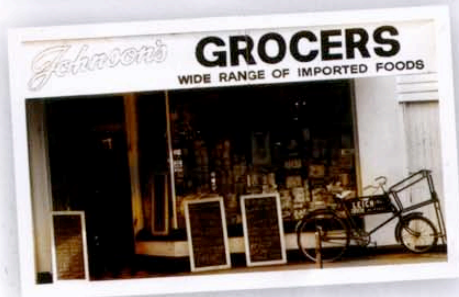


The Christchurch Convention Centre and Town Hall are in the midst of one of the city's most eclectic shopping precincts.

We invite you to meet our neighbours on this



walk around the block...



Take a step back in time at **Johnson's Grocers**. This is a must-visit shop, a Christchurch institution and purveyor of fine food since 1911. Migrants and visitors to New Zealand find items like Jaffa cakes, salted liquorice, Swiss chocolate, and Jelly Belly's to give their taste buds a treat from 'home'.



If you are attending an event in the Convention Centre Halls or at the Town Hall, and you've got a spare half hour or so, there's plenty to explore just around the corner.

Within moments you can be in one of Christchurch's historic and diverse shopping and food precincts. Coming out of the doors of the Convention Centre turn left (east) and after only a few steps, turn left into Colombo Street.

This gastronomically diverse area serves food from around the world: two Japanese restaurants, three Thai, a seafood kitchen, an award winning pasta and beef restaurant, Burmese food, Mexican, Chinese, Mediterranean cuisine and, at **Mainstreet Cafe & Bar**, they serve vegetarian and vegan dishes.

Add a bottle from **Whisky Galore**, or drink superb coffee at any of the coffee shops, and it could be hard to go back to your conference or seminar.

As well as a cornucopia of flavours, this portion of Christchurch's longest straight street has fine art from **Studio Works Gallery** to tempt you to add a painting or sketch to your luggage, and both antique shops could just persuade you to buy something from their fine collections.

The Cook Shop, with its wide range of tools and gadgets, may also entice you if you aspire to be a domestic goddess—or maybe you want a gift for a chef you know. A few more steps along the road are a shop full of crystals and mystical items, **Petals**—a florist shop where Angela has bunches of great ideas—and a health shop, while across the road your nails or hair can receive attention before you have a look at the designer clothing in **Sonya Smith's** boutique.

Shopping and browsing not your thing? Want to escape outdoors briefly? Take a walk across Kilmore Street past the Christchurch Town Hall and into Victoria Square—site of an ancient Maori village called Waitaka and market square for settlers in the 1800s. A **poupou**, (totem pole) carved by Rikki Manuel in 1994 is a reminder of the history and significance this area has to Maori. Beside the Avon River, the fountains and flower gardens, under the gaze of **Queen Victoria**, join locals over a vanilla ice from the cart that has been operating in Christchurch for generations.

For those who turned right when leaving the Convention Centre, Victoria Street provides a totally different shopping experience. The **Children's Bookshop** has educational toys, puzzles, games, music and audio books for the young person in your life. This specialist shop has all the leading New Zealand and international writers' books on their shelves. As with many of our city streets this area too will excite your taste buds with Creole, Cajun, Japanese, Thai, pizza, salads, and at the Indian restaurant you will find Halal food. The bars and cafes are also guaranteed to appeal to your palate and further along from the casino you can buy wonderful household linens, elegant items for your home, jewellery, or antique china.

Exploring out the back entrance you can indulge in delicious desserts at **Strawberry Fare**, art at the **Dobson Bashford Gallery** and admire the hand-painted ceramic tiles at **Artiles Studio** before returning to your hotel, work, or conference.

