Conservation Volunteer Activities
Southland, Fiordland, Otago
2019–2020

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai
Introduction

Welcome to the Department of Conservation’s (DOC’s) volunteer activities booklet, which describes some of the many different ways you can participate in conservation activities around Southland, Fiordland and Otago. These activities provide an opportunity to learn new skills, meet other people, undertake useful conservation work and enjoy New Zealand’s beautiful outdoors, and they are all subsidised by DOC.

What to expect

**ACCOMMODATION:** This is arranged, unless otherwise stated. Volunteers usually stay in basic backcountry huts (outdoor toilets, no shower, coal/gas cooking facilities) or DOC houses, aboard boats or camp in tents.

**TRANSPORT:** This will be arranged from the pickup location to and from the worksite, unless otherwise stated.

**FOOD AND COOKING UTENSILS:** These are provided, unless otherwise stated. Usually everybody helps to prepare meals.

**EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS:** These are generally provided, unless otherwise stated.

**RECREATION:** Meeting people and enjoying their company is an important part of our conservation volunteer activities. Time may be given for participating in recreation activities and visiting local places of interest.

**FITNESS LEVEL:** Most activities take place outdoors and require a reasonable level of fitness and self-motivation. Assessing the suitability of applicants for activities is at the leaders’ discretion. If an individual’s fitness level is not suitable, they may be excluded from certain tasks or sent home.

### FITNESS LEVEL GUIDE

**Low:** Easily walk up to 2 hours over flat ground.

**Medium:** Can comfortably walk with a 5 kg pack for up to 4 hours over uneven ground.

**High:** Capable of walking with a 10 kg pack for up to 6 hours over uneven ground.

**Very high:** Experienced at walking with a 10+ kg pack for several consecutive days over steep, rough terrain.

What to bring

Activities have varying requirements. A full equipment list and information pack specific to the activity will be issued before starting the activity.

Registration

Some activities include contact details and registration information on the activity page. For all other activities, please complete the form at the back of this booklet or apply on the DOC website.
What we stand for

OUR VISION
Kāore he wāhi i tua atu i a Aotearoa, hei wāhi noho i te ao.
New Zealand is the greatest living space on Earth.

OUR PURPOSE
Kia piki te oranga o te ao tūroa, i roto i te ngātahitanga, ki Aotearoa.
To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.

OUR VALUES
› Kaitiakitanga
› Whanaungatanga
› Safety, diversity and well-being
› Sustainability

Where we’re going: our strategy

What we do ... (strategic roles)
Provide conservation services and leadership to protect and enhance New Zealand’s natural and historic heritage.

Contribute to New Zealand’s economic, social and cultural success.

Enhance well-being of New Zealanders and international visitors by encouraging and enabling people to connect with and contribute to New Zealand’s nature and heritage.

Whānau, hapū and iwi are enabled to carry out their responsibilities as kaitiaki of natural and cultural resources on public conservation lands and waters.

New Zealand’s unique environment and heritage is a foundation for our economic, social and cultural success.

New Zealanders and international visitors are enriched by their connection to New Zealand’s nature and heritage.

New Zealanders and international visitors contribute to conservation.

What we’re trying to achieve ...
The diversity of New Zealand’s natural heritage is maintained and restored across New Zealand.

New Zealand’s history is brought to life and protected.

Whānau, hapū and iwi are enabled to practise their responsibilities as kaitiaki of natural and cultural resources on public conservation lands and waters.

New Zealand’s unique environment and heritage is a foundation for our economic, social and cultural success.

2025 Stretch Goals
The stories of 50 Historic Icon Sites are told and protected.

50% of New Zealand’s natural ecosystems are benefiting from pest management.

50 freshwater ecosystems are restored from ‘mountains to the sea’.

A nationwide network of marine protected areas is in place, representing New Zealand’s marine ecosystems.

Whānau, hapū and iwi are able to carry out their responsibilities as kaitiaki of natural and cultural resources on public conservation lands and waters.

90% of New Zealanders’ lives are enriched through connection to our nature.

90% of visitors rate their experiences on public conservation lands and waters as exceptional.

90% of New Zealanders think the impacts of visitors on public conservation lands and waters are very well managed.

Our goals for working with volunteers
› We recognise volunteers are fundamental to our vision and goals in conservation.
› We make the most of the potential that volunteers offer.
› We make it easy and rewarding to take action for conservation by volunteering.
› We deliver quality volunteer activities where the volunteer is central to the experience to grow conservation.
› We share, support and learn from others to make bigger gains for conservation through volunteering.
Southland, Fiordland and Otago conservation volunteer activities
Catlins conservation trip

Come and spend a fun-filled weekend with like-minded individuals and knowledgeable conservationists. Your efforts will help protect conservation habitat in The Catlins, which is essential for the yellow-eyed penguins/hoiho that live there. Tasks include planting trees and controlling weeds.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:**
Low. This trip takes place in mid-winter and involves working outdoors, so being prepared for the elements is essential. Bring along a spare change of clothes or two as planting and weed control can be a wet, muddy job! Training will be provided.

**ACCOMMODATION:**
Forest & Bird’s Tautuku Lodge, which is nestled in the Lenz Reserve. The lodge has bunk beds, showers, electric cooking facilities and heating. Everyone pitches in with the cooking and cleaning up.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the DOC Dunedin Office, Level 1, John Wickliffe House, 265 Princes Street, Dunedin at 5.30 pm on Friday 16 August. Volunteers will be returned to the same place at 4.00 pm on Sunday 18 August or alternative drop-off locations around Dunedin can be arranged with the leader.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:**
$17 per person, plus extra money for dinner on Friday night in Balclutha. Please bring the money with you on the trip – you do not prepay for this trip.

**TO REGISTER:** Contact Catherine Hosted – email chosted@doc.govt.nz

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Curio Bay – penguin minder

Curio Bay is one of Southland’s most popular destinations and is home to the endangered yellow-eyed penguin/hoiho. Penguin minders are needed to monitor visitor behaviour during peak visitor hours at Curio Bay, and to educate visitors about how to behave around sensitive species and the fossilised forest. Yellow-eyed penguins try to establish nests during September and it is very important that they are given the chance to do so by not being disturbed.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:**
Low. Penguin minders must be present on the rock platform and penguin walk area from 4.00 pm to 9.00 pm daily, depending on tourist numbers and penguin movements. Volunteers must be good with people, have a mature attitude and be able to communicate well, with a good understanding of the English language.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Tumu Toka Curioscape Campground, 601 Waikawa-Curio Bay Road, Curio Bay. This activity would be best suited to those who have their own caravan or motorhome.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** The meeting time, location and training will be arranged with the successful applicants.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** There is no charge for this activity. However, volunteers will need to provide their own food and transport. Due to the isolated location of Curio Bay, volunteers must have their own vehicle.
Milford Track – Dumpling Hut maintenance

This is a fantastic and rare opportunity to spend a week on a popular track in Fiordland before the masses of people arrive for the busy summer season. Learn about the area’s interesting history and take a side trip to see the magnificent Sutherland Falls with its staggering 580-m drop. Tasks will include hut cleaning, minor building repairs and a general tidy of the surrounding area.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Medium.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Dumpling Hut and the staff quarters.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the DOC workshop, 19 Caswell Road, Te Anau at 9.00 am on Monday 16 September. Volunteers will be returned to the same location at 4.00 pm on Friday 20 September.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** $120 per person.

Stewart Island/Rakiura – long-term biodiversity volunteers

We are seeking long-term volunteers to assist with the delivery of the Stewart Island/Rakiura biodiversity programmes. Volunteers will work alongside DOC rangers and assist with a variety of tasks, including weed eradication, threatened species work and animal pest control. The work will be undertaken at various locations within the Rakiura National Park and around Halfmoon Bay, and will involve a variety of field-based overnight excursions and local projects. This is a great opportunity to have lots of fun and to gain valuable skills and first-hand experience in conservation.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** High.

**ACCOMMODATION:** This is provided.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre, Stewart Island/Rakiura. Times and dates will be confirmed with the successful applicants.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STEWART ISLAND/RAKIURA</th>
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<td>2 volunteers for 3 months per trip</td>
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**TRIP A:** Monday 7 October – Monday 6 January 2020

**TRIP B:** Friday 20 December – Friday 27 March 2020

There is no charge for these trips. However, volunteers will need to make their own travel arrangements to and from Stewart Island/Rakiura. Food will only be provided while away on overnight field trips – volunteers will need to provide all other food.
Catlins coast – yellow-eyed penguin/hoiho nest search

Each year, volunteers help DOC rangers to search for yellow-eyed penguin/hoiho nests at monitored breeding areas along the Catlins coast. This is a great opportunity to get off the beaten track and experience some spectacular locations while searching for these elusive and endangered birds.

The Catlins is a wonderful place to visit, with many scenic reserves and beaches. Time permitting, there may be a chance to visit some of the local tourist attractions in the evenings.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Medium to high. Volunteers must be agile, capable of bending over for long periods of time, and willing to crawl through dense coastal vegetation, over uneven surfaces and on rocky shores. Good eyesight (or at least good glasses/contact lenses!) and the ability to accurately record data are also important.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Former lighthouse keeper’s residence at Nugget Point (managed by DOC) – a fully-furnished four-bedroom brick house at the top of the reserve. A shower and laundry facilities are available, and all kitchen appliances and equipment are provided.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the DOC Field Centre, 20 Ryley Street, Owaka at 1.00 pm on Monday 14 October. The activity will finish at Nugget Point/Tokatā around 12.00 pm on Friday 18 October and return transport will be provided to Owaka if required.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION:** $90 per person.

Sandfly Bay – wildlife viewing ranger

Sandfly Bay is one of the Otago Peninsula’s most popular destinations, featuring yellow eyed penguins/hoiho, sea lions/rāpoka and other wildlife. Volunteers will educate visitors about the penguins and how to behave around wildlife.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Medium.

**ACCOMMODATION:** This is not provided.

**LOCATION:** Volunteers will need to make their own way to Sandfly Bay each evening, which is a 20-minute drive from Dunedin.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** There is no charge for this activity. However, volunteers will need to provide their own transport or we may be able to arrange transport with other volunteers.

**TO REGISTER / FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Volunteers must contact the DOC Dunedin Visitor Centre to book this activity – phone 03 474 6961. Volunteers must be able to commit to several nights a month. Training will be provided. For further information, visit [www.doc.govt.nz/otagovolunteers](http://www.doc.govt.nz/otagovolunteers).
Moturau Moana – historic native garden maintenance

Tucked away on the north shore of Halfmoon Bay with views into Bragg Bay, Butterfield Beach and beyond are the picturesque gardens of Moturau Moana. Originally the site of Noeline Baker’s Dutch colonial home, the property was gifted to the New Zealand Government in the 1940s. Miss Baker was awarded the Loder Cup in 1949 for her keen interest in New Zealand’s native plants and for making the gardens available to the public.

Although the homestead burnt down in 1967, the local community board still maintains the gardens with DOC’s assistance, helping the Stewart Island/Rakiura community to retain an important visitor site.

Tasks will include tree trimming, weeding, planting, garden maintenance and tidying, as well as propagating native plants at the Stewart Island Community Native Plant Nursery.

STEWART ISLAND/ RAKIURA

4 volunteers for 5 days

Monday 21 October – Friday 25 October 2019

FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL: Medium. May involve working in the rain, mud and other coastal conditions, as well as long periods of bending and/or kneeling.

ACCOMMODATION: Local shared accommodation – details will be confirmed with the successful applicants.

PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES: Meet at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre, Stewart Island/Rakiura at 10.30 am on Monday 21 October. Volunteers will be returned to the same location at around 3.00 pm on Friday 25 October.

CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION: $80 per person.

Stewart Island/Rakiura – long-term recreation/historic volunteers

We are seeking long-term volunteers to assist with the delivery of the Stewart Island/Rakiura recreation and historic work programme. Volunteers will work alongside DOC rangers and help with a variety of tasks, including hut and track maintenance. The work will be carried out at various locations around Stewart Island/Rakiura and you will visit some very remote areas. There will be a variety of field-based overnight excursions and local projects.

This is a great opportunity to have lots of fun and to gain valuable skills and first-hand experience in conservation.

STEWART ISLAND/ RAKIURA

1 volunteer for 3 months per trip

TRIP A: Tuesday 29 October – Friday 31 January 2020

TRIP B: Tuesday 4 February – Wednesday 29 April 2020

FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL: High. Volunteers must have good communication skills as this activity involves working in small teams out in the field.

ACCOMMODATION: This is provided.

PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES: Meet at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre, Stewart Island/Rakiura. Times and dates will be confirmed with the successful applicants.

CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION: There is no charge for these trips. However, volunteers will need to make their own travel arrangements to and from Stewart Island/Rakiura. Food will only be provided while away on overnight field trips – volunteers will need to provide all other food.
Stewart Island/Rakiura – hut rangers

This is an excellent opportunity to experience the backcountry of Stewart Island/Rakiura. Hut rangers will be based at either Port William Hut or North Arm Hut on the Rakiura Track, and possibly at Mason Bay Hut on the North West Circuit and Southern Circuit tracks. All of these sites have significant historical value.

Volunteers will meet visitors from all over the world each day. Tasks will include walking long distances with a pack, using track maintenance tools, checking hut tickets, checking traps, and cleaning huts and facilities. Safety equipment will be supplied but volunteers are expected to bring their own boots, gaiters and rain gear. You may also see kiwi in the wild, so make sure to bring your camera!

Applicants may be interviewed to ensure their compatibility for this trip.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Hut warden’s quarters while in the field.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre, Stewart Island/Rakiura. Dates and times will be confirmed with the successful applicants.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** There is no charge for this activity. However, volunteers will need to make their own travel arrangements to and from Stewart Island/Rakiura and will also need to provide their own food on their days off in Oban. Food will be provided for one volunteer.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:**
Medium. Volunteers will be working 4–6 hours per day. They must be good with people, self-motivated, and willing to set and clear rat traps. Comprehensive training will be provided but an up-to-date first aid certificate is advisable.

Port William/Potirepo, North Arm and Mason Bay
STEWART ISLAND/ RAKIURA

1–2 volunteers for 2–4 weeks per trip

Friday 1 November – Monday 2 December 2019
Stewart Island/Rakiura – annual hut maintenance

Volunteers are needed to help with the annual maintenance of huts around the coastline of Stewart Island/Rakiura. The focus will be on the huts around Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera and/or the North West Circuit.

This is an ideal opportunity to visit the breathtaking beaches and picturesque rugged coastline of the island while doing worthwhile work interspersed with bird watching, photography, hunting and/or fishing (permits required).

Tasks will include painting, a full interior clean down and light building repairs.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Medium to high. Volunteers must be agile and capable of getting in and out of small boats confidently. They must also be able to carry personal gear and lots of heavy work equipment from the beach landings to the huts.

**ACCOMMODATION:** A variety of basic backcountry huts.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre, Stewart Island/Rakiura at 10.30 am on Monday 4 November. Volunteers will be returned to the same location at around 3.00 pm on Tuesday 12 November.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** There is no charge for this activity. However, volunteers will need to make their own travel arrangements to and from Stewart Island/Rakiura.

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Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre

This a fantastic opportunity to help with the day-to-day running of the busy Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre. Volunteers will provide visitors with quality information and excellent customer service to ensure they have a safe and rewarding experience on the island. There may also be opportunities to get out and about around the island to help the field team.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Low. Customer service skills are essential and previous experience working in tourism is a bonus. This would suit an enthusiastic and motivated person who enjoys dealing with a variety of people.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Basic shared accommodation.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre, Stewart Island/Rakiura. Times and dates will be confirmed with the successful applicants.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** There is no charge for these trips. However, volunteers must bring their own food (available to buy on the island) for the duration of the trip. DOC will provide transport to and from Stewart Island/Rakiura but transport around the island is not provided – it is a 10–15-minute walk from the accommodation to the visitor centre or you could bring your bike!
Southland Ski Club – hut maintenance

Discover Southland’s best kept secret and enjoy spectacular views over northern Southland and the hills above Garston while helping out with historic restoration work on the old Southland Ski Club hut.

The main task on this trip will be to re-pile the hut and give the interior a general clean and tidy up. There will also be the opportunity to visit places that are seldom seen by the public.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Medium. Building skills would be beneficial for this trip.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Fully-furnished house at Athol. A hot shower and laundry facilities are available, and all kitchen appliances and equipment are provided.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the DOC workshop (at the rear of Marshall Industries), 193 Bond Street, Invercargill at 8.30 am on Monday 11 November. Alternatively, volunteers can meet the group in Athol at 12.30 pm on Monday 11 November – please advise the leader if you wish to do this. Volunteers will be returned to the DOC workshop at around 3.00 pm on Saturday 16 November.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** $150 per person.

Mavora Lakes Hut and facility maintenance

The Mavora Lakes area is an impressive landscape of serene lakes, mountains, open tussock, grasslands and beech forest. With its large campground and five backcountry huts, the area is very popular in the summer months, as it is a great place for camping, fishing, mountain biking, tramping and water sports. This is a fantastic opportunity to come and explore this beautiful place.

Tasks will include hut cleaning, building repairs, campsite maintenance, track maintenance and setting up hut water supplies before the busy summer season starts.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Medium. Carpentry/building skills would be very useful on this trip.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Backcountry huts.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the DOC workshop, 19 Caswell Road, Te Anau at 9.00 am on Monday 11 November. Volunteers will be returned to the same location at 4.00 pm on Friday 15 November.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** $100 per person.
Curio Bay – rangers

Curio Bay is one of Southland’s most popular destinations and is home to several endangered endemic species, such as Hector’s dolphin/upokohue and the yellow-eyed penguin/hoiho, as well as a remarkable fossilised forest. Rangers are needed to monitor visitor behaviour in Curio and Porpoise bays, and to educate visitors about how to behave around sensitive species and the fossilised forest.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Low. Rangers must be visible around Porpoise Bay for periods throughout the day to provide information to visitors about sea lions and dolphins. They must also be present on the rock platform and penguin walk area from 4.00 pm to 9.00 pm daily, depending on tourist numbers and penguin movements. Volunteers must be good with people, have a mature attitude, be able to communicate well and have a good understanding of the English language. Rangers will also be required to shift signs and move rope barriers as dictated by the tide.

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**THE CATLINS**

2 volunteers for 2 weeks per trip

**TRIP A:** Monday 25 November – Monday 9 December 2019

**TRIP B:** Monday 9 December – Monday 23 December 2019

**TRIP C:** Monday 23 December 2019 – Monday 6 January 2020

**TRIP D:** Monday 6 January – Monday 20 January 2020

**TRIP E:** Monday 20 January – Monday 3 February 2020

**TRIP F:** Monday 3 February – Monday 17 February 2020

**TRIP G:** Monday 17 February – Monday 2 March 2020

**TRIP H:** Monday 2 March – Monday 16 March 2020

**TRIP I:** Monday 16 March – Monday 30 March 2020

**TRIP J:** Monday 30 March – Wednesday 15 April 2020

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**ACCOMMODATION:** This will be confirmed with the successful applicants.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** The meeting time, location and training will be arranged with the successful applicants.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:**

There is no charge for this activity. However, volunteers will need to provide their own food and transport. Due to the isolated location of Curio Bay, volunteers must have their own vehicle.
Nugget Point Lighthouse Reserve – summer rangers

Nugget Point / Tokata Point is a popular tourist destination where rare endemic botanical and wildlife species can be found, such as the yellow-eyed penguin/hoiho. Rangers are needed to provide assistance and conservation education to visitors, as well as to maintain facilities and clean toilets as required – due to high visitor numbers, the facilities must be clean and tidy at all times. This a great opportunity for a couple or two friends.

FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL: Low. Rangers need to be visible in the reserve for 4–6 hours per day, particularly around the viewing area in the evenings. The tracks around the reserve are well formed and an easy gradient. Volunteers need to have good communication skills and enjoy talking to people from the local area, as well as other parts of New Zealand and overseas.

ACCOMMODATION: Former lighthouse keeper’s residence (managed by DOC) – a fully-furnished four-bedroom brick house at the top of the reserve. A hot shower and laundry facilities are available, and all kitchen appliances and equipment are provided. Each volunteer will have their own bedroom, but the kitchen/living area and bathroom may be shared from time to time with DOC staff working in the area.

THE CATLINS

2 volunteers for 2 weeks per trip

TRIP A: Monday 2 December – Monday 16 December 2019
TRIP B: Monday 16 December – Monday 30 December 2019
TRIP C: Monday 30 December 2019 – Monday 13 January 2020
TRIP D: Monday 13 January – Monday 27 January 2020
TRIP E: Monday 27 January – Monday 10 February 2020
TRIP F: Monday 10 February – Monday 24 February 2020
TRIP G: Monday 24 February – Monday 9 March 2020
TRIP H: Monday 9 March – Monday 23 March 2020
TRIP I: Monday 23 March – Monday 6 April 2020
TRIP J: Monday 6 April – Monday 20 April 2020

PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:
Meet at the DOC Owaka Field Centre, 20 Ryley Street, Owaka at 9.00 am. Volunteers will be returned to the same location at 10.00 am on the dates stated above.

CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:
There is no charge for this activity. However, volunteers will need to provide their own food and transport. Due to the isolated location of Nugget Point / Tokata Point, volunteers must have their own vehicle.
Ulva Island – rangers

Ulva Island is the jewel in the crown of Rakiura National Park. This predator-free, open island sanctuary is just 8 minutes by boat across Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera from Golden Bay. The island has abundant birdlife, rich forest, golden sand beaches and a variety of well-formed walking tracks.

This is a rare opportunity to stay in this island paradise while acting as a roving ranger during the height of the visitor season.

Tasks will include track maintenance, weed surveillance, visitor facility maintenance, cleaning toilets, biosecurity advocacy and monitoring visitor behaviour. There will also be ample time for other pursuits, such as bird watching and photography.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Medium. Good communication skills and an interest in conservation are essential. Some experience with GPS would be an advantage. Applicants may be interviewed for their suitability.

**ACCOMMODATION:**

Rangers will be expected to reside on the island. A single-room basic hut is located a short walk from the island’s jetty in Post Office Cove. This hut has solar lighting, gas cooking facilities and can comfortably accommodate two people, so this opportunity may suit a couple or two friends. Water is supplied from a rainwater tank and there is a solar shower and long drop toilet. Occasional trips off the island are possible and may be arranged on a per case basis.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre, Stewart Island/Rakiura. Dates and times will be confirmed with the successful applicants.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** There is no charge for this activity. However, volunteers will need to make their own travel arrangements to and from Stewart Island/Rakiura. Return transport between Golden Bay and Ulva Island is provided. Food is also provided for one volunteer – a partner or friend can accompany the volunteer at their own expense and must provide their own food for the duration of their stay.
Hollyford valley – track and hut maintenance

This is a fantastic opportunity to experience part of a popular track in Fiordland and to learn about the area’s interesting history.

The first afternoon will consist of a health and safety briefing for all volunteers, after which the group will help arrange food and equipment for the following day. Everyone will then be flown to the huts, offering spectacular views of the Hollyford area.

Volunteers will work alongside DOC rangers to undertake tasks such as hut cleaning, structure maintenance, track maintenance and trimming back vegetation.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Medium to high.

**ACCOMMODATION:** The first night will be spent at the local holiday park in Te Anau (this will be organised for the group). The remainder of the trip will be based at various huts along the Hollyford Track.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the DOC workshop, 19 Caswell Road, Te Anau at 1.00 pm on Monday 2 December. Volunteers will be returned to the same location in the early afternoon on Tuesday 10 December.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** $300 per person.

Mason Bay – historic homestead maintenance

Volunteers are needed to continue the maintenance and cleaning of the historic farm homestead and out buildings at Mason Bay. This area has one of the highest densities of kiwi in the world, so you will have a good chance of seeing this amazing New Zealand icon in its natural habitat.

Tasks will include painting, wallpapering, recladding, building maintenance and cleaning.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Medium. Volunteers must be able to carry a heavy pack for 2 km from Mason Bay beach to Mason Bay homestead. Also, much of the work will be up ladders and using hand tools. On this trip, some wallpaper will be replaced, so experience using scrim and flour paste would be an advantage, as well as basic carpentry skills.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Historic homestead. This warm and cosy hut can sleep six people and has basic facilities.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre, Stewart Island/Rakiura at 9.00 am on Monday 3 February. Volunteers will be returned to the same location at around 3.00 pm on Wednesday 12 February.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** $250 per person. In addition, volunteers will need to make their own travel arrangements to and from Stewart Island/Rakiura.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** There are a lot of bumble bees at Mason Bay and it is not advisable to wear blue clothing. In case of allergies, you must carry your own medication and advise the trip leader.
Southland – preservation of historic relics

This is a wonderful opportunity to discover several of Southland’s historic relics and help to preserve them for future generations. Volunteers will be based in Invercargill for the week and will travel to multiple locations around Southland, during which time they will get to explore the gold mining relics in Longwood Forest, the hauler in Waipohatu Recreation Area, the bucket dredge at Waipapa Point, the coastal warning system (radar) on top of Bluff Hill/Motupōhue and the Gunpit Coastal Defence Camp in Bluff.

Tasks will include clearing vegetation and applying the metal preservative ‘Ensis oil’ to all of the relics, which will help to prevent further deterioration.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Medium. Most sites are easily accessible, but on one day volunteers will be required to walk for 2–3 hours in the bush on relatively flat terrain.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Tuatara Backpackers in Invercargill.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the DOC workshop (at the rear of Marshall Industries), 193 Bond Street, Invercargill at 8.30 am on Monday 10 February. Volunteers will be returned to the same location at around 4.00 pm on Friday 14 February.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** $200 per person.

Otago Central Rail Trail – building maintenance

The Otago Central Rail Trail – New Zealand’s Original Great Ride – meanders through Central Otago from Clyde to Middlemarch. This 152-km-long route provides cycling and walking opportunities for thousands of visitors each year. Old railway buildings, gates and bridges are key features along the trail, and it is important that they are looked after.

Volunteers will travel each day from Macraes Base to the Otago Central Rail Trail. The main task on this trip will be painting small gangers and station buildings between Hyde and Middlemarch. If the weather is unsuitable for painting, volunteers will undertake amenity maintenance on the Rail Trail or at Golden Point Historic Reserve.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Low. Volunteers must be able to work all day in windy and hot conditions, and will also be required to walk up to 2 km to access some sites. Painting and building skills would be useful on this trip.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Dorm-style bunkrooms at Macraes Base. There is also space to camp outside for those preferring more privacy. Hot showers, electricity and limited cellphone coverage are available at Macraes Base.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at Macraes Base, 497 Redbank Road, RD3, Macraes Flat at 9.00 am on Monday 11 November. Volunteers will be returned to the same location at 3.00 pm on Friday 15 November.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** $115 per person.
Fiordland – lakeside hut maintenance

This is an amazing opportunity to explore two of Fiordland’s beautiful lakes. Volunteers will carry out maintenance on a variety of different huts around Monowai Lake and Lake Hauroko. Tasks will include cleaning, small building repairs, painting, removing rubbish and clearing vegetation.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:**
Low to medium. This trip is suitable for people who are not active trampers, but all volunteers must be agile and capable of getting in and out of a small boat confidently.

**ACCOMMODATION:**
Basic backcountry huts. Volunteers are welcome to bring their own tents if they prefer more privacy.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:**
Meet at the DOC workshop, 19 Caswell Road, Te Anau at 9.00 am on Monday 2 March. Volunteers will be returned to the same location in the early afternoon on Friday 6 March.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:**
$125 per person.

Port William/Potirepo – hauler and sawmill site maintenance

Come and explore New Zealand’s southernmost Great Walk and discover its rich history. This activity involves carrying out maintenance on historic sawmilling machines around Port William/Potirepo and Maori Beach. Tasks include vegetation clearance, as well as cleaning down old machinery and applying metal preservative to help slow the deterioration of these important relics.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:**
High. This trip involves walking for extended periods of time carrying heavy tools and equipment. Volunteers must be capable of getting in and out of a small boat confidently and there is a 40-minute climb from the beach landing up to the hauler site.

**ACCOMMODATION:**
Tents at Maori Beach.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:**
Meet at the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre, Stewart Island/Rakiura at 10.00 am on Tuesday 3 March. Volunteers will be returned to the same location at around 12.00 pm on Tuesday 10 March.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:**
$120 per person. In addition, volunteers will need to make their own travel arrangements to and from Stewart Island/Rakiura.
Piano Flat – historic water race restoration

Volunteers will carry out maintenance on the historic water race in the Piano Flat area, the only known operational water race in Southland. The work will involve clearing weeds, cutting back vegetation, earthworks and fluming maintenance. This beautiful location has great opportunities for trout fishing, bush walks and photography.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:**
Medium to high.

**ACCOMMODATION:** This will be confirmed with the successful applicants.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the DOC workshop (at the rear of Marshall Industries), 193 Bond Street, Invercargill at 8.30 am on Monday 9 March. Alternatively, volunteers can meet at Piano Flat – please advise the trip leader if you wish to do this. Volunteers will be returned to the DOC workshop at around 4.00 pm on Friday 13 March.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:**
$150 per person.

Milford Road – historic maintenance

This is a fantastic opportunity to explore Milford Sound/Piopiotahi while helping with a range of work along the Milford Road and maintaining local walks and historic sites around the sound. Tasks will include painting, clearing vegetation, small building repairs and historical maintenance.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:**
Low. This trip is suitable for people who are less active but can still walk for 1–2 hours without a pack.

**ACCOMMODATION:** DOC staff accommodation at Milford Sound. The house has a bunkroom, kitchen, fire and hot shower, as well as a great view down the sound!

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the DOC workshop, 19 Caswell Road, Te Anau at 9.00 am on Monday 16 March. Volunteers will be returned to the same location at 4.00 pm on Friday 20 March.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:**
$100 per person.
Burwood Takahē Centre

Volunteering at the Burwood Takahē Centre will provide you with the opportunity to contribute to the Takahē Recovery Programme while also learning about this threatened species, DOC’s captive breeding programme and the challenges the birds face. A major highlight is viewing takahē up close in their natural environment and learning about the conservation management techniques the Recovery Team is employing to help bring this species back from the brink of extinction.

Volunteers will work with DOC rangers at the Burwood Takahē Centre, carrying out a variety of tasks to help keep the takahē safe and healthy. Tasks will include weekly feeding, checking and re-baiting the trapping network in and around the pens, as well as other general maintenance.

FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL: Medium. This activity involves working outdoors for 6–8 hours per day on uneven terrain.

ACCOMMODATION: Shared accommodation in a fully-furnished cottage at the Burwood Takahē Centre. Hot showers, laundry facilities, kitchen appliances and equipment are provided.

PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES: Meet at the Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre, Lakefront Drive, Te Anau at 9.00 am on Monday 20 April. Volunteers will be returned to the same location at 5.00 pm on Friday 24 April.

CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT: There is no charge for this activity. However, volunteers will need to provide their own transport to Te Anau and food for the week.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: The nearest town with groceries and supplies is a 30-minute drive away in Te Anau. There are no public transport options.
Awarua-Waituna Wetlands – casual volunteer opportunities

The Awarua-Waituna Wetlands is an internationally significant Ramsar wetland site and one of the largest remaining wetland complexes in the country. Various opportunities arise throughout the year to assist with planting, weed control, predator control and wildlife surveys at this site.

This is a great opportunity for people who really want to lend a hand but can only volunteer for short periods of time. Volunteers will be contacted throughout the year to check their availability as opportunities become available.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Low to medium. Volunteers must be capable of walking on uneven ground, often among rank grass and with the possibility of getting their feet wet!

**ACCOMMODATION:** No accommodation is provided as these are day trips.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** As each opportunity may be different, the meeting location and time will be confirmed with the participating volunteers.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** There is no charge for the day trips. However, volunteers will need to provide their own food and drink.

Port Craig Hut and South Coast Track – maintenance

The Port Craig area has an amazing story to tell, with many relics remaining today. On a clear day, the coastal and mountain views are breathtaking.

The first afternoon will consist of a health and safety briefing for all volunteers, after which the group will help arrange food and equipment for the following day. Volunteers will then be in for a spectacular treat, as the group will be flown to and from Port Craig by helicopter.

Tasks will include track work, clearing vegetation and minor structure maintenance. There will also be time to explore this wonderful part of southern Fiordland.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Medium to high. Extended periods of time may be spent using a scrub bar.

**ACCOMMODATION:** The first night will be spent at the local holiday park in Te Anau, (this will be organised for the group). The remainder of the trip will be based at the Port Craig School Hut.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the DOC workshop, 19 Caswell Road, Te Anau at 1.00 pm on Monday 8 June. Volunteers will be returned to the same location in the early afternoon on Tuesday 16 June.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** $300 per person.
Dunedin – trail crew

Dunedin and Coastal Otago are blessed with countless trails that can be explored on foot or by bike. As part of the Dunedin trail crew, you will be working on some of our high-priority tracks at Sandymount or Sandfly Bay, or on the Grahams Bush and Organ Pipes (Dunedin City Council) tracks.

Activities will involve using hand tools or weed trimmers to repair trail surfaces to create good drainage and help keep the tracks clear of leaves and branches.

As a trail-crew member you will work with fellow trailblazers – and a trail boss or DOC ranger to ensure you’re getting the work done and having a good time. You will develop a range of track skills, such as vegetation clearance, drainage, building natural trails and much more. You will also meet other amazing people and see some great places.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** High.

Volunteers will often need to work on steep, slippery, shrubby terrain. Weather conditions won’t always be good, but work will be called off if the conditions are unsafe. Sharp and heavy tools will also be used at times, but training will be provided. No toilet facilities are available on site. There are also other volunteer opportunities with the trail crew for those without a high level of fitness. Please email the contact person below to find out more.

**ACCOMMODATION:** This is not provided.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the DOC Dunedin Office (Level 1, John Wickliffe House, 265 Princes Street) or at the site. This will be confirmed with the volunteers.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** There is no charge for this activity. However, volunteers will need to provide their own food and drink.

**TO REGISTER / FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Apply online by visiting [www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/volunteer/in-your-region/otago/trail-crew-volunteers/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/volunteer/in-your-region/otago/trail-crew-volunteers/) or contact Catherine Hosted for further information – email chosted@doc.govt.nz.
Dunedin – War on Weeds

Part of what makes Dunedin special is its unique flora and fauna. We need your help to protect these species and help them flourish.

War on Weeds is a wild adventure targeting special locations throughout Dunedin. It’s about controlling weeds that threaten the survival of native plants and adding to habitat by planting new stock. You could be working in several roles, including leadership, storytelling or as a crew member.

If you’re keen to keep Dunedin safe from troublesome pest plants, create native habitat, make new friends and travel to amazing places, then register your interest today!

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Medium to high.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Accommodation is provided only for overnight trips and varies depending on the location – you could be staying in a tent, lodge, backcountry hut or motel.

**PICKUP/DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES:** Meet at the DOC Dunedin Office (Level 1, John Wickliffe House, 265 Princes Street) or at the site. This will be confirmed with the participating volunteers.

**CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FOOD AND TRANSPORT:** There is no charge for this activity. However, volunteers will need to provide their own food and drink.

**TO REGISTER / FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Apply online by visiting www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/volunteer/in-your-region/otago/dunedin-war-on-weeds/ or contact Catherine Hosted for further information: chosted@doc.govt.nz.
Bluff Hill/Motupōhue Environment Trust

Bluff is a town and seaport that is situated 30 km south of Invercargill. The Bluff/Motupōhue is culturally, recreationally and ecologically important, and one of the last populated places in New Zealand where the forest meets the sea.

The Bluff Hill/Motupōhue Environment Trust is dedicated to the restoration and protection of the natural environment on and around Motupōhue. It does this through pest control, revegetation, species translocation, education and raising public awareness. The Trust aims to provide an environment where native birds, plants and invertebrates thrive – not just survive – on and around Motupōhue.

Volunteer opportunities include working control lines – clearing overgrown vegetation, rebaiting stations and cleaning out traps – on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis. You can be a solo worker or put a team together and alternate work periods. This work takes 2–4 hours depending on the control line. An experienced line worker will train you on your first day on your line, and basic tools and equipment will be provided.

This is a great chance to get fresh air and exercise while enjoying bird song and experiencing the satisfaction of catching pests in our traps.

The Trust relies on volunteers to run its projects and is always keen to welcome new people.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Medium to high.

**TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Visit the Trust’s website: [www.bluffenvirotrust.org](http://www.bluffenvirotrust.org) and Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bluff-HillMotupohue-Environment-Trust/164808766941723](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bluff-HillMotupohue-Environment-Trust/164808766941723).

Coal Island/Te Puka Hereka

The South West New Zealand Endangered Species Charitable Trust was established in 2004 and has members with private, government and iwi interests, and a close working relationship with DOC.

In 2005, the Trust developed and implemented a plan to rid Coal Island of red deer, stoats and mice. With the initial eradication now complete, it is essential that work continues to keep the island pest free so that it can flourish and to allow the introduction of endangered native birds, invertebrates, lizards and plants. To help achieve this, volunteers are needed to help conduct several trap checks throughout the year.

**TO REGISTER / FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**
Visit [www.coal island.co.nz](http://www.coal island.co.nz).

Coal Island, Preservation Inlet
FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK

There will be numerous trips throughout the year.
Coastal Otago

Conservation groups around Dunedin and the coastal Otago area are keen to hear from new volunteers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Find out about the latest news and events from Conservation Volunteers Coastal Otago on Facebook at http://ow.ly/wiVOb. For further information and contact details, see the bimonthly conservation newsletter produced by the DOC Dunedin Office, which is available online at www.doc.govt.nz/otagovolunteers.

Southland Community Nursery and Education Centre

The Southland Community Nursery at Otatara near Invercargill gives volunteers the chance to grow their own locally sourced native plants for conservation activities. Training days for plant propagation and a wide range of nature-related workshops are available throughout the year.

Volunteers can also lend a hand in the nursery or assist with school visits to the Education Centre on site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Visit www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz or contact Chris Rance – phone 03 213 1161 or email rances@southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz.

Forest and Bird – spring bird count

Volunteers are required to assist with 5-minute bird counts amidst the beautiful coastal forest that lies behind Tautuku Beach and up the valley of the Fleming River. Sites are 200 m apart along cut and marked tracks that have been in place for nearly 2 years.

Come for a single day or the whole weekend – cabins will be available after lunch on Friday. If you’re coming for a single day, we will meet each morning at the main cabin at 7.30 am. Counts will take place between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm, but the majority will be completed in the morning.

Opportunities will also be available to explore the nearby forest and coast.

FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL: Good hearing is essential. This activity can suit a variety of fitness levels as there are multiple sites to count at, some of which are easily accessible while others are steeper and further away. Preference will be given to experienced bird counters, but spaces may be available for those who are keen to learn.

ACCOMMODATION: Comfortable Forest & Bird cabins in the Lenz Reserve. The cabins have full facilities but volunteers will need to bring their own sleeping bags, pillow cases, personal gear and food.

LOCATION: Meet in the main cabin at Lenz Reserve on the Catlins coast.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Francesca Cunningham, Tautuku Restoration Project Leader – email f.cunninghame@forestandbird.org.nz.
Mamaku Point Conservation Trust

This Trust is guardian of the Mamaku Point Conservation Reserve, an 18-year-old ecological restoration project that encompasses the entire peninsula beyond the Lee Bay and Horseshoe Bay beaches on Stewart Island/Rakiura. The 158-ha reserve includes ancient native podocarp forest and areas that were previously grazed as farmland. It is protected by a 2.1-km-long predator-proof fence that protects more than 125 species of native birds, plants and invertebrates from invasive predators.

The Trust welcomes local or visiting volunteers to help with a range of projects, such as track clearance, weed control, fence maintenance, replanting and restoration of the old school camp.

**FITNESS/SKILL LEVEL:** Moderate. Volunteers should have a moderate level of fitness and basic bush navigation skills.

**FOOD:** Volunteers will need to provide their own food (which may be prepared in the reserve’s kitchen facility).

**ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT:** Volunteers who are visiting the island will be provided with accommodation within the reserve, as well as transport to and from the ferry/flight terminal.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Visit www.mamakupoint.co.nz or contact Antony – phone 021 949 960 or email antony@mamakupoint.nz.

Omaui Landcare Charitable Trust

On New Zealand’s south coast, approximately 25 minutes southwest of Invercargill, lies the beautiful Omaui Scenic Reserve. The Omaui Landcare Charitable Trust is a small and dedicated pest-control group made up of local residents and people from Invercargill and beyond. The Trust is currently restoring the ecosystem at Omaui to provide a place where native species are not only surviving but thriving!

The Trust is always keen to welcome new volunteers, so please come and lend a hand with renewing baits and gas packs in our network of Goodnature A24 traps during August and February. This is a great opportunity to make a difference while getting fresh air and exercise and enjoying the stunning views.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Visit the Trust’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OmauiLandcareCharitableTrust or contact John Collins – phone 022 635 1224 or email omauilandcaregroup@gmail.com.
Orokonui Living Legends

The Orokonui Scenic Reserve is a 28-ha tidal estuary at the base of Orokonui valley and the southern reach of Blueskin Bay. It is important for whitebait and wading birds, and is a peaceful recreation area for the residents of Waitati.

Living Legends aims to transform the low-lying rank pasture into a thriving natural wetland, much like it might have been more than 150 years ago. By establishing and growing native plantings, the restored habitat at Orokonui Scenic Reserve will link the Orokonui Ecosanctuary (307 ha of 100-year-old regenerating forest) with Blueskin Bay to create a single ‘mountains to sea’ ecosystem of indigenous vegetation that provides foraging habitat for Orokonui birds.

Regular work days take place from September to May on the last Sunday of each month from 9.30 am to 12.15 pm. Dates are adjusted for public holidays, so please check the DOC website for updates. There are no work days from June to August.

**TRANSPORT:** Transport is available from the Otago University Bookshop, 378 Great King Street, North Dunedin at 9.00 am. Alternatively, volunteers can meet at the Orokonui Estuary at the end of Foyle Street, Waitati at 9.30 am.

**TO REGISTER / FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** If you wish to participate, please phone the DOC Dunedin Office on 03 474 0677. For further information, visit www.doc.govt.nz/otagovolunteers.

Otatara Landcare Group

Since 2000, the Otatara Landcare Group, along with many volunteers, has put a lot of time into restoring a 14-hectare area of pasture grass that is located between two remnants of nationally significant native tōtara forest. To date, the Bushy Point Restoration Project has seen 30,000 native plants being planted in this magnificent area. You can join this community effort for a big planting day on Saturday 14 September 2019.

The Landcare Group also organises predator trapping over 90 hectares around Bushy Point as part of the Otatara Pestbusters programme.

There are often opportunities to volunteer at this site and any help you can give is welcomed.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Visit www.otataralandcare.org.nz, or contact Chris Rance on 03 213 1161, or Barry Smith on 03 213 1150.
Pomona Island Charitable Trust

This Trust aims to maintain Pomona Island in Lake Manapouri as a predator-free sanctuary where native bird species can thrive. Home to the critically endangered Haast tokoeka, as well as the yellowhead/mohua, South Island robin, kea and New Zealand falcon/kārearea, Pomona Island is an accessible location for visitors to see, hear and learn about the flora and fauna that are native to Fiordland. Volunteers undertake regular trap checks to keep the island free of introduced predators.

TO REGISTER / FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: If you would like to be added to our volunteer email list and receive information on future working bees on Pomona, please email pomona.rona@gmail.com.

Stewart Island/Rakiura Community and Environment Trust (SIRCET)

SIRCET has been carrying out pest control and habitat restoration in a 210-hectare area on the edge of Oban township for the past 17 years. It maintains lines of rat and possum traps, controls invasive weeds, maintains a native planting restoration site at Lonnekers Beach / Lee Bay and has a community native plant nursery. SIRCET’s trapping efforts have significantly reduced pest numbers, allowing native birds to flourish, while the nursery produces native plants for planting sites and to enhance local gardens, providing habitat for native birds and invertebrates.

The Trust relies heavily on volunteers and has a variety of jobs to suit all fitness levels, including nursery work, trap construction, trap checks and monitoring, and track maintenance. Volunteers are welcome to help out for a few days or a few months.

ACCOMMODATION: This may be available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Visit the SIRCET website at www.sircet.org.nz or contact SIRCET – phone 0204 167 4160 or email pest-manager@sircet.org.nz.
Stewart Island Community
Native Plant Nursery

The Stewart Island Community Native Plant Nursery is a great resource for the local community, propagating eco-sourced native species to replace weeds, and helping with restoration activities around the township and in Rakiura National Park. The nursery produces native plants for planting sites and to enhance local gardens, providing habitat for native birds and invertebrates. Plants are also available to local residents for a donation. The nursery relies heavily on volunteer support, with community members and visiting school groups giving their time to propagate and raise seedlings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: If you are visiting Stewart Island/Rakiura and would like to help, contact SIRCET – phone 0204 167 416 or email pest-manager@sircet.org.nz.

Wakatipu Reforestation Trust

This Trust works with the community to grow and plant native plants, including threatened species, throughout the Wakatipu Basin near Queenstown. This creates wildlife corridors that attract native birds and insects back to the basin, significantly enhancing the area’s biodiversity. The dryland woodlands that were once prolific in the basin are currently one of the most threatened and least protected ecosystems in New Zealand.

The Trust welcomes volunteers to help out at the nursery every Wednesday and on community planting days throughout autumn and spring. All public planting days are advertised on the Trust’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wrtqt.org.nz, where you can also sign up for its e-newsletter.

The Trust also supports community groups at their own planting sites by providing plants and expertise.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Visit www.wrtqt.org.nz or contact the volunteer coordinator – email volunteer@wrtqt.org.nz.
**Wakatipu Wildlife Trust (WWT)**

The WWT is committed to creating and maintaining a predator-free environment throughout the greater Lake Wakatipu area to enable birds and other native wildlife to flourish. It is comprised of several like-minded community groups who undertake pest control within the area.

Fortunately, there are pockets of native forest in the Wakatipu Basin that are easily accessible, many of which have populations of native birds that need protection from introduced pests, particularly rats, stoats and possums. These birds include tūī, bellbird/korimako, New Zealand falcon/kārearea, New Zealand pigeon/kererū, fantail/pīwakawaka, rifleman/titipounamu, yellow-crowned kākāriki and kea, to name just a few.

The WWT is working towards the Government’s Predator Free 2050 goals and welcomes volunteers to assist its member groups with their trapping endeavours. Trapping sites range from Glenorchy at the head of the lake through to Fortune or Bobs Cove and Queenstown, as well as sites around the lake from Kelvin Heights through to Wye Creek. There are also opportunities to volunteer in Arrowtown and the Gibbston valley.

**TO REGISTER / FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Contact WWT – email hello@wakatipuwildlifetrust.org.nz.

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**Websites for additional opportunities**

- Department of Conservation: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)
- New Zealand Trust for Conservation Volunteers: [www.conservationvolunteers.org.nz](http://www.conservationvolunteers.org.nz)
- Conservation Volunteers New Zealand: [https://conservationvolunteers.co.nz](https://conservationvolunteers.co.nz)
Applying for activities

Complete the application form

Complete one application form for each person (photocopy extra copies if required) and send to: Department of Conservation, PO Box 743, Invercargill 9840. Do not send any money with your application. Or apply online: www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/volunteer.

When considering your activity options, take into account the fitness level required, the working conditions, and your availability.

Acceptance

You will receive confirmation of your booking once you have been accepted for your conservation activity. Every effort will be made to notify you in a reasonable time, but please note: if you are applying months in advance you may not receive notification of acceptance until closer to the activity’s scheduled date.

Due to the popularity of volunteer activities we are unable to guarantee that all applicants will be accepted for an activity. Many activities are oversubscribed, and ballots may be conducted in these circumstances.

We will advise any changes or additional details of the activity. If you are applying as a couple or with friends, please specify this on your application form.

Cancellation

If you are no longer able to attend an activity, notify the Volunteer Coordinator as soon as possible, either by phone on 03 211 2400, or email: invercargill@doc.govt.nz. Please note that last-minute volunteer cancellations may result in the whole activity being cancelled.

Volunteers who cancel with at least 4 weeks’ notice are eligible for a full refund. Cancellations within 4 weeks of the activity commencing are not eligible for a refund.

Extreme weather conditions (eg flooding, snow) may make it impractical to carry out the activity as defined here. In such cases we will make every effort to provide an alternative activity. If this is not possible we reserve the right to cancel the activity; a full refund will be made if this happens.

Application form

One application form required per person.

Note: 18 years is recommended as the minimum age without parental supervision. There is no upper age limit.

First name: .................................................................
Surname: .................................................................
Address: ...........................................................................
............................................................................................
............................................................................................
Postcode: .......... Email address: .................................
Telephone (day): .................. DOB: .....................

Male ☐ Female ☐

List the activities you are applying for below (in order of preference):

Activity no: Activity name and date:
.................................................................
.................................................................
.................................................................
.................................................................

Do you wish to participate in more than one activity (if spaces are available)? Yes/No

Do you have any skills/experience that might be useful (eg construction, painting)?

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Do you wish to have your contact details sent to other volunteers on the same activity for transportation arrangements? Yes/No

Do you have a current first aid certificate? Yes/No
Please state any medical conditions (eg diabetes, heart condition, asthma, allergies, food intolerance):

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Are you dependent on any medication?
Yes/No
Please state: ........................................................................
..............................................................................................
..............................................................................................

Dietary needs (eg vegetarian, vegan):
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Contact details of next-of-kin in case of an emergency:
Name: .................................................................................
Address: .............................................................................
..............................................................................................
..............................................................................................
Relationship: .................... Phone: .................................

☐ Please add me to the mailing list to receive the next conservation volunteer activities booklet.

Send to:
Conservation Volunteer Coordinator
Department of Conservation
PO Box 743
INVERCARGILL 9840

Phone: (03) 211 2400
Fax: (03) 214 4486
Email: invercargill@doc.govt.nz
For more information, contact:
Conservation Volunteer Coordinator
Department of Conservation
PO Box 743
INVERCARGILL 9840

PHONE: (03) 211 2400
FAX: (03) 214 4486
EMAIL: invercargill@doc.govt.nz