

# Welcome to Northern Pegasus Bay



612/103 Nov 2012

Northern Pegasus Bay stretches north of the Waimakariri River along the sandy and pebbly beaches of the Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts to the Amberley Rocks. The Bay is a complex and beautiful natural environment with river mouths, estuaries and extensive sand dunes comprising a range of important natural habitats. It is also home to the beach communities of Kairaki, The Pines Beach, Woodend Beach, Waikuku, Leithfield Beach and Amberley Beach. Local residents and visitors enjoy the Bay for its environment and the wide range of recreational activities it has to offer.

## Beaches

**Amberley Leithfield and Ashworths Beaches**  
Walking, fishing and horse riding.

**Amberley Rocks**  
Suitable for swimming but off road access only

**Waikuku Beach**  
Swimming - Surf Club

**Woodend Beach and The Pines Beach**  
Swimming, walking and horse riding. Daily surf patrols through summer school holidays

**Kairaki Beach**  
Fishing, walking and horse riding



## Park Rangers

Environment Canterbury Rangers patrol the beaches and rivers working to protect the natural environment while providing information and assistance for visitors. The Rangers are especially interested in the successful operation of the Coastal bylaws.

**More information on the Pegasus Bay Bylaws can be downloaded from the following websites:**

[www.hurunui.govt.nz](http://www.hurunui.govt.nz) or contact Hurunui District Council customer services on 03 314 8816.

[www.waimakariri.govt.nz](http://www.waimakariri.govt.nz) or contact Waimakariri District Council customer services on 03 313 6136.



Environment Canterbury  
PO Box 345 Christchurch  
Phone: (03) 353 9007  
or 0800 EC INFO (0800 324 636)  
Website: [www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz)  
Pollution Hotline: 0800 76 55 88  
Duty Ranger (8am - 4pm): 0800 324 636

## Northern Pegasus Bay



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## Wildlife

Sea and river birds can be found all along the coastline but there are several places which are special for wildlife and where we need to take extra care not to disturb breeding and feeding activity.

- The Ashley Rakahuri Estuary,
- The Kowai and Waipara River mouths.
- Lagoons in from the beaches including: Mimimoto Lagoon (south of Woodend Beach), Leithfield Beach Lagoon, the Ashworths Ponds, Pegasus Town wetlands and the Tutapepu Lagoon (south of Pegasus Town).

These areas are the food gathering supermarkets for most of our river and coastal bird species and need protection from activities such as four wheel driving, trail-biking and uncontrolled dogs.

## Camping

There are camping grounds at Kairaki, Woodend, Waikuku, Leithfield and Amberley Beaches. Free camping is not permitted along the beach or on the foreshore.



## Cycling

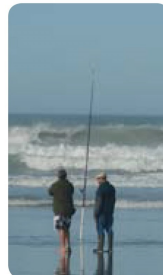
Options for cycling along the coast include:

- Amberley Beach has a short cycling track to the Waipara River Mouth. If you cross the river a four wheel drive track leads to the Amberley Rocks.
- The Kowai Track runs from the Leithfield Hotel to Leithfield Beach.
- The Tutapepu Trail links Waikuku Beach to Woodend Beach.
- Further developments will improve links along the Ashley River and between Woodend and Kairaki Beaches.



## Fishing

There are several options; surfcasting along the beach front, white-baiting at the river mouths, and salmon fishing particularly at Kairaki Beach. Fishermen have the same access rules as for vehicles, though a permit system operates in the white-bait season at the Ashley River Mouth (refer to Waimakariri District Council).



## Vehicle Access

Beach access is provided for and controlled under the Waimakariri and Hurunui District Council Northern Pegasus Bay bylaws. Vehicles must stay below the last high tide line and travel at a maximum speed of 30kph, or 10kph within 50m of people who aren't in a vehicle. All vehicles must give way to walkers, swimmers or horses. No vehicles may be ridden or driven in the fragile dunes.

While vehicles are allowed on much of the coast they are prohibited in several places (refer to map).



## Horses

Horse riding is permitted along the beaches below the high tide line. However horses are prohibited from the following places:

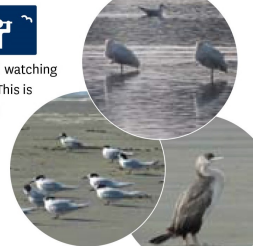
- The Ashley Estuary
- The Kowai River Mouth
- The Waipara River Mouth

Refer to the maps for the prohibited areas. Horse riding is also prohibited through flagged areas during surf patrols.



## Birdwatching

The best place for bird watching is the Ashley Estuary. This is regarded as one of the most important sites for birds on the East Coast. Colonies of spotted shags and white fronted terns live here. Other New Zealand species feed here including banded dotterel, pied stilt and the endangered wrybill, black billed gull, black stilt and black fronted tern. Migrants and international travellers from Siberia which can be spotted include, grey tailed tattlers, whimbrels, eastern curlews, bar tailed godwits and red knots.



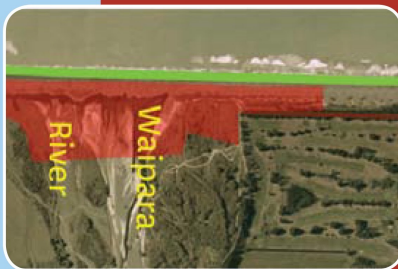
## Swimming

People swim and surf all along the Pegasus Bay Beaches. There is a surf club at Waikuku Beach which is patrolled during summer weekends. During the school summer holidays' lifeguards patrol all week at Waikuku, Pegasus Town, Woodend and The Pines beaches.





Waipara River



Kowai River



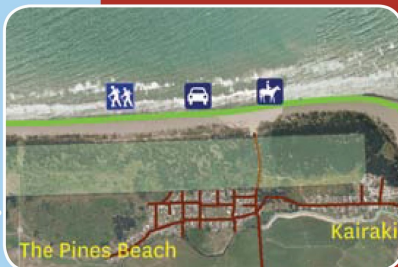
Ashley Estuary



Woodend Beach



The Pines Beach



# Northern Pegasus Bay

## Beach access Northern Pegasus Bylaw

- Pedestrians horses and vehicles
- Pedestrians and horses
- Vehicles (Seasonal by permit)
- State highway 1
- District Roads
- Tuhaitara Coastal Park. Walking cycling and horse trails
- Pedestrians only No horse riding or motorised vehicles. Dogs must be on a leash

*Except when entering or leaving the beach, and where permitted, motorised vehicles and horses must remain below the last high tide mark.*