

Please remember

- Dogs must be kept on a leash except in the dog exercise area opposite the Catchpool Centre (see map) and in the Ōrongorongo River bed.
- Dogs are not permitted in the Turere catchment kiwi zone (see map).
- Do not carry loaded firearms in the Catchpool valley.
- Shooting is prohibited in the Catchpool valley and the Ōrongorongo River bed.
- Fires are not permitted in the Catchpool valley.
- If you intend to light a fire for cooking or heating while in the Remutaka Forest Park, please check the www.checkitsalright.co.nz website. This will give you the current fire status and tell you if you need a fire permit. At times of high fire danger, there may be a total ban on fires.
- Mountain bikes are not permitted on walking tracks.
- Rubbish bins are not provided – take your rubbish home with you.

For your safety

Communication

There is limited cell phone reception in the Catchpool valley and no reception in the Ōrongorongo valley.

Be prepared

- Always take warm, waterproof clothing, food and drink, even on short walks. Sturdy shoes or walking boots should be worn on tramping tracks.
- Groups on overnight trips should always include experienced trampers.
- Check the weather forecast – the weather in the forest park can change rapidly.
- Always tell someone where you are going.
- Maps are recommended for longer trips – use NZTopo50, BQ32 Lower Hutt.
- If the ford across Catchpool Valley Road is flooded, do not attempt to drive through it.
- The Ōrongorongo River rises quickly. Do not attempt to cross swollen rivers or streams. If you have a hut booking, contact the Kāpiti Wellington Visitor Centre to arrange a refund.

Further information:

Kāpiti Wellington Visitor Centre

18 Manners Street, Wellington
PO Box 10420, Te Aro 6011

PHONE: 04 384 7770

EMAIL: wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz

www.doc.govt.nz

Care for Aotearoa



Protect nature



Be prepared



Keep NZ clean



Show respect



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Take care visiting natural areas

New Zealand is renowned for its changeable weather and rugged terrain. Be prepared for adverse conditions.

If you think there is a safety hazard in a conservation area, call the nearest DOC office or the DOC HOTline.

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

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

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Track entrance
Photo: Peter Blaxter

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Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government



R193873

KAPITI/WELLINGTON

Remutaka Forest Park



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Nau mai, haere mai – welcome to the Remutaka Forest Park

The Ōrongorongo valley is named after Rongorongo, daughter of the carver of the *Aotea* waka, Toto, and wife of its captain, Turi. A famous descendant of Rongorongo is her great granddaughter, Wairaka.

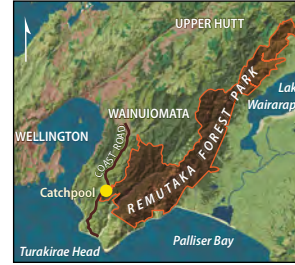
Wairaka and her lover left south Taranaki and travelled down the west coast while being pursued by her husband, Hau, who was the great grandson of Kupe, the explorer credited with the discovery of Aotearoa. Hau crossed the Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River headwaters and saw the Remutaka Range, which looked like the remu (hem) of a kaitaka (cloak). Another tradition has Hau taking a rest – remu (buttocks), taka (to rest) – when he reached the top of the range, from where he saw a shining lake and named it Wairarapa (the flashing waters). Generations later in the early 1800s, waves of travellers migrated south from Taranaki, resulting in several iwi settling around the shores of Te Whanganui-ā-Tara / Wellington. These and preceding iwi would often venture into the valley to harvest karaka berries and eels. One of these iwi, Ngāti Ruanui of Te Aro pā, are direct descendants of Rongorongo.



Catchpool Stream. Photo: DOC

How to get to the Catchpool valley

The Catchpool valley is a 45-min drive from Wellington. The entrance to the park is on Coast Road, 12km south of Wainuiomata. The entrance gates are open from 6 am to 8 pm in summer (October–April) and 6 am to 6 pm in winter (May–September).



Places to stay

Camping

Catchpool Valley Campsite (80 sites) is located alongside Catchpool Stream and has toilets, a water tap (boil before drinking) and free gas barbecues. Food must be cooked on the barbecues provided or with liquid or gas stoves. Portable generators are not permitted. All areas must be booked online in advance.

Note: There is a year-round fire ban at the campsite.

Booked huts

There are six huts in the Ōrongorongo valley that are available for exclusive hire. They are all equipped with mattresses, water, heating, toilets, and (except for Boar Inn) gas cookers, crockery, cutlery and cookware.

All huts are locked and must be booked online, in advance.

Walk times are from the Catchpool valley car park.

Boar Inn – serviced hut, 4 bunks	2 hr 30 min
Raukawa Lodge – serviced hut, 14 bunks	2 hr 15 min
Jans Hut – serviced hut, 9 bunks	2 hr 30 min
Turere Lodge – serviced hut, 32 bunks	2 hr 30 min
Haurangi Hut – serviced hut, 10 bunks	3 hr
Papatahi Hut – serviced hut, 10 bunks	3 hr 30 min

For more information and to book, visit booking.doc.govt.nz or contact the Kāpiti Wellington Visitor Centre.

Mountain biking and horse riding

Mountain biking and horse riding are permitted in the logged areas in the south of the Catchpool valley (see map).

For information about access, visit www.doc.govt.nz.

Hunting

The Department of Conservation (DOC) encourages recreational hunting in specified areas.

For information and hunting permits, visit huntingpermits.doc.govt.nz or contact the Kāpiti Wellington Visitor Centre.

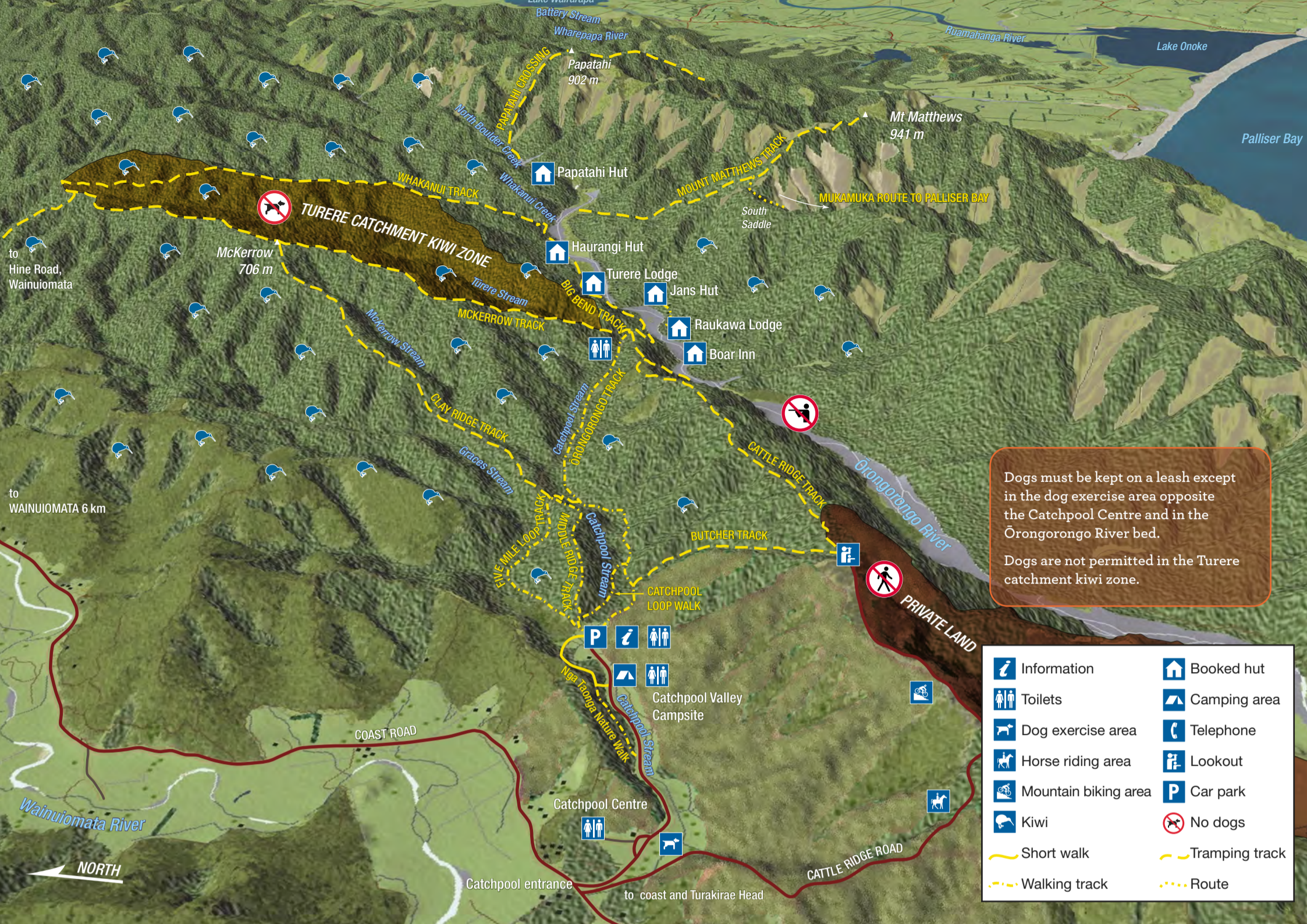
Catchpool Centre

The Catchpool Centre is available to hire for groups of up to 50 people.

With two meeting rooms, a wood burner, projector, barbecue, kitchen facilities, tables, chairs, whiteboards and a large lawn area, it is ideal for corporate and social functions and education and community groups. No catering or overnight accommodation is provided.



Catchpool Centre. Photo: Robert Ashe



Walking and tramping

All times and distances are one way unless otherwise specified. Times are based on a walker of average fitness.

Nga Taonga Nature Walk 45 min, 1.3 km

Begins in the clearing beside the Graces Stream footbridge and ends at the road, 5 min from the Catchpool Centre. Information signs describe the forest plant life.

Catchpool Loop Walk 30 min, 1.6 km (loop)

Begins just beyond the bridge across Catchpool Stream and leads upstream through nīkau groves and mature podocarp and broadleaf forest to another bridge and the Ōrongorongo Track. The round trip is completed by returning down the Ōrongorongo Track.

Five Mile Loop Track 1 hr 30 min, 3.8 km (loop)

Passes through beech forest in the lower reaches of Graces Stream. The track climbs to Clay Forks at the junction with Clay Ridge Track, giving good views of the Remutaka Range and the forest canopy.

Middle Ridge Track 30 min, 1.6 km

Follows the ridge between Graces Stream and Catchpool Stream. Here, the vegetation consists of more drought-tolerant plants such as mānuka. The track gives good views of the Catchpool valley.

Clay Ridge Track 2 hr 30 min, 6.3 km (to McKerrow summit)

From Clay Forks, this track ascends Clay Ridge to the east of Graces Stream to reach the summit of McKerrow (706 m). A round trip back to the Catchpool car park is possible by returning via the McKerrow and Ōrongorongo tracks.

Ōrongorongo Track 2 hr, 5.2 km

One of Aotearoa New Zealand's most popular walks, leading to the Ōrongorongo River and Turere Bridge through different forest types. There are swimming holes at Turere Stream at the end of the track.

Butcher Track and Cattle Ridge Track 4 hr, 12 km (round trip)

Butcher Track begins about 10 min along the Ōrongorongo Track. A stiff 2-hr climb through a range of forest types and shrubland brings magnificent views of Wellington Harbour/Port Nicholson. From here, Cattle Ridge Track heads north to join the Ōrongorongo Track near Turere Stream.

Big Bend Track and Whakanui Track 7 hr, 18 km

Big Bend Track begins at Turere Bridge and follows the Ōrongorongo River to Whakanui Creek. The Whakanui Track begins on the true right (the right as you look downstream) of Whakanui Creek and climbs to the ridge between Whakanui Creek and Turere Stream before descending to Hine Road/Sunny Grove in Wainuiomata. There are good views of the main Remutaka Range from the higher parts of the track.

McKerrow Track 6 hr, 13.3 km

McKerrow Track begins 10 min from the end of the Ōrongorongo Track. It climbs through podocarp, broadleaf and beech forest to McKerrow summit (706 m) and continues along the ridge before joining the Whakanui Track and descending to Sunny Grove, Wainuiomata.

Mount Matthews Track 3 hr, 4.5 km

Begins in the Ōrongorongo River bed and climbs steeply to the summit of Mount Matthews (941 m). Enjoy outstanding views of Wellington Harbour, the Wairarapa, and the Tararua and Kaikōura ranges.

Mukamuka valley 6 hr, 6 km

The Mukamuka valley is reached by following the Mount Matthews Track for approximately 1 hr 30 min to the South Saddle Track. This rough track sidles southwest, dropping from the saddle into the shrubby headwaters of Mukamuka Stream, which leads to Palliser Bay.

Papatahi Crossing 12 hr, 10 km

A crossing of the Remutaka Range via Papatahi (902 m) from the mid-Ōrongorongo valley at North Boulder Creek to the Wharepapa River and Battery Stream on the Wairarapa side of the park. It requires a very full day from the Catchpool car park for a fit party. Most parties are recommended to overnight at, or near, Papatahi Hut.



Track categories

Tracks are categorised to help you choose the most appropriate for your level of fitness and the skills and abilities of your party. You must be well prepared with suitable clothing and equipment for all weather and conditions. Safety is your responsibility.

Short walk: Well-formed track; easy walking for up to an hour.

Walking track: Well-formed track; easy walking from a few minutes to a day.

Easy tramping track: Generally well-formed track for comfortable overnight tramping/hiking trips.

Tramping track: Mostly unformed track with steep, rough or muddy sections; has directional markers, poles or cairns.

Route: Unformed track suitable only for people with high-level backcountry skills and experience.

Dogs must be kept on a leash except in the dog exercise area opposite the Catchpool Centre and in the Orongorongo River bed.
Dogs are not permitted in the Turere catchment kiwi zone.

	Information		Booked hut
	Toilets		Camping area
	Dog exercise area		Telephone
	Horse riding area		Lookout
	Mountain biking area		Car park
	Kiwi		No dogs
	Short walk		Tramping track
	Walking track		Route