

## Te Araroa

This park includes part of Te Araroa, a walking trail from Cape Reinga to Bluff: [www.teararoa.org.nz](http://www.teararoa.org.nz).

*Caution: The section of track between Bush Stream and Coal River is mostly unformed and requires backcountry experience, river crossing and navigational skills. The last section of Te Araroa follows the Richmond Trail down to Lake Tekapo.*

### Remember – your safety is your responsibility

Follow these five simple rules to help you plan and prepare before engaging in outdoor activities:

1. Plan your trip
2. Tell someone
3. Be aware of the weather
4. Know your limits
5. Take sufficient supplies

Visit [www.adventuresmart.org.nz](http://www.adventuresmart.org.nz) to learn more and to log your intentions with your trusted contact.



Photo: Gottlieb Braun-Eiwert



## Take care visiting natural areas

### River crossings

- Always treat rivers with respect
- Never cross a dirty or flooded river
- River currents are often stronger than they appear
- Water levels can rise rapidly due to rain in the headwaters; it does not need to be raining at the crossing place
- Braids of the river can shift and there may be soft, sinking sand
- If in doubt, stay put until conditions improve or turn back



### Avalanche

Be aware of avalanche run-out zones from June to November. We recommend carrying avalanche transceivers 457khz, and probes and shovels in avalanche terrain.

### Communication

Cellphone coverage cannot be relied on in the park. The use of satellite phones, mountain radios or personal locator beacons can all provide increased personal safety.

### Check, Clean, Dry

Stop the spread of didymo and other aquatic pests.

Remember to Check, Clean, Dry all items before entering, and when moving between, waterways.



### Leave no trace

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Be considerate of others
- Respect wildlife and farm animals
- Travel and camp on durable ground
- Leave what you find
- Dispose of waste properly
- Minimise the effects of fire

## Further information

If you need any further information or to report any incidents, issues or sightings of conservation interest, contact the DOC office at either Twizel or Geraldine.

Te Manahuna/Twizel Office

Phone +64 3 435 0802

Raukapuka/Geraldine Office

Phone +64 3 693 1010

**Dial 111 in an emergency**

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# Te Kahui Kaupeka Conservation Park

South Canterbury



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



*Te Kahui Kaupeka Conservation Park encompasses spectacular scenery of ice-steepened mountains and broad glaciated valleys in the Two Thumb Range. These separate the upper Rangitata River from the Godley River catchments. The Two Thumb Range starts in the central Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana icefields, running south to end in the mountains of Burkes Pass.*

## Tangata whenua – the first people of the land

Rākaihaitū migrated with his people from Hawaiki, their waka landing in Whakatū/Nelson. From here the Waitaha people explored, inhabited and named the land.

Te Kahui Kaupeka / D'Archiac takes its name from the 'gathering place of the waters'. From the mountain the rivers flow in all directions. Two of those rivers, the Rangitata and Waitaki, form the boundary of Aoraki.

The lakes, mountains and rivers are under the guardianship of Kāti Huirapa.

On Takapo/Lake Tekapo the island Motuariki is important to Kāti Huirapa as it is the site of a kāika/village built in the times of Rākaihaitū.



## European history

Pastoral farming dominates the more recent land history and a number of 'retired' high country runs have helped form the park.

One of the runs, Mesopotamia, was first occupied by Samuel Butler, author of *Erewhon*. Spending the winter of 1860 in the upper Rangitata before stocking his run he wrote, 'We fear it may be snowy ... but shall have to see it though next winter before we can safely put sheep upon it.'

Butler built his original hut at the confluence of Forest Creek and Butlers Creek, before moving to the site of the present-day Mesopotamia Station.

Drowning was so common in early colonial times it was known as 'the New Zealand death'. One victim was Dr Andrew Sinclair who was exploring with Dr Julius von Haast. Sinclair drowned crossing the Rangitata and is buried on Rangitata Flats (see map).

## Native plants you might see

The pre-human vegetation was likely to have been mountain tōtara and mountain beech/tawhairauriki at lower altitudes with tall tussock grasslands and boulderfield species at higher altitudes. Burning has reduced most of the forest cover and the park is now largely covered in spectacular tall snow-tussock grasslands which create its distinctive golden landscape.

Forest remnants of mountain beech/ tawhairauriki and occasionally red and yellow mistletoe/pikirangi occur in the steeper valleys on the eastern side of the Sinclair Range. Other remnants, particularly in the upper catchments of the Rangitata, seem more typical of the West Coast forest with mountain tōtara, celery pine/mountain toatoa and cedar/pāhautea.

The park provides habitat for the locally endemic Dobson's speargrass/taramea (*Aciphylla dobsonii*) and *Hebe buchananii*.

## ... and native animals

Many native birds once lived in this area, including Haast's eagle/pouākai, moa, takahē, South Island goose, kākāpō and adzebill. Many are now extinct. A mix of exotic and native birds remains spread through the mosaic of habitat types ranging from alpine peaks to the braided rivers bordering the park.

Notable birds include black stilt/kakī, blue duck/whio (in the tributaries of the upper Rangitata River), New Zealand falcon/kārearea, rock wren/pīwauwau, wrybill/ngutu pare and kea.

Three species of lizard/ngārara known in the park are the common skink, McCann's skink and the Southern Alps gecko.

There are eight species of grasshoppers/kōwhitiwhiti in the Two Thumbs Range, including New Zealand's largest grasshopper, the rare *Sigauss villosus*.

Two species of wētā occur, the large mountain stone wētā (*Hemideina maori*) and the alpine scree wētā (*Deinacrida* sp.).



## Activities

The park caters for a wide range of recreational activities including tramping, fishing, skiing (two ski areas in the park), ski touring, mountaineering, hunting, and mountain biking. For more detailed information check with the DOC offices at Twizel or Geraldine.

### Hunting

Recreational hunting is allowed on public conservation land within Te Kahui Kaupeka Conservation Park. A DOC permit must be carried at all times. Tahr are the main hunting opportunity, though red and fallow deer, chamois, pig and Bennett's wallaby are present in low numbers. Information on hunting on public conservation land and hunting permits is available at [www.doc.govt.nz/canterbury-hunting](http://www.doc.govt.nz/canterbury-hunting).

### Dogs

Dogs are permitted in Te Kahui Kaupeka Conservation Park. Please be responsible for your dog - do not let them roam, disturb other users or enter huts.

## Access

### Eastern – Mesopotamia

Access to the eastern side of the park is via Rangitata Gorge Road. Four-wheel drive access is possible beyond Bush Stream car park, up the Rangitata and Havelock rivers.

**Note:** Drivers must take great care on these demanding rivers as the track is not marked or defined. River-crossing and four-wheel driving skills are essential.

### Western – Two Thumb Range and Sibbald Range

Lilybank Road from Lake Tekapo provides access to Boundary Stream, Roundhill Ski Area road and Coal River. From the Lilybank Road end, four-wheel drive is needed to access the Macaulay and Godley riverbeds.

### Southern – North Opuha

From Fairlie follow Clayton Road towards Fox Peak ski field for easy access onto the tops.

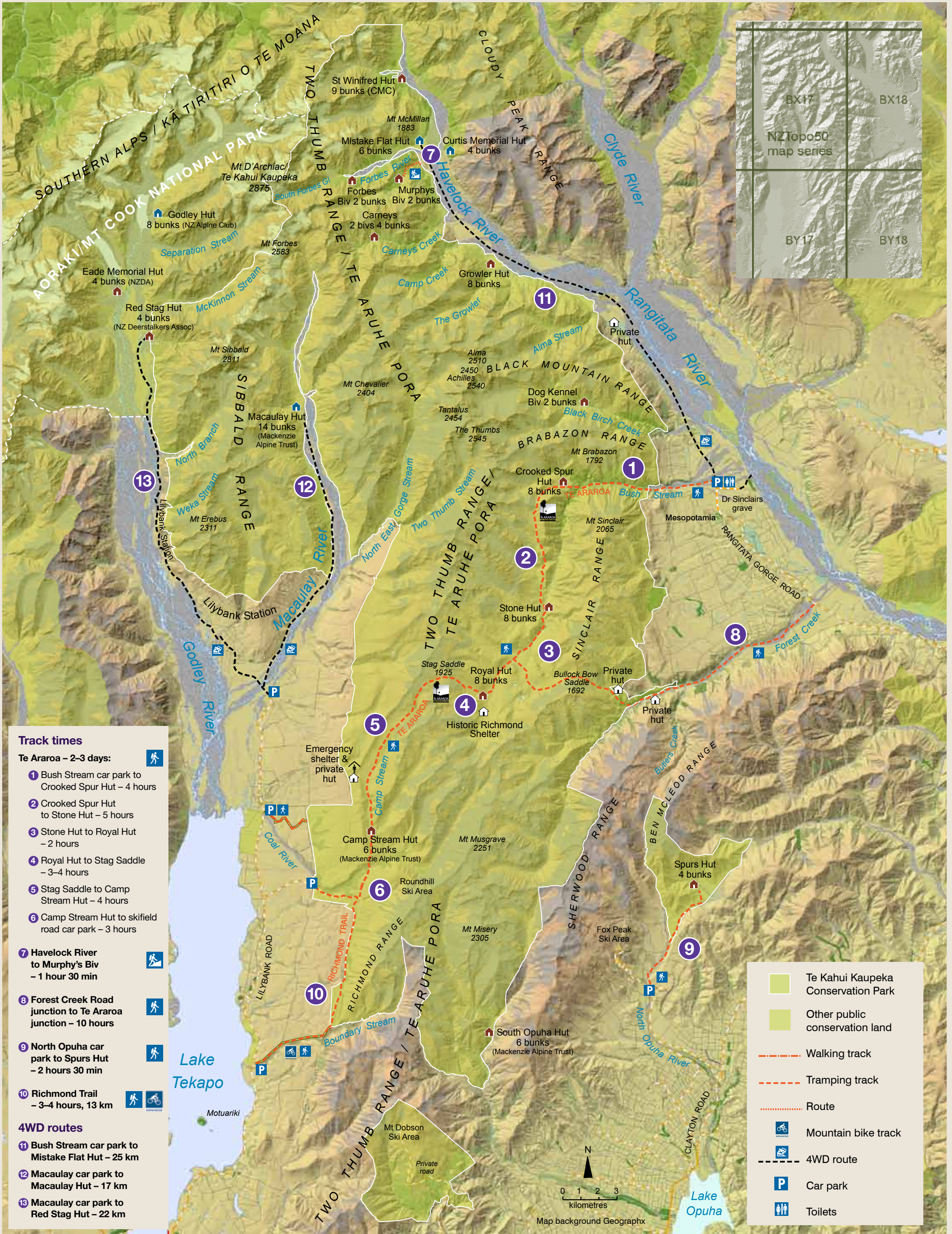
### Public access easements

Please:

- Stay on the marked track
- Leave gates as you find them
- Do not disturb stock







**Track grades**

- Walking track** – well-formed easy walks from a few minutes to a day.
- Tramping track** – Challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking. Moderate to high-level backcountry skills and experience required, including navigation and survival skills.

**Route** – Challenging tramping/hiking. Complete self-sufficiency required as well as high-level backcountry skills and experience, including navigation and survival skills.

**Mountain bike trail**

**Advanced** – A mixture of long steep climbs, narrow tracks, poor traction and difficult objects to avoid or jump over. Generally exposed at the track outside edge. Most riders will find some sections easier to walk.

**Hut grades**

- Standard hut** – bunks or sleeping platforms with mattresses. Toilet and water supply. 1 hut ticket per adult per night.
- Basic hut** – basic shelter with limited facilities and services. Free.