Introduction
There are more than thirty high country lakes in the North Canterbury Region offering a wide range of fishing experiences, from staking wary brown trout on the edge of a small tarn to trolling from a boat for salmon in a large lake. Even when the weather is foul and the rivers are dirty, there should always be somewhere to fish in the lakes.

Getting There
There are three groups of lakes in the North Canterbury region, the Rakaia, Waimakariri and Hurunui Lakes. Most are within a two hour drive of Christchurch City. To get to the Rakaia Lakes, take State Highway 73 to Darfield, turn onto State Highway 77 and drive towards the Rakaia Gorge Bridge. Turn onto Coleridge Road at the township of Windwhistle and continue along until crossing the Acheron River. Turn right at the top of the Acheron Cutting and onto Homestead Road, which leads to most of the Rakaia group of lakes. The Waimakariri Lakes are all accessed off State Highway 73 between Porters Pass and Arthurs Pass. To get to the Hurunui Lakes take State Highway 1 north of Christchurch to Waipara, turn left onto State Highway 7 and drive to Waikari before turning onto the road to Lake Sumner (signposted). Drive through Hawarden and up into the upper Hurunui River valley.

The Rakaia Lakes
Lake Coleridge; Lake Coleridge is the largest and most heavily fished lake in North Canterbury. It supports one of very few New Zealand salmon in a large lake. Even when the weather is foul and the rivers are dirty, there should always be somewhere to fish in the lakes.

Lake Selfe; The shingle fan on the north western side of the lake is a popular spot for spin anglers.

Lake Henrietta; This lake does not receive a lot of angling pressure as it is mostly surrounded with swamp. However careful anglers can be rewarded with good fishing.

Lakes Ida and Little Ida; Those lakes are accessed by way of a walking track that starts at a car park between lakes Evelyn and Selfe. The walk takes approximately 30 minutes.

Lake Catherine (Monck); This is also accessed from the same walking track that is used to access Lake Ida. The track follows the Ryton River to the lake. Allow approximately one hour to reach the lake.

Lake Lilian; Lake Lilian is accessed through Glentworth Station. Permission must be obtained from the station to use the road which runs up the Harper Valley from the top of Lake Coleridge. Once permission has been obtained, drive up the southern side of the river until reaching the Lilian Stream. Walk up the Lilian Stream for fifteen minutes to reach the lake.

Lake Georgia; A nice little lake which anglers can walk right around during a fishing session.

Lake Lyndon; This lake can be accessed from Lake Coleridge via the Lyndon (or dry weather) Road or directly off SH73 just over Porters Pass.

Lake Rubicon; This is a seldom visited lake lies in the foothills to the east of Porters Pass. Access is through Brooksdale Station, which can be accessed on SH73, a short distance east of Porters Pass. Permission should be obtained from the station in advance of a visit. The lake is a one hour walk from the homestead.

Lake Selfe, Lake Henrietta, Lake Catherine, Lake Lilian, Lake Catherine, Lake Georgia, Lake Lyndon, Lake Rubicon, Lake Coleridge, Lake Ida, Little Ida.

The Waimakariri Lakes
Lake Sarah; Travel approximately 2km past Lake Graeme on SH73 and turn right onto Craigburn Road. The lake is a five minute drive along this road.

Lake Grasmere; Turn into a paddock marked with a FFG access sign about 3 kilometres west of Lake Pearson on SH73. Drive down the track and park at the lake edge.

Lake Pearson; - A number of small tracks lead off SH73 down to parking areas at the edge of the lake.

Lake Hawdon; Continue down Craigburn Road beyond Lake Sarah. Just after crossing the railway line for the fourth time a track can be seen on the right hand side. Vehicle access is no longer permitted and a fifteen minute walk is required to reach the lake.

Lake Marymore; Continue Craigburn Road past the Lake Hawdon track for 700m and another track will come into view on the right. Once again vehicle access is no longer permitted and a fifteen minute walk is required to reach the lake.

Lake Blackwater; This lake lies on Flockhill Station and is a one hour walk from Craigburn Road. Anglers must obtain permission to use the track from the station.

Lake Letitia; Cross the Mt White Bridge over the Waimakariri River just past the Cass township, travel downstream on the shingle road for about an hour until reaching Mt White Station Homestead. The lake is at the end of the road just past the station cookshop.

The Hurunui Lakes
Lake Sumner; Unrestricted 4WD road access is available to Loch Katrine, from there foot access is available to the head of Lake Sumner.

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