



Photo: Petrus Hedman

Experience a different 9 to 5

with a summer job at the

Department of Conservation

Ranger (Hut Warden)

Location	Heaphy Track, Karamea, Buller District
Dates of Employment	October 2026 to April 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 based on the Heaphy Track within Kahurangi National Park, supporting the Heritage and Visitor work group in the Buller District, this role focuses on maintaining huts and facilities, managing visitor experiences, and supporting track upkeep along one of DOC's premier Great Walks. You will work in a remote backcountry environment, ensuring high standards of service, safety, and facility presentation.

Key Tasks

- Clean and maintain huts and toilet facilities
- Manage visitor bookings, provide information, and support compliance
- Undertake track maintenance and vegetation control
- Carry out mowing and weed control around facilities
- Support visitor safety and provide up-to-date information
- Assist with emergency response during weather events or incidents
- Maintain high standards across Great Walk facilities

Ngā pūkenga me ngā wheako | Skills and experience

- Strong practical, hands-on skills for maintenance and field-based work
- High level of physical fitness for backcountry environments
- Ability to work independently in isolated and remote locations
- Self-motivated with strong self-management and problem-solving skills
- Ability to work effectively as part of a small team
- Confidence engaging with visitors and providing information
- Strong commitment to health and safety practices
- Interest in conservation and outdoor recreation
- Full New Zealand driver's licence

Mō te tīma | About the team/Location

The Buller District team is led by the Operations Manager and delivers a balanced work programme across biodiversity, recreation/historic, and community functions. The Heritage and Visitor team manages tracks, huts, and visitor facilities across a large area from Punakaiki to Karamea, including the Heaphy and Paparoa Great Walks.

The Heaphy Track is located within Kahurangi National Park and is one of DOC's premier Great Walks. The hut warden team consists of three rangers who are responsible for maintaining huts and track sections on the western side of the track.

The Buller District features outstanding natural landscapes including coastlines, national parks, heritage sites, and iconic destinations such as the Oparara Basin and Tauranga Bay Seal Colony. Karamea offers a unique setting with a relatively mild climate and access to exceptional outdoor environments.

Additional Information

Roster: Shifts of 9 days on and 5 days off. Includes weekends and public holidays.

Accommodation: Hut warden accommodation provided at huts; Shared DOC accommodation may be available in Karamea on rostered days off.

Number of positions: 3

Me he pātai anō, whakapā mai | For further enquiries

Please contact Seasonal Jobs seasonaljobs@doc.govt.nz