

Mavora News 2008 – 2009

MAVORA LAKES PARK, PROTECT – ENJOY – BE INVOLVED

Kia ora – welcome

Welcome to Mavora Lakes Park, one of the treasures of Southland and part of Te Wāhipounamu - *South West New Zealand* World Heritage Area. Enjoy your stay – this is your park! Read on for news about the area and some ideas of what to do and what to watch out for.

Meet Colin – the DOC ranger



Above – DOC ranger Colin Turnbull.

Below – Clearing roadside vegetation from the Mavora Lakes Road.

Right – Damage caused to the gate at Boundary Hut. *Photos: DOC*

If you are a regular visitor to the Mavora Lakes you'll probably recognise Colin Turnbull. Colin has returned for his fifth summer season as the DOC ranger here. He'll be around the campsites, maintaining facilities, collecting camp fees, working on weed control and helping make your stay more enjoyable.

Don't hesitate to stop for a chat with Colin. He's able to give advice about the weather and discuss items of interest about the region. He also has an interesting background in all sorts of conservation work.

Please let him know if you see anything of concern. If not out and about, he may be found in the DOC caravan.

To maintain a clean and efficient water supply to the campsite, Colin asks that you please avoid exploring the forest behind the DOC caravan. This is where the campsite's water supply is situated.

Campsites

An inspection of the popular camping area near the North Lake swing bridge showed some of the larger trees represented a potential safety hazard for campers. To remedy this, a number of trees were cut down. This wood is now available for campers to use at the campsites.

Locked gates

Would you believe it? Recently some visitors to Mavora decided they'd like exclusive use of the park near Carey's Hut and padlocked the gate on the lakeside road. Great for other visitors! Please remember that the Mavora Lakes Park is for everyone to enjoy and facilities should be shared with other visitors. The gate and fence line are remnants from days when stock grazed in the park. The gate has now been removed to prevent further problems.

It must be a thing with gates! The gate at Boundary Hut, which borders privately owned Elfin Bay Station, was recently damaged. It seems a vehicle tried repeatedly to drive through this locked gate. The damaged gate has been replaced with the help of Elfin Bay Station staff. Unfortunately after the gate was damaged some cattle escaped into the park, creating more work for Elfin Bay staff in finding and rounding them up.

What happened in winter?



Roads

The main access road to Mavora has had a serious 'haircut'. Roadside trees were restricting visibility and damaging larger vehicles. Consequently, last autumn DOC staff joined contractors in clearing a large amount of vegetation from the roadsides. A wood chipper was used to break down the smaller branches and spread the chips back into the forest understorey. The remaining wood was dispersed around campsites for firewood.



New hut maps

Visitors to Carey's, Boundary and Taipo huts will notice that new and updated maps have been installed. The old maps were either out of date or, in some instances, never there in the first place. No excuse now for not knowing where you are!

Fires

Be careful and make sure fires are only set in the enclosed drums, fires places and BBQ facilities provided. We recommend you bring your own firewood to save the scarce resources. Otherwise only use **dead wood** please. There is a lot of suitable firewood currently available near the North Lake swing bridge. **Chainsaws are strictly prohibited.**

Fire at Carey's Hut

Evidence of a fire near Carey's Hut illustrates how easily a disaster could occur at Mavora. It seems hot ashes were dumped on the ground outside the hut, resulting in a grass and scrub fire. Luckily it must have been a day when there wasn't much wind and the nearby creek acted as a fire-break.

Remember to always use the ash cans provided and **never** dump ashes onto the ground. In summer it can get very dry and a similar fire could not only threaten this wonderful environment but also the safety of visitors.

COMMENTS?

Ideas and suggestions are welcome. Comments cards can be filled out and handed in to the ranger or sent directly to DOC.



Didymo found in the lower reaches of the Mararoa River.
Fish and Game NZ

Check, Clean and Dry

Hopefully by now you will be aware of the significant biosecurity threat facing New Zealand from the algae *Didymosphenia germinata*, more commonly known as didymo or 'rock snot'.

Didymo is found in a number of rivers in this region, but **not in all rivers**. We all need to take every precaution to minimise the spread of didymo and other aquatic weeds. One drop of water is all it takes to spread it to another waterway!

Should you need to clean any gear that may have been in contact with didymo affected waters, the DOC ranger has instructions and supplies for your use.

Check the notice board at the information kiosks for further information.

What to do

Part of the appeal of Mavora Lakes Park is the range of different opportunities available, including some activities that are not permitted in other places, such as national parks.

Walking

There are lots of walking opportunities, both on and off tracks, around Mavora. Ask the ranger for a copy of the Mavora Lakes Park tracks brochure or check out the copy displayed in the shelter at South Mavora Lake.

Horse trekking

Horse trekking routes are not specified but, as with all activities, sensitive habitat areas, especially stream margins and wetlands, are to be avoided. There are holding paddocks provided for horses if you are staying overnight.

Walking the dog

You can bring your dog on holiday with you to Mavora – in fact it is one of the few conservation areas where this is permitted. Please keep it on a leash in camping areas and make sure its barking doesn't annoy others. No one likes walking in doggy doos so please bury the droppings.

Boating

Mavora is a great spot for boaties – however motor boats are only allowed on North Mavora Lake and jet skis are prohibited on both lakes. Sailboats and kayaks are permitted on both lakes.

STOPPING THE SPREAD OF DIDYMO

We want you to enjoy your stay at Mavora but please '**Check, Clean and Dry**' before moving between waterways.

1. **Check:** Before leaving the lake or river, remove all obvious clumps of algae from your gear and equipment and look for hidden clumps. Leave these at the affected site. If you find any later do not wash down drains. Treat them as described below.
2. **Clean:** Soak and scrub all items for at least one minute in hot water (60° C) mixed with either a two percent solution of household bleach or a five percent solution of salt, nappy cleaner, antiseptic hand cleaner or dishwashing detergent.
3. **Dry:** If cleaning is not practical (e.g. dog), after the item is completely dry to touch, wait an additional 48 hours before contact or use in any other waterway.

Remember that the Navigation Safety Bylaws enforced by Environment Southland state the speed limit as five knots within 50 metres of another vessel or person in the water and 200 metres from the shore or any vessel showing a divers flag. These rules exist for your safety and the safety of others.

Please **check, clean and dry** before allowing any equipment to come in contact with the water. It only takes one drop to spread didymo! By following the advice detailed above, you will also help prevent the spread of other unwanted freshwater weeds such as oxygen weed (Lagarosiphon).

Fishing

There are plenty of brown and rainbow trout in the Mararoa River and both lakes, but you must have a current fishing licence, available at DOC Visitor Centres or your local sports shop. Fishing equipment should be checked and cleaned following the didymo advice, both before and after coming in contact with the water, so as to minimise the risk of spreading didymo further.

Mountain biking, motor biking and 4WD driving

Riding the trails at Mavora is a favourite activity for adults and kids and these are all permitted. However, for your personal safety and to protect the environment you must keep to the formed roads. Please consider other campers and keep motorbikes away from campsites.

Be aware that the police will be undertaking random inspections throughout the summer and will not hesitate to prosecute offenders. Remember too that at Mavora all of the rules of the road apply – motor vehicles must be registered and warranted, helmets worn, and all drivers licensed.

Hunting

Deer, chamois, pigs and possums are roaming in the park, but you must have a permit to hunt them. Hunting permits are available free from DOC. Hunting is not permitted within one kilometre of the camping areas during holiday periods.

Mountain biking is a popular activity in Mavora Lakes Park. DOC

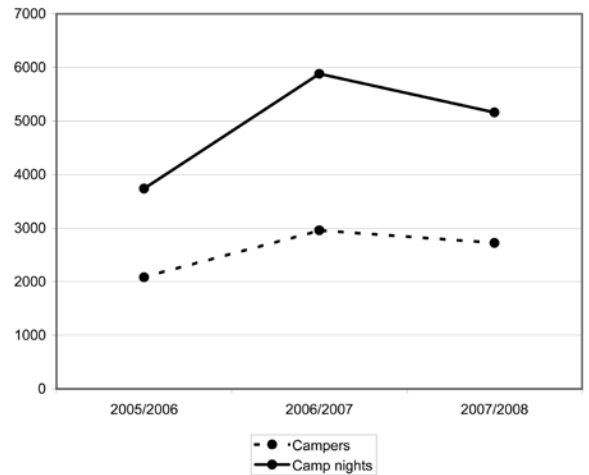


Camping at Mavora

Visitor camping use

Ever wondered how many people camp here at Mavora? Here are the figures, shown in the graph below, according to the self-registration envelopes we have collected over the last few years.

While New Zealanders represent the majority of visitors, Australians and visitors from the UK make up the majority of visitors from overseas.



Camp or stay in huts?

Thank you for your honesty in paying camp and hut fees. If camping, remember to display your self-registration number tag so the ranger knows how long you are staying, if you are out when he calls. If using a hut (whether overnight or just for lunch) don't forget to put your name in the hut book - it lets DOC know how many people are making use of the hut, which helps with planning work.

Rubbish

Mavora has a pack-in, pack-out rule, as there are **no** collection services. This includes tin and glass, and organic scraps. Please do not use the campfires as rubbish bins.

Shirker's Bush

Shirker's Bush is the small area of bush on the hill between the Mararoa River and the Windon Burn.

In 1916 conscription for military service was introduced, as the government of the time concluded this was the only way for New Zealand to maintain its war effort. Men who opposed conscription were generally frowned upon and referred to as 'Shirkers'. Many were imprisoned and others were forcibly sent to the front.

It's believed that the name 'Shirker's Bush' was derived after two or three men lived here for several months during 1917, in an attempt to evade military service. To avoid detection they didn't light fires during the day.

At some stage they moved on to Martin's Bay, where they were eventually arrested by the police.

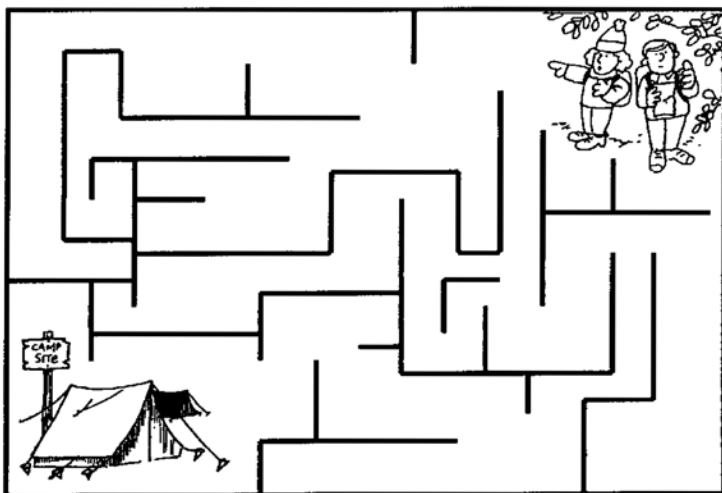


CONSERVATION KIDS

MAVORA WORD SEARCH

In this jumble of letters are hidden 20 familiar Mavora words. Look for them across, down, diagonally - and even backwards.

H	U	N	T	I	N	G	A	R	G	M	B	O	A	T	E
C	B	O	A	L	V	S	F	B	C	T	R	B	P	N	R
C	A	R	E	Y	S	H	U	T	A	C	I	K	O	A	Y
A	E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	E	A	C	S	T	E
K	M	U	R	D	E	R	I	F	B	R	R	B	S	A	M
F	I	A	C	H	B	J	C	F	A	B	R	G	U	C	O
H	W	W	L	E	C	D	I	E	X	E	O	D	M	E	U
O	I	F	I	J	M	S	P	D	C	R	S	V	S	E	N
R	L	C	B	B	H	Y	C	R	A	U	E	D	K	O	T
S	D	Q	F	I	U	I	D	O	G	S	Y	A	U	S	A
E	C	W	N	E	C	R	G	A	I	G	L	S	C	K	I
S	A	G	T	G	N	O	N	D	T	K	M	E	P	C	N
B	T	A	P	G	R	E	E	N	S	T	O	N	E	A	S
A	S	M	A	E	H	K	A	Y	A	K	I	N	G	R	A
K	A	L	B	C	W	A	N	A	C	Q	U	A	B	T	C
C	M	A	S	T	Y	E	A	R	O	M	Y	D	I	D	R



Help the trampers find their way to camp.

- Boat
- Briar Rose
- Camp
- Careys Hut
- Didymo
- Dog
- Eyre Mountains
- Fire Drum
- Fishing
- Greenstone
- Hunting
- Kayaking
- Kiwi Burn
- Lake
- Mast Year
- Mistletoe
- Mt Cerberus
- Possums
- Tracks
- Wild Cats