

# Tread carefully . . .

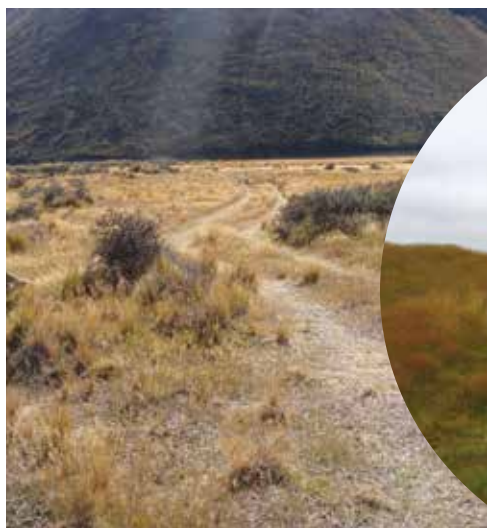


## Just grass?

Take a look around – what you see now isn't how it has always been. This was once a thriving mosaic of tussocklands, shrublands, herbfields and mossfields, amongst patches of beech and podocarps such as tōtara.

People have had an impact, but now the land has a chance to regenerate.

So take a closer look and help us help the precious remnants of the past make a comeback!



## *Unfortunately some activities cause damage:*

Vehicle tracks in the wrong place create bare ground, increase soil erosion and aid weed invasion, make a mess of the landscape and damage plants

Horses can bring in weed seeds and pollute and damage waterways.

People leave rubbish and disturb nesting birds.

Vehicle damage in a kettle hole Photo: M Davis

## Doughnuts and kettles don't mix!

Kettle holes are a feature of a glaciated landscape. The inhabitants of these are rare and unique. Because these sites can be either dry, or full of water, their plants have a remarkable life cycle; growing, flowering and seeding during the short time the water has receded.

Damage from vehicles, horses, mountain bikes and people's boots is a major threat to kettle holes and their communities. Disturbance of the turfs can tip the balance and cause more drying, increase weed invasion and change the composition of the plants.



## Take a closer look!

Hakaterere Conservation Park has amazing plants, many of which hug the ground to form a carpet of dense intertwining foliage.

Keep an eye out for these cool plants when you are out and about:



*Amphibromus fluitans* – water brome – nationally endangered. Photo: C Ogle

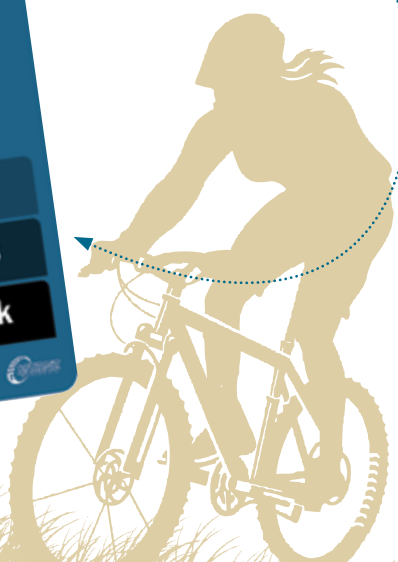


*Isolepis basilaris* – pygmy clubrush – nationally endangered. Photo: A Townsend



*Iphigenia novae-zelandiae* – gradual decline. Photo: D Given

If you are travelling by mountain bike remember to:



## We want people to enjoy this fabulous landscape. Keep to formed tracks and take care out there!

Follow the 4WD code of conduct to ensure the long-term sustainability of the activity and the environment.

- Stay on the main four-wheel drive (4WD) tracks. Avoid widening tracks.
- Avoid sensitive areas such as alpine landscapes, swamps, waterways, and river beds, which are easily damaged.
- Keep the environment clean. Take all your rubbish with you.
- Abide by the laws and regulations covering all vehicles and drivers.
- Protect plants, animals, historical and archaeological sites and geographic features. Respect wildlife, look but don't disturb. Keep your distance.
- Plan your trip. Ask the local DOC visitor centre about track conditions, fire restrictions, huts and campsites.
- Find out if a permit is required for access. Ask permission if your trip crosses private land.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Always thoroughly clean your vehicle before trips to avoid spreading weeds and plant and animal diseases.
- Respect the right of others for quiet enjoyment of the outdoors. Avoid noisy driving. Give way to walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers.
- Be prepared for the unexpected. Drive at a speed that will allow you to stop if a hazard arises.
- Cross waterways at designated crossings.
- Avoid tracks that are wet; they are easily damaged and expensive to repair.
- Keep your vehicle mechanically sound to reduce emissions.
- Carry a tent as huts can be full. Camp carefully and only light fires where permitted.
- Join a responsible 4WD club and learn more about how you can drive with minimal impact.

### Horse riders, to ensure weeds are not spread or fragile areas damaged within this sensitive environment, please:

Over-night your horses on local grass (not lucerne or meadow hay) before entering the park;

Check their hooves for foreign matter before entering the park;

Do not bring hay or feed grain into the park.

Do not take the horses to lake edges, streams or tarns to drink – take the water to them.