

# UPPER REACH

Access to the upper Buller River from its source to the Gowan River.

The Upper Buller is an iconic stretch of water, however since 2005 has been badly affected by the presence of didymo, along with the Gowan River, which has impacted the trout population in this area. The Kawatiri / Buller River is protected by a Water Conservation Order, which was originally sought by Fish & Game due to its fisheries values.

**DIDYMO ALERT!**  
The Buller River has didymo present and the Upper 'lake fed' part from both lakes is thick, which can make fishing difficult. Remember to Check, Clean, Dry.



# BULLER RIVER FISHING ACCESS GUIDE



A guide to fishing the Buller River from its source at Lake Rotoiti to Murchison - including the Owen River



## BULLER RIVER ACCESS

- 13. Keystone Picnic Area**  
Park adjacent to river - good upstream access.
- 14. Windy Point - SH63**  
Turn down track to the river off a sharp bend in SH6.
- 15. Harley's Rock Bridge**  
Access up and down stream from the east bank.
- 16. Baigents Public Road**  
200m east of Harleys Rock Bridge. Drive down stream approx 1.8km to parking area.
- 17. Howard River confluence**  
Go through gate on east side of Howard River.
- 18. Homestead Creek**  
Park where indicated and follow fence line approx 800m to river. Note: this crosses private land so shut all gates.



- 19. Speargrass Creek**  
Access only available after 1 November. No access down Speargrass Creek. Parking area 300m east of Bridge - follow fence line approx 1.2kms to river.

- 20. Upper Buller Bridge**  
Parking on both sides of bridge. Walking track up true right bank upstream of bridge. River very fast here, so caution required.

- 21. Teetotal Rd**  
Drive 5.5 km along a rough track (ignore right turning tracks) until you go through gate and the Teetotal Creek. The Buller river is now within 100m.

- 22. Buller Source**  
1.5kms down Mt Robert Rd. Park at bridge - access available downstream.

## GOWAN RIVER ACCESS

- 1. Gowan Valley Rd**  
1.4 km from bridge over Buller River.
- 2. East Bank Rd**  
Vehicle access upstream, or park at bridge
- 3. Gowan Valley Rd**  
1.6 km from east Gowan Bridge turn off
- 4. Fishermans Cottage**  
Vehicle track to river (cottage is private).
- 5. Gowan River Source Bridge**  
Access along both banks of the river. Walking track downstream on east bank.

**KEY**

- OPEN ALL YEAR
- OPEN 1 OCT - 30 APR
- PUBLIC ROAD

# LOWER REACH

Access to the Buller River around Murchison, including the Owen River.

Open all year round (from the Gowan Bridge downstream), and with bait fishing permitted, this section of the Buller River is big and boisterous. More popular with spin anglers, there are some pockets of water where it's possible to fly fish, however the best fly fishing occurs in the many tributary waters. The Maruia River, a significant sized tributary, offers excellent fishing throughout its entire length and is a great option.

The Buller River is open all year for fishing from the Gowan Bridge downstream to the sea (excluding tributaries).

## OWEN RIVER ACCESS

- 1. East Owen Road**  
200m from SH6.
- 2. East Owen Road - top of paddocks**  
Park on road verge at top of paddock - go through gate and follow track markers to river.
- 3. Opposite Johnson Creek**  
Sign often missing. Park on corner and walk through unmarked steep track to river.
- 4. Owen River Gorge - Rock entrance**  
Park at sign and walk past rock outcrop to river.
- 5. Maggie Creek**  
Park at sign away from gate. Go through gate to river. This crosses private land, so please shut the gate.
- 5. Shingle Cliffs**  
9.7 km from SH6 east Owen Road, walking access only down track.
- 7. Brewery Creek**  
Walk to the confluence of Brewery Creek to cross Owen River. To drive further up valley gain permission first at the farm house across Brewery Creek bridge.

## MATIRI RIVER ACCESS

- 1. Matiri Valley Road**  
8.6kms from SH6
- 2. Lake Matiri Track**  
Drive 6 km from bridge along west bank road to DOC car park. 4WD vehicle only or walk from there. No trout in or above Lake Matiri.

## BULLER RIVER ACCESS

- 1. SH 6**  
7.8 km south of Murchison or 3 km from O'Sullivan's Bridge.
- 2. Doughboy Stream, Hinekaka Rd**  
Park at gate where indicated. Follow stream edge to river - no track.
- 3. Hinekaka Rd**  
1.4kms from no 2. Foot access only, park on other side of road away from gates.
- 4. Matakaitaki Westbank Rd**  
Access to the lower Matakaitaki River upstream of SH6 (no sign).
- 5. Fairfax Street, Murchison**  
Track near church.
- 6. Riverview Holiday Park**  
Follow tracks up and down stream from boat ramp.
- 7. SH6, 2.4 km from Murchison**  
Follow road by truck weigh station 0.8 km to river. No sign.
- 8. Owen Domain**  
Entrance by Owen Tavern. Excellent Tasman District Council camping facilities available.
- 9. Raits Bridge**  
Park near bridge, cross over stile - please stick to river bed.
- 10. Picnic Area**  
2.2kms from number 9. Follow track to river, good upstream fishing access. No sign.
- 11. SH6**  
1.1kms from number 10. Care required on busy road - not suitable to turn onto if going northbound towards Nelson. Park at sign and walk through gate, follow grass track to river.
- 12. Gowan Bridge**  
Park on SH6 side of bridge. Access to river on east bank side of bridge



**DESIGNATED WATERS LICENCE**  
The Upper Matakaitaki River (above Horse Terrace Bridge) requires a Designated Waters Licence to fish.

**KEY**

- OPEN ALL YEAR
- OPEN 1 OCT - 30 APR
- PUBLIC ROAD

The Maruia River is open all year downstream of the Maruia Falls. There are no signed access points, but plenty of public points you can access the river.