



Welcome to the Lenz Reserve & Tautuku Forest Cabins



Welcome to the Lenz Reserve

The Reserve is owned by the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society (Forest & Bird) and is managed jointly by the Dunedin, South Otago and Southland Branches of the Society.

Contact details

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www.forestandbird.org.nz

Lenz Reserve Management Committee

c/o Dunedin Branch,

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society,

PO Box 5793, Dunedin



Location and access

The Lenz Reserve is located in the Catlins on the Southern Scenic Route, 72 km south of Balclutha and 32 km south of Owaka. The reserve is about 1 km from the coastline, at an elevation of 40–180 m. There is vehicle access from Highway 92 to the parking area at the entrance, or, for authorised vehicles, to the track which leads up to the accommodation area. Guests are given a key to the gate at the bottom of this track, which is normally kept locked.

GPS ref for the Main Cabin: 1325559 mE, 4835181 mN

NB Cell phone coverage cannot be guaranteed. The nearest public phone is located at the Papatowai shop. There is a landline at Tautuku Education Centre off the main highway to the north of the Reserve, which may be available in emergencies provided that there is someone in residence.

Accommodation at the Lenz

Tautuku Forest Cabins has three accommodation options. These are child-friendly but are unsuitable for wheelchairs. There are flush toilets and hot showers.

The Main Cabin

Sleeps 10. Two four-bunk bedrooms with two additional sofa-beds in the lounge. Well-equipped kitchen. Heat pump. Toilets and showers are reached across a covered way.



Coutts Cabin

Sleeps four. Two two-bed bedrooms off kitchen/living area. Basic cooking facilities. Electric heater. Toilet and ablution facilities in a separate building close at hand.



The A-frame

Sleeps two. One bedroom with two single beds. Electric heater. Kitchen/living area with basic cooking facilities. Toilet and ablution facilities in a separate building close at hand.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES

Accommodation is available from mid-day on the day of arrival. Please vacate by mid-day on the day of departure unless you've made prior arrangements with the caretaker.

FACILITIES

Electricity supply

Each cabin has electrical heating and cooking facilities.

Cleaning

We are able to keep our rates at very reasonable levels because we don't employ a full-time cleaner. Please make sure that you leave your accommodation clean and tidy, and remove all rubbish, when you depart. Leave fridge doors open. If you encounter any problems in this regard please contact the caretaker. We appreciate your feedback.

Water supply

We store rainwater in tanks. Please restrict your water usage, especially during dry periods (yes, we do have them in the Catlins!). The water is not filtered and we recommend that you boil it before drinking.

You will need to provide:

Sleeping bag or bedding, pillow case, personal towels, dish towels, rubbish bags, torch (recommended)

Local businesses

More information can be found in the free map **Haere Mai – Welcome to The Catlins**, available at information centres.

Health providers

Catlins Medical Centre

29 Main Road, Owaka 03 415 8006

Opening hours: 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday

Appointment required

Bates Pharmacy – Catlins Health and Gift

17 Waikawa Road, Owaka 03 415 8109

Opening hours: 9.30am – 5.30pm Monday to Friday

Stock a large range of medicines, also wooden toys and gifts. Pharmaceuticals not in stock, or prescription medicines are delivered at 4.30pm each day from Balclutha.

Dental surgeons

Graham York 131 Clyde St, Balclutha 03 418 1294

David Tait John Street, Balclutha 03 418 1374

Activities

Owaka Museum and Catlins Information Centre

Campbell St, Owaka

03 415 8323 (Museum)

03 415 8371 (Information Centre)

Opening hours: Mon–Fri 9.30–4.30pm

Sat & Sun 10–4pm

www.owakamuseum.org.nz

Waikawa District Museum and Information Centre

604 Niagara–Waikawa Highway, RD1

Tokanui 03 246 8464

Opening hours: 10am–5pm Every day

waikawamuseum@hyper.net.nz

The Lost Gypsy Gallery

Papatowai Highway, Papatowai 4158908

www.thelostgypsy.com

Earthlore Insect Theme Park

129 Hinahina Road, Owaka

03 415 8455 027 385 3182

earthlore@ihug.co.nz www.earthlore.co.nz



Owaka Museum & Catlins Information Centre



KCC outing at Earthlore Insect Theme Park

Eating and drinking

The Whistling Frog Café

9 Rewcastle Road, Chaslands Hwy 03 415 8338
www.whistlingfrogcafe.com

Niagara Falls Cafe

256 Niagara-Waikawa Road, Niagara 03 246 8577
niagarafallscafe@xtra.co.nz www.niagarafallscafe.co.nz

Catlins Café

3 Main Road, Owaka 03 415 8040
info@catlinscafe.co.nz www.catlinscafe.co.nz

The Lumberjack Bar and Café

3 Saunders Street, Owaka 03 415 8747
info@lumberjackbarandcafe.co.nz www.lumberjackbarandcafe.co.nz

The Catlins Inn

21 Ryley Street, Owaka 03 415 8350
catlinsinnowaka@xtra.co.nz

Retail

Papatowai Store

2501 Papatowai Highway, Papatowai 03 415 8147
Hours: Mon–Sat 9–6.30pm Sun 10–6.30pm
Petrol & diesel available. Public telephone.

Owaka Four Square – Supermarket

4 Overden Street, Owaka 03 415 8201
Hours: 7 days 7.30am–7.00pm
Postal agency. In-store bakery.

Owaka Motors

1 Campbell St, Owaka 03 415 8179 after-hours 03 415 8944
Card operated pumps

Experiencing The Catlins

The Lenz Reserve

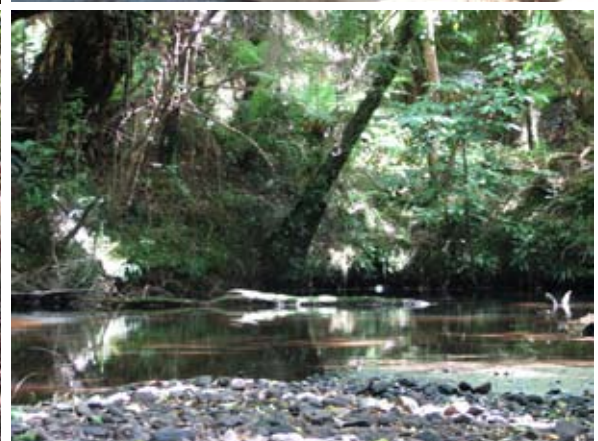
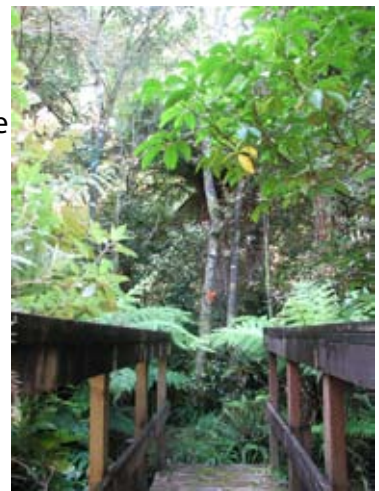
Trail tractor site is an easy walk to the site of a Trill tractor and relics of the sawmilling era at the Lenz Reserve. Interpretation panels illustrate the history of the area from long before human settlement.

Link Track allows public access from the Trill Tractor site to the walks, via a board walk and old logging tramway.

Lenz Reserve Nature Walk follows a roughly circular route and takes about an hour of easy walking. There are plant identification plaques along the track. The Boardwalk Track branches off the Nature Walk and finishes at a 30 m boardwalk into the wetland.

Lenz Reserve Long Track is mainly of walking track standard but is in places a route standard. Conditions can be muddy along parts of the track by the river. Follows the old tram line up the ridge behind the cabins, crosses the Fleming River over a tree bridge, traverses the bank and passes through an area of old growth podocarp forest, recrosses the river on a second bridge, and returns to the cabins via the Nature Walk. At a high point of the track, a raised platform provides views over the reserve.

Tautuku estuary boardwalk isn't part of the Reserve but is close at hand. Access is across the road, on the northern end of the bridge. Gives an ideal opportunity to view the birdlife of the estuary, including the fernbird. Excellent views of the forest on the south side of the river.



The surrounding area

For more information about opportunities to explore the wonderful natural environments that make up The Catlins, visit local information centres or see:

www.catlins.org.nz

www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/otago/coastal-otago/catlins-waterfalls-walks

Also recommended: Neville Peat *The Catlins and the Southern Scenic Route* University of Otago Press 1998

Cathedral Caves

North end of Waipati beach, south of Tautuku. Accessible only for an hour at either side of low tide. Access to the beach is across Maori and Department of Conservation land. The caves may be closed for periods of time during the year – check with local information centres.

Catlins River estuary (lake)

Paradise for bird watchers: dotterels, godwits, gulls, herons, oyster catchers, shags, spoonbills, stilts and swans.

Catlins River – Wisp Loop Track

The 5–6 hour **Catlins River Walk** is a well-formed tramping track following the Catlins River between The Wisp and the Tawanui camping ground. It can be combined with the 4–5 hour higher-altitude **Wisp-Loop track** via forestry roads and the Rocky Knoll lookout.

Curio Bay

Jurassic (160 myo) fossil conifers litter the beach, which is also a highway for yellow-eyed penguins.

Florence Hill Lookout

About 2 km south of Papatowai. Panoramic view of Tautuku Bay and the Rainbow Isles.

Jack's Bay & the Blowhole

The blowhole doesn't always blow, but it's a great walk along the cliff tops from Jack's Bay to this spectacular chasm.

Lake Wilkie

Magical place about 2 km north of Lenz where wetland is slowly being transformed into forest. Biological succession in action.

Long Point/Irahuka reserve

A winding unsealed road leads to a reserve owned by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, whose goal is to restore the vegetation and to 'bring back the sea birds'. Stunning scenery and the chance to see penguins, sea lions and seals

McLean Falls

Spectacular waterfalls in the middle reaches of the Tautuku river. Access off Rewcastle Road about 1 km south of the Cathedral caves turn-off.

Matai Falls

Easily accessible waterfall, 18 km south of Owaka, located on the Matai stream in the Catlins Forest Park.



Spoonbills in the Catlins Estuary



Rata Range – Rocky Knoll



White-faced heron at Curio Bay



Florence Hill Lookout

Lake Wilkie

Nugget Point

Wave-eroded rock stacks and rocky beaches where seals and (very occasionally) elephant seals can be seen, along with a multitude of sea birds. Short walk with interesting information panels. Penguin-viewing hide at **Roaring Bay** on the way up to the carpark.

Old Coach Road track

Coastal track beginning on the north side of the Tahakopa river bridge. Passes through forest with the most southerly silver beech trees in NZ. There is an important Maori archaeological site near the mouth of the river. You can either walk back through the forest or take a more demanding route and climb the hill at the far end of the beach.

Papatowai Picnic Point Track and Kings Rock

The **Picnic Point track** is a 40-minute circuit through forest and along a beach with views of one of the Catlins' least-modified sections of coast. The steeper track to **Kings Rock** branches off this track and leads down to a rocky shoreline full of inter-tidal life.

Papatowai and Tahakopa river estuary

Great spot for kayaking and bird viewing

Porpoise Bay

Beautiful sandy bay 2km south of the Waikawa information centre and just over the headland from Curio Bay. A chance to see the rare Hector's dolphin.

Pounaweia walking track

One of the few surviving examples of podocarp (native pine) to salt marsh zonation. Beautiful walk, best done at mid-low tide so you can get across the salt marsh. Access at the far end of the camping ground.

Purukaunui falls

Scenic trademark of the Catlins. Easy access by a graded walk to the head of the falls through podocarp/beech forest, then a steeper section down to the lower viewing platform.

Shanks's Bush Nature Trail

An easy 20 min self-guided walk at Papatowai with quirky viewing opportunities. Chance to see fern birds by the estuary.

Slope Point

The southernmost point of the South Island has near-horizontal windswept trees and a magnificent view over the southern ocean. Track closed Sep–Oct during lambing.

Surat Bay

Long sandy beach where there is a good chance of seeing sea lions, although at times many seem to decamp to nearby **Cannibal Bay**.

Tautuku Bay

The spectacular one that you can see from **Florence Lookout**. The beach can be accessed via an easy walk through the Tautuku dune forest. Track entrance is opposite the Outdoor Education Centre.





History of the Lenz Reserve

Maori history

No written records exist of Maori occupation, however they dreaded the mountains behind Tautuku which were said to be the home of ugly, hairy beings known as the Maeroero who would call out for Maori to desist from collecting too much food, flax, kelp or wood.

The Lenz is close to the Moa hunter site at Papatowai and also to Tautuku, which the Waitaha and Ngati Mamoe tribal people used for centuries. They are known to have inhabited the area during the whaling era (1838–1843). Maori tended to use the rivers as highways; a well-preserved waka (probably 200–400 years old) in the Southland museum was found in a swamp at Tautuku.

European occupation

The Catlins is named after Captain Edward Cattlin who purchased a huge tract of land from local Maori in 1840, but was later forced to relinquish most of it. In the 1880s European surveyors subdivided the land for farming and timber extraction. The Tautuku Bay Reserve was set aside for long term timber use at this time.

Shortly after the turn of the century, some flat land on what is now the Lenz Reserve was cleared for farming, and significant logging commenced in 1902. The two mill sites located on the reserve were Gwyns (1902–1914) and Cooks (1936–1953). The tramline that ran up the ridge behind the site of the present lodge was originally built for the Cooks mill. The Traill tractor, which took over the job of the horses, was left with its log bogies at the bottom end of this line. It has now been restored and is the centrepiece of an interpretive display.

The sawmills at Lenz were just two of the 182 that operated in the Catlins forest. The boom years were 1919–1929 and 1940–1955. About 70 percent of the present reserve was logged, mainly for podocarps – rimu, miro (brown pine) and kahikatea (white pine). As the Catlins forest was cleared, farming became the mainstay of the Catlins economy.

The Lenz Bequest

In the early 1960s the Lenz Reserve was part of a freehold property of 1360 ha that was coming up for sale, with the remaining bush under threat of being logged. At that point William D F King purchased the block adjoining the Reserve and presented it to the Crown. He was keen for Forest & Bird to purchase the freehold property, but this didn't happen until a bequest from Mrs I Lenz made it possible to buy a smaller area (544 ha) in 1964.

The Lenz was gazetted as a scenic reserve in 1966, and in the decades that followed, the efforts of members of the Southland, Dunedin and South Otago branches of Forest & Bird resulted in the construction of the cabins, a one-hour nature walk loop trap and the three-hour 'long track'. The Traill tractor walk was created by the Department of Conservation in the early 1990s with the assistance of volunteers.

The Lodge (now Tautuku Forest Cabins) is managed jointly by the three branches, whose members work hard to maintain the facilities and carry out weed and pest control.



The physical environment

Climate

Cool, moist and relatively uniform throughout the year. Winds usually from the south-west and north-west, though local easterlies are common. Annual rainfall averages about 1300 mm, and there are about 1550 hours of sunshine. Average temperature during the year is 9–10 degrees C. Humidity is relatively high, although it can get dry any time between spring and autumn.

Geology

Underlying rocks are early Jurassic (190–160 million years old) but it's only easy to find outcrops on the northern bank of the upper Fleming river or on the road cutting near the entrance gate where you may find fossilised plant fragments and occasional seashell fossils.

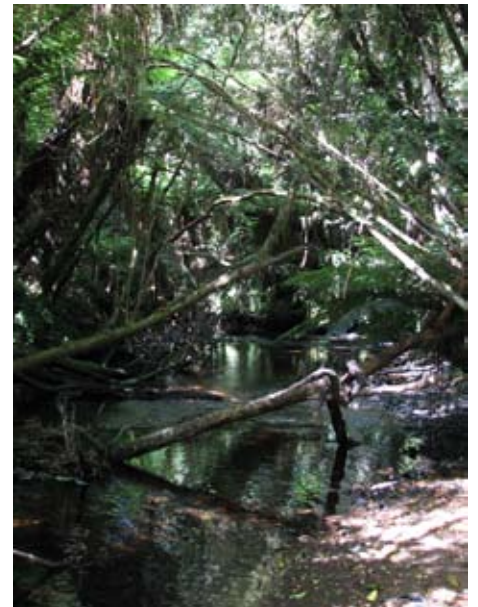
Most of the soils in the reserve are Tautuku Hill low-fertility, podsolised yellow-brown earths. Makarewa soils are present in alluvial areas along the Fleming river, and Otanomomo peaty soils on the lower alluvial flats.

Topography and landforms

This landscape is probably no more than two million years old. Low hills are cut by wide river valleys trending to the southeast. Most of the reserve drains into one catchment. The Fleming River bisects the reserve from west to east and has extensive alluvial flats. The rocks on the northern side are more erosion resistant and give rise to steeper slopes than on the south side. The "Soaker Hill" plateau is formed on nearby flat-lying rocks above the northern slopes. Lower down, the valley widens and the river meanders across the middle of the flats before flowing into the Tautuku estuary.

Around the reserve

Land adjacent to the Lenz Reserve contains forest protected and managed by the Department of Conservation. The Catlins Coastal Rainforest Park (approx 15,000 ha) lies to the north and west, and the William King Scenic reserve to the east. The coastal area on the opposite side of the road to the reserve entrance is mainly forested. Further south, the Tautuku river estuary is a tidal marsh area with extensive areas of rushes. Birds, including fernbirds, can be seen from the boardwalk.



The Fleming River

The living world of the Lenz

We still have a lot to learn about the ecology of the reserve. In particular we know very little about the mammals, reptiles and invertebrates that live here. We would be very pleased to hear news of rare or previously undiscovered species, especially if you can send us photographs. But please remember that native plants or animals may not be collected without permission.

Plants of the Lenz Reserve

The Catlins forests make up the largest area of native forest on the east coast of the South Island. Despite the logging that has taken place, the Lenz Reserve is still characteristic of the original natural character of the Tahakopa ecological district. The hill slope kamahi/podocarp forests remain typical examples of the type of forest that occurs on well-drained lowland soils. The stands of southern rata in the northern upland areas are similar to those elsewhere in the Catlins. The valley floor vegetation is more modified, but in time should revert towards kahikatea (white pine) forest in the wetter areas and matai (black pine)-dominated forest in the drier areas. The Fleming River, still has almost continuous indigenous riparian vegetation from its headwaters to the sea.

The main vegetation types are:

Kamahi forest (65.6% of area) – hill slopes and alluvial flats
Kamahi with some podocarps (rimu, miro and Hall's totara)
Understorey: wineberry (makomako), broadleaf (papauma), marbleleaf (putaputaweta), tree fuchsia (kotukutuku), five-finger (orihou), lancewood (horoeka), *Coprosma spp*, white climbing rata
Ground tier: crown fern (kiokio), hen & chicken fern (mouku), filmy ferns and bryophytes (mosses and liverworts).

Southern rata–kamahi forest (18%) – ridges and plateau
Understorey: similar to kamahi forest but with haumakoroa and dense thickets of five-finger. Little wineberry, fuchsia or tree ferns.

Kahikatea forest with rimu and pokaka (3.2%) –
Alluvial flats
Understorey: low shrubs, especially weeping matipo, mountain rōhutu (myrtle) and *Coprosma spp*.
Ground tier: mainly crown fern and bryophytes

Fuchsia–wineberry forest (2.7%) – hillslopes
Forest that has been heavily logged. Has some kamahi but no mature podocarps.

Pepperwood (horopito) forest (2.9%) – alluvial flats
Also contains wineberry, some large matai and kahikatea, and a few kamahi.
Understorey: *Coprosma spp*, wheki-ponga (woolly tree fern) and lowland ribbonwood. Ground tier: crown fern, bush rice grass and bryophytes



Exotic grassland (7.4%) – alluvial flats

Waterlogged areas of introduced grasses and weeds. Margins of manuka and coprosma, with young lancewood, five-finger and broadleaf.

Sphagnum mossfield (0.6%) – alluvial flats

Open area enclosed by forest. Contains wire rush, tangle fern, pigmy pine, turpentine and manuka. Also dwarf heath and two species of orchids.

Animals of the Lenz Reserve

Invertebrates

These include worms, snails, spiders, insects, slaters, millipedes, and possibly velvet worms (*Peripatus*). Aquatic invertebrates include freshwater crayfish (koura). Few invertebrate studies have been carried out within the Reserve.

Fish

The Department of Conservation has stated in its Conservation Management Strategy its intention of surveying freshwater habitats for native fish and invertebrates. According to the Clutha District Plan, 15 freshwater species are found in the district.

Amphibians

There are no longer any native frogs on the mainland of the South Island. If you see a frog at the Lenz Reserve it is most likely to be the introduced Australian tree frog.

Reptiles

The most common (but still very rare) forest reptile in the district is the nocturnal forest gecko.

Birds

The Lenz Reserve is a great place for bird watching. Native birds you can expect to see include bellbird, tomtit, brown creeper, grey warbler, tui, shining cuckoo and morepork in the forested areas. Silvereye (wax eye), NZ pigeon (kereru) and fantail are also common.

Uncommon: NZ pipit, NZ kingfisher, long-tailed cuckoo and grey duck.

Rare: yellow-crowned parakeet and NZ red-crowned parakeet

For more information about birds in the Catlins see: *Catlins Birds: a pocket guide* published by South Otago Forest & Bird, and available from local retailers. There is a reference copy in the Main Cabin.



Forest gecko Carey Knox



Native birds: kereru (NZ pigeon), fantail and tomtit Craig McKenzie

Mammals

Bats are New Zealand's only land mammals. Long-tailed bats are found in the Catlins, though in much smaller numbers than in the past. A limited amount of monitoring has been carried out at the Reserve, but we haven't yet found evidence of the presence of either long or short-tailed bats. Dusk is the best time to try and spot them.

Alien Invaders

Like all New Zealand ecosystems, the Lenz Reserve is under constant threat from introduced pests and weeds. The main problems at present are:

Animal pests

Deer and pigs

Damage soils and young plants.

Possums

Browse on vegetation such as five-finger, fuchsia, rata, whitey wood (mahoe), kamahi and rata. Possums also eat flowers, fruit, eggs, birds, insects and snails.

Rodents

Ship (black) rats and mice are found around the buildings and in the forest. As well as eating seeds, they will also feed on eggs, birds, reptiles and invertebrates.

Stoats and hedgehogs

Their prints also show up in the tracking tunnels around the Reserve, and they are caught in traps.

Weeds

Forested areas of the Reserve are largely free from weeds, although there are some to be found on the tracks. Some exotic species are becoming established next to the wetland boardwalk and around the cabins, but the main weed infestations are in the areas of rough exotic grassland that remain in the most heavily modified parts of the valley floor.

Broom is common in the open areas at the entrance to the Reserve, around the historic display and on the highly modified flats. **Ragwort** and **gorse** are also found on the flats. Other introduced plants include **Californian thistles**, **blackberry**, various herbs such as **chickweed** and **foxtail**, and various species of **rush**.

Barberry, **Himalayan honeysuckle** and **Chilean flame creeper** are common elsewhere in the Catlins but so far don't seem to have invaded the Reserve in large numbers.



Bat detector sited near the Catlins River



Protecting new plantings from browsing animals



Setting out predator tracking tunnels in the Lenz Reserve

