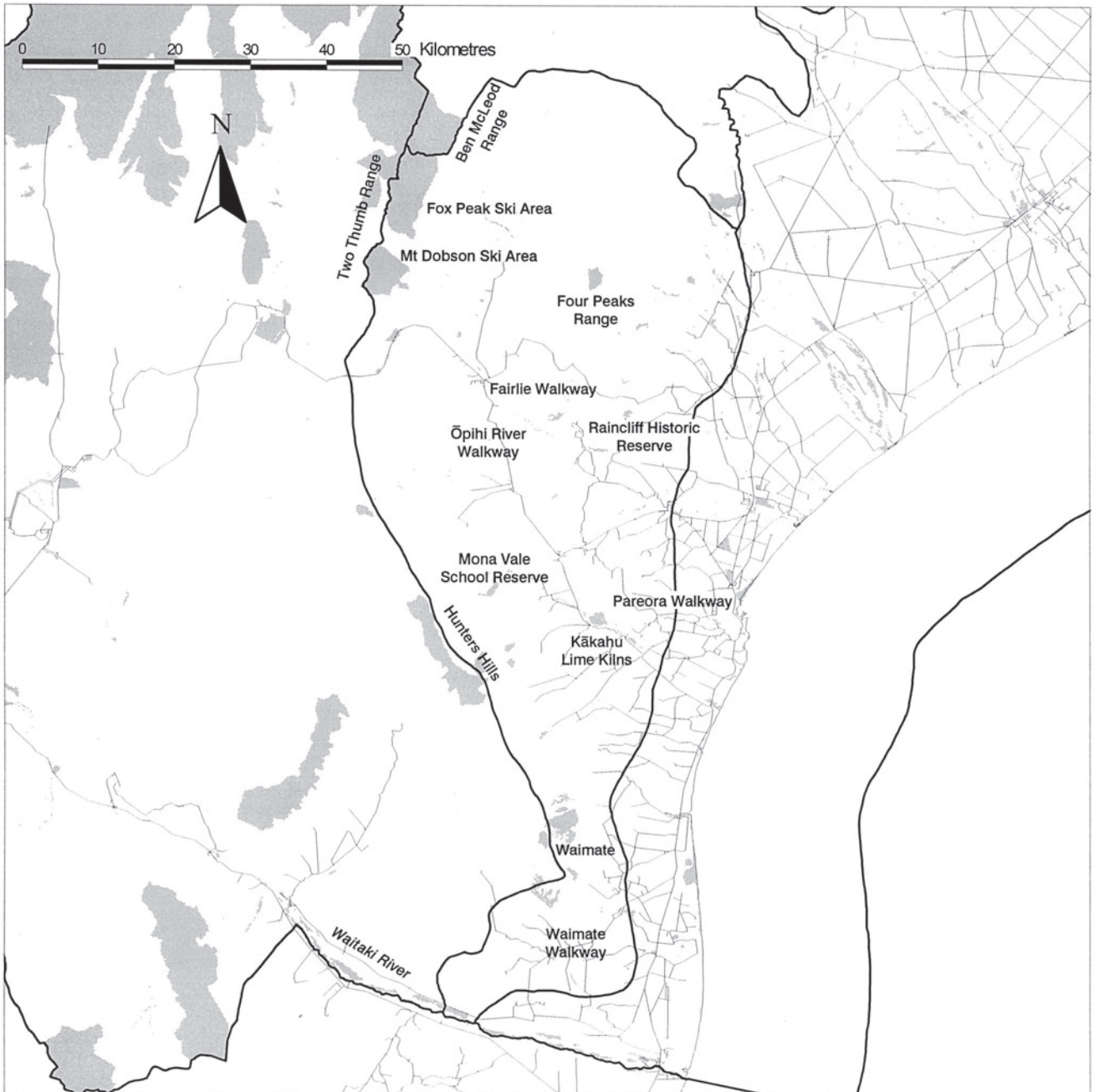




# Map 11 Pareora



- CMS Place Unit Boundaries
- Main roads
- Land managed by the Department



## 4.9 Pareora

### Introduction

The unit comprises the mountains and foothills of the lower Two Thumb and Ben McLeod ranges, extensive rolling downlands and the Fairlie Basin. Indigenous plant communities are extensive at higher altitudes but only remnants exist in lowland areas.

### Features and Issues

#### People Partnership

The area was periodically settled by Māori and was an important food-gathering area (mahinga kai). Because of these traditions, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua and Te Rūnanga o Waihao retain a strong interest in the management of the area, and have expressed concerns about the preservation of rock drawings found on limestone outcrops throughout the downlands.

Relics from European settlement include buildings relating to the pastoral history of the area, lime kilns and sawmilling remnants. The dominant land use remains farming, with a significant and increasing proportion of exotic forestry. Service towns include Geraldine, Fairlie and Waimate.

#### Heritage Conservation

The higher mountains of the Two Thumb and Ben McLeod ranges were glaciated in the past, but permanent snow is no longer present. Indigenous tussock grasslands and alpine associations are extensive at higher altitudes in these mountains and on the Hunter Hills to the south (see 4.10.4 regarding a conservation park proposal for the Two Thumb Range). At lower altitudes, the vegetation is more modified and is often restricted to forest, shrubland and tussock remnants, particularly in areas less accessible to stock, such as gullies and roadsides. The presence of podocarp forest along the edge of the foothills is a notable natural feature. Specialised indigenous plant communities are associated with limestone on the downlands, and the Hunter Hills is the most seaward alpine area in Canterbury.

Bats are present in the area associated with the limestone areas, but are present in low numbers. The threatened Canterbury mudfish/kōwaro is found in slow-moving watercourses in the southern downlands.

Reserves and conservation areas are to be found scattered on the foothill edges, mostly in valleys that have escaped fire, logging and intensive grazing. These protected areas poorly represent the ecological character of this unit.

#### Human History

Māori limestone rock drawings, such as those at Raincliff, are a feature of the area. Management and protection of these sites is an ongoing issue that requires consultation with landholders, rūnanga and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

The Monavale School, now a reserve, dates from 1911, and reflects the growth in the family farms following the subdivision of Levels Station. Pioneer Park marks the site of the original homestead of Michael Burke, the European discoverer of the pass into the Mackenzie in 1855, known to Māori as Te Kopi Ōpihi (the gorge of the Opihi). The Kākahu lime kilns are a surviving remnant of a historic industry complex.

#### Recreation and Use

The Two Thumb Range provides the opportunity for skiing at the Mount Dobson and Fox Peak ski areas west of Fairlie. The mountains and foothills also provide a range of hunting options. Walking is catered for along four walkways (Ōpihi, Fairlie, Waimate and Pareora). Tramping, mountain-biking and opportunities for other activities are also available.

The numerous waterways provide many opportunities for sports fisheries and gamebird hunting. The development within the catchment of the Ōpuha dam will see the creation of an artificial lake, which may have some recreational value.



## Areas Managed by the Department

The following areas managed by the Department are described in more detail in Volume 2; Schedule 2:

Name	Unit
Blandswood marginal strip	J37099
Part of Four Peaks Range tops	J37007
Hae Hae Te Moana Scenic Reserve	J37074
Matata Scenic Reserve	J39084
Monavale Historic Reserve	J38133
Mount Dobson Conservation Area	I37022
Mount Nimrod Scenic Reserve	J39087
North Waihao Bush	J40012
Órari Gorge Scenic Reserve	J37039
Ótaio Scenic Reserve	J39102
Pioneer Park, Geraldine Forest	J38053
Raincliff Historic Reserve	J38115
Talbot Forest Scenic Reserve	J38008
Two Thumb Range Conservation Area	I37003
Waihi Gorge Scenic Reserve	J37041, includes J37047, J37051, J37061

## Key Priorities

### 4.9.1 Ecosystems and Species

#### Issues

The unit consists of five ecological districts. The only part that has been formally surveyed under the PNA programme is the southeast end of the Two Thumb Ecological District (see 5.5.4 Survey and Monitoring). While there are a number of protected areas, most are small and based on remnant communities. The full range of ecosystems and communities is poorly represented. It is important to protect each of these natural values as part of the protected area system. Areas managed by the Department are mostly of small size and scattered along the eastern flanks of the Hunter Hills.

No comprehensive ecological survey has been undertaken in this unit. While progress has been made in adding to the network of protected areas, a representative range of vegetation types and natural landscapes is not yet protected. Outside the protected area system, there is a need to afford basic protection to ecosystems that are poorly represented.

The area is significant for small populations of long-tailed bats/pekapeka, which inhabit crevices in the limestone of the area. More basic research is needed on bats to determine effective management requirements.

#### Objectives

- To identify the significant indigenous vegetation and threatened plant and animal species' of the Pareora unit.
- To use a range of effective methods to protect the indigenous biodiversity of the Pareora unit.
- To protect and enhance the viability of priority threatened species' populations and their habitat(s) in the Pareora unit.

#### Implementation

The Conservancy will:

1. Survey the ecological values of the following ecological districts, in accordance with priorities set in 5.5.4 (Survey and Monitoring):
  - Hunters
  - Fairlie
  - Orari
  - Geraldine
  - Waimate
2. Advocate for the protection of indigenous biodiversity, including the habitat of threatened species and the healthy functioning of ecosystems.



3. Negotiate with landholders to protect significant areas of indigenous vegetation and wildlife habitats (see 5.2.3 Land Ecosystems).
4. Undertake research and surveys to clarify the distribution, status, habitat preference and threats to the long-tailed bat.
5. Advocate for effective methods to avoid adverse effects to the habitat of the long-tailed bat.
6. Manipulate long-tailed bat habitat to enhance the species' population.
7. Undertake plant and animal pest control to reduce their threats to the long-tailed bat.
8. Maintain fencing of protected areas.

#### 4.9.2 Rock Drawings

##### Issues

The drawings are largely found in fragile limestone environments that are vulnerable to damage, e.g. from stock rubbing against the limestone surface. Many sites are on private land and are not subject to the formal legal protection that may assist their long-term survival. The Raincliff Historic Reserve is managed by the Department.

##### Objective

- To co-operate with and assist rūnanga and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust in protecting rock art sites.

##### Implementation

The Conservancy will:

1. Co-operate in the development and maintenance of an accurate database, e.g. a photo library.
2. Continue site inspections and undertake maintenance work at rock art sites.
3. Work with rūnanga in the management and protection of rock art sites, in accordance with the outcomes of the Deed of Settlement (1997)

#### 4.9.3 Wallabies

##### Issues

Since their introduction to the area about 1874, redneck wallabies have expanded their range and, while now relatively contained, do have potential to spread by either natural means or by illegal release. High wallaby densities cause browsing damage on indigenous plant communities and reduce agricultural productivity on farm lands. The ecological impact of wallabies can be considerable when they reach high population densities and at this point they need to be managed and controlled.

##### Objective

- To survey, monitor and control wallaby densities on land managed by the Department to levels that minimise their adverse effects on indigenous vegetation.

##### Implementation

The Conservancy will:

1. Implement and review a Conservancy wallaby control plan for land managed by the Department.
2. Encourage research on the population dynamics, dietary preferences and control options for wallaby.
3. Carry out annual survey and monitoring programmes.
4. Undertake control operations on land managed by the Department (including covenanted areas) when wallaby densities increase beyond target levels.
5. Continue to issue hunting permits throughout the wallaby range, particularly for the Waimate Forest area (Studholme, Hook Bush, Gunns Bush, Kelceys Bush, North Waihao and covenanted areas) where there is a joint permitting arrangement with the Waimate District Council.



## Less Achievable Tasks

Tasks the Conservancy may not be able to undertake or complete include:

- wallaby eradication
- stabilisation of all rock drawing sites
- maintenance of low-priority tracks and huts
- maintenance of low-priority walkways

**Table 11: Key Priorities for Pareora Unit**

Name	Issue	Methods	Results Sought	Activity
4.9.1 Ecosystems and Species	Little of the area has been formally surveyed for its ecological values and even less has been protected	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ecological Survey</li> <li>2. Reservation</li> <li>3. Covenant</li> <li>4. RMA advocacy</li> <li>5. Landholder liaison</li> <li>6. Weed/pest control</li> <li>7. Fencing</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A range of significant ecosystems identified and adequately protected</li> <li>2. Self-sustaining species populations</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1.4 Communication and Liaison</li> <li>5.2.3 Land Ecosystems</li> <li>5.2.6 Indigenous Species</li> <li>5.5.4 Survey and Monitoring</li> <li>5.5.5 Research</li> </ol>
4.9.2 Rock drawings	Deterioration of rock drawings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Liaison with the rúnanga and Historic Places Trust</li> <li>2. Recording</li> <li>3. Stabilisation</li> </ol>	Rock drawings stabilised within the constraints of natural processes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1.2 Treaty Partnership</li> <li>5.2.7 Historic</li> </ol>
4.9.3 Wallaby control	Effects of wallabies on native vegetation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conservancy wallaby control plan</li> <li>2. Chemical control</li> <li>3. Shooting</li> </ol>	Formally protected Wallaby densities maintained at levels that do not have significant effects on native vegetation	5.2.8. Animal Pests and Wild Animals