



Photo: Petrus Hedman

Experience a different 9 to 5
with a summer job at the
Department of Conservation

Ranger (Hut Warden)

Location	Glenorchy, Whakatipu-wai-māori/Queenstown District
Dates of Employment	October 2026 to May 2027
Salary	Salary range based on skills and experience is \$61,189 - \$67,446

Mō te tūranga | About the role

As a Hut Warden Ranger, you will be based at either Greenstone Caples Hut or Routeburn Flats Hut, providing a welcoming presence for visitors while supporting the day-to-day management of some of New Zealand's most iconic backcountry destinations.

These are varied and rewarding roles that involve working both independently and as part of a team across a wide range of conservation projects. We are looking for people who are physically fit, responsible, and reliable team players, with a passion for the outdoors and a broad range of practical skills.

Key Tasks

- Track construction and maintenance
- Clean hut, campsite, facilities, and amenities daily
- Management and knowledge of water, sewage, and solar systems
- Effective leadership and decision-making skills during emergency situations
- Visitor safety – Avalanche, flooding, inclement weather conditions, high winds, and helicopter crowd control
- Carry out compliance and law enforcement work as required
- Assist with any biodiversity trapping and monitoring when required

Ngā pūkenga me ngā wheako | Skills and experience

- Good communication skills, ability to relate well to a diverse range of people
- Knowledge of recreation facility maintenance e.g., skills in cleaning, painting, weed eating, and drainage work on tracks

- A high level of fitness in a physically demanding role
- Experience in navigating in back country and practical outdoor, camping, hiking skills
- A current First Aid certificate
- A good basic knowledge of conservation and of New Zealand's natural and cultural history
- Ability to work unsupervised in isolated sites
- Full NZ driving licence
- Working in and around helicopters and scrub bar and hedge trimmer use

Mō te tīma | About the team/Location

The Heritage and Visitors Team within the Wakatipu consists of a Principal Ranger, Supervisor and Ranger Staff. Successful applicant will work under the direction of a Supervisor who will set the standards/oversee the scheduled work/wellbeing of the Team. The permanent District Team is supported by temporary and seasonal staff. A large percentage of the Heritage and Visitors Team resides in Glenorchy.

Additional Information

Accommodation: Each hut has fully equipped staff quarters which include radio, shower, lighting, and gas facilities (toilet in some quarters). You supply your own bedding, linen, food, and personal items. Rangers walk to and from their respective huts on changeover day from the nearest entry point to which transport is provided. Rangers will carry their fresh food and personal gear to and from their hut although the bulk of their gear and dry food will be flown in at the beginning of the season.

Rangers will radio the Queenstown Regional Visitor Centre daily and will report to their supervisor at the Tāhuna/Glenorchy Field Base.

A non-taxable field food allowance is paid for days worked in the field. Uniform and personal protective equipment is provided including safety boots as required.

Bunkroom accommodation with kitchen, bathroom and laundry facilities is provided at the Ranger House for use by staff as required.

Full training during an induction fortnight will be given.

Greenstone/Caples Track - Mid Caples Hut (24 bunks), Greenstone Hut (20 bunks), McKellar Hut (24 bunks)

- Greenstone ranger (Greenstone and McKellar huts)
- 15 days in, 6 days out
- 8 hours per day
- Hut booking system
- Statistics collection and data entry skills

Routeburn Track - Routeburn Flats Hut and Campsite, 20 bunks plus 15 tent sites

- Ranger assigned to Flats hut only

- 8 days in, 6 days out
- 8 hours per day
- Hut booking system
- Deliver an informative evening conservation talk.

Hours of Work: Each of the three track systems have rangers always assigned during the summer season in various arrangements with typically one ranger on duty and in residence working on a rotating roster. Daily hours of work can vary but it's up to you and your supervisor to effectively manage your time to align with the allocated fortnightly hours per hut, however, a full day is required on your last day of roster including travel time, allowing for a ranger in the area in case of emergencies, and allows a changeover to debrief with incoming staff.

Successful applicants will be assigned to the various Valleys/Huts as decided by the Hut Ranger Supervisor. Returning Hut rangers have already been allocated to their Huts and valleys for the 2026/2027 season. It is expected that all Hut rangers should be available to complete their rosters as allocated for the season including all Public Holidays and the Christmas period.

Number of positions: 3

Me he pātai anō, whakapā mai | For further enquiries

Please contact Seasonal Jobs seasonaljobs@doc.govt.nz