

**4. Lake Roundabout (*brown trout*)**

From Hakatere Corner continue straight on the gravel road for around 5kms. On the left side of the road you will notice a signposted DOC track that leaves the main gravel road. Follow this track for around 800m and park next to a walking access gate on your right. From here it is a short walk to the lake.

**5. Lake Emma (*brown trout and perch*)**

Directions as for Lake Roundabout. Follow the track for a further 500m to reach the Northern corner of the lake. From here it is a short walk to the lake edge or further access is available for 4WD vehicles along a track that ends at Lake Emma Hut.

**6. Lake Denny (*brown trout and perch*)**

Access to Lake Denny is through Mt Possession Station and permission is required. The private track leaves the gravel road 300m from Hakatere Corner. Fishing can be variable depending on artificial stocking.

**7. Lake Camp (*rainbow trout and perch*)**

From Hakatere Corner continue straight on the gravel road for around 9km. Lake Camp is on the left side of the road and can be accessed by a number of tracks that go to the lake edge or walk from the road. The Lake Clearwater hut settlement and camping ground can be found at the western end of the lake.



*Lake Clearwater huts nestled between Lake Clearwater and Lake Camp.*  
Photo: R Adams

**8. Lake Clearwater (*brown trout and perch*)**

Directions as for Lake Camp. From the Lake Clearwater hut settlement there is a 4WD track that begins in the hut settlement (Mt Possession Street) that crosses the lake outlet to give access along the lakes eastern and northern shores. Access along the southern shore is via a walking track that circumnavigates the lake. Foot bridges allow access across the inlet and outlet of the lake. Walking access can also be gained to the most western end of the lake via a signposted track located approximately 2.2km along the gravel road from the hut settlement.

**9. Mystery Lake (*brown trout*)**

From Lake Clearwater hut settlement continue straight along the gravel road for 7km until you reach the Potts River Bridge. Park at the signposted DOC carpark. Mystery Lake can be reached by hiking a marked route that follows the river bed for a short distance then climbs steeply up the river terrace. This track is 9km one way and takes approximately 4 hours to reach the lake. Good fitness and adequate footwear is essential for accessing this remote lake.

Within the Ashburton Lakes area additional angling opportunities exist beyond those waters described. Anglers will need a sense of adventure and a topographical map to find these. Please seek permission when exploring private land in the area.



**Central South Island Region**

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# Ashburton Lakes

(Ō Tū Wharekai)



*Lake Heron - Photo: R. Adams*



**Central South Island Region**

## Ashburton Lakes - Ō Tū Wharekai

Guarded by several high mountain ranges the area known as Ashburton Lakes or Ō Tū Wharekai is a large intermontane wetland system with eleven lakes and numerous small tarns dotting the landscape. The basin is largely unmodified and areas of native scrub/tussock and mountain ranges provide some impressive backdrops for a unique fishing experience. The Department of Conservation administers a large portion of the basin with the remainder made up of six high country stations. Five sports fish species are found here, those being; brown trout, rainbow trout, perch, lake-resident Chinook salmon and brook char.

### Angling Information

Fly fishing is the most popular method of fishing the various lakes in the Ashburton Basin. Damsel fly, snail, midge and bully imitations work well and in the height of summer cicada hatches can produce great fishing opportunities as cunning trout let their guard down. Spin fishing is popular in Lake Heron for anglers targeting lake-resident salmon with the South Bank providing good fishing. Bright flashy or silver lures are popular with the local salmon and fishermen alike.

Fishing from rowboats or flotation tubes can open up more water to the angler, however be wary of the strong North West wind that can make these lakes dangerous for boats. It is important to note that all lakes (within the Ashburton Basin), with the exception of Lake Camp, are reserved for non-powered vessels. More information on general boating restrictions can be found in the Environment Canterbury boating guide ([www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz)). Please note that some fishing restrictions apply to the use of boats and angling methods so make sure you check your current sport fishing regulations guide supplied with your licence.



'Salmon on' at Lake Heron.

Photo: R Adams.



A well conditioned Ashburton Lakes brown trout.

Photo: K Stevens



Anglers form a 'picket fence' at the Sheep Yards, Lake Heron.

Photo: R Adams

### Angler Access

When using the following access tracks within the Ashburton Basin please stay on the designated tracks to prevent widening, erosion and habitat destruction. Also make sure you leave gates as you find them. Please respect stock and the wishes of private landowners. It is up to anglers and other track users to ensure our future access to these areas is maintained.

#### 1. Lake Heron (*lake-resident Chinook salmon, brown and rainbow trout*)

From Hakatere Corner turn right and follow the gravel road for 16km to reach the lake. A small campsite run by Arrowsmith Station that has basic amenities is located here. When the lake comes into view a DOC access road that terminates at a car park gives 2WD along the South Bank. From here a permit is required to use a locked 4WD track that gives access to Harrisons Bight (contact CSI Fish & Game or DOC Geraldine). Access to the western shore is from the road until it leaves the lake edge. Access along the remaining western shore is through Arrowsmith Station and permission is required.

#### 2. Lake Emily (*brook char*)

From Hakatere Corner turn right and follow the gravel road for 8km (2km past the Front Maori Lake). Just before the bridge over Jacobs Stream there is a gateway on the right, follow the marked 4WD track (another 3km) to the car park. From there it is a short walk to the lake edge. Please remain on the track as it passes through private property and be aware that it may not be passable in wet conditions.

#### 3. Maori Lakes - *Front Maori (brown trout) Back Maori (rainbow trout)*

From Hakatere Corner turn right and follow the gravel road for 4.7km to an airstrip on your left. A farm gate, located just past the concrete fertiliser bin provides access to a vehicle track that leads to the Back Maori Lake. Please remain on the track as it passes through private property. The Front Maori Lake is accessed a further 1.5km along the gravel road where there is a car parking area immediately adjacent to the road.

