



# McLeans Island



Waimakariri River Regional Park

## Caring for your park

- No Fires** – Light no fires. You are welcome to bring a portable gas BBQ, please place clear of vegetation.
- Dogs** – can be walked throughout the whole of McLeans Island, excluding all designated mountain bike trails. They must be under control at all times. It is your responsibility to remove dog faeces.
- Camping** – No camping
- Native vegetation** – Do not remove, disturb or damage plants or animals.
- Rubbish** – Take home all rubbish you bring in and recycle where possible.
- No Hunting** – no hunting is permitted in any part of McLeans Island.
- Recreation, leisure club and commercial leases** – For more information about these please refer to our website.

Environment  
Canterbury  
Regional Council  
Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

4508 E14/152

## Finding your way

- Map signs
- Walking Track
- Roads
- Mountain Bike Track  
40min or 60min including Coringa Loop
- Night Gate
- Shared Track  
Mountain Bike / Walking
- Stopbanks
- Mountain Bike River Loop  
Shingle / Sand

Environment  
Canterbury  
Regional Council  
Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

Environment Canterbury  
PO Box 345  
Christchurch 8140  
P. 03 353 9007 or 0800 324 636  
F. 03 365 3194 E. [ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz)





# Waimakariri River Regional Park – McLeans Island

## Introduction

McLeans Island is a section of the Waimakariri River Regional Park. It is approximately 13 kilometres in length extending from the Harewood Crossbank (the hump on McLeans Island Road) upstream to approximately 1km downstream of The Willows Picnic Ground. Night gates are in operation at Haul Road, McLeans Forest and Miners Bank Road, all off McLeans Island road. The gates are opened at 7am year-round. During daylight saving hours they are locked at 10pm and at 7pm outside this period (This excludes McLeans Forest which is locked at 10pm all year-round).

**McLeans Island is divided into two recreational areas.**

**McLeans Forest** – From Haul Road through to Miners Bank road.

**West Melton Forest** – From Miners Bank road through to 1 kilometre east of The Willows.

## History

During the 1930s, hundreds of men armed only with shovels, picks and wheelbarrows created stopbanks and groynes along the river.

The original pine plantations along the river were also planted during the 1930s Great Depression. Later Miners, Harewood and McLeans banks blocked off the south channel so that the river was shifted to the north side of McLeans Island. The South Branch of the Waimakariri became the spring fed Otukaikino Stream which we enjoy today at the Groyne's Picnic Area. ▶



Today McLeans Island is home to a diverse range of recreation and leisure clubs and commercial operations, an integral part of the Regional Park and the network of open spaces in the Northwest of Christchurch City which includes the West Melton Reserves, Isaac Conservation Park and the The Groynes.



Kowhai Savannah



Waterhole



Muehlenbeckia axillaris

## Biodiversity

The open grasslands in and around McLeans Island support predominantly exotic pasture species but some areas have retained elements of their former native vegetation cover, including the threatened leafless pohuehue (*Muehlenbeckia ephedroides*) and scabweed (*Raoulia monroi*), as well as the locally rare longwood tussock (*Carex comans*), potatara (*Leucopogon fraseri*), matagouri (*Discaria tomatou*) and cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*). One of the most striking native habitats is the savannah-like dry grassland with scattered kowhai trees which runs both east and west of Chattertons Road. Harriers (*Circus approximans*) can frequently be seen scanning the area for prey. Native pigeons (Kereru), Tom tits (Miromiro) and Fantails (Piwakawaka) can occasionally be spotted in the forest.

## What you can do here — McLeans Forest

### Cycling

**McLeans Forest Mountain bike track** - There are three loops. Two are well manicured trails that cater for family groups right through to the competitive bikers. The River loop is a dirt trail due to its vulnerability to flooding. All loops are one-way and can be interlinked making a total distance of 17km: ▶

1. **Tresillian Loop (10km)** – Starting and finishing at the car park off McLeans Island road.

2. **Coringa Loop (5km)** – This can be accessed off the Tresillian loop.

3. **River Loop (2km)** – Also accessed off Tresillian Loop taking you out to the river edge where you can admire the surrounding area.

4. **Gordon Reid Track (2km)** – Alternative access to the Coringa Loop.

5. **Templars Island Trail** – This trail passes through McLeans Forest before following the stopbanks down river to Whites Crossing by the motorway bridge. This is a multi-directional trail.



### Walking/jogging

**McLeans Forest walking trail 11km** – starts and finishes at the McLeans Forest car park. This trail twists its way through a working exotic pine forest.

**Templars Island trail** – This link also caters for walkers and runners, refer to cycle section for details of the trail.

**Didymo has been confirmed in the Waimakariri River. Always “check, clean, dry”.**

**Fishing** - Salmon and trout, can be fished with a current license from Fish and Game New Zealand.

### Events

McLeans Forest is a superb venue for many events, ranging from school outings to corporate or organised events using either walking or mountain bike tracks, or the Fraser Oval oval area near the car park. The Fraser Oval has toilet facilities, a band stand and grassed areas. There is enough public car parking for 150 cars with overflow car parks available on request.

The band stand has power and a sound system.

If you are interested in making a booking please contact Environment Canterbury Customer Services and ask to speak to the Duty Ranger. Our number is on the back of this brochure.



## Safety

**Flooding** – McLeans Forest is part of the main channel of the Waimakariri River. River levels sometimes rise rapidly after northwesterly weather and the tracks will sometimes flood. Dirty water on tracks should never be entered – flooding may have altered the tracks making them unsafe, and water may be deeper than it looks. Please follow any diversions.

**Fire** – Fire is a constant threat within our Parks. The lighting of fires is prohibited. If you see smoke or fire call 111 immediately and leave the park. Large open areas which have short green grass are safe places in a fire emergency.

**BBQs** – Only gas BBQs are permitted within McLeans Island. They may only be used where there is a minimum of two metres clearance to any dry vegetation.

**Water safety** – Swimming spots are great during summer, however they can be dangerous. Pick your spots carefully and check for hazards each time you swim there.

For up-to-date information about water safety please refer to the Water Safety New Zealand website: [www.watersafety.org.nz](http://www.watersafety.org.nz)

**Traffic** – Remember normal road rules apply within the park.

## WEST MELTON FOREST –

### What can you do here

- Trail biking/Quad bikes – Marked trails starting and finishing at the end of Weedons-Ross road.
- Jet Boating – There is no jet boat ramp at the end of Weedons Ross road, but depending on river conditions you do have the option of launching here. For rules about boating behaviour [www.nzjetboating.com](http://www.nzjetboating.com)
- Kayaking – You can kayak the length of the Waimakariri River.
- Fishing – Fishing access can be obtained in this area, please contact Environment Canterbury Customer Services for more information.

No public motor vehicle access is permitted in the forest.