

Clean swimming spots guide online now

Where is the cleanest place to swim in Canterbury?

Take a look at: www.ecan.govt.nz/swimming

Sites graded very good, good and fair are mostly fine for swimming, although even good sites may at times be badly affected by things like heavy rain. Water quality is affected by sewage, rainfall, run-off from rural areas and high numbers of birds. Swimming in water high in bacteria can make you sick.

If the water has been tested and found to be unsuitable for swimming, you should be warned by signs and media reports.

Sites with a very good grade for this summer include:

Gore Bay, Motunau Beach, Leithfield Beach, Waikuku Beach, Woodend Beach, Spencerville, Taylors Mistake, Diamond Harbour jetty, Pigeon Bay, Le Bons Bay, Lake Opuha at the dam boat ramp, and Lake Ruataniwha at the camping ground.

Sites where swimming water quality has improved since summer 2006, include:

Corsair Bay, Akaroa Main Beach, Tikao Bay, Hurunui River at State Highway 7, Pareora River at Evans Crossing, Lake Hood at Bayliss Beach, Lake Aviemore at Waitangi and Lake Clearwater below the huts.

Sites with a very poor grade, not suitable for swimming this summer, include:

Humphries Drive in the Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai, Avon River at Kerrs Reach, Heathcote River at Catherine Street, Lyell Creek lagoon at Kaikoura, Kaiapoi River, Waimakariri River mouth, Otukaikino Creek at the Groynes, Christchurch (above and below the picnic area), and Selwyn River/Waikirikiri at Coes Ford, Central Canterbury.



Jenny Bond water sampling at Pleasant Point Yacht Club, Christchurch.

Keep this handy over the holidays

ECan staff and councillors wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

This December Living Here contains useful summer information, whether you are boating, swimming, catching a bus to the beach, checking river levels or reducing fire risk around your property.

Ka kite ano, see you in the New Year.



Environment Canterbury office hours over Christmas period

Christchurch and Timaru main offices will be closed from
Dec 24, 2007 - Jan 3, 2008

Avoiding rural property fires

This summer is predicted to be warmer than last year, which increases the fire risk. However, there are things you can do around your home to reduce your risk:

- Cut grass and paddocks around buildings.
- Water your grass to keep it green.
- Remove dead plants, debris and burnable material from sections.
- Remove leaves and debris from rain gutters and down pipes.
- Keep a garden hose connected for use in case of fire.
- Maintain clear access routes to your water supplies and around buildings for fire appliances.
- Keep your RAPID number (most rural addresses have these so fire trucks can get to them) by the phone.
- Check your smoke alarms and your insurance cover.

i If you do see a wildfire, phone 111
For more information: www.ruralfire.org.nz



Selwyn District Council firefighters put out a gorse fire at West Melton. Photo courtesy of: Tim Mitchell, Selwyn District Council rural fire officer.



PEST: Banana passionfruit

Passionfruit vines grow almost anywhere moving quickly to the tree/forest canopy, forming layers that smother vegetation as it climbs while reducing light to the forest floor. Long, pink, tubular flowers are visible year round and oval green fruit turn yellow or orange as they ripen.

Report sightings to: 03 363 9380



**Environment
Canterbury**
Your regional council

Come back safely *from your day on the water*

Boaties, jetskiers and sailors all need to keep navigation safety in mind when out on the water. The skipper/operator of a boat is responsible for the safety of everyone on board.

- » Children under 10 years of age in vessels less than five metres in length must wear life jackets when the vessel is underway.
- » Life jackets must be carried to fit all people on board – we recommend that you wear your life jacket when in the boat.
- » A powerboat or jetski that can exceed 10 knots can only be operated by someone over the age of 15.
- » Proper navigation lights must be displayed when dark.
- » Do not exceed five knots within 200 metres of the shore or a boat displaying a diver's flag.
- » Do not exceed five knots within 50 metres of any boat or person swimming.
- » Keep 50 metres apart if speed is over five knots.
- » Overtaking boats must keep clear of the boat being overtaken.
- » If power vessels are meeting end on, both must alter their course to starboard (right side). If they are crossing, give way to starboard.
- » In rivers, give way to vessels coming downstream.
- » Do not set nets in shipping lanes.



Enforcement officers will be out and about on the southern lakes again over the summer period. Information on tides are available in your local newspaper, or on camping ground noticeboards.

Do you have enough life jackets? Have you checked your anchor and all other equipment? Have you told someone where you are going and have you checked the weather forecast?




All incidents and accidents should be reported to the Regional Harbourmaster, ideally within 24 hours, on (03) 328 9168 or (03) 328 9169 or fax (03) 328 9158

Lake Ruataniwha motor closure dates		
Lake Ruataniwha will be closed on the following days in 2008 for rowing regattas:	11 - 13 January 25 - 27 January 8 - 10 February 28 February	1 - 2 March 14 - 16 March 29 March - 6 April



Busing bliss

Forget the parking headaches, take the bus around Christchurch this summer

-  **The lime green Orbiter** takes you to Northlands, Westfield-Riccarton, the university, Jellie Park, Eastgate and the Palms, Shirley.
-  **The orange Metrostar** travels from Halswell to Brighton and passes by Dress Smart in Hornby, Air Force World Wigram, Merivale Mall and QEII.
-  **The blue Northern Star** goes to Rangiora, Kaiapoi, Woodend and Waikuku Beach.

- The 10 bus** goes to the Antarctic Centre and the Airport.
- The 77 Kennedys Bush** goes to Halswell Quarry.
- The 35 Heathcote** goes to Ferrymead Heritage Park, Lyttelton and has two bike racks.
- The 67 Dyers Pass** goes to Victoria Park.
- The Black Cat ferries** connect Lyttelton and Diamond Harbour and the 28 and 35 buses run between Lyttelton and Christchurch.

Plan your journey on line at www.metroinfo.org.nz and access timetable and fares information too. www.metroinfo.org.nz

Metrocards are free and save you money. They are available for residents and visitors at the Bus Exchange in Lichfield Street, Christchurch, or see www.metroinfo.org.nz. Timetables are available on line, from the Bus Exchange, Environment Canterbury (58 Kilmore St) or call Metroinfo on 366 88 55.



Civil Defence reminders ...

How is your cupboard stocked?

If you need to stay at home during an emergency, you may require the following to get through:

- Three days or more of food (plus can opener)
- Gas cooker to prepare food
- Three litres of water per person per day for at least three days
- A torch and spare batteries
- First aid kit and essential medications
- AM/FM Radio and spare batteries
- Emergency toilet supplies
- Pet supplies
- Rain gear and sturdy shoes for your family

 www.getthru.govt.nz

Summer all year round?

The Clean Heat Project assessors are working through the Christmas holidays and there are currently no waiting lists. ECan's Clean Heat Project offers financial help to Christchurch homeowners and landlords to change from polluting open fires or older style solid fuel burners to clean forms of heating and insulation.

Options include a full or partial subsidy, depending on income level; an interest-free loan which is paid back through the rates bill over 10 years; or a landlord subsidy.

i For more information telephone the Clean Heat Project on 353 9276 or visit www.cleanheat.org.nz

Clean Heat Outreach into northern Christchurch
The Clean Heat Project's Outreach team has six staff knocking on doors in the north-west suburbs of Redwood, Harewood, Bishopdale and Papanui from November to mid December. They are able to sign up eligible households for a free Clean Heat Project assessment.



check out www.sustainability.govt.nz
learn how to live smarter, reduce your impact on the environment, and save money



tip:
vinegar & baking soda
use vinegar and baking soda for your household cleaning

Didymo:

Check, clean and dry

Check, clean, dry is the key message to prevent didymo's further spread. Didymo or "rock snot" has been confirmed in Canterbury's Ahuriri, Waitaki, Tekapo, Twizel, North Opuha, Rangitata, Hurunui and Clarence rivers.

It is important to treat all waterways as if they are infected because didymo is very hard to detect in its early stages.

Check:

Remove all obvious matter from items in contact with river water.

Clean:

Soak and scrub these items with a solution of water and simple household cleaners before entering another waterway. For more information see: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo



Didymo photo courtesy of DOC: S.Charteris

Dry:

If cleaning is impractical, make sure things that have been in contact with river water have been completely dry for 48 hours before using in another waterway. Drying will kill didymo, but slightly moist didymo can survive for months. To kill didymo cells by drying the item must be completely dry to the touch, inside and out, then left dry for at least another 48 hours before use.



Staying dry, not wet

Know where your closest river is and whether or not it is has flooded in your area before. It is also important to know where you can go to get more information.

Phone - 083 22 55 22

You can call the ECan River Report on 083 22 55 22. Rainfall and river levels are updated twice daily and more often during floods. Calls cost 12 cents a minute.



Web - www.ecan.govt.nz/riverflows

River levels are updated twice daily on the ECan website and flood warnings will also be posted on the home page - www.ecan.govt.nz, or www.ecan.govt.nz/riverflows

Text - 3226

You can also check river flows by text from your mobile phone. The cost is 30 cents a message. Short codes are available for 48 sites on rivers throughout Canterbury.

Send a text to 3226 (ECan) and in the message line put RV (stands for river) and the short code for the site eg RV CLAR for the Clarence River. The short codes are listed on www.ecan.govt.nz/rivertxt

River levels are measured twice daily from remote monitoring stations so the immediate state of the river could be different from the recording. So you still need to use your own judgment and bear in mind that a river level can change within minutes.

Irrigation restrictions

These are available from:

ECan River Report 083 22 55 22
www.ecan.govt.nz/irrigation

PEST: Purple loosestrife

Purple loosestrife thrives in damp places, particularly wetlands, garden ponds or along river/lake margins and gardens, like the one pictured at Ohoka, North Canterbury.

It grows quickly to form dense stands which block out other plants and can clog waterways. Local agencies are working together to eradicate purple loosestrife from the Canterbury region.

Report sightings to: 03 363 9380

Spongebob and Nemo: take a hike!

The endangered Canterbury mudfish/kowaro has plenty of defenders judging by the 200-plus responses to our latest Kids Page competition. If you would like to read in full the winning letters, email sian.carvell@ecan.govt.nz

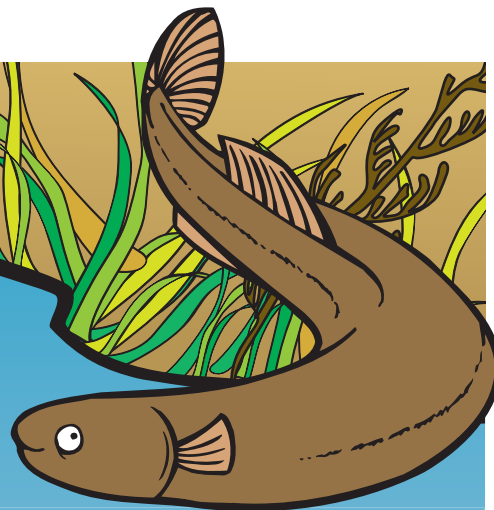
Memorable winning lines:

Dear Mrs and Mr Canterbury,
You shouldn't drain the land because we need lots of water and water plants and high levels of oxygen during breeding season. The predators are trout and eel. So please look after me!

Stephanie Lester
Riccarton, Christchurch
5-7 year group

Dear Mr and Mrs Canterbury,
A lot of people say 'Mudfish, what's so special about them?' When the water dries up in our weedy drains, we can survive by hiding underneath logs or wreckage for about two months . . . We can easily adapt to anything except dirty water and long droughts . . . Don't judge a book by its cover or a fish by its scales (or lack of)!

Amy Beeby
Timaru
11-13 year group



Slow flowing stream
Behind the barn
RD1, Oxford

Dear Mr and Mrs Canterbury,
Tena koutou katoa. I was pleased to see you both cleaning the stream last week. I like the way you both have made the effort to look after my home by catching eels and trout . . . I even noticed Mr Canterbury adding a bucket of worms. That really helped my family and me through the long winter.

Wallace Davidson
Strowan, Christchurch
8-10 year group

Editor's note: The Canterbury mudfish/kowaro was given the scientific name *neochanna burrowsius* after Alfred Burrows, an Oxford farmer, who first sent it off to be classified. Wallace's mum, Karen Davidson, knows Alfred's grand-daughter, Karen Burrows.

What's on

Wai Wetlands Symposium 2008

University of Canterbury, February 14-16, 2008
This practical symposium is a chance to exchange and improve your knowledge of wetlands, find out about the latest restoration programmes and network with landowners, iwi, scientists and people committed to wetland biodiversity and restoration. Plenary talks by Dr Bev Clarkson (Landcare Research) and Gail Tipa (Ngai Tahu), technical and soapbox sessions, practical workshops and fieldtrips, which include trips to Travis wetland and Te Waihora/ Lake Ellesmere, with the opportunity to gain training in monitoring wetlands and environmental education.

For more information and registration
www.wetlandtrust.org.nz

Sustainability EXPO

Rolleston, Christchurch, January 26 and 27
After a very successful event in January 2007 with more than 2000 people, the Sustainability EXPO will be held again in 2008 on January 26 and 27 at the Rolleston Community Centre. The EXPO is all about sustainable options for future living. See working displays and attend panel debates and presentations on a wide range of topics including solar hot water systems, solar electric (photovoltaic) and wind energy generation, energy efficient appliances, building design, housing and transport.

For further information:
www.sustainabilityexpo.co.nz

Nationwide River Survey

The School of Physical Education at Otago University is conducting a nationwide survey to get the opinions of river recreation users, up until March next year:

For further information:
www.riversurvey.otago.ac.nz



learn more
about Canterbury's unique mudfish at:
www.mudfish.org.nz



reminder: &
rinsed plastics
can be recycled

Meet your new Environment Canterbury councillors



Ross Little

North Canterbury, Chair Land and Contaminated Sites and Northern Area Committee:

My experience in RMA matters as a coastal hill country farmer will be valuable in implementing plans on water, soil, and wetlands, and responses to pests, climate change, and biodiversity. I am looking forward to contributing on consent hearings, air, transport, rates issues and other matters.

Contact: ross.little@ecan.govt.nz or phone (03) 314 5841



Hon. Sir Kerry Burke

Christchurch South, ECan Chairman

Canterbury's great resources must be well managed, our environment and economy in balance, especially concerning our water quality and quantity. Gains in air quality and household warmth must continue and public transport improve further, lessening congestion growth. I will work with my colleagues and the community to achieve these goals.

Contact: kerry.burke@ecan.govt.nz or phone (03) 355 8104



Jo Kane

North Canterbury, ECan Deputy Chair, Chair Regional Land Transport and Air Quality, Canterbury District Health Board member, wife, mother, endurance athlete.

I am ready to tackle Canterbury's community geographic, demographic urban/rural diversity with you. There are compelling challenges, complex and demanding, which include: How we can communicate better with our community; facing up to the pressures of growth; clearly signalling the priorities of the work programme that is matched with affordability; efficient and effective decision-making at all levels.

Contact: jo.kane@ecan.govt.nz or phone (03) 312 7863



Pat Harrow

Christchurch West, Chair Waste, managing director Berryfields and Sweethearts restaurant, City Councillor 1989-2004, director Canterbury Development Corporation

My aim is to maintain Christchurch's pristine drinking water and region-wide healthy rivers and streams, high quality air, coastal water, land and soil management, efficient public transport including light rail and regional economic development.

Contact: phone (03) 359 5851



Jane Demeter

Christchurch North, Chair Hazards and Biodiversity, business owner and healthcare software development consultant.

I want to help generate increased community awareness of and participation in ECan's resource management processes, improve water management outcomes, increase environmental monitoring and measurement and ensure that water, land and air are being sustainably managed. Gains in energy efficiency and conservation are also important.

Contact: jane.demeter@ecan.govt.nz or phone (03) 365 2399



Alec Neill

Christchurch West, barrister, joint Chair Regulation Hearing and Regulation Overview Committees.

ECan is a creature of statute. Those statutes however do not spell out the importance of building and maintaining close working relationships with other local territorial authorities. I am a lawyer by qualification, and jointly chair ECan's Regulation Hearing Committee. I believe in "team" and the need for good working relationships with all stakeholders.

Contact: alec.neill@ecan.govt.nz or phone (03) 342 4253



Carole Evans

Christchurch North, QSO, JP, Chair Public Passenger Transport, and Christchurch Area Committee, seven-term Christchurch City Councillor, recently as Deputy Mayor.

I am delighted to be an ECan councillor and I am looking forward to working on the many environmental challenges facing the region. As Chair of the Public Passenger Transport portfolio committee, I am keen to get working with colleagues and staff to continue the progress made by the past ECan council.

Contact: carole.evans@ecan.govt.nz or phone (03) 387 0847



Eugenie Sage

Selwyn Banks Peninsula, Chair Pests and Central Area Committee, post-graduate student.

Community engagement and improved land use practices are needed to restore the flows and health of lowland streams and lakes and protect groundwater quality. Good planning can help prevent urban sprawl, safeguard township character and fertile soils. An end to cheap oil requires continued improvements to public transport to better connect our growing townships and Christchurch.

Contact: eugenie.sage@ecan.govt.nz or phone (03) 942 1251



Rik Tindall

Christchurch East, Chair Emergency Management, free and open-source software professional.

Kia ora taatou. As a keen beach, river, forest and mountain walking New Zealander, I share your concern for manaaki whenua. There is much work to do and you have my commitment towards our best efforts for the flora, fauna, and economy that support us.

Contact: rik.tindall@ecan.govt.nz or phone (03) 332 1069



Angus McKay

Rakaia, Joint Chair Regulation Hearing and Regulation Overview Committees, mixed cropping farmer

I want people to have clean, healthy water and air to maintain life - a landscape that is a pleasure to live in. Water storage, whether large or small, of flood flows is the key to our prosperity. The future of Canterbury lies in the ability to make the best possible resource management decisions.

Contact: angus.mckay@ecan.govt.nz or phone (03) 302 8660



David Sutherland

Christchurch East, Chair Coastal Environment, post-graduate student in landscape architecture at Lincoln University.

As a Christchurch resident, I value the quality of life available in our fair city. Clean, fresh water and air are fundamental requirements for this high quality of life. As a regional councillor I am committed to the preservation of our water quality and the improvement of our air.

Contact: david.sutherland@ecan.govt.nz or phone (03) 331 6007



Bronwen Murray

South Canterbury, Chair Energy and Navigation Safety, married with two sons, roles in the community and in business.

Our family home is the Wolds Station, a sheep and beef property with irrigation in the Mackenzie Basin. As a region we need balanced environmental outcomes, understanding that people are part of the biodiversity.

Contact: bronwen.murray@ecan.govt.nz or phone (03) 680 6608



Professor Bob Kirk

Christchurch South, Chair Finance and Audit and Regional Planning

We need to make considerable further advances in the sustainable management of water resources and the effective protection of high quality drinking water throughout the region. Ongoing development of coastal management (for example, through the Pegasus Bay non-statutory plan) and the new regional parks are also areas I will keenly support.

Contact: bob.kirk@ecan.govt.nz or phone (03) 348 5576



Mark Oldfield

South Canterbury, Chair Water Quantity, Quality and Ecosystems and Southern Committee, married to Adrienne, with four children, operating a sustainable agribusiness at Seadown, near Timaru.

I want to continue calmly working to protect our water supplies for all and restore our streams, rivers and coast to full health, enhancing recreational opportunities. Air quality must improve while maintaining household warmth, with sensible time frames and costings. Ensuring local control over local resources is paramount.

Contact: mark.oldfield@ecan.govt.nz or phone (03) 688 2262

www.ecan.govt.nz/committees

For a full list of council committee memberships and chairs



bikes
on buses to Lyttelton

Heathcote 35 bus carries 2 bikes
www.metroinfo.org.nz



check out
www.ecostore.co.nz
for environmentally friendly products