

# Creating Your Community Profile

Real Life Social Studies, Mathematics and Technology from



## Learning Intentions:

Students will understand the diversity contained within their local community and how it relates to their region and New Zealand as a whole.

Students will make a profile of their local community and present it in a meaningful and visual presentation

Students will develop a greater facility to use Internet technology – in particular navigating and using an interactive website map.

## Getting Started

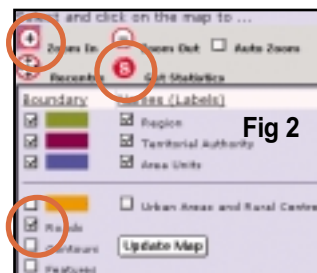
- To find out what students already know about their local district and community, pose the following questions:
  - in what region of New Zealand is our town/city?
  - what is the population of our town/city?
  - how many households are there in our town and the average number of people living in each household?
  - how many people are under 15 years of age?
- Write down all guesstimates.
- Can the students think why gathering information such as this can be important? Who would use it and why? *eg*
  - knowing how many households in a town could be important for planning community facilities such as swimming pools – could be used by local council

## Finding Out

- Tell students that all this information is available on the Internet at the Statistics New Zealand website: [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz) and is a summary of all information from the last census. Explain the concept of a census.

## Using the Map and its Navigational Features

- From the home page (Fig 1), > click on the **Statistics by Area** section of the blue navigation bar.
- On the next page click on **Use the Interactive Map**.
- > click on the region Central Otago to zoom in > click on the nearest area or town mentioned – Dunstan.
  - > locate Cromwell,
  - > check the roads box.
- Select the zoom in button and continue clicking on the map until you locate the street where your house is, *eg* - Horace Street.
- Click the **Get Statistics** button (Fig 2), select Cromwell from the box. Print out pages and distribute to the students.



## Understanding the Community Profile

- Tell students that the information they have is called a profile – a short description of the main community features.
- Spend time discussing the print-out information with the students. Help them interpret the information and graphs, *eg*
  - into what age range do the majority of the people fit?
  - How does this compare with the Central Otago District?
  - How does this compare with the rest of New Zealand?
- Using this information, what 'wise statements' can be made about the age profile of Cromwell?
- Were there any statistics that they found surprising, *eg*
  - the very small numbers of Maori and Pacific people living in Cromwell compared to the rest of NZ
- When your statistical study is complete, have students re-visit guesstimates and compare with the true statistics.

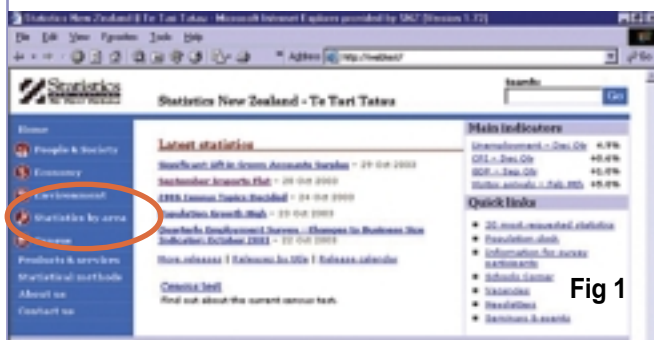
## Creating a Community Profile Challenge

- Tell students that the wealth of information on the website is very useful for finding out about communities throughout New Zealand. The challenge is for each group to select a community from a region they know nothing about, locate the statistics using the interactive map and present findings to the class in a combination of written and graphic form.

### Have You Discovered Schools' Corner?

Schools' Corner contains tons of activities, resources, information for students and teacher notes. It is frequently updated so make sure you visit regularly!

[www.stats.govt.nz/schoolscorner](http://www.stats.govt.nz/schoolscorner)



- Tell students that a convenient way of navigating a statistical website is by an interactive map and this is an important skill to learn. Work through the following steps with small groups until they are confident in using the navigation features on the map. In this example we use the town of **Cromwell**.