

# **MASTERTON DISTRICT - A PROFILE**

## **HISTORY**

From a high peak of the Rimutaka Range centuries ago, Maori pioneers gazed across forest, grassland, rivers and lakes of a wide fertile valley.

It stretched to the north further than the eye could see and they called it Wairarapa - 'Valley of Shining Waters'.

In 1840-41, when explorers were making the first pakeha visits to the Wairarapa, most of the Wairarapa Maori were returning from exile to their ancestral lands in the valley. Ten to fifteen years on the East Coast meant that the villages needed to be rebuilt and new ground cleared for cultivation.

Kaikokirikiri the closest settlement to Masterton, was rebuilt about 1842. The village was situated on the terrace beyond the Mahunga golf links on the north bank of the Waipoua. The village when first visited by William Colenso in April 1845, contained about 100 inhabitants. Colenso's advice at that time to Te Korou the chief would not have been encouraging to the prospects of white settlement.

During the ten years between 1842 and 1852 the Maori had re-occupied the district, missionaries and the odd traveller had passed through; the runholder had taken up the clear country. In Wellington the third and dominant wave of migrants was mounting to its crest. Men in search of more modest holdings were looking north. The first settlers walked from Wellington over the Rimutaka Range into the Wairarapa Valley.

Masterton was first settled in 1854, the town being declared a Borough in 1877. During February of 1977 the centennial of local government in Masterton was celebrated, the highlight of which was a Centennial Parade on 26th February 1977. One of the first settlers was Joseph Masters after whom the town was named.

The district's rural roots commenced with the constitution of the Mauriceville County in 1899 and the Castlepoint and the Masterton Counties in 1900. (Earlier the district was within the (Wairarapa) North County and earlier again partly within both the East and West Counties).

Castlepoint merged with the Masterton County in 1958 and Mauriceville in 1966.

The first Masterton District was formed on 1st April 1989 with the union of the Masterton Borough and County which the current Masterton District (with amended boundaries) was constituted from 1st November 1989 as part of the national reorganisation of local government at that time.

## **STATISTICS**

### **Population**

Masterton	Rural area	4,956	<u>Area</u>	229,500 ha (urban area - 1,796 ha)	
	Urban area	<u>17,664</u> 22,620			
Land Value	Rural	\$1,597,1700,000	Capital Value	Rural	\$2,244,400,000
	Urban	\$619,270,000		Urban	\$1,722,100,000
No. Rateable Properties	Rural	3,602			
	Urban	<u>8,095</u> 11,697			

## Climate

The Wairarapa as a whole, varies considerably in its climatic extremes with wind flow, sunshine hours and rainfall all depending on proximity to the Rimutaka Ranges to the south and the Tararua Ranges to the west.

### Temperature

Mean daily maximum Jan 23.8°C, July 11.8°C

Mean temperature 12.8°C

Mean daily minimum Jan 10.9°C, July 2.5°C

### Sunshine

Average bright sunshine, 2008 hours annually

### Rainfall

Average rain days 0.2mm or more, 171 per annum

Average wet days 2.5mm or more, 90 per annum

Mean annual rainfall 969mm (Masterton)  
(ranges from 1,520mm to 890mm, from West to East)

### Frost

Average days of frost - 28 per annum

Frosts of up to 6°C occur in months of April through to October

## COUNCIL RESOURCES

Masterton District Council provides a wide range of services to the residents, businesses and visitors to the area. In order to meet its objectives and provide the services required the Council employs a large number of resources.

The statement reflects in quantitative terms those resources the Council uses in its day to day activities in order to service the community.

### **Water Reticulation**

Storage capacity (megalitres)	12
Kaituna	9
Lansdowne	3
System length (kilometres)	160
Peak daily demand (Mstn) (m <sup>3</sup> )	29,550

### **Sewage Reticulation**

Qty treated daily (average) (m <sup>3</sup> )	14,600
System length (kilometres)	132
Number of pumping stations	3
Number of manholes	1,760

### **Roading**

System length (kilometres)	801
sealed	516
metalled	285

### **Vehicles**

Fleet number	26
utilities/vans	9
cars	8
fire engines	7
tractors	2

### **Buildings (owned)**

rental houses	9
rentals	10
residential flats	86
public halls	9
library	1

### **Recreation Reserves**

Total area (hectares)	205	
	<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural</u>
natural bush	2	39
beach front esplanades	-	9
nursery, cemeteries/sports grounds/formal gardens	54	5
neighbourhood reserves	49	47

sports/recreation facilities	12
off-street car parks	845
fire stations	5
first aid post	1
public toilets	13
camping ground - cabins	24
camping ground ancillary	5
landfill buildings	6