

Safety

Flooding – Kaiapoī Island 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 track making it unsafe, and water may be deeper than it looks.

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 Kaiapoī 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 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

Traffic – Remember normal road rules apply within the park.

Caring for your Park

Dogs – Dogs are permitted but must be under control at all times. It is your responsibility to remove dog faeces.

No camping – Camping is not permitted at Kaiapoī Island.

Native vegetation – Do not remove, disturb or damage plants or animals.

No fires – Light no fires. You are welcome to bring a portable gas BBQ.

Rubbish – Take home all rubbish you bring in and recycle where possible



Kaiapoī Island



Waimakariri River Regional Park

Finding your way

- Information
- Parking
- Toilets
- Entry point
- Trail bike area
- Feature
- Kaiapoī Island Trail (shared cycle/walking track)
- Walking only track
- Stopbank route (shared cycle/walking track)
- Road

3648 E13/64

Environment Canterbury
 PO Box 345
 Christchurch 8013
 P. 03 353 9007 or 0800 324 636
 F. 03 365 3194
 E. ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz



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Waimakariri River Regional Park - Kaiapoi Island

Introduction

Kaiapoi Island is a section of the Waimakariri River Regional Park, extending from the Kaiapoi River Confluence upstream to the western end of the trail bike area on the north bank of the Waimakariri River. Night gates are in operation in this area, at the Wrights Road entrance and Taylors Road. The gates are opened at 4.30am year round. During daylight saving hours they are locked at 10pm, outside this period 7pm.

Kaiapoi Island caters for a diverse range of recreation opportunities. As well as vehicle access there is also walking and cycle access from Raven Quay, Kaiapoi.

History

Prior to European settlement, the Waimakariri River was an unconstrained braided river which had split into two main channels in the lower reaches, forming a number of islands about 8 km from the coast. The largest island was Kaiapoi Island approximately 11 km long by 6.5 km wide and 2800 hectares.

It was covered by a mixture of dry land and wetland/swamp vegetation. In the higher areas the predominant species included kanuka, tussock, speargrass and sub alpine shrubs and herbs. In the wetland/swamp areas of the island, the species included raupo, harakeke (flax), cabbage tree and sedges.

Te Rakai a Hewa

As told by John Crofts (Tuahuriri) and Manawaroa Maurice Gray (Tuahuriri), July 2007.

Maori called the island Te Rakai a Hewa, 'the adornment of the deluded one'. The island was an important site spiritually and as an education facility owing to nearby settlements, including the important Kaiapoi Pa.

Te Tupapaku, now known as Courtenay Stream, ran through the island. Here local Maori laid their dead with the ona upoko (head) staked to the bank and the tupapaku (body of the deceased) in the water. The eels living in the stream then stripped the flesh from the body. The biggest of these eels were kaitiaki taniwha or guardians of the spirits and were known as mairehe. The bones were later gathered and buried in sand dunes or caves.



What you can do here



Mountain biking and walking on shared tracks

– The Kaiapoi Island Trail caters for mountain bikers, walkers and runners. There are 18 km of track stretching from Raven Quay to Smiths Stream. This track is two-way and is a shared use track. West of the motorway bridge there is the choice of a forest or river track.

Raven Quay Loop is 18.5 km – Starting at Raven Quay, head west east along the stop bank, dropping down to Wai-ora bridge and crossing Railway Reserve. From Monopoli's pond the track follows the edge of the river past the jet boat ramp up to Smiths Stream. From here you can either access the Smiths Stream loop or return through the willow forest, meeting up with the same track again under the motorway bridge, taking you back to Raven Quay.

Wrights Road Loop 8.5 km – Starting at the motorway bridge you can head upstream on the river track, following the edge of the river until you get to Smiths Stream and return via the willow forest, or vice versa.



Shooting – Licensed game bird shooters can shoot at Poynters Nature Reserve and Monopoli's Pond at restricted hours: dawn to 9 am.



Fishing – We have many different varieties of fish within Kaiapoi Island. Anglers Causeway, Monopoli's Pond and the confluence of the Kaiapoi River and Waimakariri River are all popular fishing areas:

Fresh water sport fish – Such as sea run salmon and trout, can be fished with a current fishing license from Fish and Game New Zealand.

Coarse fishing – Monopoli's Pond is good for coarse fishing, but please note a fishing license is required.

Whitebaiting – Along Anglers Causeway and downstream to the confluence of the Kaiapoi River. For information on whitebaiting visit www.doc.govt.nz

Night access – Licenced fishers can obtain a key. Please refer to either the Fishing Access brochure or look on the Environment Canterbury website www.ecan.govt.nz/waimakpark



Swimming – There are swimming spots on the shingle fan opposite Reid's Reserve. Swimming below the old Main North Road bridge is not advised due to poor water quality. Swimming is prohibited at the jet boat ramp. Up-to-date information about swimming water quality can be found at www.ecan.govt.nz

Didymo has been confirmed in the Waimakariri River. Always "check, clean, dry".



Motorcross/trials riding

– The Kaiapoi Island trail bike area caters for motorcross riding, flat track riding and trials riding. There are also dedicated areas for learners and families. For more information on trail biking, see our Trail bike brochure or visit www.ecan.govt.nz/waimakpark



Picnicking – Picnic tables are located at the Railway Reserve, on the Poynters Nature Walk and in the jet boat area.



Jet boating – The jet boat ramp is located upstream of the motorway bridge. This ramp is owned by Jet Boating NZ. It is available for public use and gives boaters access right up to the Waimakariri Gorge and beyond. Rules about boating behaviour are on site near the jet boat ramp.



Kayaking – There is a popular entry/exit point just downstream of the jet boat ramp, on the shingle fan. You can kayak throughout the length of the river.

More information is available on our website:
www.ecan.govt.nz/waimakpark