

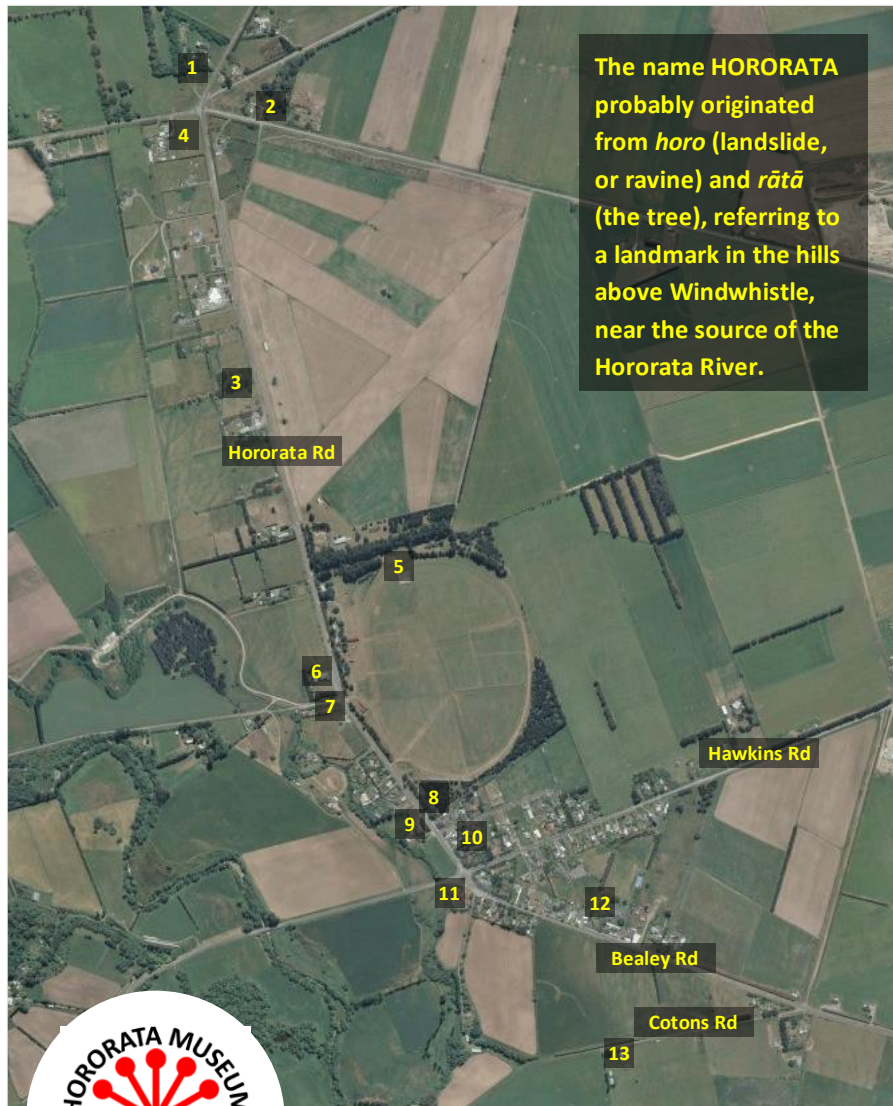
HORORATA HISTORIC WALK

In the third quarter of the 19th century, Hororata was the largest rural town for miles round, and the central point of several large stations – Haldon, Hororata Station, Rakaia Terrace Station and Malvern Hills Run.

The township had a hotel, two churches, two general stores, a school, post office, town hall, race course, brewery, flour mill, butchery, undertaker and a large blacksmiths. Of these, the hotel, church buildings, schoolmaster's house, smithy and post office still exist.

Organised by the Hororata Historical Society, this 1½ hour walk takes you from St John's Church past eleven other places of historical interest to Hororata Museum and Cotton's Cottage. The walk is self-guided, or you can join a guided tour starting at St John's at 10.00, 12.00, or 14.00. Return transport for tour participants will be available.

Please take care when crossing roads, and do not enter private property. The Museum and Cotton's Cottage are open to the public from 10.00 to 16.00; entry is by donation.



The name HORORATA probably originated from horo (landslide, or ravine) and rātā (the tree), referring to a landmark in the hills above Windwhistle, near the source of the Hororata River.

1. John Hall & St John's Church

English-born John Hall arrived in New Zealand in 1852 at the age of 28. He developed a large-scale sheep farm in Canterbury and became involved in Hororata community activities – school, community hall, library and church. Voted Chairman of the Christchurch City Council in 1863 and Premier of New Zealand in 1879, his last major political act before he retired was to pilot through the bill that gave women the right to vote.

Knighthood in 1882, John Hall died in 1907, leaving a legacy in three parts – for a new vicarage, towards the vicar's stipend, and for a new stone church in memory of his wife Rose. The community decided to move the old church to the other side of the road and convert it into a Parish Hall. While being towed across the road one Saturday late 1909 the building came off its runners, necessitating a "middle of the road" church service that Sunday.



Old St John's, built 1875



New St John's, built 1910-11

The new church was built with volcanic rock from nearby Harper Hills. The interior was lined in Oamaru stone. Its stained-glass window, donated by Sir John Hall's children, was made in England by Heaton, Butler & Bayne and was installed in June 1914. The pulpit was added in 1961 for the 50th Jubilee. The organ, installed in 1970, was funded from a bequest of former parishioner Herbert Thorne. It came from St Augustine's, Cashmere, which itself contained components from Christchurch Cathedral's first organ.

New St John's was badly damaged in the 2010 Canterbury earthquake. Part of the bell tower crashed through the roof, smashing into the organ. The community is currently fundraising for the estimated \$3m repair costs.



2. Pound

Cross the road to "The Pound". The pound was used to secure wandering stock. This area, including church, school, library, pound and some private residences was once known as Upper Hororata.

3. Presbyterian Church

This is now private property – please do not enter. The old Presbyterian Church, now a private residence, is able to be viewed from the road.



4. Old School

At the corner of Downs and Hororata Roads is the site of the original Hororata School - the first public building erected in Hororata. All manner of social gatherings were held there; in 1871 when the Rakaia Road Board met at the school, Mr C.S. Harper resigned as Chairman and Mr John Hall took his place. Few Sundays went by without a Church Service held beneath the roof. Congregations of 100 or more were the order of the day.



The first headmaster, Mr Digby, bore the brunt of establishing the school to the satisfaction of the community. Teachers at that time were under the control of the Education Board and the School Committee; to carry out the wishes of both parties was often a formidable undertaking. The building and all its records and rolls were destroyed by fire on 17 February 1914.

5. Reserve

The Hororata Reserve is the third-largest public reserve in Canterbury. Gifted by local landowners in 1877, it was governed by the nation's first registered reserve board, and has played a significant role ever since as venue for community activities.



In years gone by there was ice skating on the Edwardian lake. The domain is now home to tennis courts, a children's playground, multiple walks, a horse cross country track and a race course. It is of course also the home of the HORORATA HIGHLAND GAMES.

6. Hororata Hall



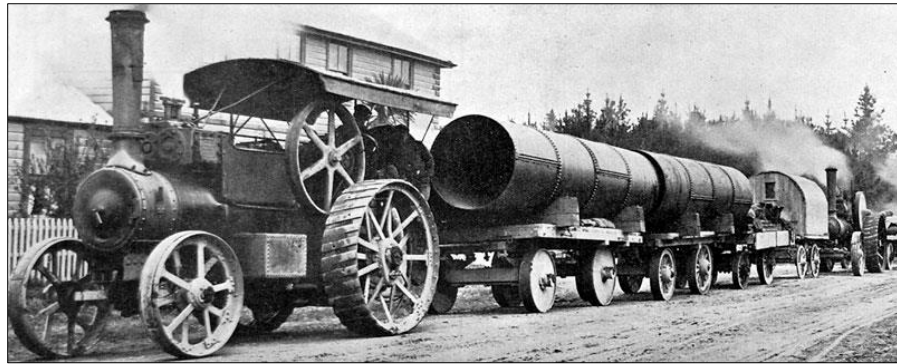
Sir John Hall donated the land for the Hororata Hall, and the original Hall can still be seen within as the wooden building designed by the well-known architect Samuel Hurst Seager. Inside the hall you can still see the beautiful timber ceiling.

The hall was enlarged in 1954 by the addition of a memorial lounge or meeting room. The plaque unveiled at the time pays tribute to the efforts of the whole community during the war years. It is now a Second World War Memorial.



7. Truman Jones's house

Originally the residence of Dr Richards, house and section were purchased in c.1890 from Amelia Richards by Truman Jones. In Canterbury, the name of Truman Jones was synonymous with traction engines for some 33 years. He was one of the largest and best-known haulage contractors, chaff cutting and threshing mill owners in Mid-Canterbury.



From Hororata, his engines, wagons and mills were seen throughout the Malvern Hills area and the plains, occasionally venturing into the City of Christchurch. His name was remembered long after his death, and became part of Hororata's folklore in Joe Charles's *Ballad of the Coleridge Run*.

8. Stores

William Palmer opened a store, a bakery and a butchery at the Hawkins Road corner. After he gave up his business, the Thornes of the blacksmith business opened a store beside the present-day garage. This store was eventually sold to a Mr Barrett from Methven.



Jennings started a small store opposite the hotel. He was known as "Old 4/11" as that seemed to be the price for most of his goods. His store was redesigned after the Great War by Coalgate storekeeper

Albert Charles. The Butchery was started by Ed Napier; then Mr Felton ran it for many years with two carts - supplying meat around the district and as far away as Windwhistle.

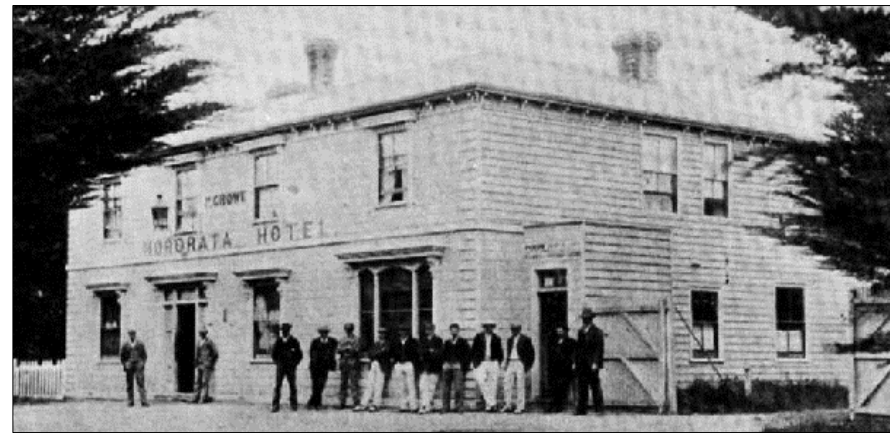
Behind the garage was the home and business of the Prestidge family who were builders, undertakers, and brewers in the second half of the 19th century. Jo Prestidge carted his well-known XXXX beer all over the Malvern district. Walter Prestidge had a four-wheel horse drawn hearse and his son carried on with an old Essex car.

9. Hororata Hotel

Edwin Derrett, one of the first settlers in the Hororata area, opened an accommodation house on the corner (behind the present-day substation) to cater for "swaggers and travellers", as there were too many to be put up at Haldon, a small settlement southeast of Hororata.

In 1873 Derrett built a new hotel on or near its present situation.

Constructed of wood by a local tradesman it was two stories high; "The rooms were large and lofty, and there were several private sitting rooms, a spacious commercial room, in addition to a large number of bedrooms, the dining room, and the private rooms of the proprietor and his servants."



Remodelled and modernised in 1967 by K.P. O'Sullivan, the hotel was badly damaged in the 2010 earthquake and deemed uninhabitable soon after. The recipe for the Hororata Hotel's famous pies was sold at the pub's demolition auction along with many other hotel memorabilia.

10. Post Office

A post office was opened in Thorne's cottage beside the blacksmith's shop in 1873. The coach and mail service ran from the Selwyn to Windwhistle, stopping at Derrett's Hotel and Thorne's twice weekly, mail arriving by horse and cart from the railway station at Coalgate morning and evening.



The veranda became a meeting place for locals debating waiting for mail. One pensioner would ask the mailman every day while looking at his huge pocket watch, "What would be the Coalgate time, Walter?"

11. Blacksmith

The blacksmith's shop or 'smithy' was set up around 1868 by John Thorne as traffic from the railhead and an increase in contract cropping meant business was assured. It was located by Thorne's Creek, south of the town centre.



Thorne became an institution, called upon to set limbs (the nearest doctor was in Sheffield), attend to sick animals, drive wells, and many other tasks. The shop grew into a very big business known as The Britannia Ironworks. Thorne also had a foundry and cast wheels. His cottage was behind the shop; the remains of the shop still stand and are being restored today.

12. New School

Conditions at the new school were less than ideal, with two or three teachers working in cramped conditions for over thirty years.

The situation improved in the early 1950s when a shelter shed was converted into a class room and the Education Board built an infant room, a dental clinic and a staffroom. Another classroom was added in 1963 when Te Pirita School was amalgamated with Hororata. The shelter shed now serves as a library for four teachers and 123 pupils.



13. Hororata Museum and Coton's Cottage



Prior to 1870, church services were held in the home of Bentley Coton. Three prominent run holders, John Hall of Terrace Station, John Cordy of Hororata Station and Samuel Bealey of Haldon Station regularly met in Bentley Coton's humble clay cottage for worship. (Samuel Bealey was third Superintendent of Canterbury, with Bealey Avenue in Christchurch and Bealey Road named after him)

Lay reader John Hall conducted many of the services. Reverend Pember of Burnham rode his horse to attend to his parish - the largest in New Zealand, which extended from the Waimakariri River to the Rakaia River, and from the outskirts of Christchurch to the mountains .

The Cottage has been restored twice; by Hororata Historical Society volunteers in the 1970s, and by Heritage New Zealand after the 2010-11 Canterbury earthquakes. (The cottage is managed by the Historical Society for Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga).

The Museum is housed in the old totalisator building from the Hororata Race Track and contains many items of historical interest from Hororata and the surrounding district. You can step back in time to see just what life was like for the early settlers and you can also see many items that you will recognise from more recent history. Displays are changed regularly and the museum holds quite a large amount of local archival material.