



Walks in Nelson Lakes National Park

NELSON LAKES NATIONAL PARK



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Contents

Introduction

St Arnaud and Lake Rotoiti

Getting there	1
Short walks around St Arnaud and Lake Rotoiti	2
St Arnaud short walks map	3
Day walks around St Arnaud and Lake Rotoiti	5
	8

Protecting our wildlife:

The Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project

Track categories	12
St Arnaud and Lake Rotoiti day walks map	13
	14

Lake Rotoroa

Getting there	17
Short walks around Lake Rotoroa	18
Lake Rotoroa walks map	19
Half-day walks around Lake Rotoroa	20

Environmental Care Code

Please remember

Further information

Introduction

High mountain peaks reflected in the waters of lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa are part of the splendour of Nelson Lakes National Park, South Island, New Zealand. This alpine region is at the northern limit of the Kā Tiritiri o Te Moana/Southern Alps, where ancient glaciers have shaped the dramatic landscape, leaving in their wake loose scree slopes, tarns and hanging, U-shaped valleys. The park contains a series of mountain ranges up to 2340 m high, five extensive valley systems and two major lakes. The Alpine Fault, which runs the length of the South Island, cuts through the northern boundary of the park, swinging east-northeast across the head of Lake Rotoroa, across Lake Rotoiti, and then down the Wairau Valley.

Beech forests clothe the mountain slopes up to the 1400 m tree line, where they give way to snow tussocks and alpine herbs, home of the kea (mountain parrot). The beech forests are rich in honeydew, food for kākāriki (parakeet), kākā (forest parrot), tūī and korimako (bellbird).

Gateway to the National Park is St Arnaud, a small and picturesque alpine village on the shores of Lake Rotoiti. From St Arnaud, a network of tracks enables you to explore the lake edge, the park's glacial features and tranquil beech forests.

Forty minutes' drive from St Arnaud along State Highways 63 and 6 is Lake Rotoroa, the largest lake in the National Park. Here the forest is mixed beech-podocarp with stands of kahikatea. Several tracks extend along the lake edge and into its peaceful surroundings.

Both day walks and short walks are possible in the park, making it an ideal place for walkers of all ages and capabilities to explore. The walks are well signposted and graded, with bridges across most streams and rivers. As this is an alpine environment, freezing conditions can occur at any time of the year. Warm clothing and strong footwear are required.

Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre

Managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC), the Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre is in the village of St Arnaud, off State Highway 63. An attractive site, it is filled with interesting information and visual displays of the area's history, geology and wildlife. It is well worth a visit before setting out to explore the park.



Tūi. Photo: Tui De Roy



Lake Rotoiti. Photo: Markus Baumann

St Arnaud and Lake Rotoiti

Getting there

Private transport

St Arnaud is 1 hour 30 minutes by road from Nelson or Blenheim, 2 hours from Westport and 5 hours from Christchurch.

Public transport

There is no scheduled bus service offered to St Arnaud.

A water taxi operates on the lake all year round.

More information is available at the Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre in St Arnaud.



Short walks around St Arnaud and Lake Rotoiti

For those who seek an easy stroll, several pleasant short walks are available. For information on what to look out for along the way, check out the Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre before you set out.

1 Bellbird Walk (15 min)

The short, wheelchair-standard Bellbird Walk gives an introduction to the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project area. This sheltered corner of the lake attracts nectar-feeding birds such as tūī and bellbirds to the large red beech trees that dominate this area. Listen for their enchanting calls as you take this walk. Keep an eye out for other insect-eating forest birds as well. The various niches filled by these native birds are closely related

to the type of insect each species hunts. The fantail catches small flying insects on the wing, while the tomtit darts from a watching perch to pick insects from trunks, branches and the forest floor. The robin takes a much greater proportion of its food from the forest floor.

The track begins at the car park near the east jetty at Kerr Bay. Allow 5 minutes walking time for this as well as 10 minutes or so to read the information panels along the way.

The deciduous New Zealand fuchsia, which is rare in much of the forest due to browsing by possums, may be seen in several places along this walk. The pathway returns through a small wetland area where sedges, rushes, ferns and mosses thrive. This type of wetland is common in the park, having formed in the wake of receding glaciers, where pockets of ice and moraine rubble settled in glacial hollows.

 As you walk along the path, you may see traps and/or toxin bait stations. Please do not touch these as they are important to the project's work and may contain poison or cause injury.

2 Honeydew Walk (45 min)

The Honeydew Walk takes you further into the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project area along a high-standard track. The Honeydew Walk branches off the Bellbird Walk, which begins at the car park near the east jetty at Kerr Bay. There are several information panels along this track, which provide information on the recovery project. Allow 35 minutes walking time plus 10 minutes to read the information panels along the way. The surface is suitable for wheelchairs but would need someone to push on the steeper slopes.

The blackened trunks and branches of most of the red and mountain beech trees along the walk are brought about by a small scale insect that buries itself within the bark of the tree. This insect feeds on the sugar-rich sapwood of the tree

Bellbird. Photo: Dick Veitch



St Arnaud short walks



1 Bellbird Walk

2 Honeydew Walk

3 Loop Track

4 Black Valley Walk

5 Brunner Peninsula Nature Walk

6 Black Hill Walk

7 Moraine Walk

8 Anglers Walk

11 Lakehead Track

 State Highway

 Sealed road

 Unsealed road

 Short walk

 Walking track

 Tramping track

 Information centre

 Shelter

 Serviced campsite

 Standard campsite

 Motorcamp

 Boat ramp

 Toilet

0 500 1000
metres



and excretes any excess sugar surplus to its requirements out through a long, white, hair-like anal tube. The black sooty mould that coats these trees, without harming them, thrives on the sticky 'honeydew' produced by the scale insect. Many animals, such as nectar-feeding birds, insects and lizards, rely heavily on collecting these nutritious honeydew droplets for food. Bellbirds and tūī are common in this area, and you may see robins, tomtits and fantails. You may also glimpse kākā or hear kākāriki chattering as they fly through the canopy.



South Island kākā.
Photo: Garry Holz

3 🚶 Loop Track (1hr 30 min)

Beginning in the eastern corner of Kerr Bay, the Loop Track takes you well into the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project area. Start the track by taking the Bellbird Walk and Honeydew Walk before turning left to follow the St Arnaud Range/Loop Track. From here, the track climbs a series of terraces to a junction at a creek and then loops back and down until you re-emerge at the lakeshore and join the Lakehead Track, which returns to the car park. The track is likely to be a bit muddy after rain.

Three species of the palatable beech mistletoe are evident in places; you may see their red and yellow flowers in December/January. These bear testament to the effectiveness of the possum control work being carried out in the recovery project area. Subtle changes to the forest structure are expected to occur over the coming years in the absence of introduced browsing animals. An increase in the survival of broad-leaved trees should see greater numbers of these reaching the sapling stage of their life cycle.

4 🚶 Black Valley Walk (30 min)

The Black Valley Walk starts near the Kerr Bay campground and follows the Black Valley Stream through majestic beech forest. The walk runs parallel to State Highway 63 and has three entry/exit points along the way that lead off to the Rotoiti Chapel, the village store and Bridge Street. The Black Valley stream has cut its way through deposits of rubble dumped by past glaciers. Evidence of this past glacial action has been exposed in the steep banks of the stream. Note that, unlike

typical river terrace deposits, which contain sorted layers of gravel, sand and silt, the glacial deposits contain a mixed assortment of varying sized rocks and sand.

You may notice that some trees along this walk are banded with metal strips. These are placed to prevent possums from climbing the trees and destroying the beech mistletoes that grow in the crowns of these trees.

5 🚶 Brunner Peninsula Nature Walk (1 hr)

Beginning at the western side of Kerr Bay below the Visitor Centre, this walk follows the peninsula around into West Bay, twice crossing the Alpine Fault. Return via Baxter Street or Cotterell Street and View Road. Panels along the way give an insight into the history of the area. For a longer walk (1 h 30 min) continue to the next junction and turn right, returning to Kerr Bay via Rotoiti Lodge and Ward Street. This walk has a good variety of native plants and several easy access points to the lakeshore.

6 🚶 Black Hill Walk (1 hr 30 min)

The Black Hill Walk begins at Rotoiti Lodge and climbs through beech forest and stands of mānuka and kānuka onto Black Hill. Black Hill is a ‘roche moutonée’ (French for ‘rock sheep’), a volcanic rock shaped by glacial ice flowing over it. Near the top is a clearing from which St Arnaud Village and Big Bush can be viewed. The track descends steeply to the highway and follows it back to Lodge Road. This walk can easily be linked to the Brunner Peninsula Nature Walk or Moraine Walk to make a half-day excursion.



Mānuka. Photo: Fiona Olipphant

7

Moraine Walk (1 hr 30 min)

Moraine Walk begins at the junction of State Highway 63 and Lodge Road. It winds around the base of Black Hill, over piles of moraine debris left by the ancient Travers Glacier, and past kettle ponds created when blocks of ice surrounded by glacial gravel melted away. The forest type along this walk is predominately mānuka and kānuka. The walk passes through the back of West Bay campground and on to the Buller River.

8

Anglers Walk (1hr)

Anglers Walk begins by the Buller Bridge on Mt Robert Road just below the river's lake source. The track follows the northern river bank where there are several good spots for trout fishing. This walk makes a pleasant extension to Moraine Walk and the circuit can be completed by returning along State Highway 63.

The walk passes through stands of mānuka and kānuka trees lining the banks of the Buller River. This type of forest is often a sign of past destruction by fire; it serves as an important primary link in the regeneration of beech forest.

 Please note: A fishing licence is required for fishing rivers and lakes in New Zealand. Eel fishing is prohibited in the lakes and rivers of the national park.

Day walks around St Arnaud and Lake Rotoiti

For the energetic visitor with time to spend in the area, several pleasant and rewarding full-day walks begin at St Arnaud.

9

Mt Robert Circuit (5hr return)

The Mt Robert Circuit is a loop track around the northern face of Pourangahau/Mt Robert with spectacular views over Lake Rotoiti. Choose to start this walk from either the Pinchgut Track, which begins at Mt Robert Car Park, or from Paddy's Track, which starts 500 metres before the Pinchgut Track on the Mt Robert Road.

The Pinchgut Track zigzags up the steep, bare face of Pourangahau/Mt Robert on a well graded track before entering beech forest. After climbing for 1 hr 30 min you reach the tree line where forest gives way to alpine herbs and shrubs. From here the track continues across the open ridge top and reaches Relax Shelter a few minutes on. At a junction just past this shelter, Paddy's Track begins and heads east to Bushline Hut, a great place to stop for lunch.

Alternatively, you can begin the walk along Paddy's Track, which cuts across the mountain's open face and crosses

several scree-filled gullies before climbing to Bushline Hut. To complete the circuit, take the track across the ridge top to return to Mt Robert Car Park via the Pinchgut Track.

The slopes of Pourangahau/Mt Robert, once held stable by beech forest, have become active with erosion scarps and scree slopes from the loss of trees by fire in 1887. For many years after that, early settlers kept the northern face of Pourangahau/Mt Robert bare of trees through grazing of sheep and occasional fire, to maintain the grass cover.

It could take many centuries for the forest cover to fully return. Fortunately, the beech forest on the upper Pinchgut Track escaped the ravages of fire; red tussock, home to native tussock butterflies, flourishes around Bushline Hut and across the ridge top.

10

St Arnaud Range Track (5hr return)

Beginning in the eastern corner of Kerr Bay, this walk climbs steadily through beech forest to a height of over 1650 metres. The lower section of the walk crosses moraine terraces deposited by past glaciers. As you climb through the beech forest, notice how it adapts to suit the changing altitude. The lower slopes are dominated by large red beech, with a healthy sub-canopy of other species, such as broadleaf and putaputawētā. Higher up, silver beech and finally the hardy mountain beech take over. Note how the mountain beech becomes progressively stunted as you climb higher to the bushline.

Above the bushline (at 1400 m), there are spectacular views from Parachute Rocks, which gained their name from a parachute-shaped gravel scree located just to the north.

Silver beech.
Photo: Glen Tomlinson



Trees give way to snow tussock, sub-alpine shrubs and, higher still, alpine herb fields. In late spring and early summer, these herbs flower, creating a glorious display of gold and white. The track climbs from here to the ridge line, where you are rewarded by spectacular views of the surrounding area: east down the Wairau Valley, north to Mt Richmond Forest Park, west towards Kahurangi National Park and the Buller Valley, and south to the rest of Nelson Lakes National Park.

The truncated spurs of St Arnaud Range are evidence of further glacial action at higher altitude. Advancing rivers of ice cut off the ends of the ridges and, on the eastern side, gouged out the many small basins where small tarns now fill hollows left by the melting ice. Return via the same route.

11 Lake Rotoiti Circuit (7–10hr)

As this is a long walk to complete in one day, you may choose to halve the walk by taking the water taxi to Lakehead Hut or Coldwater Hut and walking back to Kerr Bay.

Beginning in Kerr Bay, take the Lakehead Track around the eastern shore and reach Lakehead Hut after about three hours. If the Travers River is low, you can cross the river opposite the hut to get to the main Travers Valley Track and Coldwater Hut; otherwise there is a swingbridge located 1 h 30 min further up the Travers Valley. From Lakehead Hut to Coldwater Hut via the swingbridge is three hours. From Coldwater Hut at the lake edge, the Lakeside Track heads north along the western lake shore. An hour from the hut the track passes by a short side track to Whisky Falls. After another hour the track turns away from the lake and climbs to Mt Robert Road. To complete the circuit along the road to West Bay and tracks to Kerr Bay adds another hour.

Lake Rotoiti is the result of the activity of the Travers Glacier, which last occupied the valley between 20,000 and 12,000 years ago. A succession of glaciers gouged out the valley floor creating a deep depression, which Lake Rotoiti now occupies. The continuing erosion of the surrounding mountains is slowly filling the lake with sediment brought down by rivers and streams. This slow, yet constant erosion will eventually see the mountains levelled and the lake filled.

Dense beech forest towers over a carpet of vivid green mosses and ferns for much of the walk. In summer, red rātā flowers provide a brilliant contrast to the predominance of greenery. A rare stand of rimu trees in the area can be seen on the eastern shore, about two-thirds of the way to Lakehead Hut. On the

western side of the lake, beech forest and regenerating forest of mānuka and kānuka clothe the lower slopes of Pourangahau/Mt Robert.

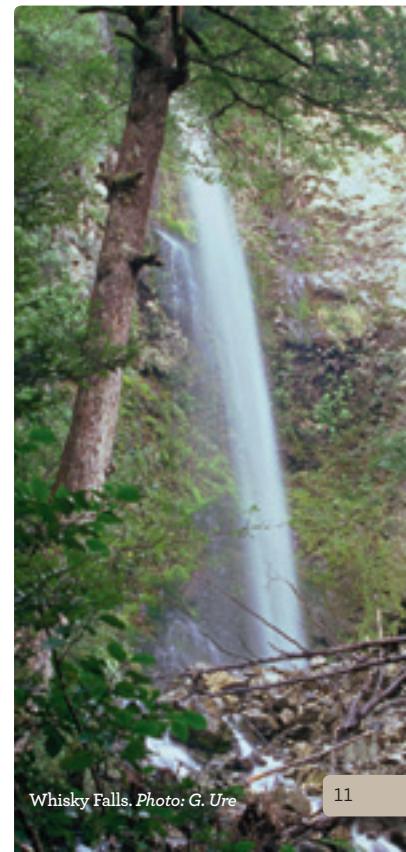
The most numerous and vocal birds encountered along this walk are the nectar-feeding tūī and bellbirds. Keep an eye out for the native forest birds that feed on insects, such as the fantail, tomtit and bush robin. If you are fortunate, you may also hear or see the noisy kākā along the way.

12 Whisky Falls (5 hr return)

From Mt Robert Road, take the Lakeside Track along the western shore of the lake. The track passes through forests of mānuka and kānuka, and then beech, crossing several shingle fans before reaching Whisky Falls. Almost 40 metres high, the falls provide a damp atmosphere for the thick walls of moss and ferns. The remains of an illicit whisky still were found here in the 1880s, giving the falls their name. Return the same way.

During the time when the Travers Glacier occupied the valley, tributary glaciers of the main Travers Glacier entered the valley at a higher level. When the glaciers retreated and finally disappeared, the valleys were left hanging. At first, most side valleys would have had dramatic vertical waterfalls, but these have since been reduced in height by erosion from the top of the falls and deposition of fans at the bottom. As recently as 1995, evidence of this process became apparent after a large area of rock face fell from the hanging valley of Whisky Falls and plummeted to the base of the falls below.

As the Travers Glacier retreated, it left the gouged-out valley with a U-shaped land form, a typical feature of once-glaciated valleys.



Whisky Falls. Photo: G. Ure

Protecting our wildlife: The Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project

Introduced pests have ravaged the natural ecosystems of mainland New Zealand. Some native species, such as roa (great spotted kiwi), tīke (saddleback) and mohua (yellowhead), have disappeared from the region; others, including kākā (forest parrot), rifleman, gecko and giant land snail, are in decline.

The Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project is one of six ‘mainland island’ projects established by the Department of Conservation. The Department, with the assistance of a voluntary group, the Friends of Rotoiti, manages over 5000 hectares of honeydew beech forest. By intensive trapping and use of poisons, the numbers of pests such as possums, stoats, ferrets, weasels, rats, mice and wasps have been reduced and native species have recovered. In recent years, roa have been returned to the area and it is hoped they will be able to build a viable population.

From Kerr Bay, the project area extends south along the eastern lake shore and up to the St Arnaud Range. Most of the project area can be seen from the viewpoint of Mt Robert Car Park.



Track categories

Tracks are developed to different standards to cater for a variety of experiences. Choose the type of track that matches your skills, fitness and the experience you want—be realistic. **Safety is your responsibility.**



Easy access short walk —

- Easy walking for up to an hour.
- Track is well formed, with an even surface. Few or no steps or slopes.
- Suitable for people of all abilities and fitness.
- Stream and river crossings are bridged.
- Walking shoes required.



Short walk —

- Easy walking for up to an hour.
- Track is well formed, with an even surface. There may be steps or slopes.
- Suitable for people of most abilities and fitness.
- Stream and rivers crossings are bridged.
- Walking shoes required.



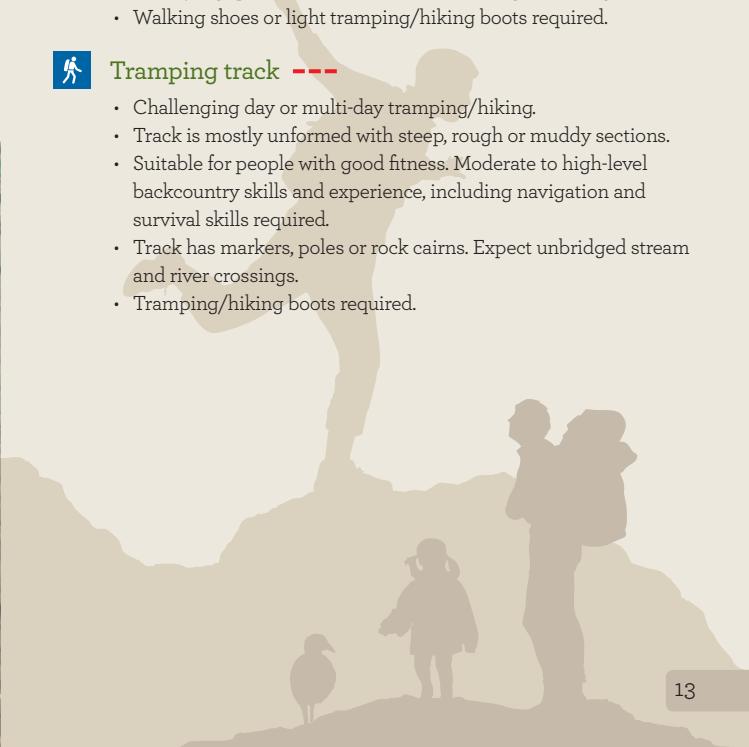
Walking track ---

- Easy to moderate walking from a few minutes to a day.
- Track is mostly well formed, some sections may be steep, rough or muddy.
- Suitable for people with low to moderate fitness and abilities.
- Clearly signposted. Stream and river crossings are bridged.
- Walking shoes or light tramping/hiking boots required.

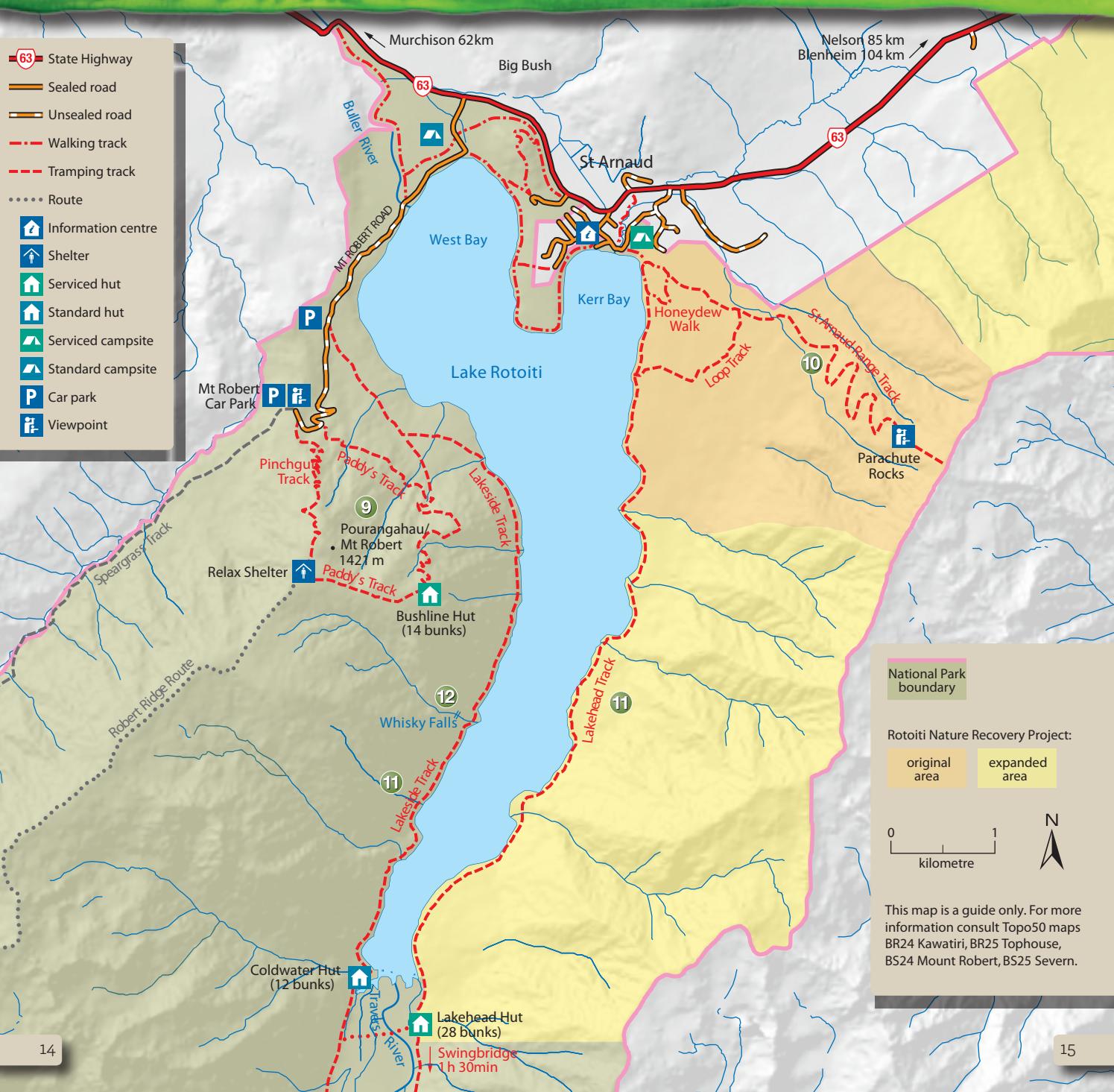


Tramping track ----

- Challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking.
- Track is mostly unformed with steep, rough or muddy sections.
- Suitable for people with good fitness. Moderate to high-level backcountry skills and experience, including navigation and survival skills required.
- Track has markers, poles or rock cairns. Expect unbridged stream and river crossings.
- Tramping/hiking boots required.



St Arnaud and Lake Rotoiti day walks



This map is a guide only. For more information consult Topo50 maps BR24 Kawatiri, BR25 Tophouse, BS24 Mount Robert, BS25 Severn.



Lake Rotoroa

Getting there

Private transport

By road, Lake Rotoroa is 15–20 minutes from State Highway 6, 40 minutes from St Arnaud, 2 hours from Nelson or Blenheim, 1 hour 30 minutes from Westport and 4 hours 30 minutes from Christchurch.

Public transport

There is no scheduled bus service to Lake Rotoroa.

A water taxi operates on the lake all year round. More information about these services is available from the Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre in St Arnaud.

Lake Rotoroa.

Photo: Markus Baumann

Short walks around Lake Rotoroa

For those who seek an easy stroll, several pleasant short walks are available.

13 ⚑ Flower Brothers Walk (15 min)

Named in memory of two early settlers at Lake Rotoroa, Cyril and Hubert Flower, Flower Brothers Walk is located at the northern end of the lake, between the lake foreshore and the outlet.

The walk begins to the right of the car park and jetty, then passes through a stand of mixed podocarp-beech forest dominated by kahikatea. It then follows around the lake outlet to the beginning of the Te Kauparenuui/Gowan River, emerging on the road near Rotoroa Lodge.

Kahikatea was once common as pure stands in swampy areas of alluvial flood plains and on the margins of lakes, rivers and estuaries throughout New Zealand. The clearance, drainage and conversion of these areas to farmland have resulted in the widespread loss of kahikatea forest. Kahikatea is New Zealand's tallest native tree, often reaching 60 metres in height. While preferring wetter, low-lying areas, kahikatea will also grow in forests on drier sites up to 600 metres in altitude.

14 ⚑ Rotoroa Nature Walk (25 min)

The Rotoroa Nature Walk starts at the picnic area near the lake. At the picnic area an information panel and a small carved wooden canoe reveal the livelihood of an early resident of the area. The track proceeds along the Lakeside Track for about 10 minutes before branching off to the left onto the loop section. It returns to the picnic area via the start of the Porika Track.

The gentle nature of this ramble is a botanist's delight. Of all the short walks in the park, this one contains the greatest variety of tall forest trees, shrubs, climbing vines, mosses and particularly ferns. Here the beech-podocarp forest around the lake is at its most diverse.

Near the beginning of the walk on the forest floor and along the edge of the stream are many different fern species. The large size of the attractive hen and chicken fern indicates a very favourable growing site. The fern derives its name from the tiny plants or bulbils that sprout from the fronds. The bulbils are capable of growing into new plants if they make contact with the ground. It is likely that the hen and chicken fern was once more widespread around Rotoroa, but severe browsing has eliminated it from other areas.

Lake Rotoroa walks



Sealed road

Unsealed road

Walking track

Tramping track

Route

Information

Shelter

Standard campsite

Toilet

Viewpoint

Car park

Boat ramp

Four-wheel driving

Mountain biking



Braeburn Walk. Photo: Lotty Baumann

Half-day walks around Lake Rotoroa

There are several interesting walks at the northern end of Lake Rotoroa, each taking up to half a day.

15 Braeburn Walk (2 hr return)

The Braeburn Walk leads along a wide and well graded track through a diverse remnant of beech and tall podocarp forest rich in bird life, then zigzags up to a picturesque mossy waterfall.

The track starts 400 metres west along Braeburn Road from the Gowan River Bridge. Initially the track follows the remains of a road constructed in the 1950s during the hydro-electric investigations. Flanking the flat section at the beginning of the walk is a grove of distinctive fuchsia trees forming a natural avenue. These are recognised by their flaky, paper-thin red bark, which peels away from the often gnarled and twisted trunks. Known to Māori as kōtukutuku, tree fuchsia

is not only unique to New Zealand, but is the largest member of the fuchsia family in the world and one of New Zealand's few deciduous native trees. In spring, the lifeless-looking trees produce new leaves, followed by green flowers that change to an attractive, deep burgundy. The flowers occur in two forms, a hermaphrodite flower (containing male and female parts), distinguished by its very unusual blue pollen, and a female flower. Both occur in the same area, but not on the same tree. Fuchsias often grow alongside tracks and streams where there has been human or natural disturbance of the forest. Its presence also indicates relatively low numbers of introduced browsing animals, such as possum and deer, which have been responsible for the loss of these species in many forests elsewhere. The kererū (native wood pigeon) is often seen in this area.

16 Porika 4WD Track (3 hr return)

The Porika 4WD Track heads up onto the northern end of the Muntz Range, which runs along the eastern side of Lake Rotoroa. From here, a spectacular view can be gained of the lake and the surrounding bush-clad, bare-topped mountain ranges.

The track begins at the parking area and campground on the road that branches left after passing the Rotoroa Lodge. Alternatively, begin at the picnic area and walk a short way (10 min) along the Rotoroa Route, then take the Rotoroa Nature Walk to meet the Porika 4WD Track. This option passes through a delightful area of mixed beech-podocarp forest with an impressive variety of ferns, mosses, shrubs and tall forest trees.



Tree fuchsia. Photo: DOC



South Island robin
Photo: Markus Baumann

Soon after leaving the parking area, the track zigzags steeply through the beech forest to the lookout points, following the 4WD track that is used to service the power transmission lines. The lookout points are not signposted. To reach the lookout points and return to the parking area takes approximately one hour. The track, while on the edge of the National Park, is outside its boundary. Be aware that 4WD vehicles and mountain bikes may also be on this track.

The dark granite rock, flecked with shining mica, that makes up the Muntz and Braeburn ranges can be seen in the road cuttings. The 300 million year-old rock of the Rotoroa Igneous Complex lies on the north-western side of the Alpine Fault, which runs across the head of Lake Rotoroa in a SW to NE direction. By contrast, the ranges on the south-eastern side of the fault are composed of greywacke and argillite. These are sedimentary in origin, having been gradually accumulated on the bed of the ocean about 200 million years ago.

Please remember



Safety

Nelson Lakes National Park is in an alpine area; freezing conditions can occur at any time of year. Be prepared with warm and waterproof clothing.

DOC HOTLINE 0800 362 468

Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

To report any safety hazards in the outdoors call **DOC Hotline: 0800 362 468.**

Remember: your safety is your responsibility.



Mountain bikes

Mountain bikes are not allowed within the National Park except on formed roads. For information on the many nearby biking opportunities, contact the Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre at St Arnaud.



Fishing

Eels are fully protected in the lakes and rivers of the park. No fishing for eels is allowed.

Trout fishing is only permitted in the rivers in the park between 1 October and the following 30 April each year. You must first have a Fish and Game licence. Licences can be purchased at the Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre or from Fish and Game New Zealand.



Camping

There are campgrounds at Rotoiti and Rotoroa, accessible by road. Bookings can be made at the Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre for Rotoiti or through self-registration at Rotoroa.



Rubbish

No rubbish facilities are provided.

Carry out all your rubbish.



Pest control programmes

Pest control programmes using toxins and traps (to kill possums, stoats, rodents and wasps) are taking place in the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project area. This is a 5000 hectare area located on the slopes of the St Arnaud Range and north

of State Highway 63 in the Teetotal Forest and Big Bush area. If using this area, please keep to the tracks marked with orange triangular markers. Elsewhere, similar pest control programmes may also be taking place. Please do not tamper with any bait stations or traps you may encounter.



Sandflies

The presence of biting sandflies can detract from your experience at the lakes, especially during the summer months. To minimise this problem, cover up and apply a good quality insect repellent to any exposed skin.



Wasps

Wasps are a known hazard and are particularly common from December until April. Carry antihistamine if you are allergic to their stings.



Drinking water

The presence of giardia and other disease-causing organisms in park waters cannot be dismissed. We recommend that you boil (for 3 min), filter or treat your water and avoid taking water from areas where waterfowl are present in large numbers.



Didymo

The invasive alga didymo is present in some rivers and streams of the Buller catchment and can be spread further by walkers and trampers through wet boots or other equipment. To prevent spreading didymo please comply with Biosecurity New Zealand guidelines at www.biosecurity.govt.nz and check, clean and dry all potentially contaminated equipment between waterways. To report a suspected find of didymo to Biosecurity New Zealand free phone 0800 809 966.



Pets

To protect the wildlife, domestic animals are prohibited in Nelson Lakes National Park. Dog owners convicted of bringing a dog into the park face a maximum fine of \$10,000 or twelve months in prison under the National Parks Act.

Further information

We hope you enjoy your visit to Nelson Lakes National Park.

For more information contact:

Department of Conservation

Rotoiti / Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre

View Road, St Arnaud

PO Box 55, St Arnaud 7053

Ph: (03) 521 1806

Fax: (03) 521 1896

Email: nelsonlakesvc@doc.govt.nz

or

Department of Conservation

Nelson Visitor Centre

Millers Acre Centre/Taha o te Awa

79 Trafalgar Street, Nelson 7010

PO Box 375, Nelson 7040

Ph: (03) 546 9339

Fax: (03) 546 9612

Email: nelsonvc@doc.govt.nz

www.doc.govt.nz



Published by:

Department of Conservation

Rotoiti / Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre

PO Box 55

St Arnaud 7053

New Zealand

October 2014

Editing and design:

Publishing Team, DOC National Office

This publication is produced using paper sourced from well-managed, renewable and legally logged forests.

Cover: Bellbird Walk.

Photo: John Wotherspoon.

New Zealand Government



**DOC HOTline
0800 362 468**

Report any safety hazards
or conservation emergencies
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111