

In The Matter of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act)

And

In The Matter of applications by the Central Plains Water Trust

and the Ashburton Community Water Trust



A direct descendant proudly holding the family crest 1990

1. My name is Judy Deans. I currently live in Christchurch. I have strong links with the area of the proposed Central Plains Water Trust Application. I will outline these links in this submission.
2. Throughout my life I have had an ongoing interest in outdoor recreation through tramping, kayaking, photography and camping. I am a member of the Historic Places Trust.
3. My association with this area as a family member, and through my various activities and interests has contributed to my appreciation of this locality as visually and historically significant and unique.
4. My career as a social worker in care and protection work with families has given me insight into the significance of community, family networks, stability, security, a sense of belonging, identity. The social, emotional and psychological impact of forced change on families is far-reaching and any decision of this significance should in my view take into account the serious effects on any family living within this area. I therefore urge the commissioners to be mindful of the long term detrimental effects on all of these people. The decision made about the future of people's lives and livelihoods is not one to be taken lightly.
5. While listening to a number of the submitters presenting their information I have become concerned about the lack of detail in the applicants proposal and the generalised approach to specific queries about their plan. I have been astounded to discover the extent and potential effects of this scheme on the environment, significant history in the area and those persons living in and around the effected area. Therefore I would question whether the application is consistent with the principles of the Resource Management Act in particular Section 7 Other Matters (c) the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values.
6. I spent my first two years living at Kirkstyle with my parents and my father's brother the late Hugh Deans and his wife Pam Deans.



Aged 2 years in my playground at Kirkstyle

Prior to this my grandfather John Deans aka Ian, farmed this property. My grandfather took over the property in 1906 naming it Kirkstyle after his great grandfather's property in Ayrshire Scotland. A house was built in 1910 the year he married my grandmother Ruth Lorne Humfrey. She helped him create the garden at Kirkstyle and he and other family members planted the 100 year old trees which will be destroyed if this lake goes ahead.



Kirkstyle homestead

7. John Deans was passionate about his love of trees and enhancing the environment. He was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Riccarton Bush Board from 1914 to 1968. I remember his pride in taking us as children through Riccarton Bush to share the stand of native bush in the middle of Christchurch. My grandfather followed the wishes of John Deans (his grandfather) who on his death bed requested that the remaining stand of Riccarton Bush be preserved for future generations. It will be a very sad day indeed if the stand of trees he and the family so lovingly planted at Kirkstyle was to be destroyed.

8. These 100 year old trees are part of settler colonisation and I would argue they are a valuable piece of our cultural heritage. The historic component of these trees significance is re-inforced by the outstanding visual value of this stand of trees as the entrance to the Waianiwi valley beyond. They are as my grandfather would have wished (but may not have envisaged) an outstanding sight as one drives along the Scenic highway.

9 Further to this particular landmark and and my personal association I am aware of the many sites, landmarks and family stories associated with the area mentioned in four family histories "Letters to my Grandchildren" by Jane Deans published in 1923, "Pioneers on Port Cooper Plains" by John Deans published in 1964, "The Deans Family 1840 – 1990" Deans Family Reunion Organising Committee published in 1989, "Pioneers of the Plains the Deans of Canterbury" by Gordon Ogilvie published 1996.

10. This area is part of early colonial history and any changes to this area needs to proceed with appropriate weight given to these aspects of the area.

11. New Zealand does not have a long European history. We are reminded of this on visits to other countries such as Turkey where the history spans many years B.C. How much more important is it then to preserve what we do have and maintain what our ancestors nurtured for us.

12. I am not excluding the significance of tangata whenua or other European history here but merely commenting on my own family history.

13. In particular I will mention coalmining and brick/pottery making.

In 1872 the Homebush Mine was opened. It operated until 1938. It produced about 356,000 tonnes of coal. Horse drawn coal trucks were used and a tunnel was made through the hill to facilitate the transport of the coal.



Entrance to Homebush mine

From 1860 Malvern clay was used to initially make bricks but later field tiles, terracotta and pottery. The Glentunnel Brick, Tile Terra-Cotta and Pottery Works were in production from 1886 until 1983.

14 The farms now remaining within the wider family have a unique family and Canterbury history. In 1906 the remaining family land in Christchurch, the larger Homebush area and another piece of land was divided between John Deans and his eight siblings. There has always been a strong link between Riccarton and the Homebush area. Initially family members lived at Riccarton until they were of age when the majority took up their portion of land at and around the Homebush run. They returned to Riccarton frequently to visit.

15 These farms were Morven, Sandown, Homebush, Rowallen, Auchenflower and Tara (which included the part of Kirkstyle that remains in the family). While Homebush clearly has an acknowledged significant history and has aspects of its history registered with the Historic Places Trust I suggest that all these properties are significant as a collective from a historic viewpoint.

16. It is interesting to note that around this time also the Commissioner of Crown lands was keen to acquire Homebush and its (then) larger area of land. My grandfather was successful in making sure this did not happen.

17. A quick perusal of the family history establishes the fact that this land and the activities associated with it were established and maintained by considerable hardship, fortitude and persistence.

18. To quote one example. My uncle the late Hugh Deans farmed at Tara and is described by Gordon Ogilvie (author) as transforming the land that according to the Rehabilitation Board was too marginal for him to be eligible for a loan. He persisted and with determination and innovation transformed this piece of countryside. The results are there to see in a beautiful piece of farmland which is actively farmed by 5th and 6th generation New Zealanders today. How can it be possible in a democratic society for this to be compulsorily taken away?

19. The family made a considerable contribution to the agricultural, Canterbury and local community. One example of this contribution was my grandfather giving 65 years of service to the A & P. Association, Chairman of NZ Sheepbreeders Association for 18 years, Chairman of the Canterbury Frozen Meat Company for 31 years, President of the Southdown Sheep Society and 10 years on the council of the NZ Shorthorn Cattle Society. This list is not inclusive of all his activities in the farming community. So we are not talking about people with a small commitment to the agricultural future of colonial New Zealand.

20. While my immediate family moved out of this area in 1951 we have maintained strong links with the area. The clan type nature of Scottish families means regular family gatherings which have been evident ever since the family increased from 3 in 1879 to three dozen by the third generation. These gatherings focus around various activities.

21 Cricket.

On Boxing Day 1928 the Deans family members team played their first Cricket Match against an opposing team the Coalgate Cricket Club. Included in this team were my grandfather and father.

The relaxed family atmosphere of these matches has changed little over the years with the addition of women to the teams being the most notable change.



Family cricket day at Homebush 1990

24 The connection and continuing relationship to the land, its people and their stories has been significant here. This connection is difficult to put into words but provides a sense of place, even for those who do not reside in those places. This is part of our living social history. We want to be able to share this with our children and their children. That is their heritage and that of Canterbury and indeed New Zealand.



Family occasion at Homebush

25. The family is described by Gordon Ogilvie as the longest established farmers on the Canterbury plains. Much of this land remains in the family to this day. It is now being farmed by 6th generation New Zealanders. The family have proved to be longstanding guardians of the land improving the area with their hard work. I request this unique farming area be left alone.

26. I would like to fully endorse the comments from Di Lucas in her assessment of the significance of this landscape and area. In particular her specifics on Heritage Landscape para 31, 32, 33 and her focus on the historic association being addressed as a dimension of outstanding natural landscapes. Her assessment of the heritage landscape of the area reflects in a very meaningful way some of the aspects I have tried to describe. To quote Para 44 from her submission "landscape is not only physical environment but traditions, stories and relationships between people and land."

27. As well as the dam flooding valuable land and sites I have grave concerns about the canals and their significant impact on the landscape. I support Di Lucas in her excellent coverage of this aspect of the effects of the scheme. I also support Louise Deans and Gillie Deans in their submissions regarding this aspect.

28 I respectfully request that a decision on this proposal should not be made until identification of the heritage, cultural and amenity values of the area is done. This should include all areas covered by this proposal: intakes, canals, dams and all areas affected by the construction. When this has been accomplished a thorough assessment of the proposal on those heritage, cultural and amenity values identified needs to be taken into account when making the decision about whether or not to proceed with this proposal.

29. I submit, this scheme should not proceed unless this is done and should be central to the Commissioners consideration.

30. I therefore oppose this application by the Canterbury Plains Water Trust.

Judy Deans



Deans family 1990