

Around and about Geraldine

A guide to recreational opportunities

SOUTH CANTERBURY



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



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Kaikahikatea forest

Track classifications



Short walk—Easy walking for up to an hour

Track is well formed, with an even, well-drained surface. There may be steps

Suitable for people of most ages and fitness levels

Streams and rivers are bridged

Walking shoes required



Walking track—Gentle walking from a few minutes to a day

Mostly well formed, some sections may be steep, rough or muddy

Suitable for people with low to moderate fitness and abilities

Clearly signposted

Walking shoes or light tramping/hiking boots required



Easy tramping track—Comfortable day or multi-day tramping/hiking

Generally well formed, some sections may be rough, muddy or steep

Suitable for people with limited backcountry (remote area) experience

Track has signs, poles or markers. Major water crossings bridged

Light tramping/hiking boots required

Key to symbols



Camping



Picnic area



Toilets



Interpretation panel



Information centre



Pick up your rubbish



Dogs permitted



No dogs permitted

Front cover: Kahikatea Track, Talbot Forest

Photos: G. Iles

Talbot Forest Scenic Reserve

Geraldine township

This small forested reserve of 26 hectares has large matai, kaikahikatea and tōtara, which are centuries old.

There is a network of short walks through the reserve, some of which connect with Timaru District Council walkways.

Talbot Forest can be accessed from Hislop, Totara, Davies, Tripp or Bridge streets.

Waihi Gorge Scenic Reserve

13.5 km from Geraldine

Waihi Gorge Scenic Reserve is made up of 62 hectares on the northern bank of the Waihi River.

There are no walking tracks through the reserve, though there is a campground and picnic spots by the river.

The reserve is on Waihi Gorge Rd. Follow Main North Rd (72) from Geraldine and turn left onto Woodbury Rd (2.5 km). After Woodbury, the road becomes Waihi Gorge Rd.

Orari Gorge Scenic Reserve

15 km from Geraldine

This 80-hectare scenic reserve has regenerating bush containing some large kōnuka.

There is a circular walk through the forest and a campground.

The reserve is opposite the Glenburn Youth Camp on Yates Rd. Take Main North Rd (72) 4.5 km out of Geraldine and turn left on Tripp Settlement Rd. Follow this for 7.5 km before turning left onto Yates Rd.

Peel Forest Park Scenic Reserve

22 km from Geraldine

Peel Forest covers 783 hectares around Little Mt Peel/ Huatekerekere.

There are extensive walking tracks through the forest and up onto the mountain, as well as a privately run campground. There is a separate brochure for this area that details all the walks.

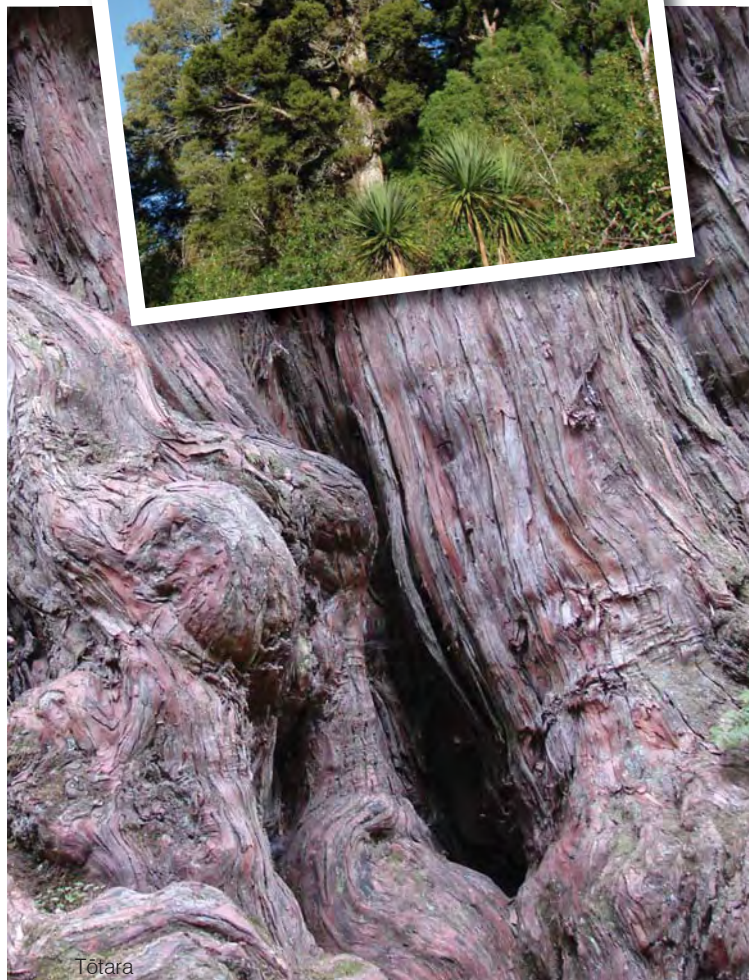
Pioneer Park Conservation Area

32 km from Geraldine

This 390-hectare conservation area has links with the early settlers of the district and has a wide variety of native and exotic trees. There are two walks as well as a campground.

Follow the Geraldine Fairlie Highway (79) for 23 km before turning left onto Gudex Road. Take the next right onto Middle Valley Road. Follow this road for 2 km before turning left through iron gates into Pioneer Park.

Talbot Forest Scenic Reserve



Talbot Forest Scenic Reserve

Talbot Forest Scenic Reserve is the last remnant of an extensive forest that once covered the Geraldine area. The first reserve was created in 1879 and was added to in 1886 and 1962.

There are four short walks through the forest which interconnect with roads around the reserve.

The walks in the forest may be extended by connecting with Timaru District Council walkways.

Kahikatea Track



683 metres, 10 minutes

This track connects Hislop Street with Totara Street picnic area. There are some fine kahikatea trees at the Hislop Street end where the land is wetter. Kahikatea can grow to be the tallest tree in the forest, reaching 40 metres.

Tōtara Track



302 metres, 5 minutes

This track connects Totara Street with Tripp Street picnic area. Next to the track is the largest tōtara in the reserve which is estimated to be 800 years old. Tōtara were used by Māori to build canoes. A large tree could be made into a waka taua (war canoe) capable of holding 100 warriors.

Reservoir Track



225 metres, 5 minutes

This track connects Tripp Street picnic area with Bridge Street. The picnic area is a good starting point from which to explore the reserve. The iron gates on Bridge Street mark the old main entrance into the reserve.

Matai Track



680 metres, 10 minutes

This track connects Tripp Street with Totara Street. The track passes some impressive forest trees including matai with its needle leaves and 'hammered' bark.



NEW ZEALAND



ENVIRONMENTAL CARE CODE

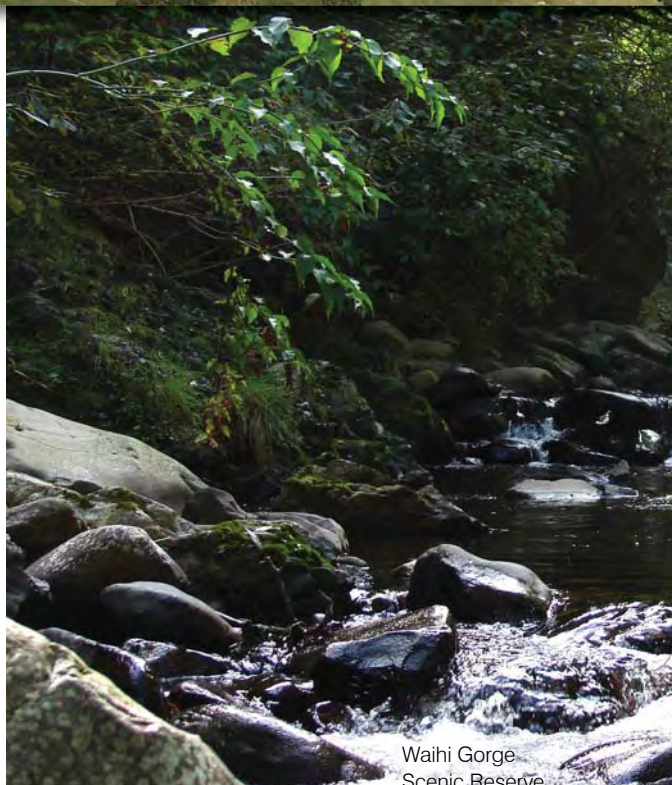
- Protect plants and animals
- Remove rubbish
- Bury toilet waste
- Keep streams and lakes clean
- Take care with fires
- Camp carefully
- Keep to the track
- Consider others
- Respect our cultural heritage
- Enjoy your visit
- Toi tu te whenua (Leave the land undisturbed)





Waihi Gorge Scenic Reserve

The scenic reserve lies along the north and south bank of the Waihi River. The bush-clad reserve and shallow river provide a lovely backdrop to the campground. This area contains some small groups of tōtara and kaikahikatea, as well as a stand of black beech/ tawhairauriki. The river and reserve are separated from the road by a strip of private land. There is only one legal access point —through the campground. There are no walking tracks through the reserve.



Waihi Gorge Scenic Reserve



Waihi Gorge camping area

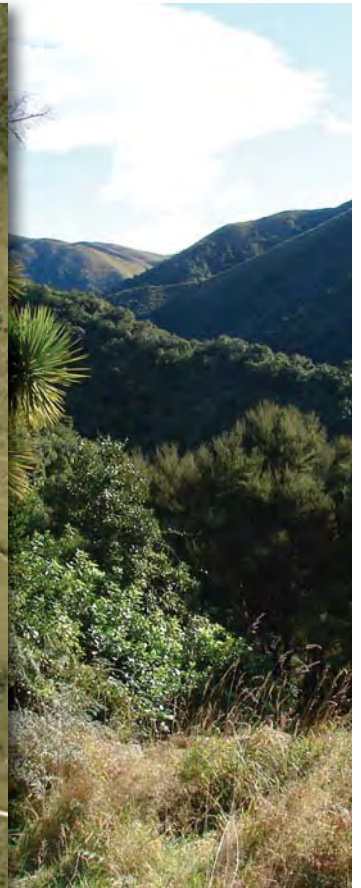
This camping area uses a self-registration system. On arrival or each day:

- enter details of your stay on the self-registration envelope
- seal your fees in the envelope and place it in the box provided
- display the receipt card on your vehicle or tent so that it is clearly visible

Charges for camping are:

Adult \$6.00 per night
 Children (5–16 yrs) \$3.00 per night
 Children under 5 yrs Free

Only gas cookers are allowed.



Orari Gorge Scenic Reserve

Orari Gorge Scenic Reserve is mostly regenerating forest, though there are some large totara, kaikahikatea and matai. Within the reserve, kaikahikatea are regenerating particularly well.

There is a circular walk through the reserve.

Orari Gorge Track



3.3 km, 1 hour 30 min return

The track initially follows an old bush tramway, which was used to extract logs. Continue straight on though a mosaic of regenerating trees before climbing to an open high point. The return leg is through bush with some extensive stands of kanuka. Turn right at the track junction back to the car park.

Orari Gorge camping area

This camping area uses a self-registration system. On arrival or each day:

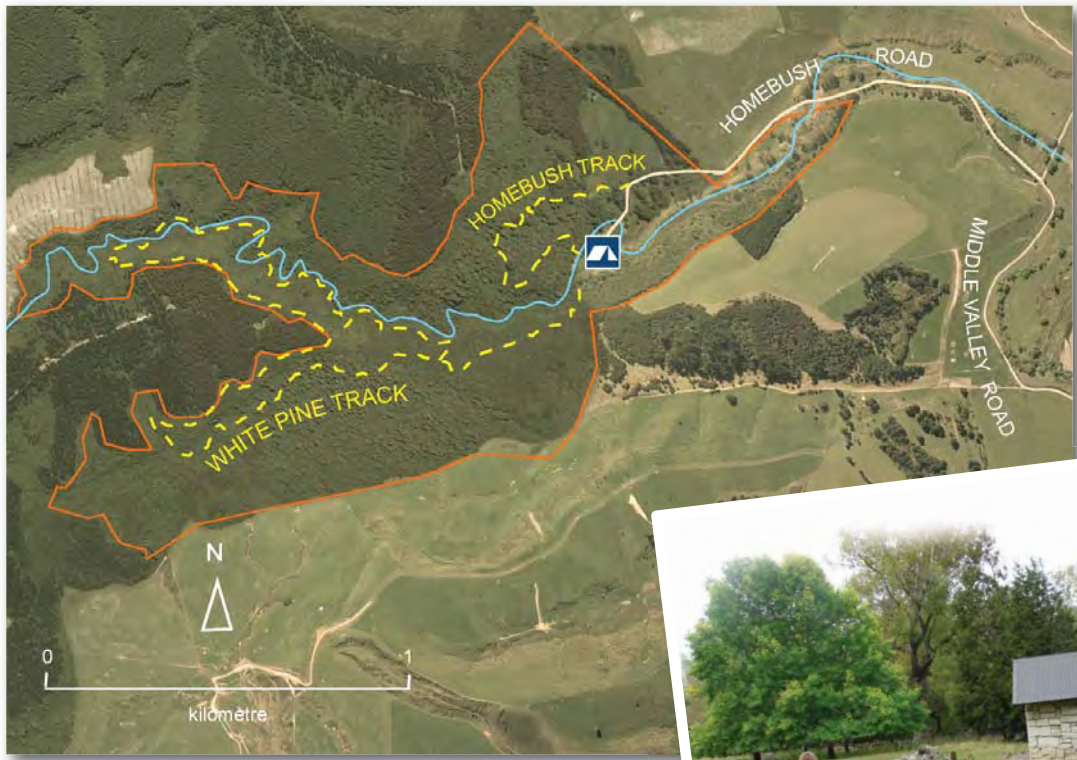
- enter details of your stay on the self-registration envelope
- seal your fees in the envelope and place it in the box provided
- display the receipt card on your vehicle or tent so that it is clearly visible

Charges for camping are:

Adult	\$6.00 per night
Children (5–16 yrs)	\$3.00 per night
Children under 5 yrs	Free

Only gas cookers are allowed.





White Pine Track

Distance 5 km,
2 hours return
Easy tramping with
stream crossings

This track starts from the campground and climbs through regenerating native bush and then through introduced forestry trees. The return leg

drops steeply into a native bush gully and zigzags (seven times) across the stream before meeting the original track. A left turn takes you back to the campground.



Pioneer Park Conservation Area

Pioneer Park got its name in recognition of the early pioneer families who settled in this area; "to commemorate the courage and forbearance of the early settlers". Mr Burke was the first settler to drive a bullock cart over the pass (which now bears his name) into the Mackenzie country. Within the reserve, a chimney is all that remains of the house he built in 1885.

There are two walks through the conservation area as well as a campground.

Homebush Track

Distance 1 km, 30 min return
Easy walk with stream crossing

This loop track starts from the campground, crossing a small stream and then gently climbing to a ridge where there are large kaikahikatea and tōtara. The most impressive is a stately tōtara about three metres in diameter. The track then returns via the Burke Hut memorial.



Pioneer Park camping area

This camping area uses a self-registration system. On arrival or each day:

- enter details of your stay on the self-registration envelope
- seal your fees in the envelope and place it in the box provided
- display the receipt card on your vehicle or tent so that it is clearly visible

Charges for camping are:

Adult	\$5.00 per night
Children (5–16 yrs)	\$2.50 per night
Children under 5 yrs	Free

Only gas cookers are allowed.



Waihi Gorge Scenic Reserve

Further information

If you need any additional information or wish to report any incidents, issues or sightings of conservation interest, contact the Department of Conservation, Raukapuka Area Office in North Terrace, Geraldine.

Phone 03 693 1010
or fax 03 693 1019.

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