



Photo: Petrus Hedman

Experience a different 9 to 5

with a summer job at the

Department of Conservation

Hut Warden Ranger

Location	Takaka, Golden Bay District
Dates of Employment	October 2026 to June 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 on the Abel Tasman and Heaphy Track based in Tākaka, your role focuses on visitor hosting, hut and facility maintenance, and ensuring safe and enjoyable experiences for visitors across these iconic tracks. You will work in remote backcountry locations, maintaining facilities and supporting conservation outcomes while delivering high-quality visitor service.

Key Tasks

- Host visitors, providing information, support, and safety guidance
- Clean and maintain huts, campsites, and toilet facilities
- Carry out track maintenance and routine facility upkeep
- Monitor bookings and manage campsite capacity
- Complete daily reporting and records
- Maintain water, gas, and electrical systems
- Use tools and machinery (e.g. scrub cutters, mowers, herbicides)
- Respond to emergencies and support visitor safety
- Support seamless handovers between rostered rangers

Ngā pūkenga me ngā wheako | Skills and experience

- Ability to live and work in isolated, remote environments on your own and with other team members
- Strong self-management and ability to work independently without supervision
- Ability to work effectively as part of a small, collaborative team
- Strong communication skills, both written and verbal
- Confidence engaging with a wide range of visitors and stakeholders
- Problem-solving skills and ability to manage situations independently
- Understanding of Māori cultural perspectives

- Experience in maintenance of buildings, tracks, and facilities
- Physical fitness to undertake extended backcountry work (including long-distance walking up to 80km per roster on the Heaphy Track)
- Ability to use VHF radio systems and workplace technology
- Strong commitment to health and safety practices
- Full New Zealand driver's licence

Mō te tīma | About the team/Location

The Tākaka Operations team works across Heritage and Visitor, Biodiversity, and Community programmes, with staff based in Golden Bay and supporting both Abel Tasman and Kahurangi National Parks.

This role is part of a team of five Hut Warden/Rangers working across both Great Walks, requiring strong teamwork and effective handovers. The Abel Tasman Track is known for its coastal scenery, golden beaches, and accessible tramping, while the Heaphy Track offers diverse landscapes including forest, river flats, and rugged terrain.

The role provides the opportunity to work across a range of unique environments and contribute to the management of two of New Zealand's premier walking experiences.

Additional Information

Roster: Includes weekends and public holidays; flexible hours required. Flexibility required to cover staff leave and peak periods

Accommodation: Hut-based warden quarters provided at assigned huts

Number of positions: 1

Transport: Walking required to/from huts

Me he pātai anō, whakapā mai | For further enquiries

Please contact Seasonal Jobs seasonaljobs@doc.govt.nz