt 50m, pop 15. Hotel (also bkpr accom & takeaways).

PUNAKAIKI: Alt 30m, pop 40. *i:* DoC, Main Rd \approx 731 1895. Tearooms/takeaways, motor camp, bkpr hostel, motel. **PERPENDICULAR Pt:** picnic area.

CHARLESTON: Alt 50m, pop 100. Pub, motor camp/small store/takeaways; motel.

WESTPORT: Alt 10m, pop 4,500. *i:* 1 Brougham St \approx 789 6658. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 2 (1 at beach 6 km from Westport); bkpr hostel 3; motel 6; hotel 4. Transport: Buses to Nelson, Chch & Greymouth. Bus to Karamea (Mon to Fri). Bicycle shop

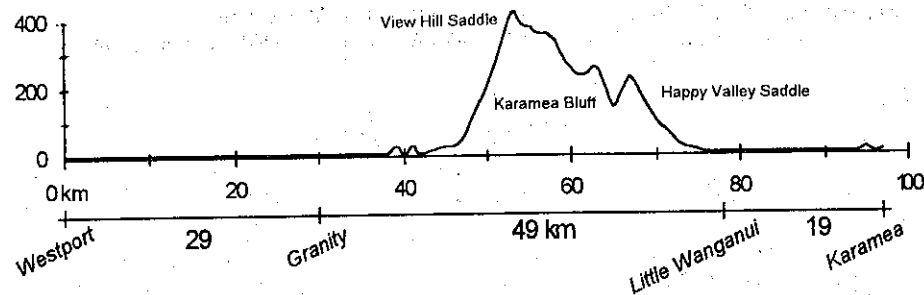
GRADIENTS: Fairly easy for the first 12 km, passing through Runanga until reaching the coast at Rapahoe. After Rapahoe SH 6 has some fairly long climbs & descents for 14 km as it negotiates several bluffs. At Barker's Creek the highway heads inland and gradients become easy again for 19 km, re-joining the coast at Punakaiki.

After Punakaiki undulations continue along the coast for the next 15 km, apart from a steep 2 km climb and similar 2 km drop to cross the bluffs of Perpendicular Pt. 4 km north of Fox River start three steep hills of variable length & height in 11 km, reaching 200m and ending 1 km before Charleston. Mostly undulates from there to Westport apart from Costello Hill.

ATTRACTIONS: Runanga is a small coal mining town at the southern end of the Paparoa Range overlooked by an unusually named Old Baldy hill! The bluffs and coastal scenes north of Rapahoe and around Punakaiki are impressive. The Croesus Track at Barrytown goes over the hills to Blackball. Punakaiki is the base for exploring Paparoa National Park. Nearby are pancake rocks and blowholes, black petrel colony, canoe trips, caving and several walks. Limestone cliffs and headlands dominate the scene. Perpendicular Pt is aptly named! The tiny settlement of Charleston was yet another prosperous gold mining town. Westport is the second largest town of the West Coast and owes its existence to coal, hence Coaltown Museum. Nearby Cape Foulwind & Tauranga Bay has a seal colony.

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP i WESTPORT - CAPE FOULWIND & TAURANGA BAY seal colony, 18 km W of Westport via Carters Beach and cement works on an easy undulating road. There is a car park & shelter at the start of the walkway. Named by Capt Cook after being caught in unpleasant weather and currents, not because of the smell from below!

SIDE TRIP ii: WESTPORT - KARAMEA.



SERVICES: WAIMANGAROA: Alt 20m, pub, store. **GRANITY:** Pub, store/takeaways. **NGAKAWAU/HECTOR:** store, pub. **MOKIHINUI:** Store. **WAIMARIE:** Store, pub, tearooms, domain motor camp. **SEDDONVILLE:** Store, pub, domain motor camp, hotel. **LITTLE WANGANUI:** Alt 10m. Hotel (also bkpr accom). **KARAMEA:** Alt 10m. i: Waverley St ☎ 782 6820. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Domain camping/bunkhouse; motor camp (3 km S); motel, hotel (also bkpr accom). Transport: Bus to Westport (Mon to Fri).

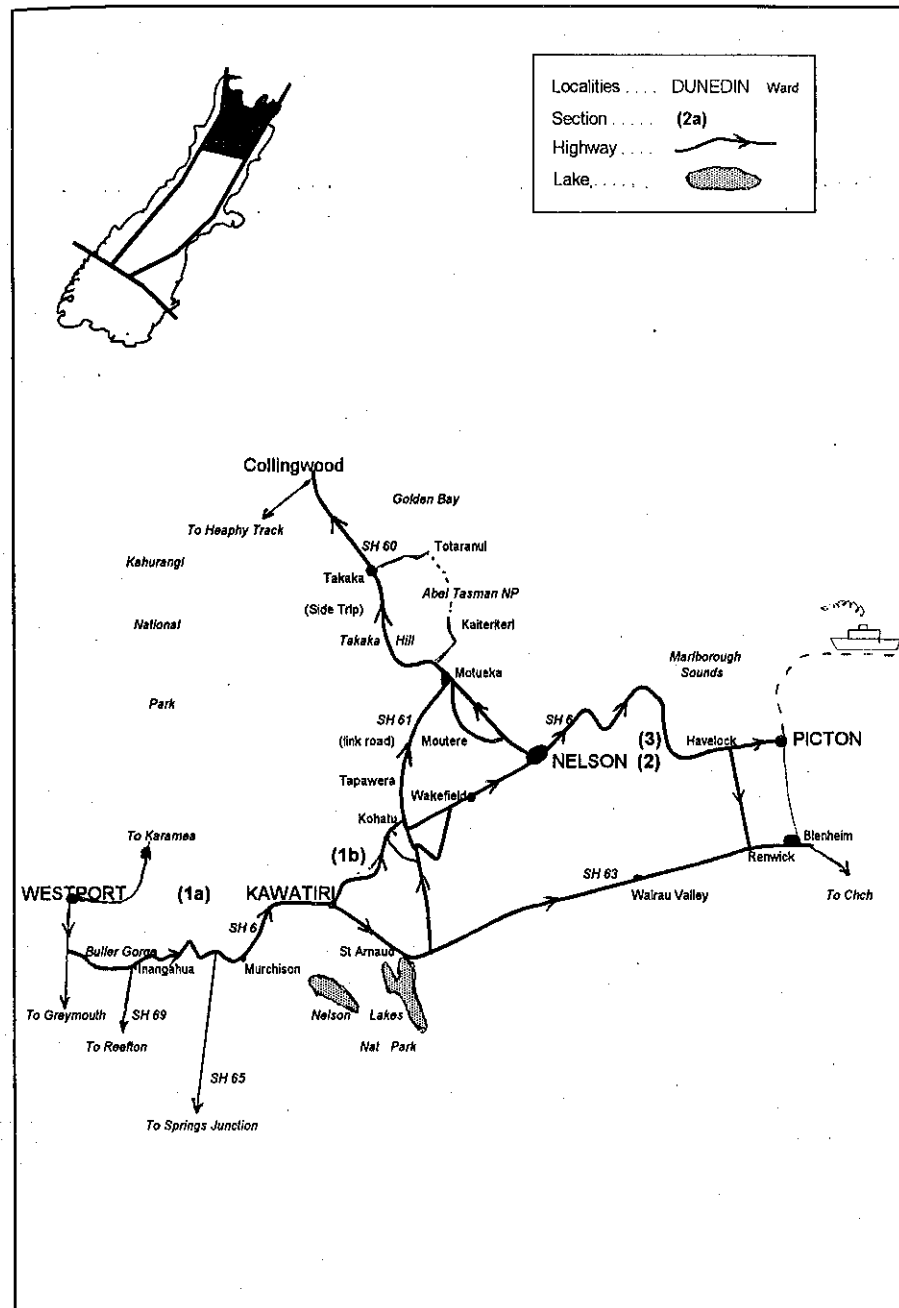
GRADIENTS: SH 67 is mostly flat all the way to Karamea, apart from the occasional small hill and Karamea Bluff. This comprises mainly of two long ups & downs of variable length and steepness that cross View Hill Saddle (420m) & Happy Valley Saddle (283m) on the way to Little Wanganui. An easy 16 km of alternating seal/gravel road goes from Karamea to Kohaihai and start of the Heaphy Track.

ATTRACTIONS: Travel up the coast passing small settlements on the way. Granity, Ngakawau & Hector are the base villages for open cast coal mines on the plateau above. Seddonville is a small settlement 5 km off the highway in a pleasant setting with a few local walks. Karamea Bluff offers fine views of the surrounding area and cuts off Karamea from civilisation. Little Wanganui is a small settlement and western access point of the Wangapeka Track. Karamea is a quiet, sprawling village with plenty of beautiful natural features dotting the area. Explore Kahurangi, NZ's newest National Park.

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP iii WAIMANGAROA - DENNISTON INCLINE HISTORIC RESERVE. 9 km inland up a steep narrow winding road is the disused railway line on a 1:1 hill. It once hauled coal down from mines high on the Rochford Plateau 600 m ASL. Amazing coastal views from the top complete with a walkway, information displays, remnants of the railway, coal mine and ghost town. **SIDE TRIP iv KARAMEA - KOHAIHAI:** DoC camping (toilets, shelter, water, tables) 16 km N of Karamea. The south end of the HEAPHY TRACK a DoC Great Walk taking trampers to Golden Bay. Now closed to mountain bikes but this policy may be reviewed this year.

CHAPTER FIVE:

NORTH.



This chapter covers the area to the north of the island. Starting at Westport in the west, going up the Buller Gorge, over Hope Saddle and through Nelson to Picton. Also includes Nelson to Golden Bay and St Arnaud to Motueka.

The region is endowed with many scenic splendours with Abel Tasman, Nelson Lakes, Kahurangi National Parks and Marlborough Sounds Maritime Park are located in the region. In addition some unusual natural features dot the region, Pupu Springs, Harwood's Hole on Marble Mountain (or Takaka Hill) and Farewell Spit to name a few.

The Nelson region has also become an important historical and cultural centre. Here is the oldest church on the South Island and nearby Brightwater being the birthplace of Ernest Rutherford, the man credited as the first to split the atom. Today there are active arts and craft communities. Golden Bay, golden by name and by nature, of the sun and sandy beaches, the ultimate get-away-from-it all place of all New Zealand get-away-from-it all places. This is a natural habitat for reclusives. Whales also seem to like the bay, often becoming stuck on the beach.

Long hours of sunshine with abundant sandy beaches and safe bays makes the region a favourite with New Zealanders, the population of many resorts soar during the summer school holidays. The pleasant climate also helps to make it one of New Zealand's most important horticultural regions with pip fruits, kiwifruit and hops the main produce. Fruit picking work is available in the season.

1. WESTPORT - KAWATIRI JUNCTION - NELSON.

DISTANCES:

	SH 6	
1a) WESTPORT - MURCHISON - KAWATIRI JUNCT	133 km	
1b) KAWATIRI JUNCT - KOHATU - NELSON	92 km*	
link iii KAWATIRI JUNCT - ST ARNAUD - MOTUEKA		129 km
Total	225 km	

Note: Beware logging trucks in and around forest plantations.

ROUTE: WESTPORT - NELSON on SH 6.

ALTERNATIVE 1b) KAWATIRI JUNCTION - NELSON. The shorter, busier SH 6 over Hope Saddle or the quieter more interesting route via St Arnaud. Both meet at Belgrove. Add 23 km if taking this alternative (see link road 1b iii as far as Golden Downs).

LINK ROAD 1a) i INANGAHUA (SH 6) - REEFTON (SH 7) on SH 69.

ii MURCHISON (SH 6) - SPRINGS JUNCTION (SH 7) on SH 65.

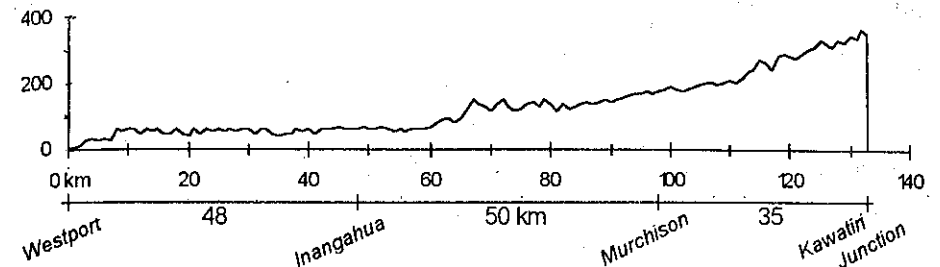
iii KAWATIRI JUNCT - ST ARNAUD - MOTUEKA on various highways.

iv KAWATIRI JUNCT (SH 63) - ST ARNAUD - BLEMHEIM (SH 1) on SH 63.

v ST ARNAUD (SH 63) - RAINBOW TRACK - HANMER SPRINGS (SH 7).

vi MOTUEKA - NELSON See Section 2 Side trip.

1a. WESTPORT - MURCHISON - KAWATIRI JUNCTION.



SERVICES: WESTPORT: See Chapter Four (West) Section 3.

BERLINS: Alt 48m, pub. **INANGAHUA JUNCTION:** Alt 60m, pop 50. Store, farm hostel.

LYELL: Alt 100m. DoC camping (toilets, water, table). **ARIKI FALLS:** casual camping.

MURCHISON: Alt 180m, pop 600. Food: Tearooms, takeaways, store, restaurant.

Accom: Motor camp (2 km N); cabins; hostel (seasonal); motel 2; hotel.

Transport: Bus to Greymouth, Westport, Nelson & Chch. **MANGLES RIVER:** picnic area.

OWEN RIVER: Alt 260m. Pub, Domain camping (toilets, table, water). **GOWAN BRIDGE:** picnic area.

KAWATIRI JUNCTION: Alt 360m, picnic area (shelter, table, water).

GRADIENTS: Mostly flat for the first 11 km from Westport until joining the Buller River and entering the Buller Gorge. High, steep, bush-clad walls dominate most of the next 133 km as the road rolls and undulates up-stream to Kawatiri Junction. The only exceptions being flatter sections around Berlins, Inangahua Junction and Murchison where the hills fall back temporarily leaving broad open valleys.

ATTRACTIONS: The Buller River has a variety of interesting sights for the passing cyclist. Fern Arch Half Bridge, Hawk's Crag, Berlins & Inangahua in the lower gorge. Lyell Historic Reserve, (now a ghost town), Newton horse-powered farm, Ariki Falls, Old Man Mountain & Murchison Village in the upper gorge.

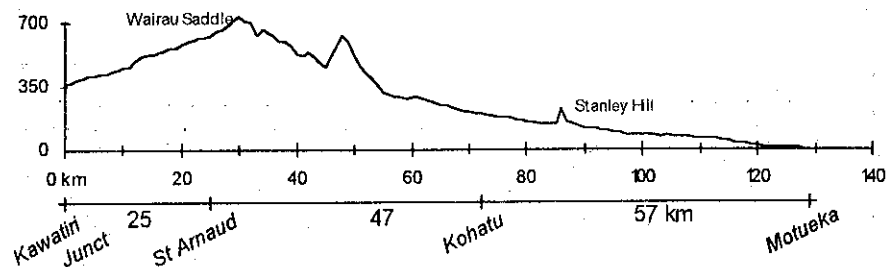
At Murchison there is an interesting museum and nearby is NZ's oldest hydro power scheme. Inangahua (1968) and Murchison (1929) suffered devastating earthquakes with many scars on the hillsides as reminders of the unstable nature of the area. An ambitious railway project intending to go from Nelson to Westport only made it to Kawatiri Junction, has long since closed. See the tunnel.

OPTIONS: LINK ROAD i INANGAHUA JUNCTION - REEFTON is an easy 34 km climb on SH 69 alongside Inangahua River, no services, for details on Reefton see Chapter Two, Section 1b.

LINK ROAD ii MURCHISON - SHENANDOAH SADDLE - SPRINGS JUNCTION on SH 65. 83 km The highway rolls and undulates upstream alongside the Maruia River passing . . .

MARUIA FALLS: DoC camping (toilet, table, water, sandflies) adjacent SH 65, 10 km S of SH 6/65 junction. This is the main attraction of SH 65, being formed in only 1929 as a result of the earthquake diverting the river from its normal course. 13 km south of Maruia Falls is Moonlight (expensive lodge). After leaving limestone country of the Buller Gorge enter the podocarp forests of Victoria Forest Park. A steady 6½ km climb to romantically named SHENANDOAH SADDLE is followed by a 6½ km descent, the middle part around Frog Flat (Burnbrae) being very gentle.

SH 65 then alternates between undulating and rolling until Rapahancock Stream. Braided river flats and farms in the valley bottom, native forests on the mountainsides most of the way to Springs Junction. Almost flat for much of the 18 km from MARUIA SETTLEMENT (Store/bkpr hostel) to Springs Junction. See Chapter Two (Central) Section 1b for on ward travel.

1a LINK ROAD iii: KAWATIRI JUNCT - ST ARNAUD - MOTUEKA.

SERVICES: KAWATIRI JUNCTION: Alt 360m, picnic area (shelter, table, water).
St ARNAUD: Alt 630m, pop 200. *i:* DoC ☎ 521 1806. Food: Store/takeaways, restaurant.
 Accom: DoC camping (shelter, no cabins); bkpr hostel; hotel.
 Transport: Bus to/from Blenheim & Greymouth. Shuttle to/from Nelson. **TOPHOUSE:** B&B.
KOHATU: Alt 190m, pub. **TAPAWERA:** Alt 150m, pop 450. Takeaways, store, pub, motor camp.
NGATIMOTI: Alt 60m. Dairy, bkpr hostel. **MOTUEKA:** See this section above.

GRADIENTS: At Kawatiri Junction join SH 63 gradually climbing most of the 25 km to St. Arnaud, with a 1 km steeper section part way. After St Arnaud continue to climb for 5 km and go left to Tophouse & Golden Downs. One steep dip and climb near Tophouse and a steep climb just after Kikiwa, otherwise mostly variable downhill to Golden Downs.

Note 1: Those wanting to avoid the hill after Kikiwa should go left at the junction to Korere, then right on SH 6 to Kohatu and left to Motueka. This way is 4 km longer than through Golden Downs.

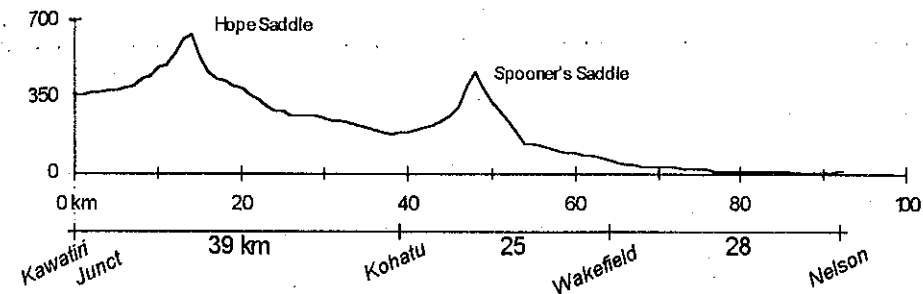
Note 2: Alternative to SH 6 to Nelson: Go right at Golden Downs a long climb and drop over Wai-iti Saddle (429m) otherwise nothing too strenuous. Rejoin SH 6 at Belgrove. See 1b above for Belgrove to Nelson. This route is 23 km longer than SH 6.

Gentle down from Golden Downs through Kohatu until 5 km after Tapawera. Then a steep 1½ km climb to the top of Stanley Hill (244m) and an equally steep and winding 2 km descent on the other side. The highway then rejoins and meanders downstream alongside the Motueka River most of the way to Motueka, the gradients become more gentle as the coast nears.

ATTRACTIONS: Nelson Lakes National Park is one of the quieter parks with the main features being St Arnaud Village, Mt Robert, Lakes Rotoiti & Rotoroa. Tramping, fishing, climbing and skiing are the most popular pastimes in and around the park. Tophouse was once a historic hotel is now a guest house. Travel through some of the 30,000 hectares of the Golden Downs Forest, the second biggest plantation in NZ. Tapawera is the main settlement of the Upper Motueka Valley, gain access to Kahurangi National Park and the eastern end of the Wangapeka Track. Follow the Motueka River down to Motueka, an important hop and fruit growing area as well as a popular retirement and holiday centre. This is the gateway to Golden Bay and closest town to Abel Tasman NP.

OPTIONS: LINK ROAD iv ST ARNAUD - BLENHEIM on SH 63. Distance 102 km.
KOWHAI Pt: Alt 420m, DoC camping (toilet, water, table). **WAIARAU:** Alt 155m, tearooms/store.
RENWICK: Alt 30m, Store, takeaways, dairy. **BLENHEIM:** See Chapter One (East) Section 1.
 After St Arnaud SH 63 continues to climb for 5 km, passing the turn off to Nelson & Tophouse until reaching the summit (727m). Variably steep down for 6 km before easing to a gentle descent. Apart from a few undulations between Wash Bridge and Branch River SH 63 tracks gently down with the hills slowly falling back most of the way to SH 6 at Renwick. The 10 km to Blenheim are mostly flat. Isolated sheep stations predominate in Wairau Valley with Mt Richmond Forest Park to the north.

LINK ROAD v St ARNAUD (SH 63) - RAINBOW TRACK - HANMER SPRINGS (SH 7).
 Take the turn-off to Rainbow Skifield. This goes to Hanmer Springs along a gravel track. Permission needed to use this road, very isolated with no services. Obtain up-to-date information before using.

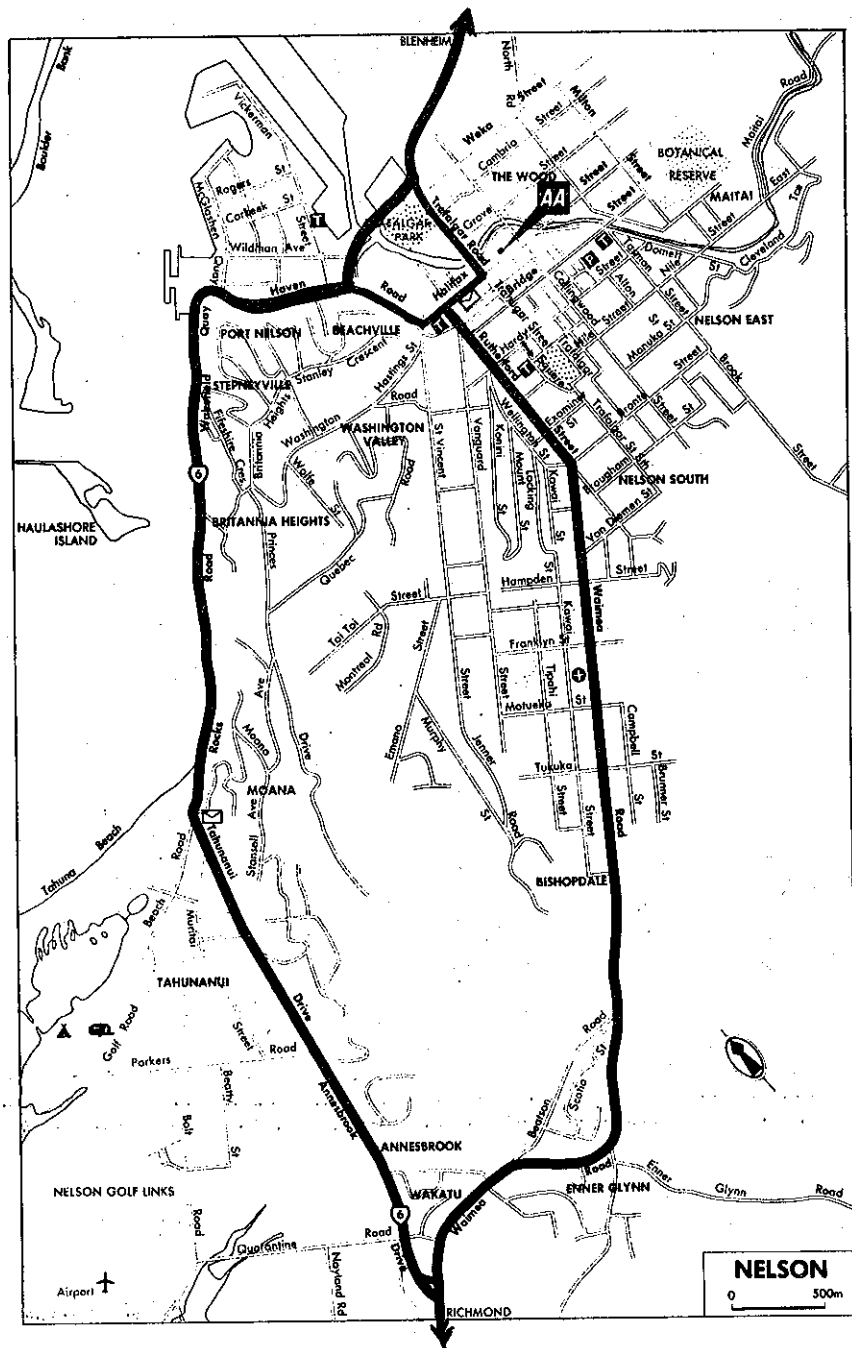
1b. KAWATIRI JUNCTION - HOPE SADDLE - NELSON.

SERVICES: KAWATIRI JUNCTION: Alt 360m, picnic area (shelter, table, water).
GLENHOPE: Cyclists farm hostel. **HOPE SADDLE:** Alt 640m, picnic area.
CLARKE VALLEY: Recreational Reserve, DoC camping (toilet, water, table).
MOTUPIKO: pop 250. Christian camp (no cabins, minimum donation). **KOHATU:** Alt 190m, pub.
NORRIS GULLY: Rec Res. DoC camping (toilet, water, table). **BELGROVE:** Pub.
WAKEFIELD: Alt 60m, pop 850. Store, dairy, pub. **BRIGHTWATER:** Alt 30m, pop 700. Store, pub.
RICHMOND: Alt 20m, pop 7,000. *i:* Gladstone Rd (SH 6) ☎ 544 4793. Food: All types of outlets.
 Accom: Motor camp; motel 5; hotel 4. Bicycle shop. **NELSON:** See next section.

GRADIENTS: On leaving Kawatiri Junction, SH 6 climbs gradually to Hope Saddle (634m) becoming steeper for the last few km as it nears the top. A very steep winding descent for 2 km is followed by undulations with a downward trend to Korere. At Korere the valley widens with easy gradients through Kohatu until Norris Stream where the highway starts its ascent to Spooners Saddle (464m). The last 1½ km is quite steep and winding and is followed by a long steady quite steep descent to Belgrove. Gentle down from Belgrove through Wakefield to Richmond and then flat into Nelson. Richmond & Stoke are becoming part of Nelson with considerable urban traffic flows.

ATTRACTIONS: Panoramic views from Hope and Spooners Saddles, travel through part of the huge Golden Downs Plantation, the second largest exotic forest in NZ. Lord Rutherford "the father of nuclear physics" had his first schooling at Foxhill and at Brightwater, his birthplace, has a memorial showing events in his life. In between is the small village of Wakefield with St John's, the South Island's oldest surviving church built in 1846 and the Pigeon Valley Steam Museum. Pass many small farms, orchards and tiny settlements on the way to Nelson.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE KAWATIRI JUNCTION - ST ARNAUD - NELSON
 This route is 23 km longer than SH 6. See Link road i below as far as Golden Downs.



2. NELSON.

DIRECTIONS: WEST: From WESTPORT & GOLDEN BAY: Shortly after Stoke, SH 6 bears left into Annesbrook Drive, then Tahunanui Drive, Rocks Road, Wakefield Quay and finally Haven Road. All these are the same road and flow naturally into each other. Go left into Halifax St a short distance before arriving at Trafalgar St and visitor information. This way is less hilly than Waimea Rd.

NORTH: To PICTON: Go north along Trafalgar St to the junction, bear right onto Queen Elizabeth Drive. The first 12 km on leaving Nelson are mostly flat

SERVICES: NELSON/STOKE: Altitude 20m, population 40,000.

i: Cnr Trafalgar & Halifax Sts \approx 548 2304. Food: Many choices of all types of out ets.

Accom: Motor camp 4; hostel (bkpr 9, YHA 1); motel lots; hotel many. Bicycle shops.

Transport: Bus & shuttles to/from Christchurch, Picton, West Coast, Golden Bay & Nelson Lakes.

ATTRACTIONS: The first "big" city since the West Coast or last if heading there. After an uncertain beginning Nelson has blossomed into a prosperous community. Competes with Blenheim for the sunniest place in NZ. The largest city & port of the region with all the entertainments, activities and services expected in a modern city, although at the moment I can't remember any of them. Often used as a base for exploring Abel Tasman National Park.

2 SIDE TRIP: NELSON - COLLINGWOOD (Golden Bay).

DISTANCES: NELSON - COLLINGWOOD 133 km on SH 60

* Add 6 km if going via Upper Moutere, between Richmond & Motueka.

** Add 22 km if going on to Port Poponga (Farewell Spit) at the northern end of SH 60.

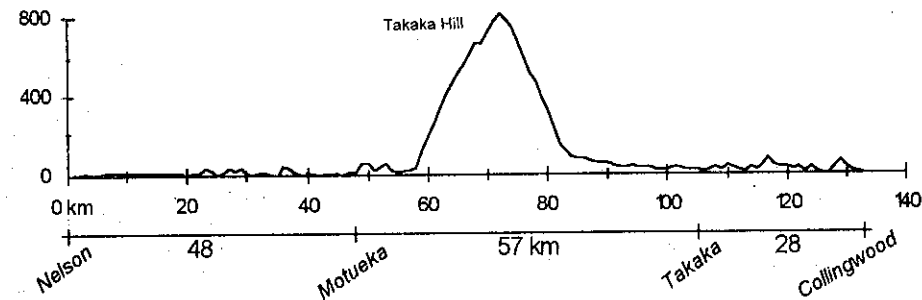
ROUTE: NELSON - MOTUEKA - TAKAKA - COLLINGWOOD on SH 60.

ALTERNATIVE NELSON - MOTUEKA. The easier, busy SH 60 or more interesting, hilly Upper Moutere Highway. This is 6 km longer than SH 60.

SIDE TRIP i TAKAKA - TOTARANUI (northern end of Abel Tasman Nat Park).

ii COLLINGWOOD - FAREWELL SPIT. iii COLLINGWOOD - HEAPHY TRACK.

LINK ROAD MOTUEKA - KOHATU - St ARNAUD on SH 61. See Section 1b link road i.



SERVICES: NELSON: See Section 2.**MAPUA:** Motor camp (clothes optional!). **RUBY BAY:** Store, domain camping (caretaker, no cabins).**MOTUEKA:** Alt 30m, pop 5,000. *i:* 236 High St ☎ 528 6543. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel 2; motel 3; hotel. Bicycle shop.

Transport: Bus & shuttles to/from Nelson, Abel Tasman NP & Golden Bay.

RIWAKA: Dairy/takeaways, pub. **SUMMIT:** 810m, picnic area. **UPPER TAKAKA:** Hotel.**TAKAKA:** Alt 30m, pop 1300. *i:* Commercial St ☎ 525 9136.

Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Bkpr hostel 2; motel; hotel 2.

ONEKAKA: Bkpr farm hostel (16 km NW of Takaka). **TUKURUA BEACH:** Motor camp (18km).**COLLINGWOOD:** Alt 20m, pop 200. Food: Dairy/tearooms, pub. Accom: Motor camp; motel; cabins.

Transport: Bus to/from Takaka, Totaranui & Heaphy Track.

GRADIENTS: Leave Nelson along the flat Halifax St, Haven Rd, Wakefield Quay, Rocks Rd, Tahunanui and Annesbrook Dr. At the T junction with Waimea Rd go right towards Richmond, passing through Stoke and right again at the junction with SH 60. Continues flat along SH 60 to Motueka except for rolling hills between Moutere and Mapua turn-offs and a hill at the north end of Ruby Bay.

SH 60 to Golden Bay continues mostly flat to Riwaka then 2 km after the bridge it climbs for 11 km, often steep & winding to the Ngarua Caves. A short dip and rise follow before reaching the saddle (810m). A long and sometimes steep descent begins with several switch-backs until Upper Takaka. Easy gradients track downhill from there for most of the 22 km to Takaka. The 28 km to Collingwood undulates and rolls with the occasional steeper hill.

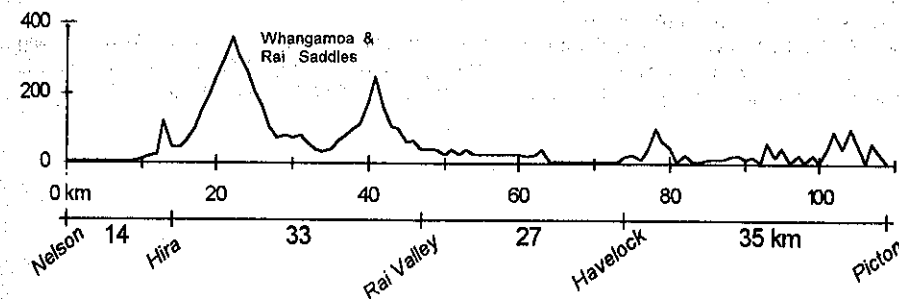
ATTRACTIONS: Several orchards and vineyards dot the highway between Nelson and Motueka, some with roadside stalls from which to sample fresh fruit in season. Near Motueka is the seaside holiday village of Kaiteiteri, reputedly the prettiest beach in NZ, the population explodes during summer school holidays. Marahau has Abel Tasman National Park & interestingly named Astrolabe Roadstead on the doorstep with tramping, diving and sea kayaking opportunities. Abel Tasman is one of the most popular National Parks, usually very crowded during summer. The Coastal Track is a DoC Great Walk passes numerous bays & white sandy beaches with bush clad hills as a backdrop.

7 km off SH 60 is the source of Riwaka River as it appears from a cave, a nice place to cool off on a hot day. Limestone caves and sinkholes are features of Takaka Hill, giving it a weird landscape. Harwood's Hole at 371m deep and 50m wide is said to be the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. Not surprisingly the area is popular for caving.

Golden Bay, cut off from civilization by Takaka Hill, is a favourite place of holiday makers, hermits, alternative lifestylers and beached whales. There are plenty of quiet sandy beaches from where numerous watery pastimes are pursued. Access to Totaranui and the northern end of Abel Tasman NP is from Takaka. 7 km from Takaka is Pupu Springs, the largest fresh water springs in NZ has large amounts of remarkably clear water gushing from a hole in the ground. Collingwood is in an idyllic setting, like so many places here. One end of the Heaphy Track (a DoC Great Walk) starts 35 km inland. Nearby Farewell Spit is a wildlife sanctuary and the northern end of the Mainland.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE NELSON - MOTUEKA ON UPPER MOUTERE HIGHWAY.

After Appleby Bridge leave SH 60 and go left onto Golden Hills Rd. The first few km have gentle gradients, then climb for 3 km passing REDWOOD VALLEY arriving at Moutere Saddle (183m). The road descends 1½ km then undulates down for 3½ km.

UPPER MOUTERE: Store, vineyards. The historic St Paul's Lutheran Church is a visible reminder of the first German settlement in NZ. Becomes mostly flat the rest of the way to Motueka.At **LOWER MOUTERE:** Store, Riverside Community (hostel & camping) is one of the oldest surviving communes in NZ, established about 1941 by a Christian pacifist group, visitors welcome. Nearby tame eels can be seen. This route is 6 km longer than SH 60.**SIDE TRIP i TAKAKA - TOTARANUI.** Distance 35 km east On the way to Totaranui at the northern end of Abel Tasman National Park pass.**POHARA BEACH:** (10 km from Takaka). Accom: Beach camp (& small shop); motel 4.**TASMAN MEMORIAL** (12 km) commemorates the first visit to NZ by Europeans in 1642 and **TATA BEACH** (14 km) Motel. Beyond Tata Beach the road becomes gravel, narrow, steep, rolling and twisting but very scenic, arriving at **TOTARANUI:** *i:* DoC ☎ 528 8083. Motor camp (no cabins) bookings essential before proceeding during summer school holidays.**SIDE TRIP ii COLLINGWOOD - PAKAWAU** (13 km N on SH 60) Motor camp (small store); bkpr hostel. **PORT PAPONGA** (22 km) and then **FAREWELL SPIT** at the top end of the island. Visits to the wildlife sanctuary only by guided tour.**SIDE TRIP iii COLLINGWOOD - BAINHAM** and the start of the **HEAPHY TRACK** and through the new **KAHURANGI National Park.** Now closed to mountain bikes but this policy may be reviewed this year. The Heaphy can be used to reach Karamea and the West Coast.**3. NELSON - PICTON.****DISTANCES: NELSON - PICTON** 109 km on SH 6.**ROUTE: NELSON - HAVELOCK** on SH 6. **HAVELOCK - PICTON** via Queen Charlotte Sound.**ALTERNATIVE NELSON - PELORUS BRIDGE** via Mangatapu Saddle. For the brave.**SIDE TRIP To MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS MARITIME PARK** from:**i RAI VALLEY** (by road) & **HAVELOCK** (by boat). **ii LINKWATER** (by gravel road).**LINK ROAD HAVELOCK - BLENHEIM** on SH 6.**SERVICES: NELSON:** See Section 2. **HIRA:** Store/tearooms.**HIRA FOREST:** picnic area (table, toilet). **GRAHAM STREAM:** picnic area (table, toilet).**COLLINS VALLEY:** picnic area (table). **RAI VILLAGE:** Alt 50m, pop 200. Store/tearooms.**PELORUS BRIDGE:** Tearooms/shop/motor camp. **CANVASTOWN:** Pop 100. Motor camp, hotel.**HAVELOCK:** Alt 20m, pop 400. Food: Store, tearooms, restaurant, pub, mussel factory.

Accom: Motor camp 2 (1 no cabins, 1 is 7 km S on SH 6); YHA hostel; motel; hotel.

LINKWATER: Store. **THE GROVE:** motel (also camping). **MOMORANGI BAY:** Motor camp/store.**PICTON:** Altitude 10m, population 4,000. *i:* Foreshore ☎ 573 7477. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor Camp 5; hostel (bkpr 6, YHA 1); motel 11; hotel 4. Bicycle shop.

Transport: Ferry to/from Wellington. Train to/from Chch. Buses & shuttles to/from Nelson & Chch.

GRADIENTS: The first 12 km out of Nelson are mostly flat as SH 6 runs alongside Tasman Bay for 9 km with another flat 3 km heading inland to the bottom of the first of three hills. Gentle Annie Saddle (105m) is a short 1 km affair and warm-up for the Whangamoā (357m) & Rai Saddles (247m). The gradients are long, sometimes twisting but not excessively steep apart from 2 km sections each side of Rai Saddle. After Rai Village becomes flat with occasional undulations for 27 km to Havelock. About 1 km after leaving Havelock take the first left onto Queen Charlotte Drive. There follows 7 km of moderate hills along Pelorus Sound and several km of flat each side of Linkwater before returning to hills. The narrow winding road hugs the coast as it dips into and climbs out of tiny bays, goes round low headlands and ends with a final descent into Picton.

ATTRACTIONS: Rai Village, Canvastown & Havelock dot the route from Nelson to Picton and are historic settlements established during a gold rush last century. Pass several scenic reserves notably Pelorus Bridge. Nearby is Marlborough Sounds Maritime Park with its maze of intricate bays & harbours. Many aquatic activities are available i.e. boating, fishing, diving, kayaking, mail boat run & guided tours.

The sleepy fishing village of Havelock is the gateway to the sounds and boasts having Lord Rutherford as an ex-pupil of the old school. Pelorus & Queen Charlotte Sounds have tramping tracks offering fine views of picturesque bays. Picton is the port for the ferry to Wellington and gateway to Picton Sounds.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE NELSON - MAUNGATAPU SADDLE - PELORUS BRIDGE. Much of the track is gravel, very rough and steep but quieter than SH 6. No services.

SIDE TRIP I: RAI VALLEY VILLAGE - MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS Maritime Park along a hilly winding track to TENNYSON INLET and FRENCH PASS and many remote DoC camping areas. Havelock has only boat access to the park.

SIDE TRIP II: LINKWATER - PORTAGE - KENEPURU SOUND by road and deep into . . . MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS Maritime Park. Walk the Queen Charlotte Track. Small store at Waitaria Bay. Plenty of remote DoC camping areas. Hostel (bkpr at Hopewell, YHA at Kenepuru). Several lodges, farm & home stays in a various locations providing a variety of accommodation, check at Havelock or Picton before proceeding.

LINK ROAD HAVELOCK - BLENHEIM. Gradients fluctuate between flat and undulating passing OKARAMIO: pub (17 km) & RENWICK: store, takeaways, dairy, (29 km). A flat 10 km from Renwick, except one small hump brings one to BLENHEIM (see Chapter One (East) Section 1a).

IMPORTANT: While preferring not to put off potential pedallers in paradise it is important to highlight possible hazards cyclists could encounter at various times of the year.

Traffic: Every country has its bad drivers and New Zealand is no exception. Only in the last few years have serious attempts been made to right some very bad habits. It will probably take a long time to rectify. Drunk driving, travelling too fast and too close to the vehicle in front are the worst aspects. If encountering dangerous drivers, try to get their registration number and report it with relevant details, such as time and location, at the next police station. They can trace the vehicle and speak to the owner, it is better they act before someone is hurt.

Try to be seen at all times. Cycling too close to the left may leave little room to manoeuvre. In cities, cycling too close to parked cars invites having a door open as you pass. Consider other road users, do not hold up traffic without good reason. Think of other cyclists who follow in your tyre tracks.

Wind: The wind can blow strong and hard. If it is so strong you have to pedal downhill to keep up momentum then it is time to turn round and go back or stop at the next location. You're on holiday and this is supposed to be fun! Apart from the frustration of going nowhere fast it can be dangerous. There is less control of the bike and is often hard to hear traffic approaching from behind.

Sandflies: Apart from car drivers New Zealand has no dangerous animals such as bears or big pussy cats but certainly makes up for it with sandflies. Do not underestimate them!

Magpies: In spring during nesting season magpies use cyclists as target practice for dive bombing runs and have been known to draw blood! A suggestion is to draw two eyes on the back of the helmet, or your head. The theory is they only attack from behind. They're so unpopular, even Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society want them declared a pest. They seem to be worst on the backroads of Canterbury.

Keas: You won't find any Norwegian Blues pining for the fiords (for Monty Python addicts) but there is a mischievous native mountain parrot with a large sharp beak and curious nature. It's not into dive bombing but does steal things and has been known to rip expensive tent walls to get at tasty comestibles (food) rather than open the door. Found in all National Parks with mountains, and fiords!

Sun: Skin cancer is a problem in NZ due to the strength of the sun's ultra-violet rays penetrating the shrinking ozone layer. In summer use sun block on all exposed skin, forgetting to do so one day may cause severe sunburn, even when cloudy.

Water: New Zealand was known as the only third world country where the water is safe to drink. While tap water is still fine, care must be taken in the wilderness. It is recommended to boil drinking water because of the possible presence of the parasite giardia, a nasty bug that causes diarrhoea and stomach upsets. Even if giardia isn't present and sheep are, think twice about drinking from that cool sparkling crystal clear stream.

Bike Stands: The type found outside shops & libraries etc, where you put the front wheel. If using one with a fully laden bike then make sure the weight is balanced. Wheels have poor lateral strength and it could be banana shaped on your return!

Cardphones: Be warned, they are expensive. Use only in emergencies. Coin phones outside cities are an endangered species. So much for progress.

Backpacker Buses: Or more accurately their occupants. They have a reputation for making a lot of mess and noise late into the night. Just the thing after a long day in the saddle.

Weather Forecasts: Usually accurate regarding the type of weather but often on the wrong day!

SOUTH ISLAND BICYCLE SHOPS

EAST

PICTON: Picton Cycle Centre, 83 High St ☎ 573 8848.
BLENHEIM: *Cycle Logic, 24 Scott St ☎ 578 2845. *Spokesman Cycles, 61 Queens St ☎ 578 0433.
 *Redwood Village Cycles, 82 Cleghorn St ☎ 578 9711.
KAIAPOI: *Kaiapoi Cycles, 101 William St ☎ 327 8093. *Ace Cycles, 154 William St ☎ 327 7482.
RANGIORA: *Ruby Cycles, 257 High St ☎ 313 7273. *Pete's Cycles, Gables Arcade ☎ 313 5298.
CHRISTCHURCH: *Cycle Trading Co, Cnr Armagh & Manchester St ☎ 366 3760.
 *Laurie Dawe Cycles, 838 Colombo St ☎ 366 5639.
 *John Bull Cycles, 116 Lichfield St ☎ 377 2058.
 *Penny Farthing, Cnr Manchester & Tuam St ☎ 379 1520.
 *Fleet Cycles, 280 Lincoln Road ☎ 338 9155. Not a complete list.
ASHBURTON: *Triangle Cycles, 110 Victoria St ☎ 308 6597.
Arnst Cycle Centre, 90 Tancred St ☎ 308 2668.
TIMARU: *Cyclery, 94-96 Stafford St ☎ 688 8892. *Mikes for Bikes, 33 Barnard St ☎ 684 4788.
 *Howes Cycles, 127 Church St ☎ 684 8900.
WAIMATE: Waimate Cycles, 107 Queens St ☎ 689 7950.
OAMARU: *Martyn's Cycles, Thames St ☎ 434 8416. *Victor Nelson, Thames St ☎ 434 9077.
DUNEDIN: *Browns, Lower Stuart St ☎ 477 7259. *Cycle Surgery, 67 Stuart St ☎ 477 7473.
 *Peter Goding Cycles, 78 St Andrew St ☎ 479 2223. Not a complete list
MOSGIEL: *Cagney's, 102 Gordon Rd ☎ 489 6891. *Rob's Bike Shop, 18 Lanark St ☎ 489 3202.

CENTRAL

REEFTON: Reefton Sports Centre, Broadway ☎ 732 8593
GREYMOUTH: See West below.

SOUTH

TE ANAU: Ferris Cycles, 197 Milford Rd ☎ 249 7460.
WINTON: McMaster Cycles, 229 Great North Rd ☎ 236 7816.
INVERCARGILL: *Wensley's Cycles, Cnr Tay & North St ☎ 218 6206.
 *Gladstones Cycles, 430 Dee St ☎ 218 8822. *Tunza Bikes, 254 Elles Rd ☎ 214 4388.
GORE: *Stanton's, 189 Main St ☎ 208 7518.
MILTON: Milton Cycle Centre, 36 Union St ☎ 417 8959.
MOSGIEL: *Cagney's, 102 Gordon Rd ☎ 489 6891. *Rob's Bike Shop, 18 Lanark St ☎ 489 3202.
ALEXANDRA: Cycle World, 21 Shannon St ☎ 448 8048.

WEST

WANAKA: *Jim & Libby's, 3 Helwick St ☎ 443 7259.
 *Mountain Bikes Unlimited, Ardmore St ☎ 443 7882.
HOKITIKA: Hokitika Cycles, 33 Tancred St ☎ 755 8662.
GREYMOUTH: *Graham Peters Cycles, 34 Mackay St ☎ 768 6559.
 *Mann Cycles, 173 Tainui St ☎ 768 0255.
WESTPORT: *Beckers Cycles, 204 Palmerston St ☎ 789 8787.
 *Anderson's Cycles, 180 Palmerston St ☎ 789 6293.

NORTH

RICHMOND: *Village Cycles, 222 Queens St ☎ 544 7166. *Mall Cycles, Richmond Mall ☎ 544 8079.
STOKE: *Stoke Cycle Centre, 492 Main Rd ☎ 547 6361.
NELSON: *Bridge St Cycles, 105 Bridge St ☎ 548 3877. *Stewart Cycles, 114 Hardy St ☎ 548 1666.
 *Kelvin's Cycles, 109 Rutherford St ☎ 548 2851.
MOTUEKA: Holliday's Cycle Centre, High St ☎ 528 9379.
TAKAKA: The Quiet Revolution Cycle Shop, 7 Commercial St ☎ 525 9555.
PICTON: Picton Cycle Centre, 83 High St ☎ 573 8848.

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UPDATE: November 1997

The following changes and errors have been found since going to print. Visit <http://www.voyager.co.nz/~dabhand/updates.html> for the latest on updates and corrections.

PROFILES: The elevation scale on the profiles vary from graph to graph, which may be confusing for some users. Suggestions to maintain the same scale throughout but not take up half a page in doing so would be gratefully accepted.

PAGE 5: 7) WOUFF should read WWOOF, Willing Workers On Organic Farms.

PAGE 33: GERALDINE - OAMRAMA: Services - OPUHA RIVER: Skipton Bridge - Domain camping closed due to flooding, the toilet block vanished down the river!
LAKE TEKAPO: Pedallers' Paradise cyclists' accommodation, at our house, see below.

PAGE 37: OMARAMA - QUEENSTOWN: Options: Side Trip i: Sealing of the Queenstown to Glenorchy road will be finished by Christmas 1997 - they say.

PAGE 45: INVERCARGILL - CATLINS - DUNEDIN: The section of gravel on SH 92 between Waikawa Bay and Papatowai should be completely sealed sometime in 1998.

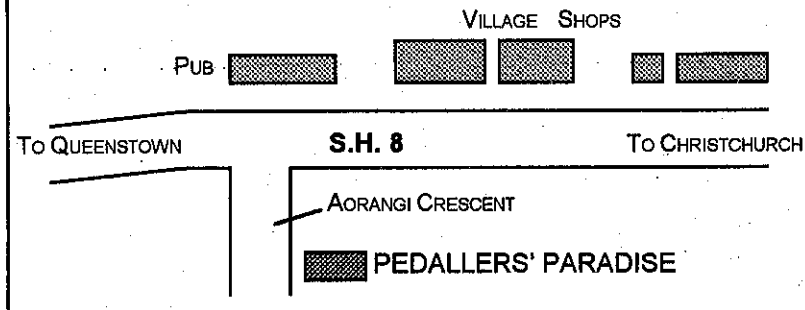
PAGE 54: HAAST - FRANZ JOSEPH: Services - FOX: another bkpr hostel.

PAGE 62: Options: ST ARNAUD - BLENHEIM Renwick - add bkpr hostel.

PAGE 70: Cycle Trading Co - moved to 27 Manchester St, Chch

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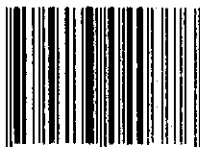


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