



Changes you need to know about Nelson Tasman region



For the week beginning 23 December 2011

For your safety: Every effort has been made to ensure that this information is correct at the time of writing. However you should contact the local DOC visitor centre for the latest updates. Changes to weather will affect conditions in the backcountry. Always check the latest weather report (metservice.co.nz) before you venture out and be prepared to change your plans if conditions are unfavourable.

Your safety is your responsibility: Plan, prepare and equip yourself for any trip into the backcountry.

Note: This notice only reports on changes that differ to what is stated in brochures and on the website.

Other track, facilities and services in the Marlborough Region are operating as normal.



Abel Tasman Coast Track

- **Track** – is open. From Totaranui through to Whariwharangi and Wainui Road end including Separation Point is damaged but open for experienced and well equipped walkers.
- **Roads**- All public road access to the northern end of the Great Walk is closed over the Christmas /New Year period. Access by boat is still possible. Road access to Wainui Road end from Tata Beach onwards is restricted to residents and emergency services. There is no road access to Awaroa car park. Water taxis can do drop offs and pick ups at Awaroa Bay.
- **Huts and campsites** - Whariwharangi Hut and campsite and Anapai Campsite are closed until 15th January. All other great walk campsites are open. Totaranui Campground is open, access by sea only.
- **Activities** - Water taxis and kayak trips are all operating.
- Gibbs Hill Track is now closed for mountain biking until next season 1 May to 1 October 2012.



Info Ph: 03-546 9339 or Bookings Ph: 03 546 8210

Heaphy Track

- Mountain biking is not allowed on the track until the MTB trial re-starts on 1 May through to 30 September 2012.
- A new bridge is being built over Swan Burn Creek (grid reference E 1524747 N 5452873). The original bridge is open. Follow instructions from contractors. There should be minimal delays.
- 5 minutes walk north of Swan Burn Bridge a single lane track has been benched through a slip. Don't stop while walking through the slip area especially during or after persistent rain.
- Crayfish/Koura Point - check tide charts in Heaphy Hut and Kohaihai Shelter. Only cross when sea conditions are suitable.



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Travers-Sabine Circuit and Nelson Lakes National Park

- The swingbridge down stream of West Sabine Hut (grid reference E1574014 N5349529) crossing West Sabine River has been destroyed by a flood. The Travers/Sabine Circuit can only be completed by crossing the river. This may not be possible after rain or for less experienced trampers during normal flow.
- Sabine-D'Urville Track - a bridge (grid reference E1571366 N5359831) has suffered flood damage. Trampers will have to cross a stream which is approximately 1m deep at normal flow. After rain the stream may not be safe to cross.
- **Angelus Hut** and campsite **must now be booked until 30th April 2012**. Fees - \$20.00 per adult and \$10 per child/youth 5-17 years. Go online to make a booking www.doc.govt.nz.



Ph: 03-572 9100

See next page for more information

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

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

Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



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Other track information

- **Rawhiti Cave Track** – the first section of the track alongside the river has been washed out. Access is via the river bed which is rough and may prove difficult for some people. The track is on the true left (western) side of the river and is clearly marked.
- **Nelson Marlborough DOC track conditions** – DOC would value reports from trampers of any track damage they find, either by emailing nelsonvc@doc.govt.nz or phoning the Nelson Regional Visitor Centre 03 546 9339.

Kahurangi National Park

- **Parapara Peak Route** – there are many windfalls on the route that make for slow going in places.
- **Wangapeka Track** - the track has been benched over the large slip between Belltown Hut and Gilmour Clearing. Care is required passing through this area especially after heavy or persistent rain.
- **Mt Arthur Hut**; the heater is broken. Until a suitable alternative is found there is no heating in the hut.
- **Kahurangi mountain biking**: Mountain bikers have year round approval to ride Kill Devil Track to Waingarua Forks Hut and return; and the track from Flora Saddle (Graham Valley) to Barron Flat in Upper Takaka. Both are trials for 3 years. See the Heaphy Track box on page 1 for information on seasonal riding of that track.
- **Mt Arthur/Tableland/Karamea River Valley** - DOC goat hunters with dogs will be working in these areas and staying intermittently at Flanagans, Taipo and Helicopter huts from 5 Jan to 15 Jan 2012. Visitors to the area wanting actual dates where and when the hunters will be working/staying, contact DOC Motueka (03) 528 1810.
- **Possum control Wangapeka/Mt Owen** – On 21 September the Animal Health Board carried out an aerial 1080 possum control operation. Several tracks are in the operational area, Wangapeka Track – Rolling Junction to approx 500m past Stone Hut; Mt Luna Route, Kiwi, Gibbs, Chummies, Granity, Nuggety, Blue Creek, Sentinel Hill as well as Fyfe and Sunrise Track. An inspection has been completed clearing bait off the tracks. Signs are in place at main entry points. For more information contact Motueka Area Office, (03) 528 1810.

Mt Richmond Forest Park

- **Hacket Track**- A slip on Hacket Track has closed the track just after the junction to Browning Hut. Trampers planning to exit the park from Starveall Hut via Hacket Track need to use Browning Track.
- **Wakamarina Track**
Access via Kiwi Road (Northbank) is closed. Access in the Northbank is via Bartletts Road.
- **Maungatapu Road** is closed. For more information contact Nelson City Council 03 546 0200.
- **Right Branch Wairoa Hut** has been **removed** and the tramping track in that valley is no longer maintained.
- **Mt Richmond Forest Park access roads** – In Blenheim this info is displayed on Northbank Rd just off SH6. For all information on access roads into the park check the Plan and Prepare page for the park on the DOC web site www.doc.govt.nz or at the DOC Regional Visitor Centre in Nelson 03 546 9339.
- **Access** to Saddle Hill, Zig Zag and Pukatea tracks in Mt Richmond Forest Park off Central Rd in Hira Forest are **closed** due to forestry operations.

Other

- **Hanmer to St Arnaud Road** via Rainbow Station opens on 26 December 2011 until 9 April 2012.
- **Molesworth Station** – the Acheron Road through Molesworth Station opens on 28 December until 9 April 2012. The road being open is subject to weather and road conditions. For up-to-date road information go to www.doc.govt.nz or contact DOC South Marlborough Area office 03 572 9100.
- **Huts and shelters removed as agreed in the National Recreation Opportunity Review** are - in Kahurangi NP - Loveridge Hut, Haystack Hut, and Rolling Shelter. In Nelson Lakes NP; Upper Glenroy Hut and Prospect Shelter. In Abel Tasman NP - reclassification of Moa Park Hut to Moa Park Shelter, Tumuil Hut moved to the top end of Lake Alexander NZ Topo50-BR27 grid reference E1655010-N5377848 and re-named Lake Alexander Hut. Right Branch Wairoa Hut (Mt Richmond Forest Park).