

AHURIRI AND
RUATANIWHA
CONSERVATION PARKS
VISITOR STUDY 2006–2007



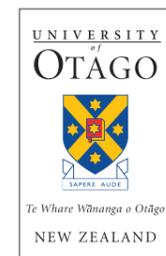
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Cover Photographs:

Above: Shamrock Hut, Ahuriri Valley, Ahuriri Conservation Park (B. Lovelock)

Below: Hopkins Valley from near Red Hut, Ruataniwha Conservation Park. (B. Lovelock).

THE AUTHORS

This report was commissioned by the Department of Conservation, Twizel Area Office, Canterbury Conservancy, and undertaken by staff from the Centre for Recreation Research, University of Otago. The research team comprised Dr Brent Lovelock and Dr Anna Carr who are Senior Lecturers, and Gerald Sides, who is a Research Assistant in the Department.

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Executive Summary

This report combines data sets from visitor surveys undertaken in Ahuriri Conservation Park in 2006 and Ruataniwha Conservation Park in 2007. Both parks, located within the Mackenzie Basin in the central South Island, are newly established, and the visitor studies will play an important role in profiling park users and informing park management, the Department of Conservation (DOC), regarding visitor use of the area.

Self-completion questionnaires were distributed in each park for a period of 3-4 months from the main summer holiday period. A total of 524 survey questionnaires are included in this analysis (284 from Ahuriri Conservation Park (ACP) and 240 from Ruataniwha Conservation Park (RCP)). The questionnaires for each park: addressed the following: the nature of the visit, motivations for visiting, use of and satisfaction with the visit and facilities, and socio-demographic descriptors of visitors.

Generally, the data sets for each visitor sample – ACP and RCP – show a remarkable level of similarity in terms of visitor profile, the motivations for visiting, the pattern and style of the visit, and the overall levels of satisfaction.

Motivations for visiting the parks were virtually identical for respondents from both parks. To go tramping, to experience solitude, scenery, and easy access to nature were the most common motivations. To take children into the outdoors was another strong motivation. Overall visitor satisfaction was very high for both parks (97% were “satisfied” or “very satisfied”), although there were a higher percentage of “very satisfied” respondents in ACP than RCP. Perceptions of crowding were very low in both parks (83% reported the area to be “not crowded at all”).

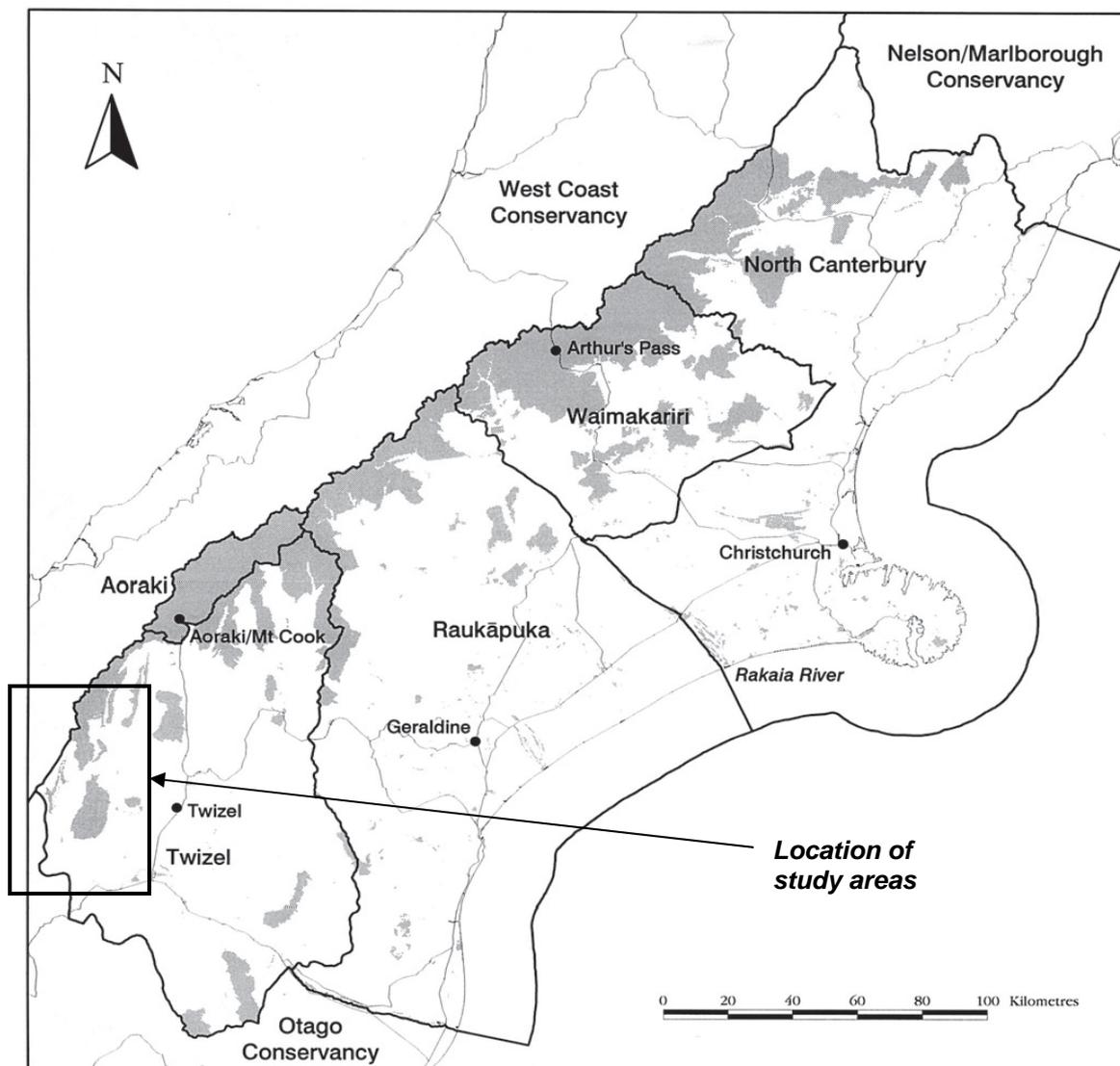
In terms of visitor profile, New Zealanders predominated (about 80% of respondents), with a low proportion of international visitors. Most visitors were from the South Island and many from the local region. Most respondents were regular users of the outdoors, but were new to these particular Conservation Parks, being first time users of either park. Most visits to the parks were made in groups of two or in other small groups.

While foot use dominated within the parks, there were a higher number of 4WD users in RCP (12% of respondents). Most visitors made day trips or short stays of 2-3 nights in both parks, however there were more longer stays in RCP. For overnight visitors to both parks, the use of huts (55%) was greater than the use of tents (45%), although tenting use was marginally greater in ACP than RCP.

An analysis of children vs non-children groups (for both parks combined) revealed very little difference between the groups. Groups with children made more use of unofficial word of mouth information sources about the park, and tended to camp more frequently, but for shorter stays. Motivations for visiting the parks were slightly different, with more emphasis on taking children into the outdoors, and other activities such as mountain biking and picnicking being marginally more common. Both groups with children and groups without children reported low levels of crowding and very high levels of satisfaction with their experience in the new Conservation Parks.

1. Introduction to Study Areas

This report combines data sets from visitor surveys undertaken in two Conservation Parks – Ahuriri and Ruataniwha – both located within the Mackenzie Basin in the central South Island (Map 1). Both parks are newly established, and the visitor studies will play an important role in informing the park managers and commissioners of this report, the Department of Conservation (DOC), regarding visitor use of the area.



Map 1: Location Map

1.1 Ahuriri Conservation Park

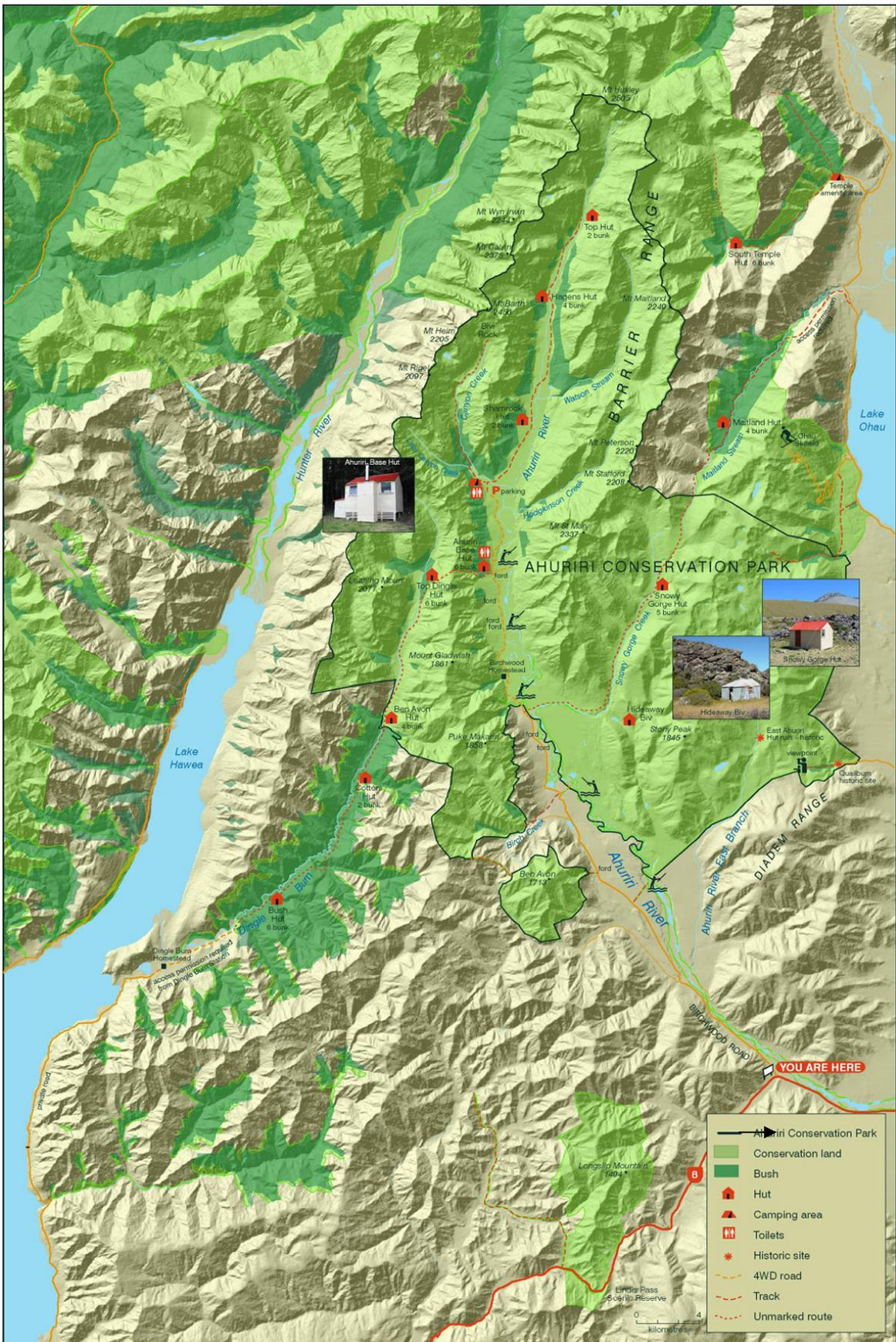
The Ahuriri Conservation Park (ACP) is a tussock valley system with braided river, beech forest, sub alpine and alpine ecosystems located east of the Main Divide of the Southern Alps, and neighbouring the Ohau Conservation Area to the north and east; and the Dingle and Hunter Valley systems to the west (Map 2). The Barrier Range is a notable alpine system located within the park. The Ahuriri River and its tributaries support populations of brown trout, rainbow trout and native galaxia fish species. The associated wetlands and river flats support numerous bird species, notably the endangered black stilt (kaki), dotterel (tuturiwhatu), wry bill (ngutu parore) and black fronted tern (tara). Thirty one wetland bird species including waterfowl, waders, gulls, terns, shags and herons were noted in a 1985 report¹. Beech forest birds include “riflemen, grey warbler, New Zealand falcon, fantail, brown creeper, pigeon, tomtit, cuckoo, yellow crowned parakeet, with kea and rock wren at higher altitudes” (Talbot 2004, p. 27). Other native fauna include eight species of butterflies, numerous invertebrates; spotted, McCann and Common skinks, Common and Jewelled Gecko (Talbot 2004).

The conservation and recreational values of the area have been managed by the Department of Conservation (based from Twizel Area Office) since late 2004. In 2004 Conservation Minister, Hon. Chris Carter, announced the purchase of the 23,783 hectare Birchwood Station from the leaseholders Ron and Jennifer Williamson, for \$10 million to enable the establishment of the conservation park². The Williamsons had a historical relationship to the area dating over 60 years. According to Talbot (2004, p. 26) the purchase would enable “protection of the landscape and ecology of the area, and providing public access – something that has not always been easy in the past, with the road running right through the locked gates in the station’s stockyards”.

By road the ACP is located southwest of Omarama on the main tourist route (SH1) between Christchurch and Queenstown and thus is ideally situated for ease of visitor access. The designation of the ACP is believed to have resulted in increased public use of the area. The main access to the 30 kilometre long valley is by gravel road which could be a deterrent to non-4WD vehicle owners, particularly tourists using rental cars and camper vans. Beyond Birchwood Station homestead, to the main car park situated a few kilometres beyond Ahuriri Base Hut, the area is accessible by a traditional 4WD track until just before Canyon Creek. Whilst the road access is maintained for 4WD vehicle access, 2WD vehicle are often observed travelling on the gravel road to the car park beyond the Ahuriri Base Hut when road conditions allow. The gravel road is currently maintained with the use of a grading contractor at a cost born by the Department of Conservation (DOC).

¹ Otago Fish and Game Society ‘The Ahuriri River: Conflict Over Resource Use’ per Ahuriri Conservation Order, dated 13 June 1985, viewed Hocken Library MS 2034/33 on 1 June 2006.

² Talbot, A. ‘Preserving the High Country’, *Forest and Bird*, Number 312, May 2004, pp. 24-27



Map 2: Ahuriri Conservation Park

Recreational activities in the area include camping, trout fishing, mountain biking, climbing, tramping, hunting (Himalayan thar, chamois and red deer) and horse riding. Whilst the lower Ahuriri River, outside the boundary of the ACP is suited to canoeing, rafting and white water kayaking no such activities were observed in the ACP during the time of the study. Non-consumptive wildlife oriented leisure activities in the area include bird watching and photography.

Since 2004, DOC has improved the road condition beyond Birchwood Station; new toilets have been installed at the Quailburn and Canyon Creek car parks and interpretation panels have been designed and installed at strategic sites throughout the park. Whilst there is no permanent ranger in the area seasonal staff working on the Kaki - black stilt- project are often resident in the DOC house at Birchwood Station. Twizel Area staff make regular visits to the park to check on conditions of various facilities. The local farming families at Ben Avon and Birchwood Stations also provide a presence in the valley which is critical should an emergency occur.

1.2 Ruataniwha Conservation Park

The Ruataniwha Conservation Park (RCP) was formally established in July 2006 incorporating existing conservation areas with former pastoral lease land following tenure review. Prior to 2006 the Ohau Conservation Area (now part of the RCP) was the focus of regular recreational visits.

The RCP contains more than 36,800 hectares of tussock land, wetlands, streams, braided rivers, beech forests, sub-alpine and alpine ecosystems located east of the Southern Alps in the Mackenzie Basin (Map 3). It lies north of the Ahuriri Conservation Park. The lacustrine system includes the Lake Ohau, the Hopkins and Dobson rivers, wetlands and other areas high ecological valuable. The Ben Ohau mountain range is dominant on the landscape and complements the Dobson, Hopkins, Huxley, Temple and Maitland valleys³. The environment supports numerous wetland and forest bird species notably the endangered black stilt (*Himantopus novaezealandiae* or kaki), wry bill (ngutu parore), banded dotterel (tuturiwhatu), black-fronted tern (tara), South Island pied oystercatcher (torea), kea (*Nestor notabilis*), New Zealand falcon (karearea) and black-billed gull (karoro)⁴. Native fish, gecko, skinks and invertebrates are also found within the RCP.

The conservation and recreational values of the RCP have been managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) (based from Twizel Te Manahuna Area Office) since the Department's establishment in 1987. Initially, the area managed comprised what had been parts of the Ohau State Forest, but recently, additional land with conservation and recreation values has come under DOC management on completion of tenure review processes on stations including incorporating the Rhoborough Downs, Pukaki Downs and Ben Ohau stations. These stations had pastoral agricultural histories dating back to the 1850s with some present-day residents in the area having direct links to the original farming families. Ngai Tahu maintains strong ancestral links with the area, particularly Lake Ohau, as a traditional seasonal destination for gathering of mahinga kai and other resources. The designation of the RCP has resulted in increased public interest in recreational use of the park however the historical and conservation values of the RCP remain highly significant for management of the RCP.

³ Ruataniwha Conservation Park brochure (2006) Department of Conservation Christchurch.

⁴ ibid.

The RCP is located in close proximity to the township of Twizel on the main tourist road (SH1) between Christchurch and Queenstown. Most commonly users access the area by road in 4WD and 2WD vehicles. The Twizel canal roads, Lake Ohau road and Aoraki/Mt Cook Highway (SH80) are the main access routes to the RCP. Smaller conservation areas within the RCP including Round Hill (304ha), Bush Stream and Fred's Stream are accessed from various points on the road to Aoraki/Mt Cook (SH80) or SH8. Vehicle access to the Duncan, Gladstone, Dobson and lower Maitland valleys and the Ohau Snowfield Road requires permission from adjacent land owners (with keys being issued for locked gates)⁵. Increasingly, visitors are accessing the area via horseback, foot or bicycle using various easements and marginal strips alongside streams, rivers and on existing farm tracks⁶.

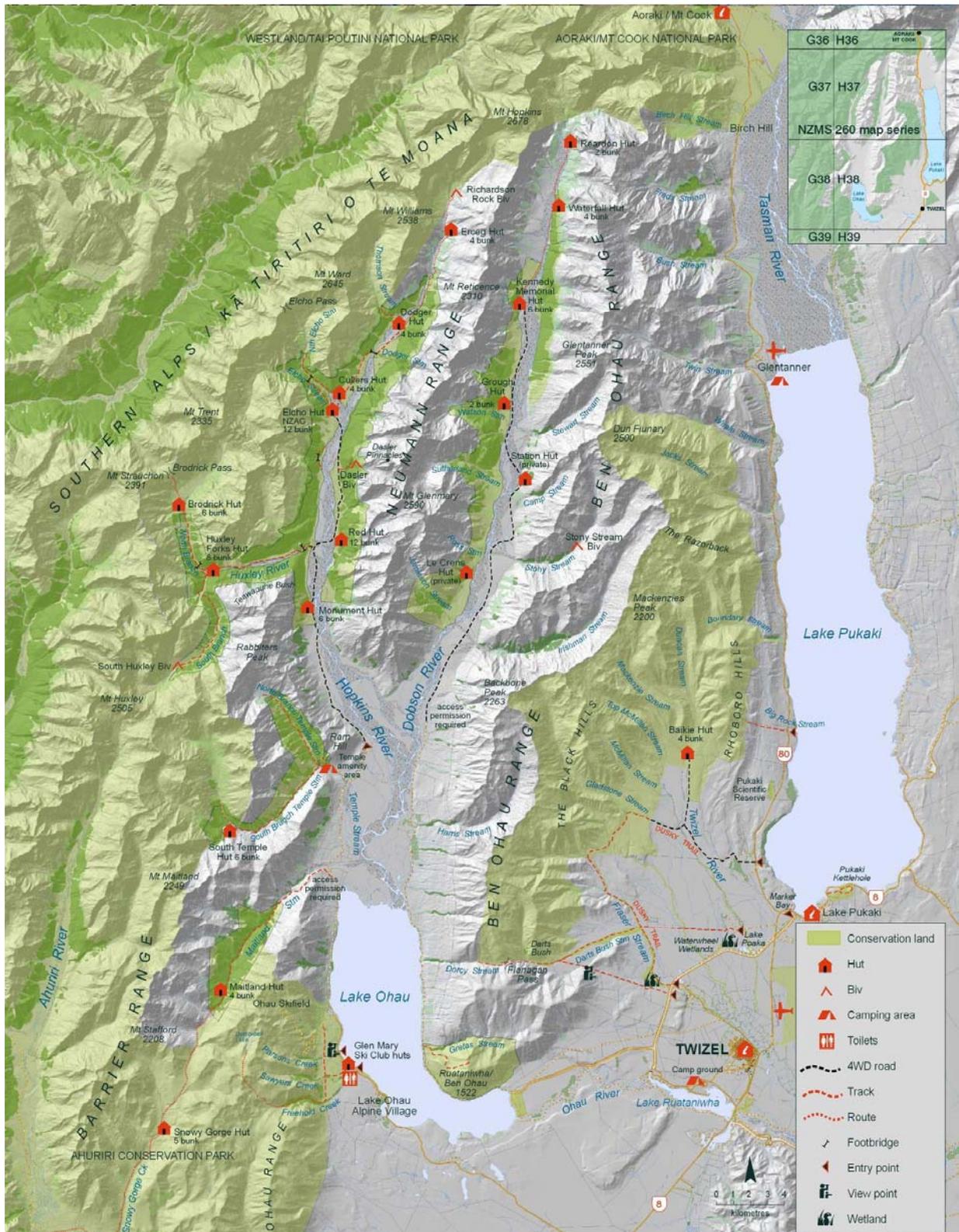
Recreational activities in the area include walking, skiing, mountain biking, climbing, tramping, hunting, camping, fishing and horse trekking. Existing track systems are complemented by informal camp sites and twenty huts available for use. The Hopkins and Dobson rivers must be crossed to access some areas and are probably the most notable risk features in the region apart from avalanche hazards and the potential for fires over the dry summer months.

DOC has improved access to the area with car parks, signage and continued maintenance of existing huts, bivvy and toilet facilities (especially in the Hopkins/Huxley forests). Interpretation panels have been designed and installed at strategic sites throughout the RCP. The interpretation is complemented by numerous brochures that raise awareness of the recreational opportunities and conservation values of the RCP. Visitors can also source information from the Department of Conservation website⁷ and office in Twizel, Lake Pukaki Visitor Centre and Twizel Information Centre.

⁵ *ibid.*

⁶ Rhoborough Downs, Pukaki Downs and Ben Ohau conservation land Fact Sheets produced by Department of Conservation Twizel Te Manahuna Area Office Twizel).

⁷ <http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/PlaceProfile.aspx?id=35348>



Map 3: Ruataniwha Conservation Park

2. The Visitor Surveys

For both parks, a convenience sampling approach was adopted by electing to survey as many people over the age of 15 using the parks as was possible. This reflected the fact that typically, visitation to both parks is intermittent, tending to be concentrated over weekends and holiday periods.

2.1 Ahuriri

Over the period December 26th 2005 to April 19th 2006 a total of 370 self-completion questionnaires were distributed in the ACP. The lengthy survey period included public holidays over the main summer school holiday periods; Waitangi weekend, Easter, and weekend and week days.

Questionnaires were available for collection from a number of readily accessible points beside the main vehicle routes in the park: Birchwood Station gate, Ahuriri Base Hut, Canyon Creek information kiosk, and Quailburn historic site. These pick-up points were advertised by posters. Also, over the period of the survey, DOC staff working in the area distributed the questionnaire to visitors they encountered in the course of their duties. During the period of the survey two of the authors of this report made day trips or overnight visits to the ACP for the purposes of observation and to assist in the distribution of questionnaires.

A total of 284 completed and usable questionnaires were returned, the survey period ending at the completion of the Easter holiday break (the final questionnaire was returned on 11/5/06), indicating a response rate of 77% (of questionnaires distributed).

Visitor numbers to the valley have been based on vehicle movements through a DOC vehicle counter located one kilometre below Birchwood Station. The estimates are based on attributing 2.5 visitors/vehicle; The DOC road user figures suggest a visitor use of the park over the period of the survey of 2875 (Table 1). This implies a survey “capture” rate of approximately 10%.

However, it should be noted that the median party size in response to Question 3 of the survey (see Figure 3.4) suggests that vehicles are more likely to contain two people. It must also be recognised, though, that visitor numbers to the area vary depending on weather conditions and seasonality with the summer holiday season through to Easter and other public holiday weekends being the peak use periods for the park.

2.2 Ruataniwha

A convenience sampling approach was adopted by electing to survey as many people over the age of 15 using the park as was possible. This reflected the fact that visitation to the area of the Ruataniwha Conservation Park (RCP) is intermittent, tending to be concentrated over weekends and holiday periods. Over the period February 13th 2007 to June 6th 2007 a total of 392 self-completion questionnaires were distributed in the RCP. The lengthy survey period included the final portion of the main summer holiday season, and the public holidays of Easter, Anzac Day and Queen’s Birthday Weekend.

Questionnaires were available for collection from a number of readily accessible points beside the main vehicle routes in the park: Ram Hill intentions booth, Temple amenity area, Parsons

Creek, DOC carpark Pukaki Canal Road, and DOC carpark Aoraki/Mt Cook highway. These pick-up points were advertised by posters. Also, over the period of the survey, DOC staff distributed the questionnaire to a number of huts within the park (Monument, Red, Elcho, Huxley Forks, South Kennedy, Temple and Baikie). During the period of the survey two of the authors of this report made day trips or overnight visits to the RCP for the purposes of observation and to assist in the distribution of questionnaires.

A total of 240 completed and usable questionnaires were returned, with the survey period ending at the completion of the Queens Birthday holiday break (the final questionnaire was returned on 15/6/07), with an indicative response rate of 61% (of questionnaires distributed).

2.3 The Questionnaire

The questionnaires for each park (Appendix A) comprised an information sheet describing the purpose of the visitor survey, a map of the park, and a number of items (questions) (ACP 24; RCP 27) allotted to four sections: Your Visit, Motivations, Facilities, and About Yourself. The majority of the items in the questionnaire were closed-questions. Two open-ended questions were included to elicit participants' views on visitor management of the park, and why they would (or would not) return to the park.

Some items have been excluded from the analysis presented here as they were not directly comparable between the two surveys. These were area-specific questions, relating to inform managers regarding specific facilities or management issues in the individual parks.

Visitors were offered an inducement to participate in the surveys by way of entry to prize draws for gift vouchers. Postage-paid envelopes were available for participants to return their completed questionnaires for both surveys, and drop-boxes were also provided at both ACP and RCP. All completed questionnaires were anonymous. Ethical approval for both visitor surveys was attained from the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee.

Data analysis was undertaken at the Department of Tourism, University of Otago, using statistical software (SPSS and Microsoft Excel).

Table 1: Comparison ACP/RCP: Visitor surveys

	Ahuriri	Ruataniwha
<i>Distribution method</i>	Self collection & staff distribution	Self collection & staff distribution
<i>Return Method</i>	Mail & drop box	Mail & drop box
<i>Incentive</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Survey period</i>	26/12/2005 – 19/4/2006	13/2/2006 – 6/6/2007
<i>Sample size</i>	284	240
<i>“Response rate”</i>	77%	61%

3. Survey Findings

The findings are presented below, generally in the following manner: first, the data sets from ACP and RCP are combined and the results shown (for each main item in the survey) for *all* respondents. Then, where appropriate, the data from each set (ACP and RCP) are compared and discussed.

3.1 Respondent Demographics

Gender use of the parks appears to be slightly in favour of males, with 56.6% of respondents being male and 43.4% female. This pattern is evident in both ACP and RCP.

The dominant age group of respondents was 45-55yrs (28%), followed by 55-64yrs and 35-44yrs (20% and 19% respectively). Younger users, below 25yrs of age were not well represented in the sample (Figure 1).

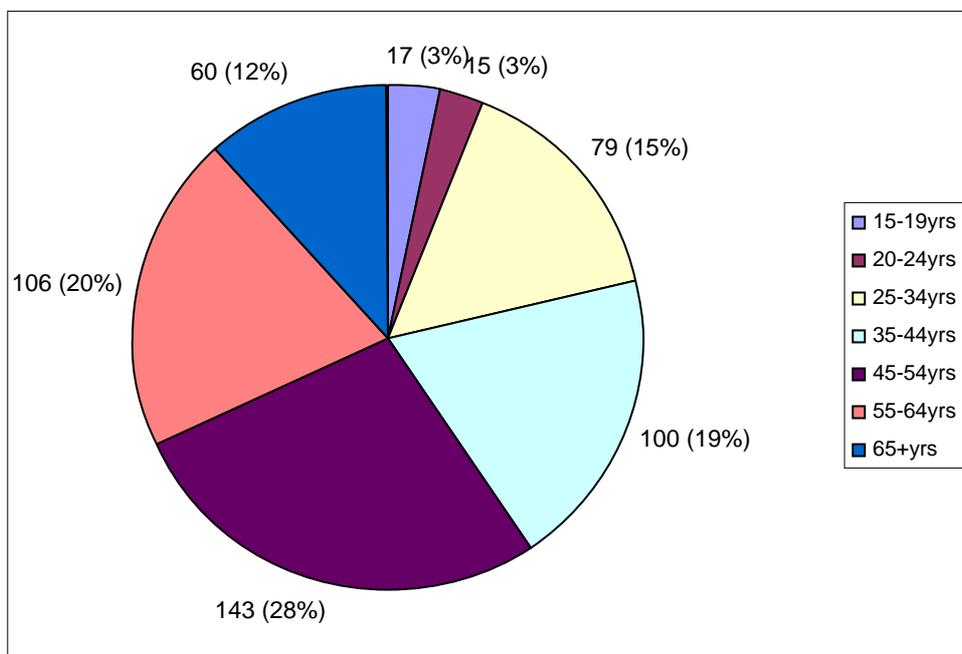


Figure 1: Age of respondents

Age distribution of respondents was comparable between ACP and RCP, however the dominance of the 45-55yr age group was more pronounced for ACP (Figure 2). And while few respondents were in the younger age groups for both parks, RCP had more respondents in the 15-19yr age group than ACP.

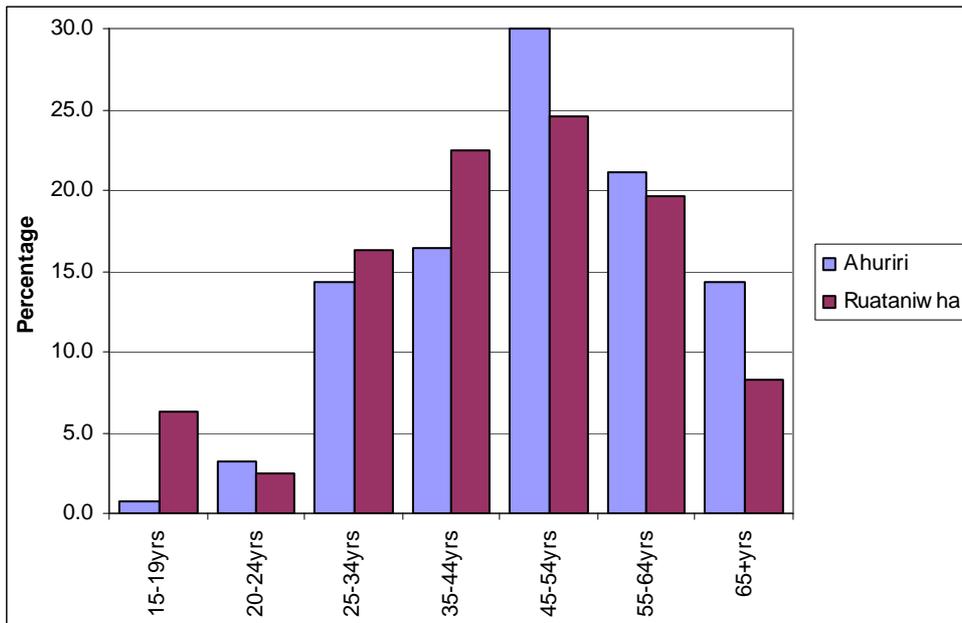


Figure 2: Comparison ACP/RCP: Age of respondents

Most respondents were employed full time (44%) (Figure 3). Part time, self-employed and retired people were also significant user groups. There was very little difference between ACP and RCP in terms of employment status of respondents (Figure 4).

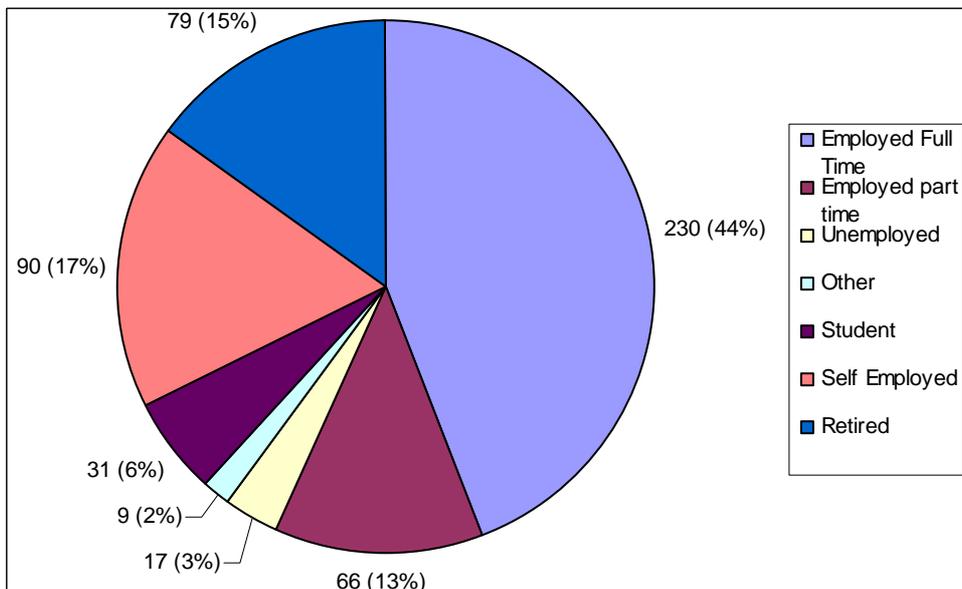


Figure 3: Employment status of respondents

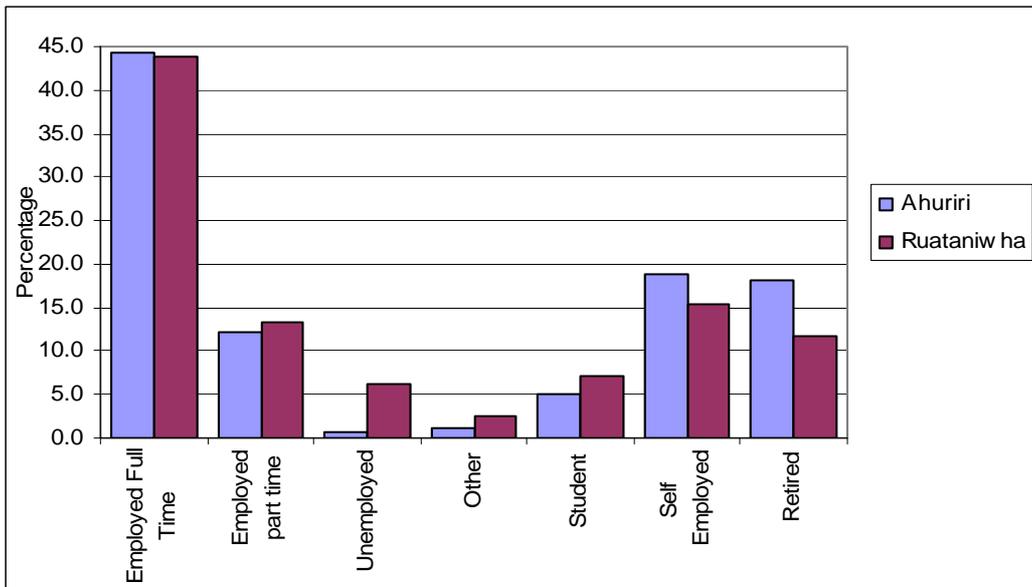


Figure 4: Comparison ACP/RCP: Employment status of respondents

The most common occupational group was ‘Professionals’ (35%) and together with ‘Legislators, Administrators and Managers’ (15%) these two groups comprised exactly half of all respondents (Figure 5). Blue collar workers and service workers were not well represented in the samples.

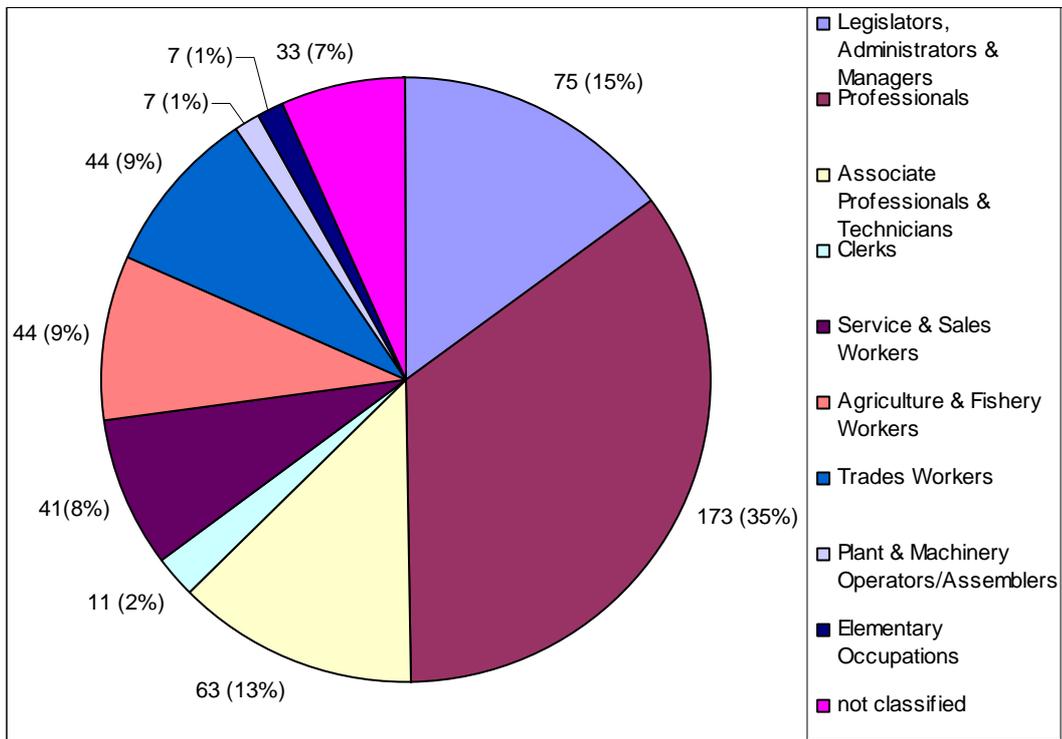


Figure 5: Respondents' occupational groups

Again, the distribution of occupational groups of respondents was very similar between the two conservation parks, with both ACP and RCP being dominated by those in professional, semi-professional, managerial and administrative occupations (Figure 6).

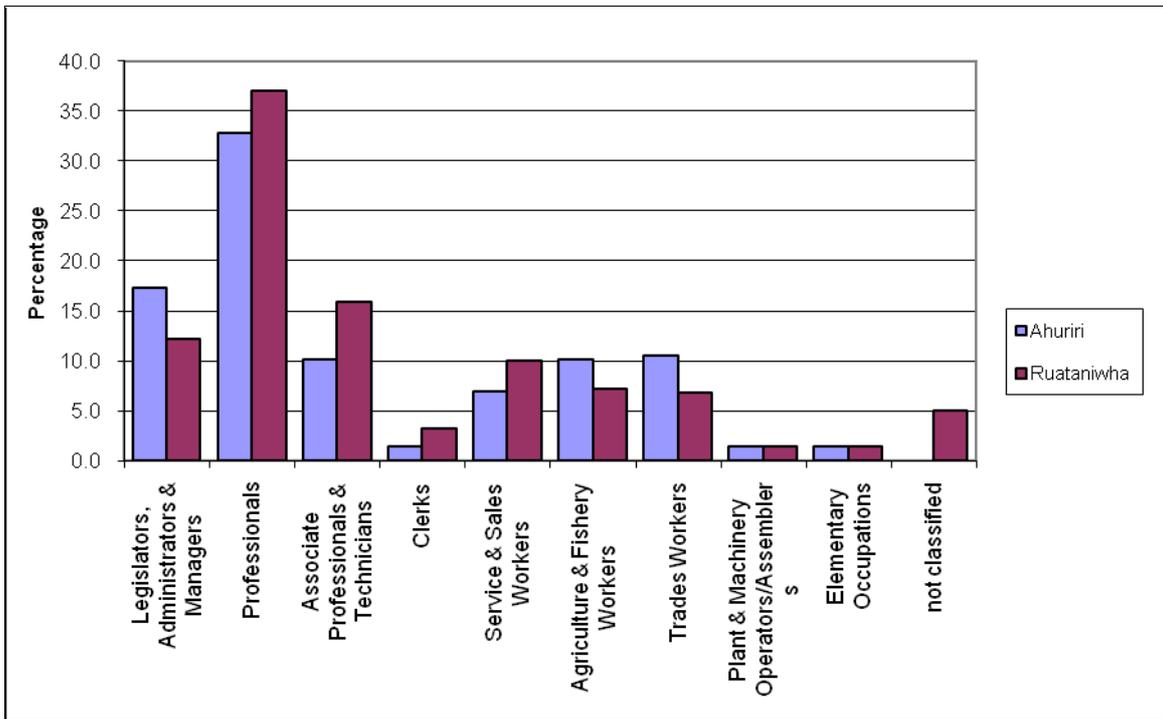


Figure 6: Comparison ACP/RCP: Respondents' occupational groups

3.2 Origin of Respondents

Overall, New Zealanders strongly dominated the sample, comprising over three-quarters of respondents (Figure 7). Of the remainder, Europeans were the dominant source region (12%).

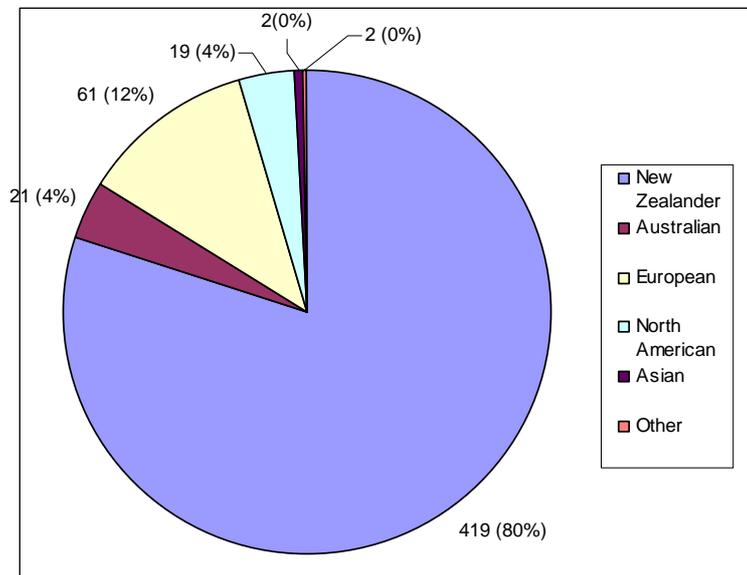


Figure 7: Origin of respondents

This distribution of nationalities was repeated in each of the conservation parks (Figure 8), with New Zealanders being the single dominant visitor group.

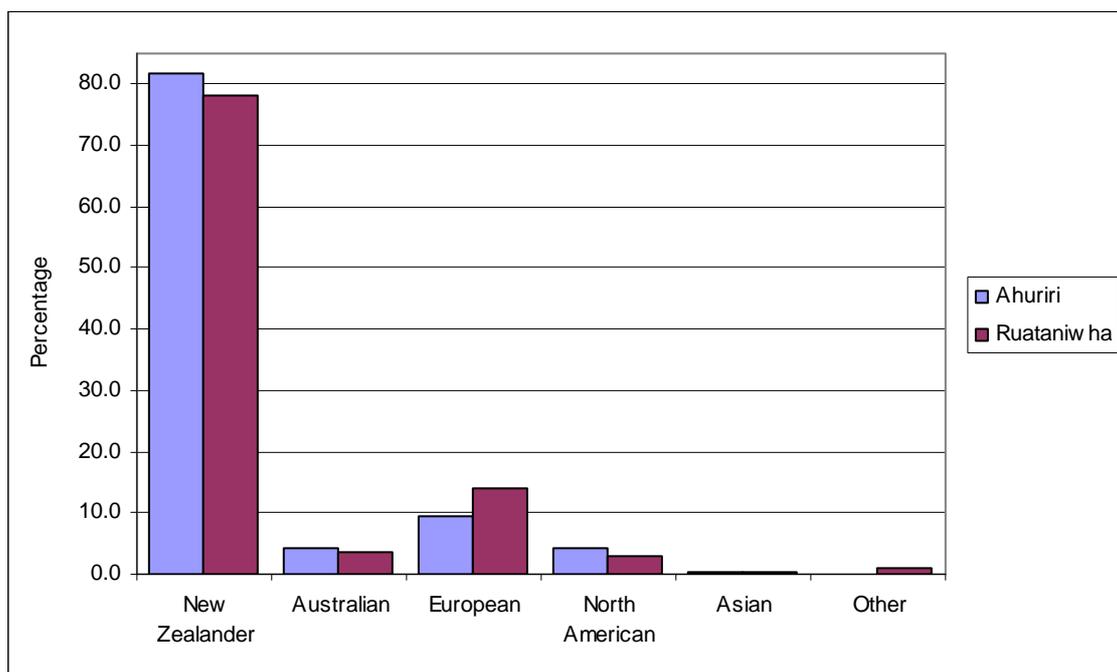


Figure 8: Comparison ACP/RCP: Origin of respondents

When usual country of residence is considered, use of the parks by New Zealand residents is even higher, at 89% for the two parks combined (Figure 9). Again, this was followed by respondents whose normal place of residence was in Europe (5%). This representation is evident in both ACP and RCP.

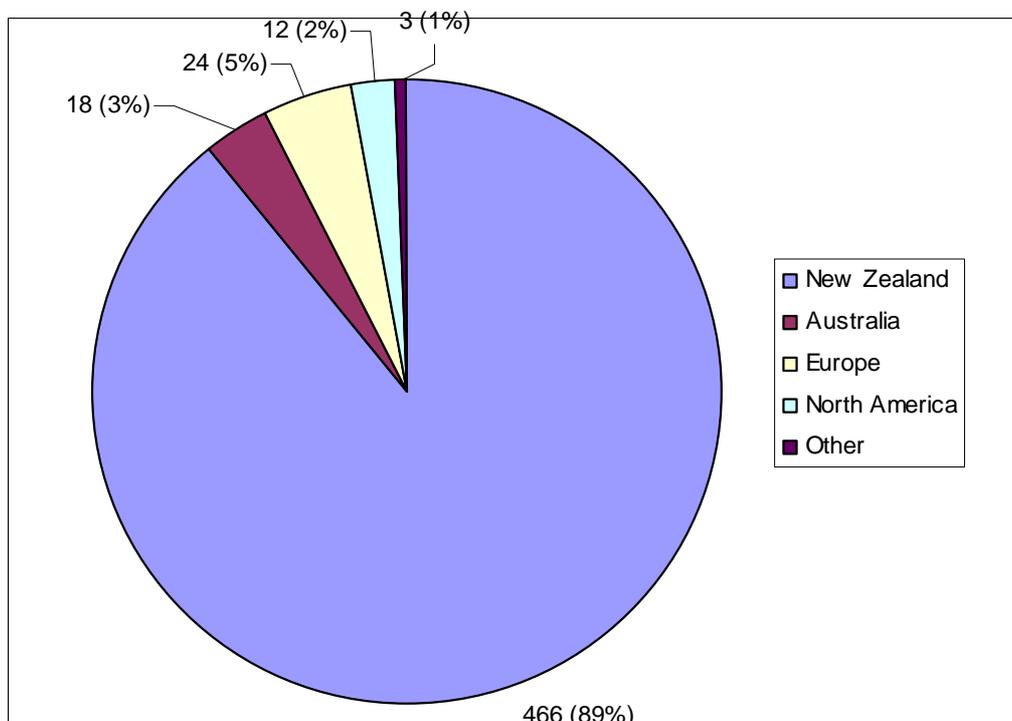


Figure 9: Usual country of residence

Of those respondents who reside in New Zealand, the largest group are from the South Island, but from outside the local area (53%) (Figure 10). The local area is defined for this study as being the South Canterbury, Waitaki and North Otago regions. About one-third of respondents came from within this local area. Only a relatively small number of respondents (15%) were from the North Island.

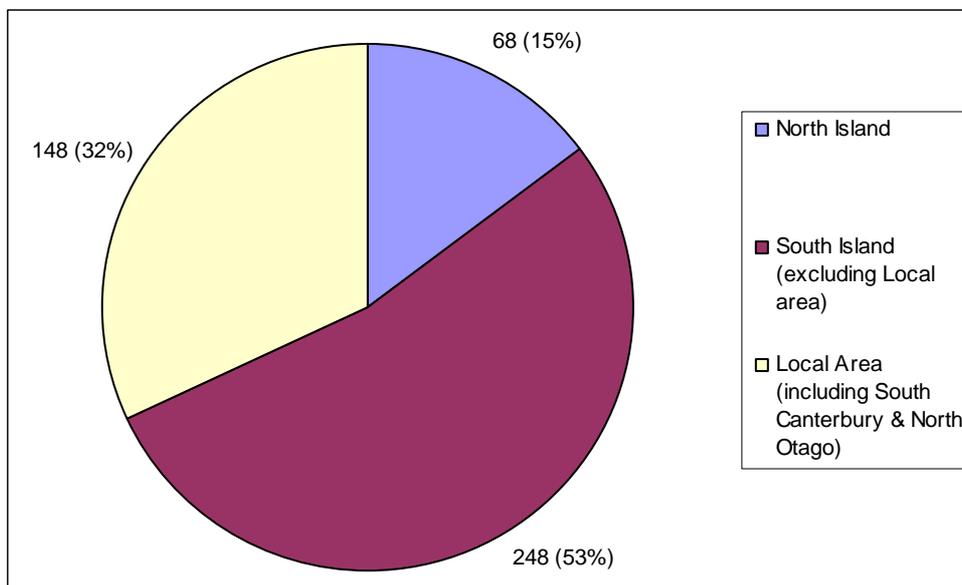


Figure 10: Origin of New Zealand residents

The above pattern, of local users dominating the sample was evident for both ACP and RCP, however, ACP had a slightly higher percentage of respondents from the North Island – perhaps reflecting the national reputation of the Ahuriri River as a trout fishery (Figure 11).

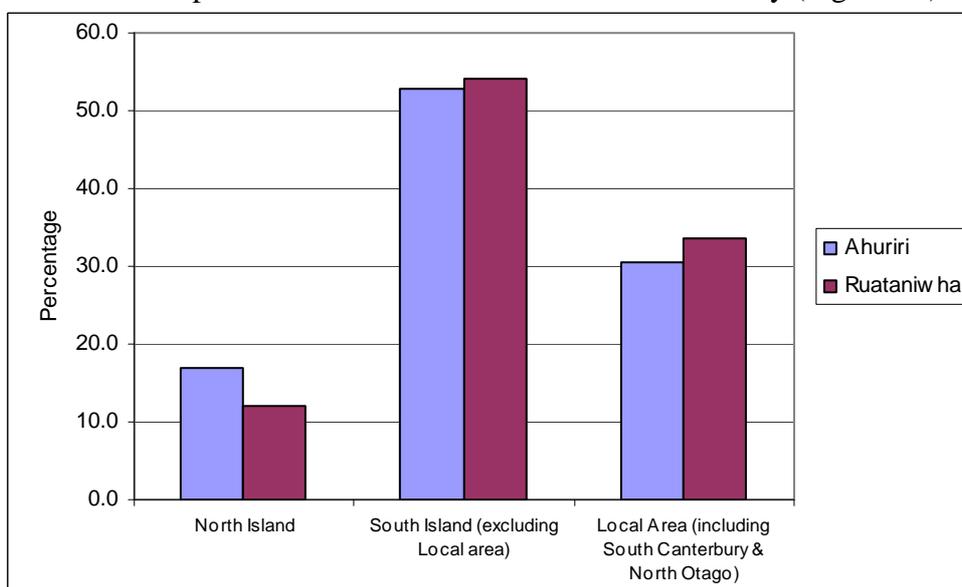


Figure 11: Comparison ACP/RCP: Origin of New Zealand residents

3.3 Outdoor Experience and Recreational Club Membership

A high number of respondents indicated that they were regular users of the New Zealand outdoors (84%) (Figure 12). Only a very small number of respondents were first time users of the New Zealand outdoors. There was no difference between the ACP and RCP in this respect.

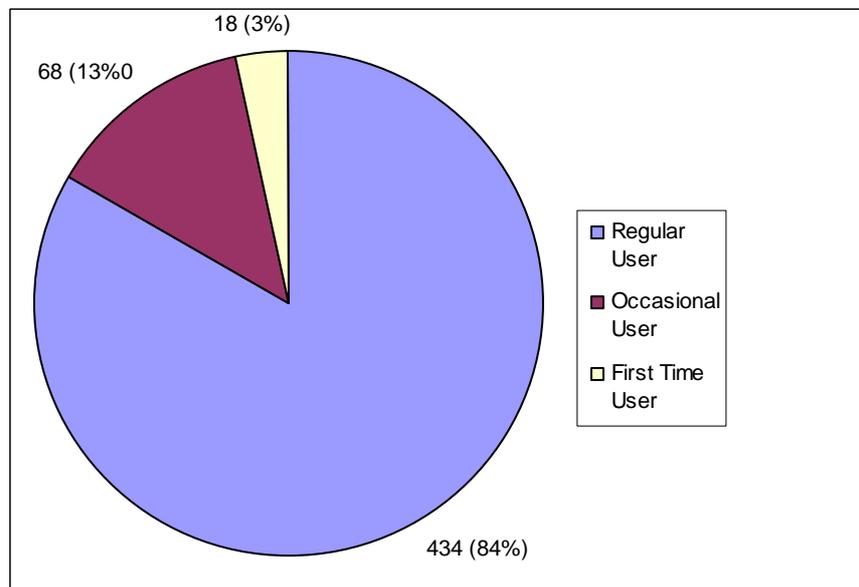


Figure 12: Use of the New Zealand outdoors

When asked specifically how many years experience they had had in the New Zealand outdoors, use was quite even, ranging from less than 10 years through to 49 years (Figure 13). Collectively, well over three quarters of respondents (82%) had more than 10 years experience in the New Zealand outdoors. Quite a large proportion of respondents had quite an extensive history of use of the outdoors, with over half (54%) of respondents having over 30 years experience.

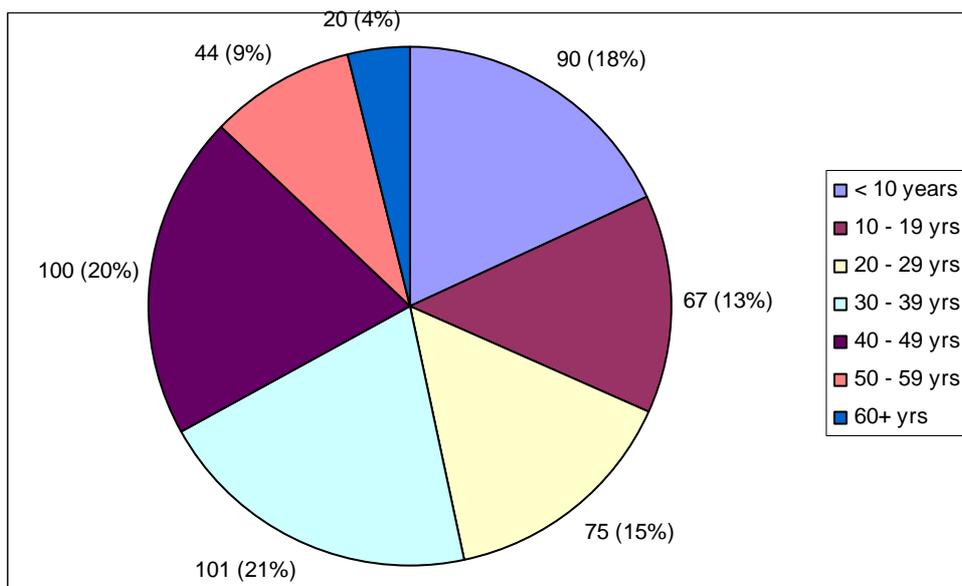


Figure 13: Years of using the New Zealand outdoors

There were some differences, however, between the ACP and RCP samples with respect to years of use of the New Zealand outdoors. Compared with ACP, the RCP respondents tended to have overall, slightly less outdoors experience – this being demonstrated most markedly in the less than 10 years experience category, with 23% of RCP respondents falling into this category compared with only 13% in the ACP (Figure 14). Of course, international respondents will belong to this category, however, considering that international representation in the visitor sample for both parks is virtually identical, this still points to a difference between ACP and RCP.

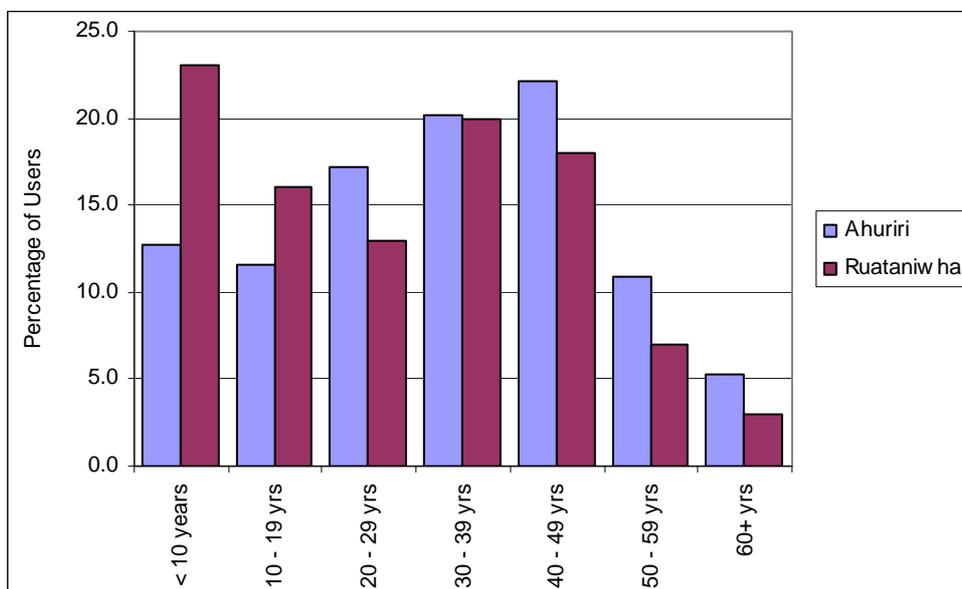


Figure 14: Comparison ACP/RCP: Years of using the New Zealand outdoors

Over half (52%) of respondents for both parks together indicated that they belong to an organisation or club associated with outdoor recreation. Of those belonging to some organisation 30% belonged to a regional tramping or mountaineering club, with a further 19% belonging to the New Zealand Alpine Club (Figure 15). Regional sports clubs and ‘other’ were also significant categories. Overall there was quite low representation of hunting organisations (e.g. New Zealand Deerstalkers Association 7%).

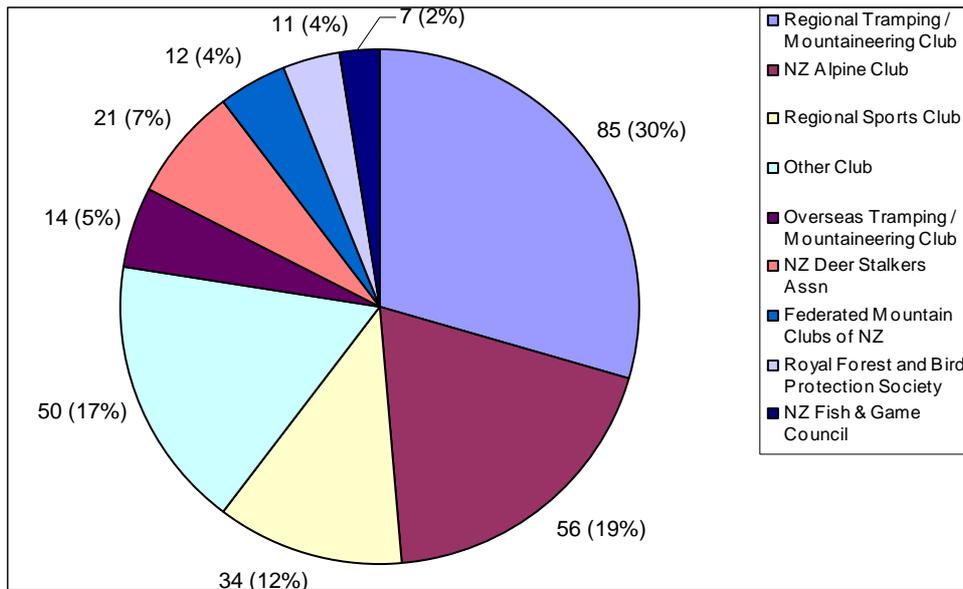


Figure 15: Recreation club / organisation membership

Generally the pattern of club membership was comparable between the two parks, but with the RCP having more regional tramping and mountaineering club members than ACP (35% c.f 25%) (Figure 16). New Zealand Alpine Club membership was well represented in both samples, reflective of the availability of good tramping and climbing in both conservation parks.

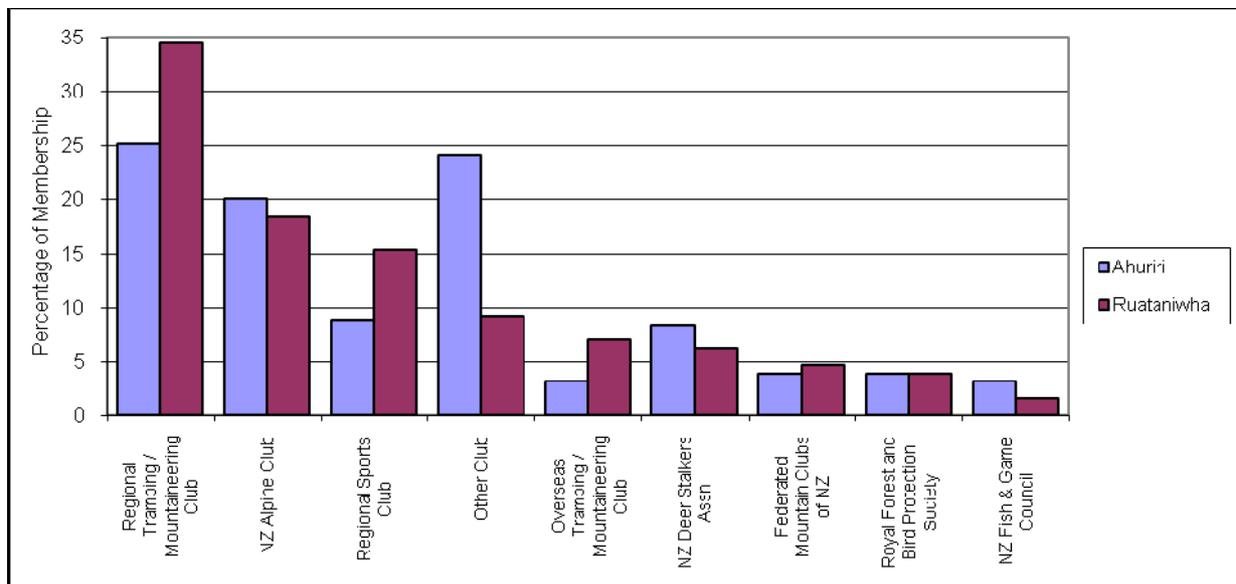


Figure 16: Comparison ACP/RCP: Recreation club / organisation membership

3.4 Group Size and Type

Groups of two, either two adults or one adult and one child, was the predominant group composition for both parks combined (46%) (Figure 17). Small groups (between 3 and 10 people) were also common, but large groups of more than 10 people were uncommon (only 5%).

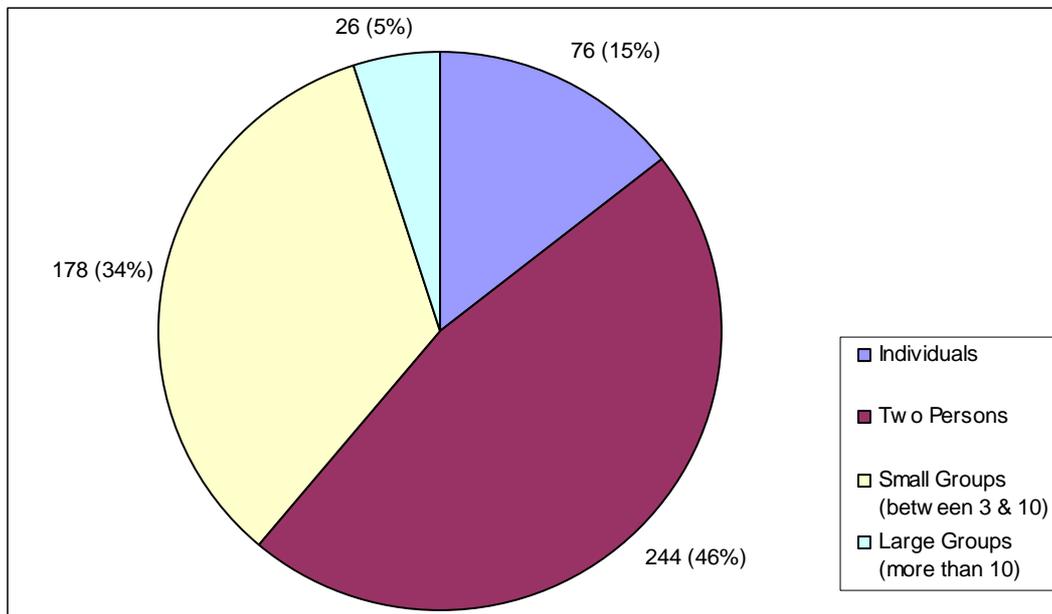


Figure 17: Group size

The group composition was reflected equally in both ACP and RCP, with again, groups of two being dominant, followed by small groups, being the common group size in both parks. While individuals were marginally more common in RCP than in ACP, large groups were uncommon in both conservation parks.

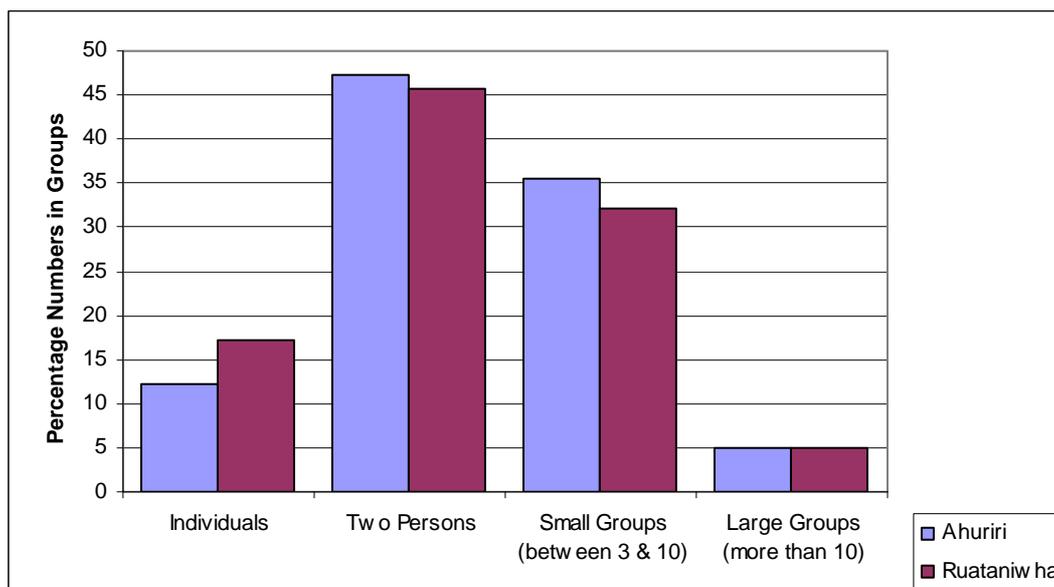


Figure 18: Comparison ACP/RCP: Group size

3.5 Frequency of use of the parks

Despite the sample being strongly representative of visitors with an extensive experience in the New Zealand outdoors (see above), for most respondents, this was their first visit to either ACP or RCP. Just over half (52%) of respondents noted that they were first time users of the parks (Figure 19). Only a small percentage (16%) described themselves as regular users of the parks.

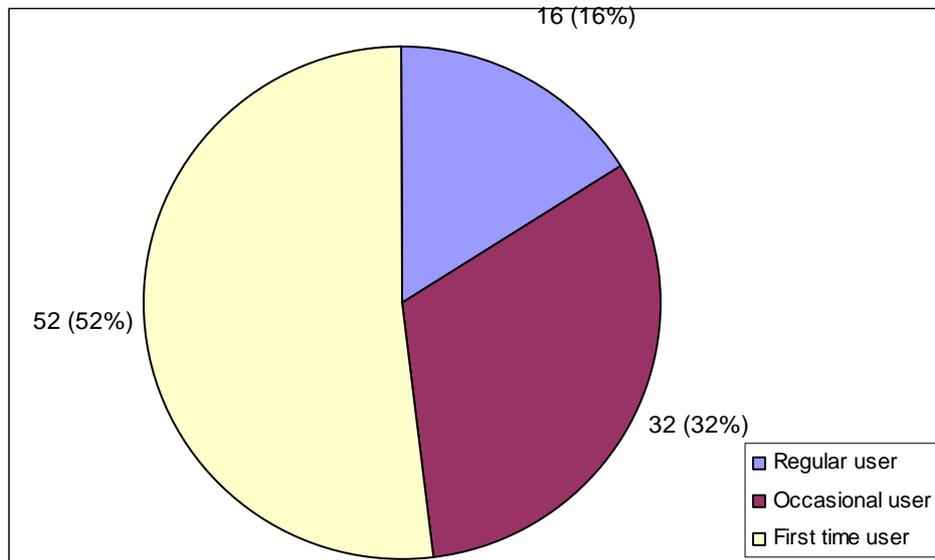


Figure 19: Frequency of use of the park

There were some differences between ACP and RCP, however, in that the number of first time users was significantly higher in ACP than RCP (60% c.f. 40%) (Figure 20). Conversely, the number of regular users was lower in ACP compared with RCP.

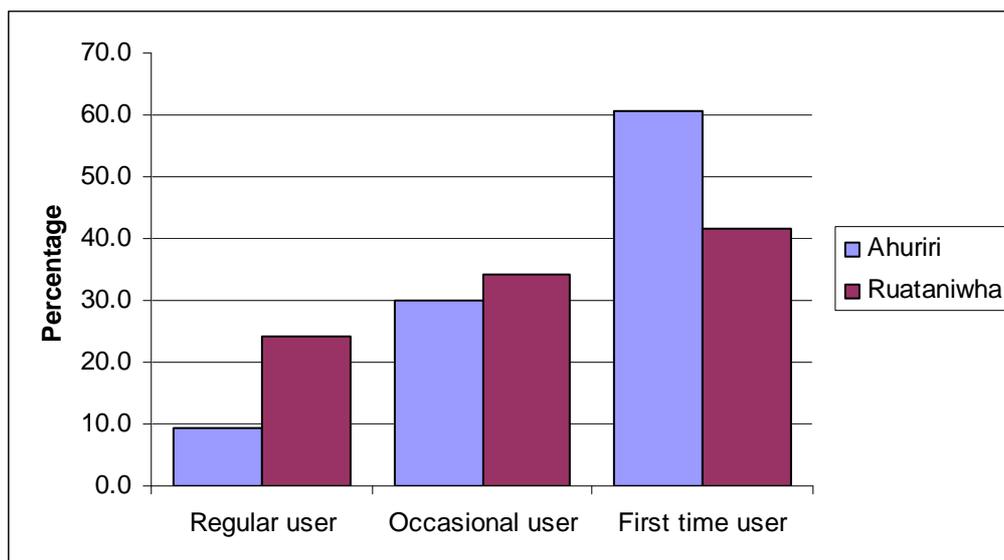


Figure 20: Comparison ACP/RCP: Frequency of use of the park

3.6 Gaining Information About the Parks

The main source of information about the parks for respondents was friends and family (34%) (Figure 21). Another significant source of information was the Department of Conservation (DOC) (17%), however very few respondents indicated use of the DOC website (4%) and even fewer reported i-Sites (only 2%) as a source of information. Brochures were used by 8% of visitors (not specified but presumably DOC brochures).

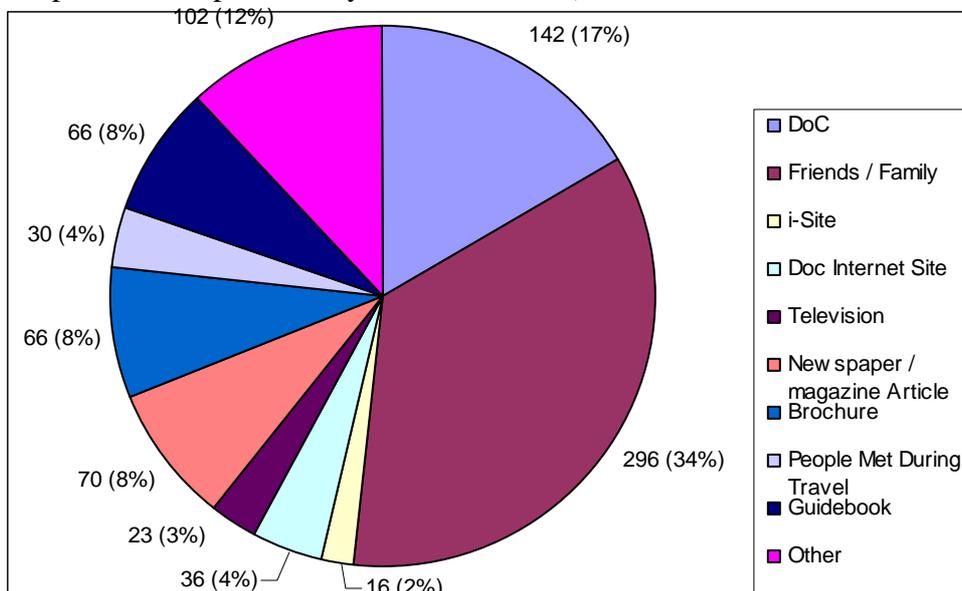


Figure 21: How respondents learned about the park

Sources of information about the parks were quite consistent between the two parks, but with slightly higher use of DOC for RCP (Figure 22). While newspaper/magazine articles were a greater source of information about ACP, this probably reflects the media attention surrounding the purchase of Birchwood Station and the controversial nature of the opening of the park in 2005. The DOC website, i-Sites, brochures and guidebooks were all consistently minor sources of information.

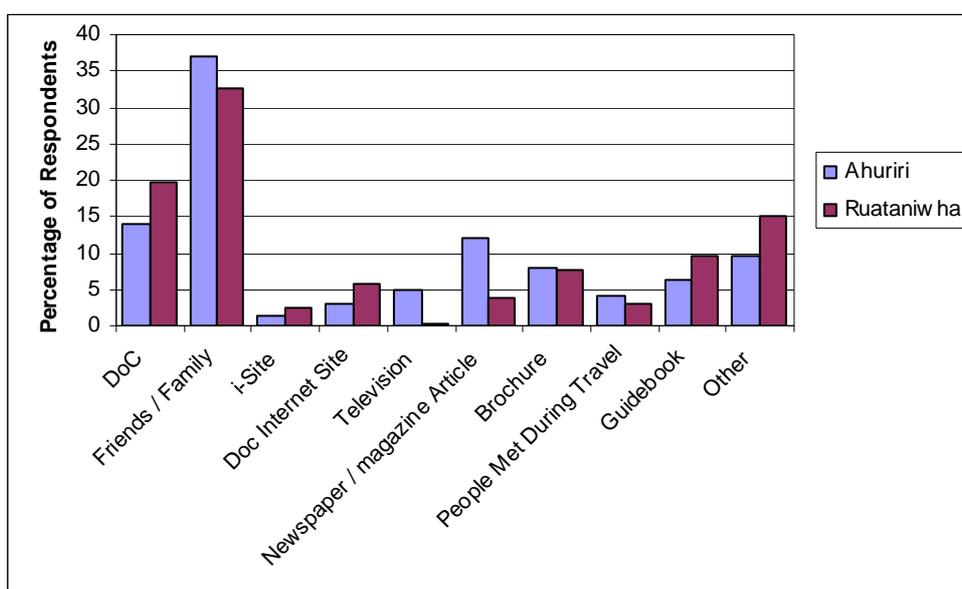


Figure 22: Comparison ACP/RCP: How respondents learned about the park

3.7 Transport To and Within the Park

The main mode of transport to the parks was 4WD, with just under half (49%) of respondents using this form of transport. Most of the remainder used cars, with very few arriving by other means (e.g. bicycle, camper van) (Figure 23).

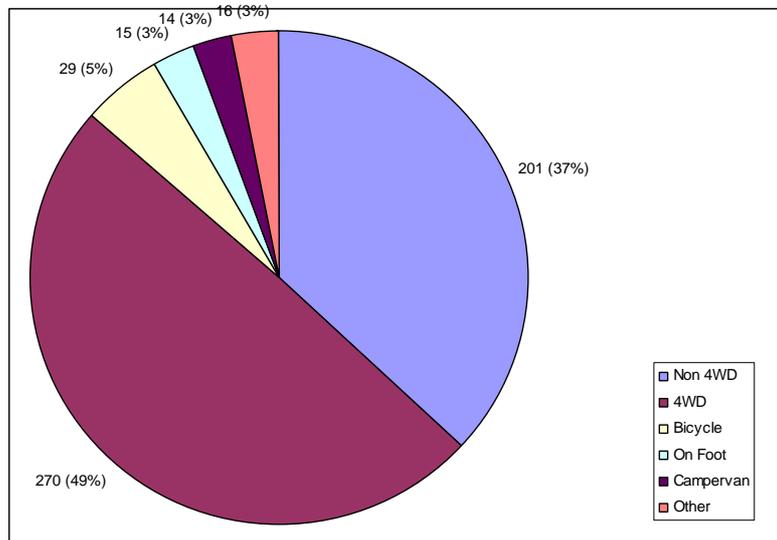


Figure 23: Transport to the park

There were some differences between the parks in terms of transport used. A higher proportion of ACP respondents used 4WDs, compared with RCP, where non 4WD and bicycle were used more frequently than ACP (Figure 24). Note that some respondents arrived on foot to RCP, these usually arriving from the adjoining ACP via tramping routes.

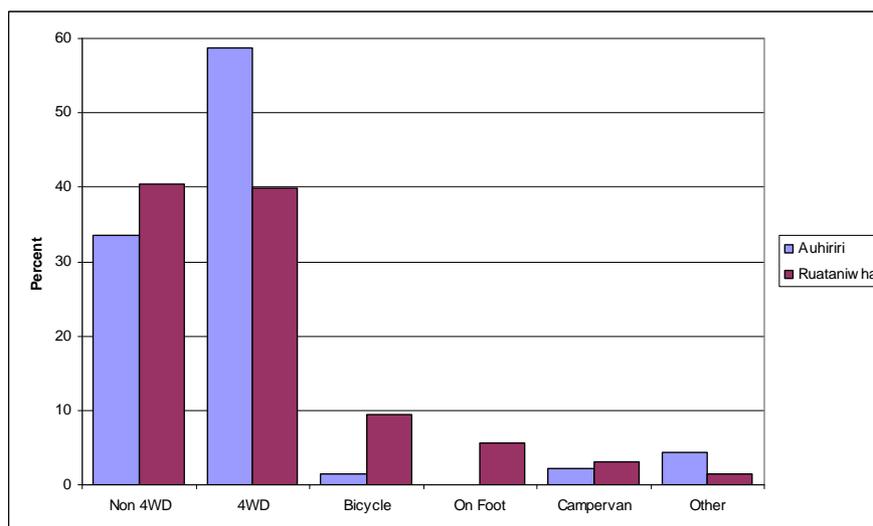


Figure 24: Comparison ACP/RCP: Transport to the park

Predictably, the most common way of getting around within the parks was by foot, with nearly three-quarters of respondents indicating this mode (Figure 25). Bicycle (mountain bike) was the next most common mode of transport within the parks, and is significant at 15%. A small number used 4WD within the parks (6%), and only 1% used horses for transport.

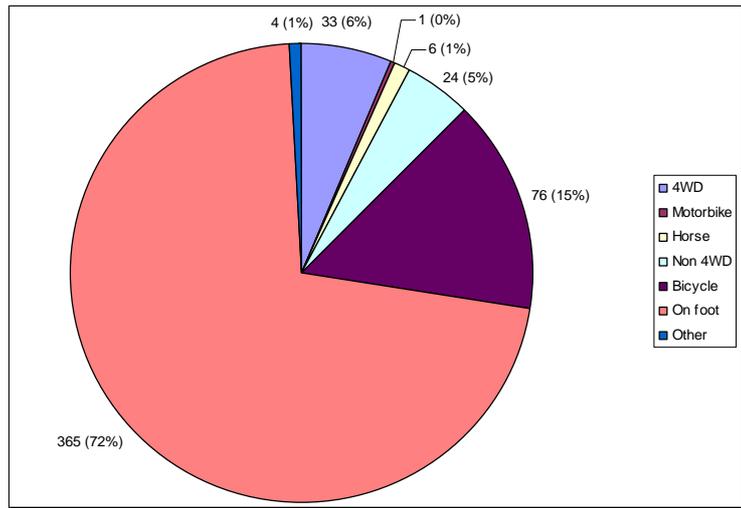


Figure 25: Transport within the park

The main difference in transport used within ACP and RCP was that 12% of RCP respondents used 4WD within the park while there was no reported usage of 4WD within the ACP. This is largely because of DOC actions taken to prevent 4WD access to ACP, in the form of fences and locked gates. It seems that the lack of 4WD access to ACP motivated visitors to walk, as this mode is substantially higher in ACP than in RCP (82% c.f. 62%).

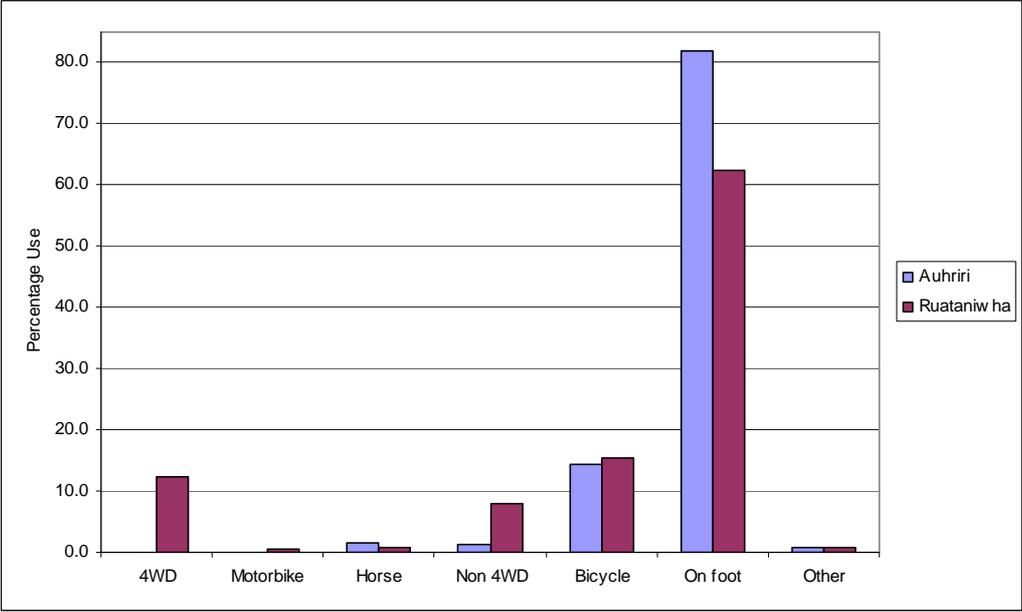


Figure 26: Comparison ACP/RCP: Transport within the park

3.8 Length of Stay

Although overnight use of the parks was predominant among respondents, use of the parks by day-trippers was substantial (Figure 27). Forty percent of respondents indicated no overnight stay in either park. About the same number stayed for two to three days, with relatively few (19%) staying longer than this.

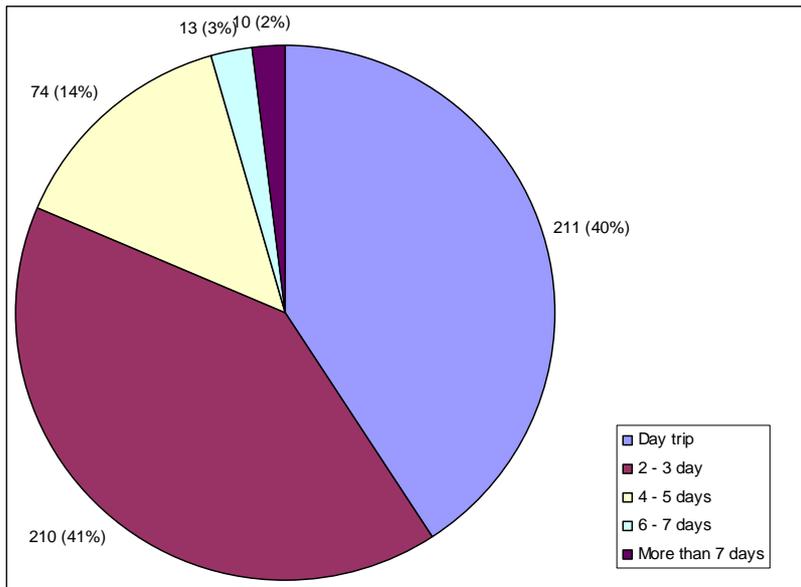


Figure 27: Length of stay

While this pattern is broadly demonstrated in both parks, ACP tended to reflect higher usage by day-trippers, and also by those having a short stay (2-3 days) (Figure 28). The former may be explained by the popularity of fishing in the Ahuriri River which likely attracts those passing through on SH8 or who are staying outside the park, perhaps at Omarama.

The fact that longer trips (>5 days) are more common in RCP than ACP is probably explained by the more extensive nature of the valley system and the larger number of huts available – making more varied and lengthy itineraries possible.

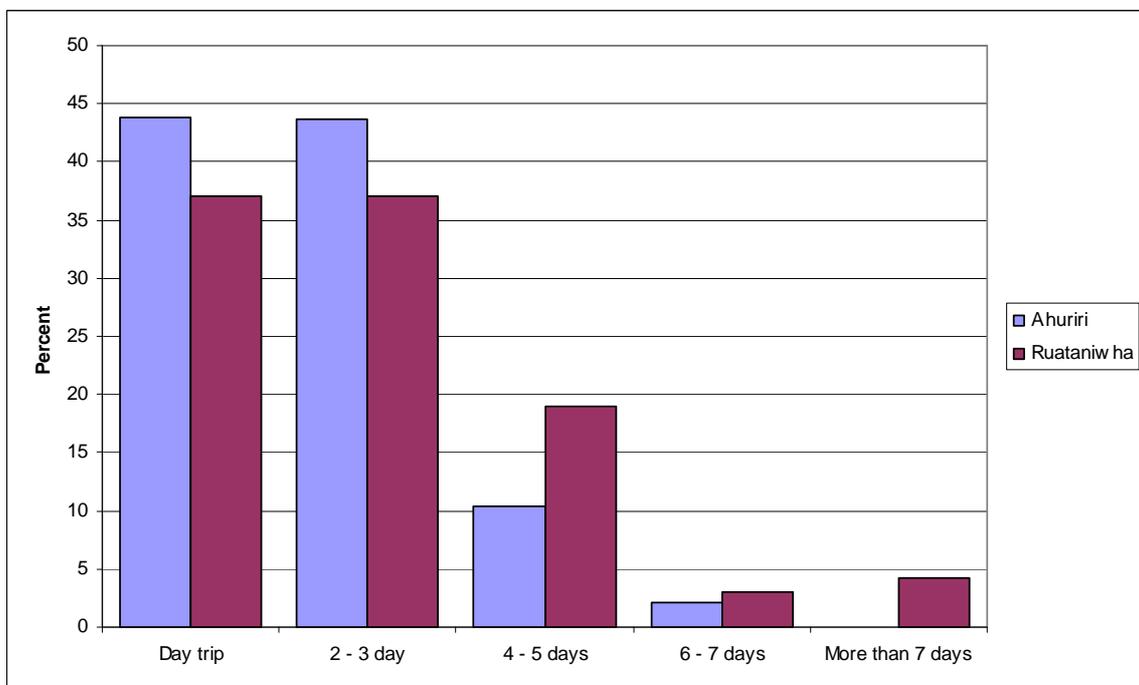


Figure 28: Comparison ACP/RCP: Length of stay

3.9 Accommodation

A little over half (55%) of the respondents elected to stay in a hut in the parks, meaning that a substantial number of park users (45%) camped. Usage of tents was higher in the ACP than RCP (Figure 29). This reflects the larger number of hut options in the RCP and also the larger size of the huts. In ACP, many of the huts have a small capacity necessitating camping in busy periods.

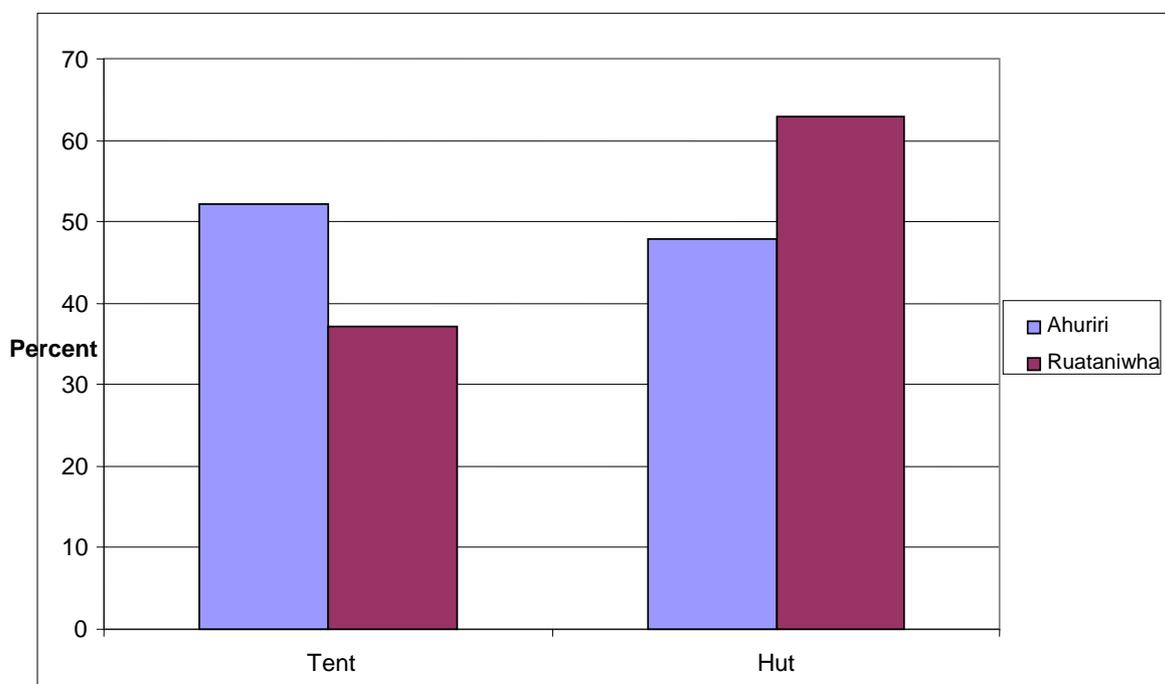


Figure 29: Comparison ACP/RCP: Accommodation

3.10 Motivation for Visiting

Respondents were asked to rate a number of items according to how important they were as motivations to visit each park. This question used a 5-point Likert-type scale ranging from “extremely important” to “not at all important”. The main motivation for visiting the parks, expressed by the number of respondents ranking it as being “extremely important” was to go tramping (Figure 30). This was followed closely by the desire to experience the solitude of the area, and then scenery/sightseeing.

Less important but still significant motivations were the easy access to nature, and also the opportunity to take children into the outdoors.

Most of the other experiences/activities were seen as somewhat less important motivations by respondents. The activities of four wheel driving, horse riding and participating in guided activities were the three lowest-rated experiences/activities in terms of serving as motivations for visiting the parks.

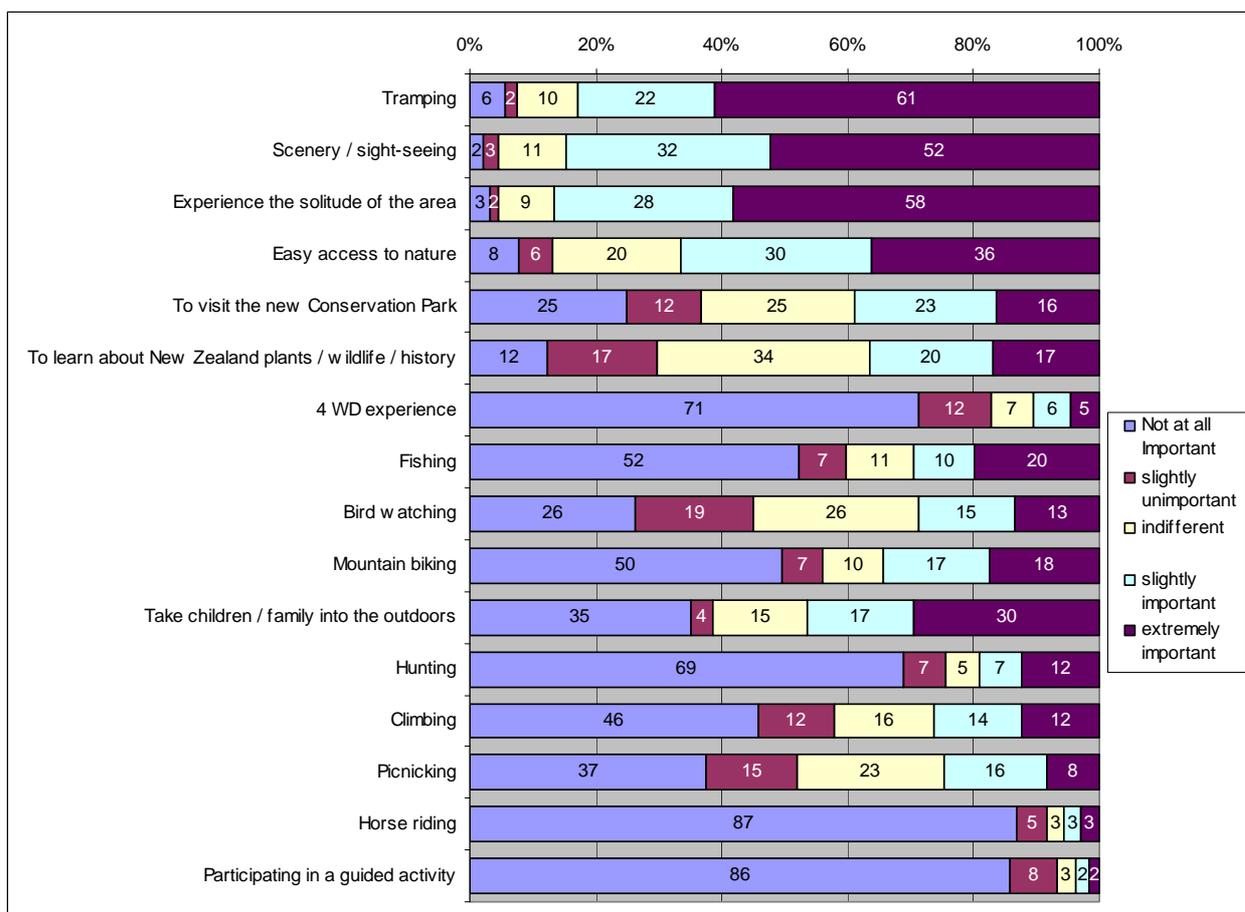


Figure 30: Motivations for visiting the park

Motivations for visiting were remarkably similar between the parks, with the five top motivations aligning strongly (Table 2).

Table 2: Comparison ACP/RCP: Top five motivations for visiting

Motivation (rank)	ACP	% scoring “extremely important”	RCP	% scoring “extremely important”
1	Tramping	61%	Tramping	61%
2	To experience solitude	61%	To experience solitude	55%
3	Sightseeing/scenery	55%	Sightseeing/scenery	49%
4	Easy access to nature	41%	Easy access to nature	31%
5	Take children/family into outdoors	29%	Take children/family into outdoors	30%

Interestingly, while most other activities scored similarly between ACP and RCP, the motivation “to visit the new conservation park” was higher for ACP (20%) than RCP (12%). This may be reflective of the higher media profile that the ACP received at the time of opening. Another notable feature is that while the ACP supports populations of black stilt (kaki), despite DOC information and interpretation relating to this species and other wetland and braided river-bed birds, “bird watching” as an important motivation for visiting is virtually the same in the ACP (14%) as it is in the RCP (14%) where there are no highly profiled bird species and no associated information or interpretation.

3.11 Perceptions of Crowding

Overall, there was little perception of crowding within the parks. Only a very small percentage (6%) of respondents felt that they had experienced either moderate or extreme crowding, while well over three quarters of respondents felt the parks to be “not at all crowded” (Figure 31).

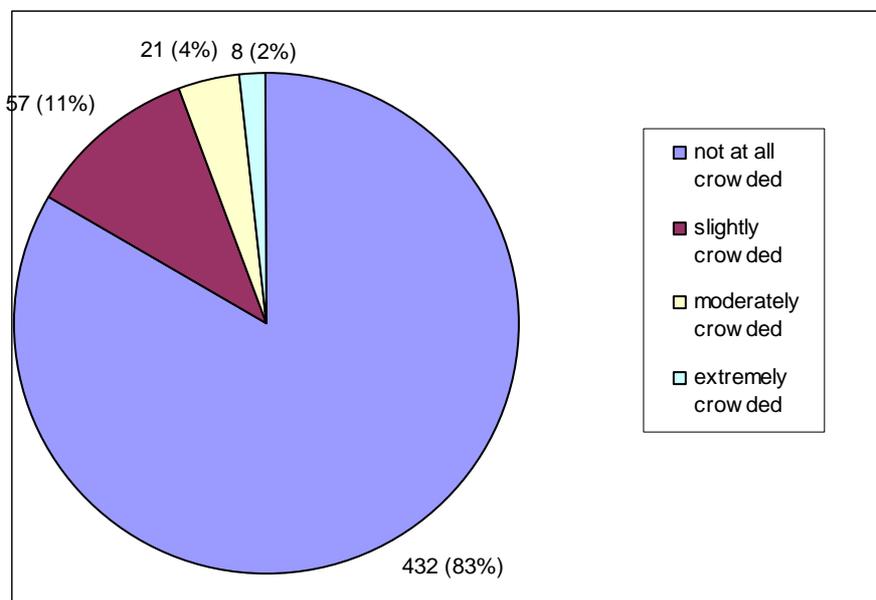


Figure 31: Perception of crowding

When the sample is broken down by age, we see that the perceptions of crowding are consistently low across all age groups (Figure 32). Similarly there is little observable difference in perceptions of crowding between domestic and international visitors to the parks, nor between the different source regions for the international visitors (Figure 33).

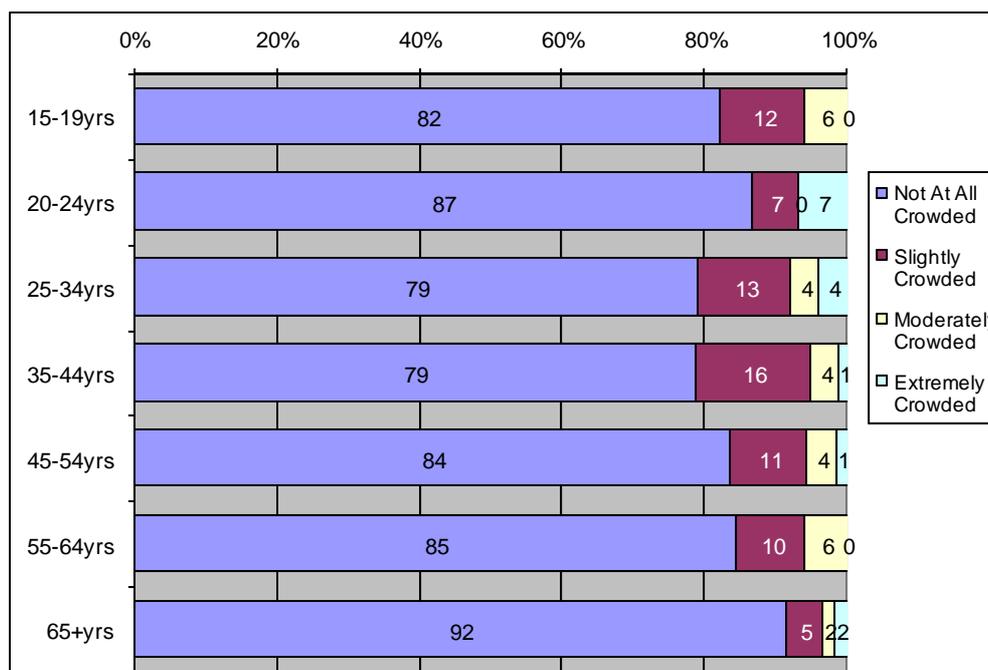


Figure 32: Perception of crowding by age

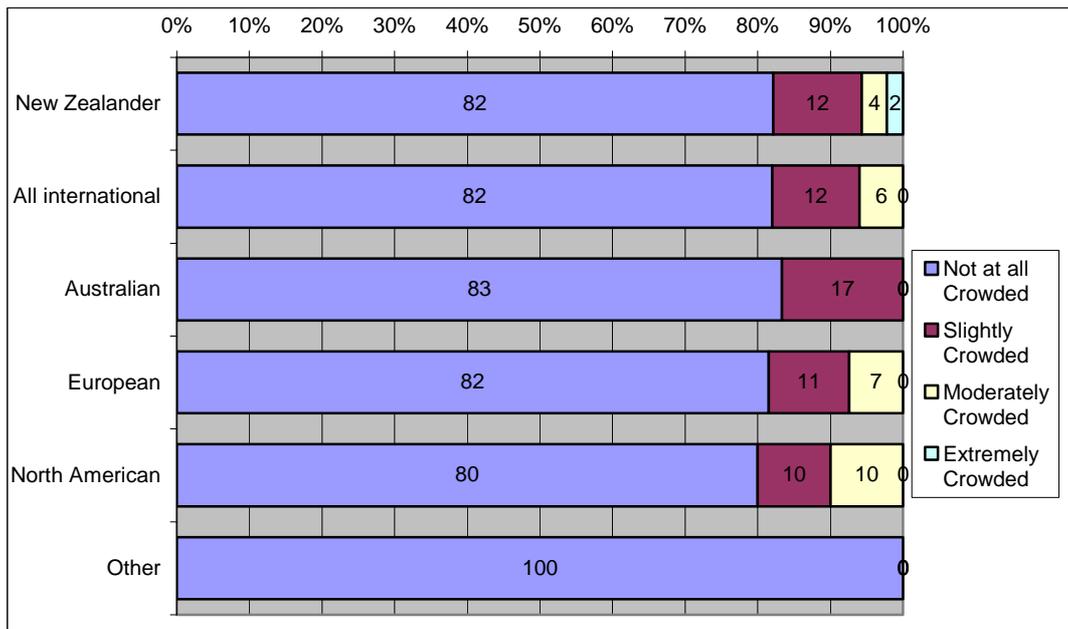


Figure 33: Perception of crowding by origin

Perceptions of crowding (or rather – lack of crowding) were virtually identical between ACP and RCP. Again – for each park, over 80% of respondents felt that the park was not crowded at all (Figure 34). Only a small number (6%) of respondents felt that there was more than slight crowding.

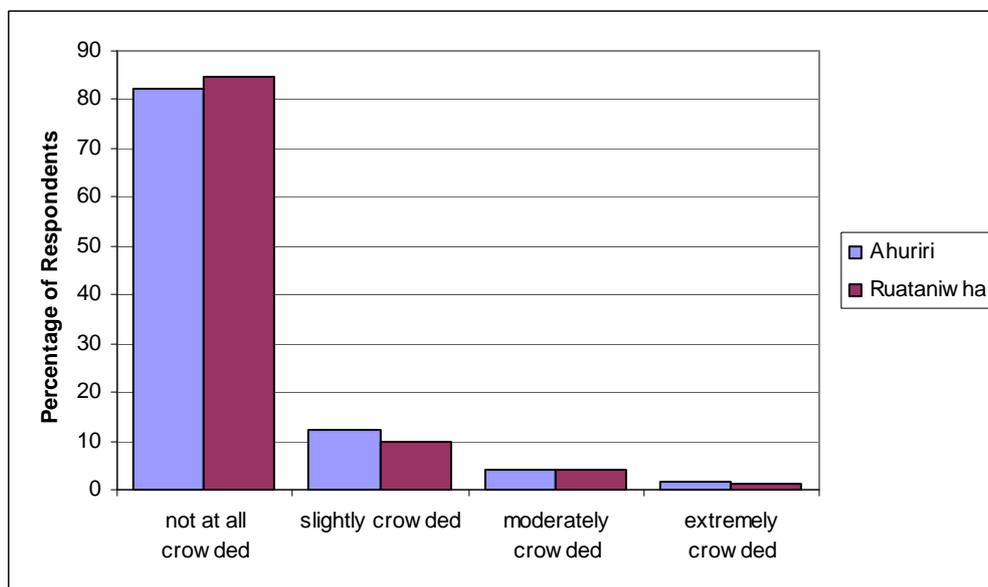


Figure 34: Comparison ACP/RCP: Perception of crowding

3.12 Overall Satisfaction

Overall satisfaction with the visitor experience in the parks was very high. A total of 97% of respondents were either “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” with their experience in the parks (Figure 35).

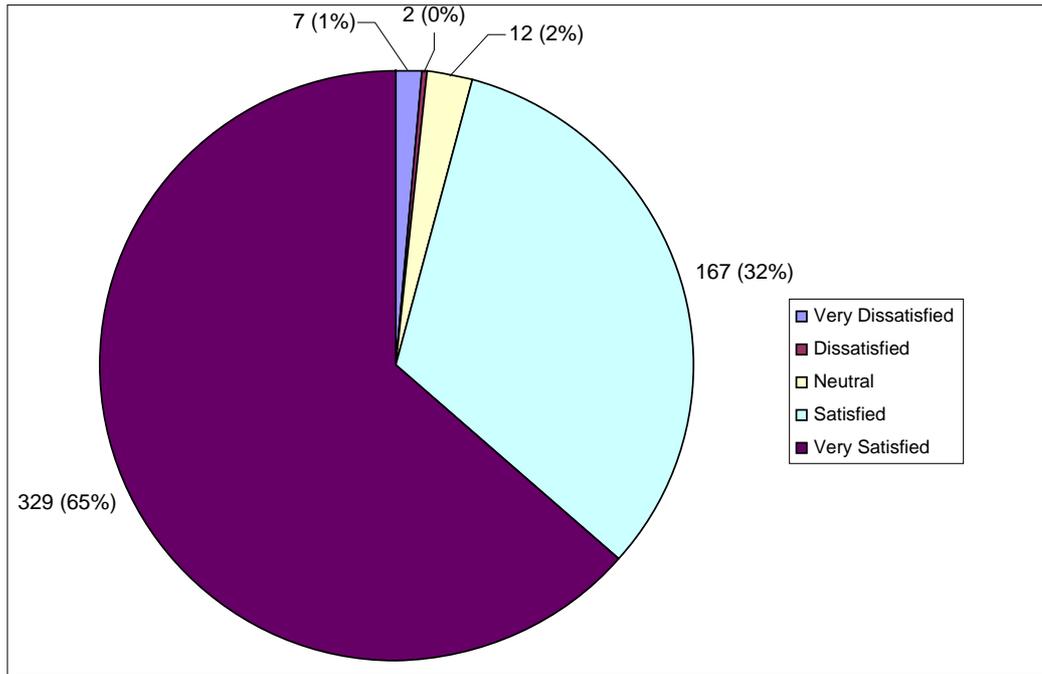


Figure 35: Overall satisfaction

When the sample is examined by age group and gender, the high level of satisfaction is evident for all segments (Figure 36). Similarly, when the sample is broken into local, domestic and international segments, there is no discernible difference in levels of satisfaction (Figure 37). Regular users, occasional users and first time users of the parks all showed the same high level of satisfaction.

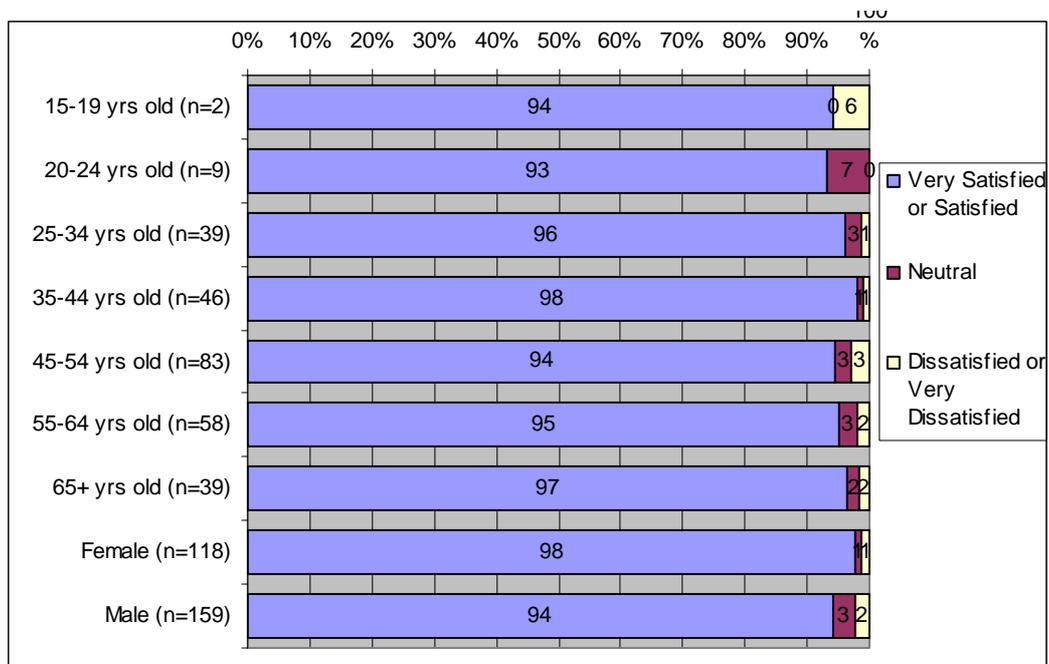


Figure 36: Satisfaction by age and gender

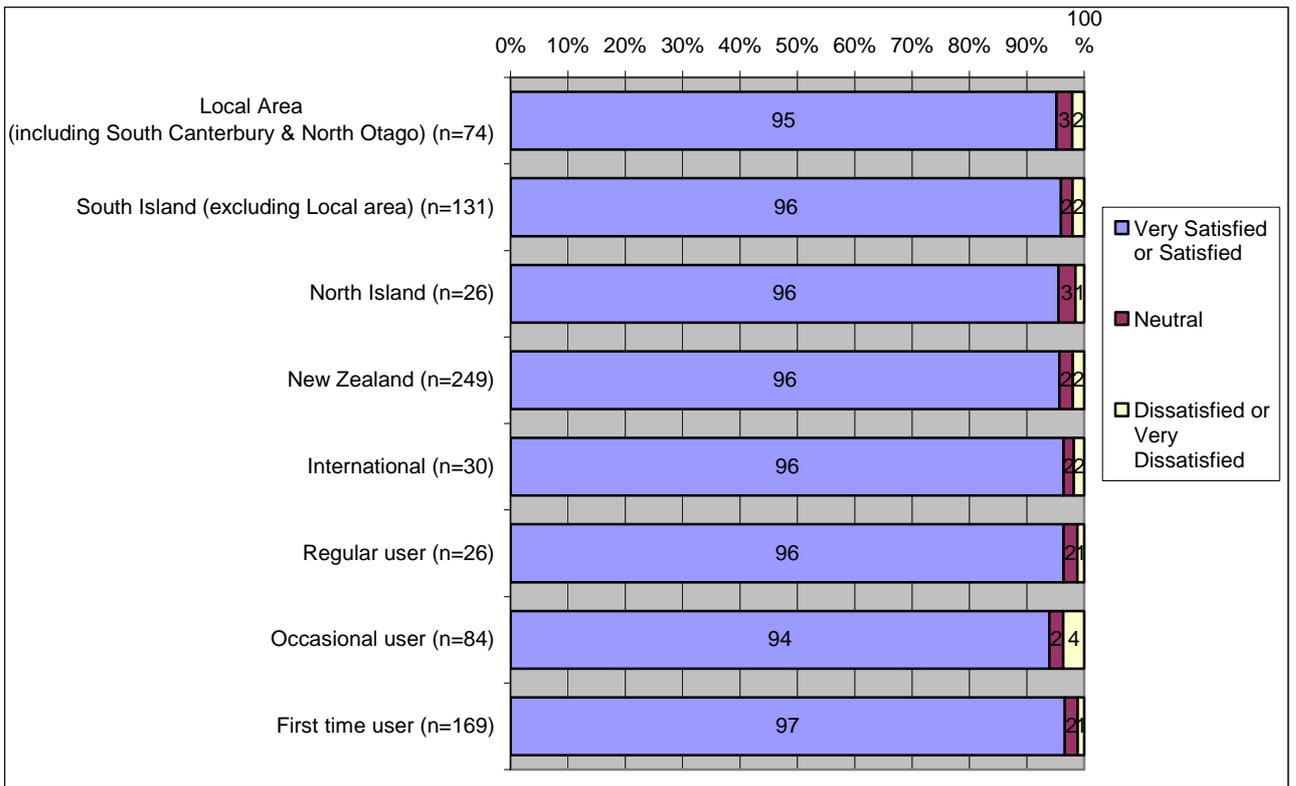


Figure 37: Satisfaction by origin and level of use

While satisfaction was high for both ACP and RCP there were some differences, however, with a significantly higher percentage of “Very Satisfied” respondents in the ACP compared with the RCP. Conversely, there were a greater percentage of “Satisfied” respondents in the RCP than the ACP (Figure 38). The reason for this is unclear, but it is unlikely that crowding is an issue, because, as outlined previously, crowding perceptions were equally low for both parks. The fact that 92% of RCP respondents indicated that they would return to the park and that 99% of ACP respondents would return to that park, indicate that there is very little wrong in terms of the parks contributing to a high quality visitor experience.

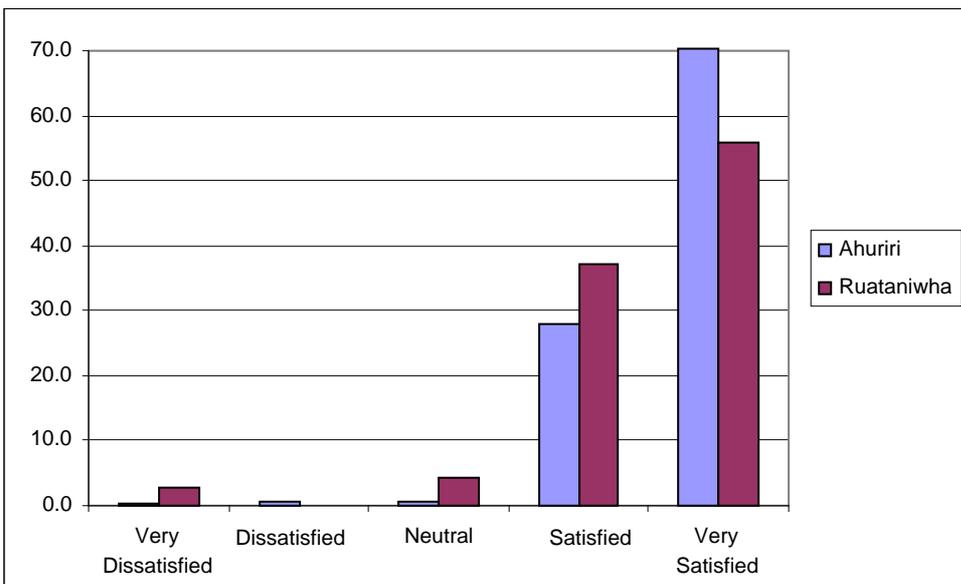


Figure 38: Comparison ACP/RCP: Overall satisfaction

An open ended question in each survey invited suggestions for improvement of the Conservation Parks. While a quantitative analysis of this aspect of the data is not appropriate, Table 3 provides an indication of where respondents felt that improvements could be made. Both parks, it was felt, could be better served in terms of information provision. Access appeared to be more of an issue for RCP respondents than in the ACP, and for RCP, the issue of 4WD access received many comments (both positive and negative). A detailed coverage of the comments received regarding each park is beyond the scope of this document, and it is recommended that readers visit the individual visitor reports for each park for more information.

Table 3: Suggestions for improvement

Area for suggested Improvement	Number of Suggestions / Comments		
	Ahuriri	Ruataniwha	Combined
Information Provision	36	33	69
Facilities			
General	28	8	36
Access	3	20	23
Tracks	13	28	41
Tracks (mountain bikes)	n/a	11	11
4WD / Vehicle Issues	26	45	71
Huts	20	28	48
Toilets	12	14	26
Natural Resource Management	19	40	59

3.13 Groups comparison: Children and no children

This part of the analysis looks at the different types of groups that have used the park – those including children and those without children (aged < 15yrs) – and compares responses between these groups. Of course it must be kept in mind that the responses are generally from *one member* of that group and therefore their perceptions may not necessarily reflect the perceptions of that group – but rather, the individual who made the response.

A relatively low number of respondents were members of groups that included children. Overall, 16% of all parties included children (Table 4). The distribution of groups with and without children was virtually identical between ACP and RCP.

Table 4: Groups with children

Groups	Ahuriri		Ruataniwha		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
With Children	43	15%	38	16%	81	16%
Without children	241	85%	195	84%	435	84%
Total	284	100%	233	100%	516	100%

Of those groups that included children, one child per group was the norm, with just under half (48%) of groups falling into this category (Figure 39). This pattern was repeated for both ACP and RCP, where groups with one child predominated (Figure 40).

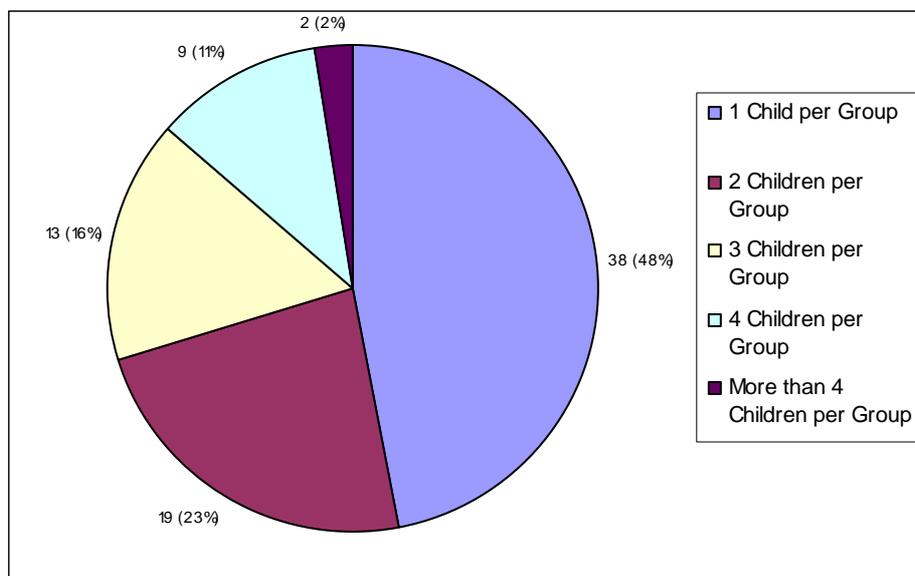


Figure 39: Composition of groups with children

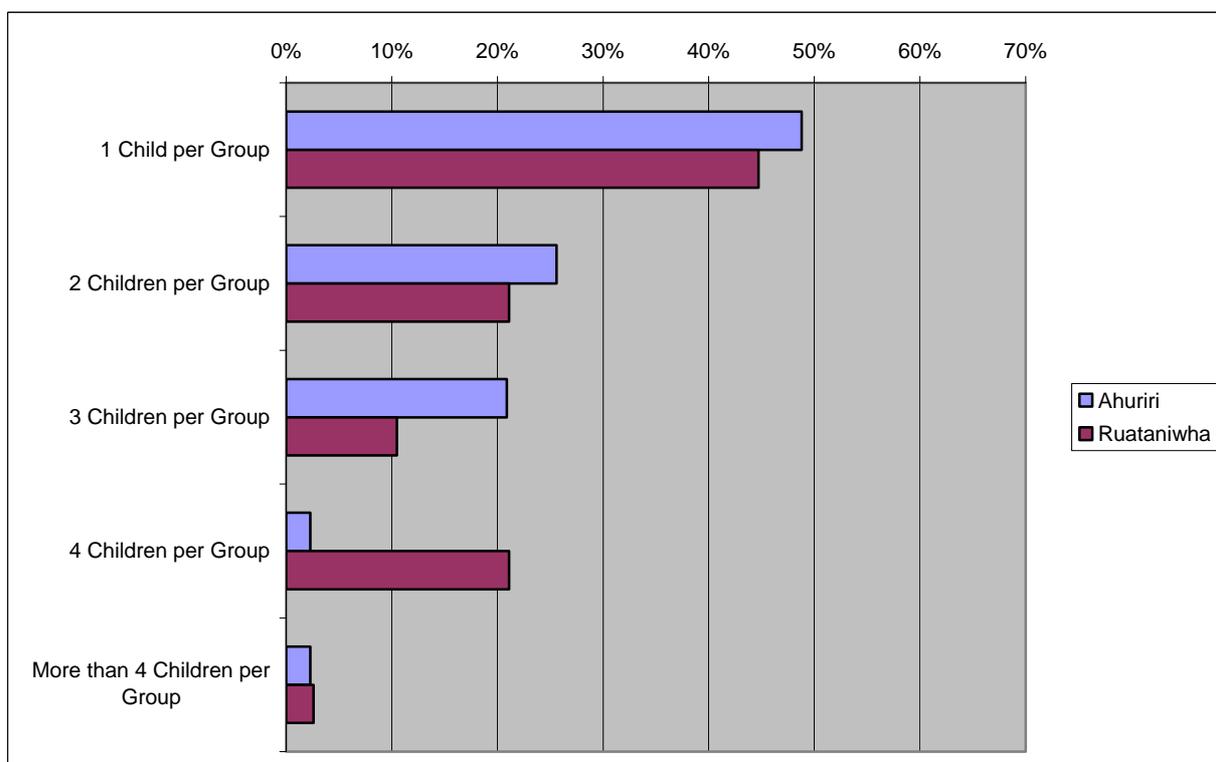


Figure 40: Comparison ACP/RCP: Composition of groups with children

Groups with children and groups without children gained information about the parks from different sources. Respondents from groups with children tended to make much higher use of family and friends a source of information about the conservation parks than respondents from groups without children (Figure 41).

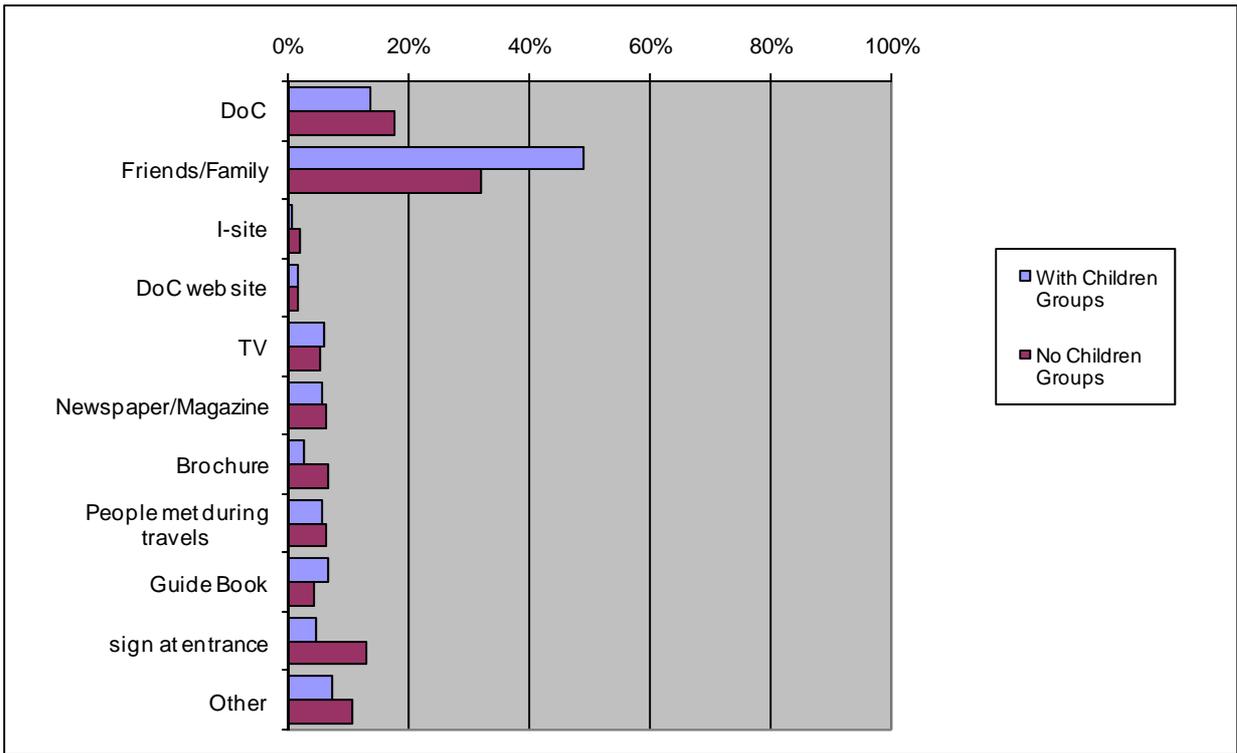


Figure 41: Comparison groups with/without children: Information sources

While the overall motivations for visiting the parks did not differ substantially between groups with children and groups without children, there were some notable variations (Figure 42). Predictably, the motivation of taking children/family into the outdoors was much higher for respondents from groups with children. However the motivations of scenery/sightseeing, experiencing solitude and going tramping were still the top three motivations for these respondents – just as they were for respondents from groups without children. Respondents from groups with children were motivated more by the opportunity to go mountain bike riding and also to go picnicking.

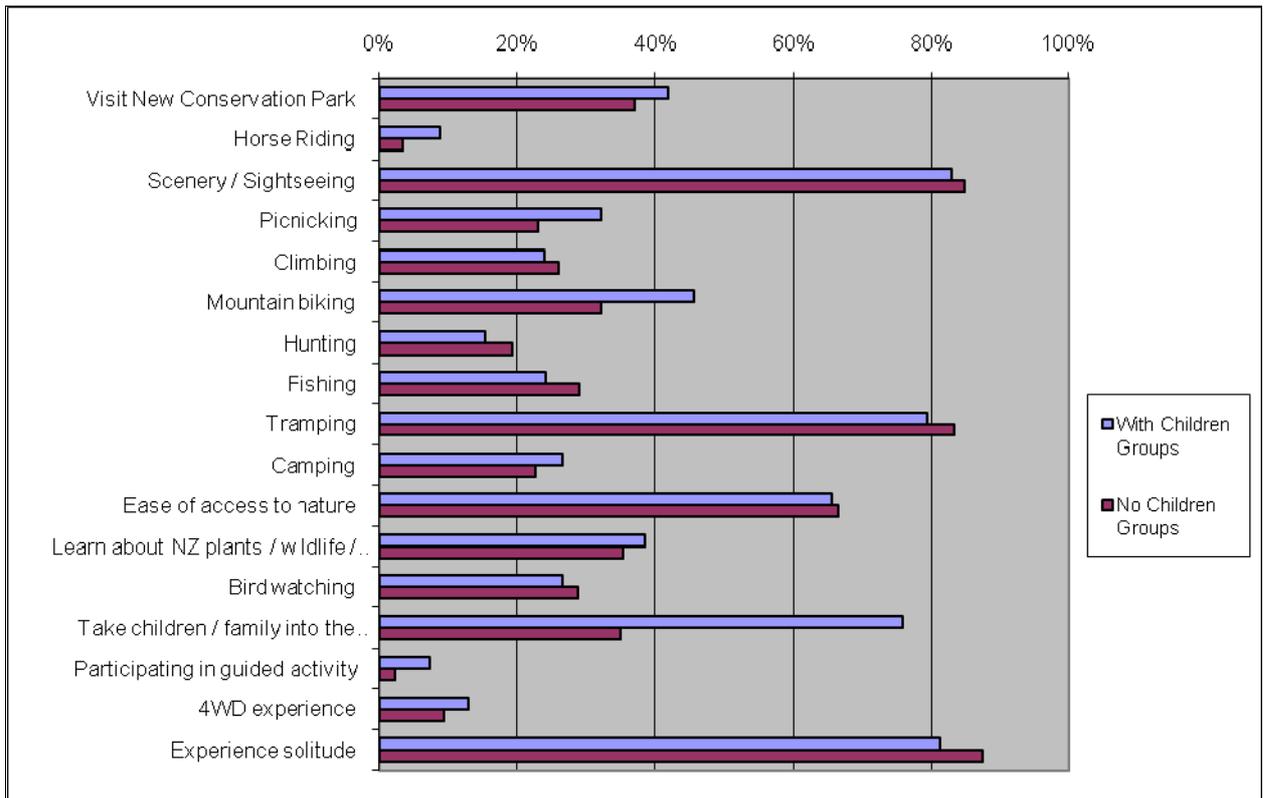


Figure 42: Comparison groups with/without children: Motivations for visiting the park

Of those groups that stayed overnight, groups with children tended to stay not as many days as groups without children (Figure 43). While for both groups, stays of 1-2 nights was the mode, about 87% of visits by groups with children fell into this category, compared with only 66% for groups without children.

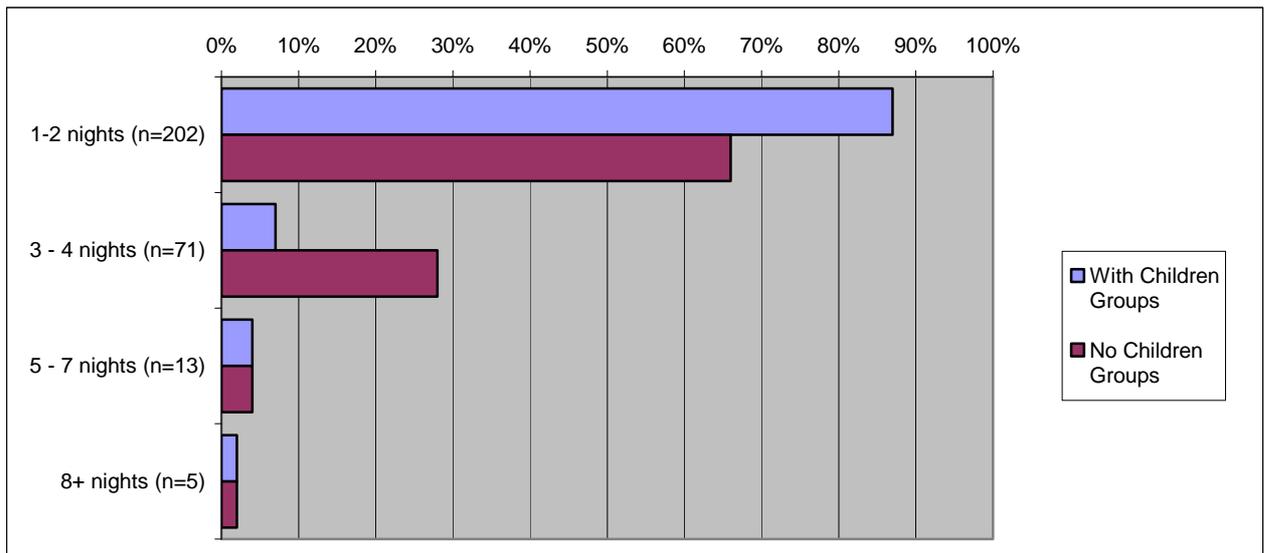


Figure 43: Comparison groups with/without children: Length of stay

Use of the various forms of accommodation by groups without/without children was comparable, however, groups with children tended to make greater use of camping, whereas groups without children had a greater frequency of hut usage (Figure 44).

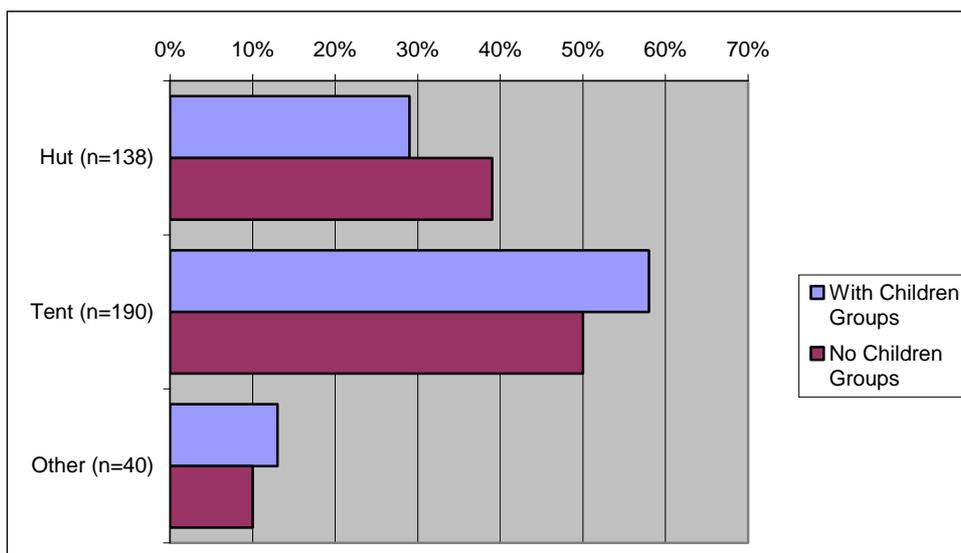


Figure 44: Comparison groups with/without children: Accommodation

Respondents from groups with children and groups without children both reported low perceptions of crowding. Around 80% of respondents (from each group) reported that the parks were “not at all crowded” (Figure 45). Less than 6% of respondents from each group experienced moderate or extreme crowding.

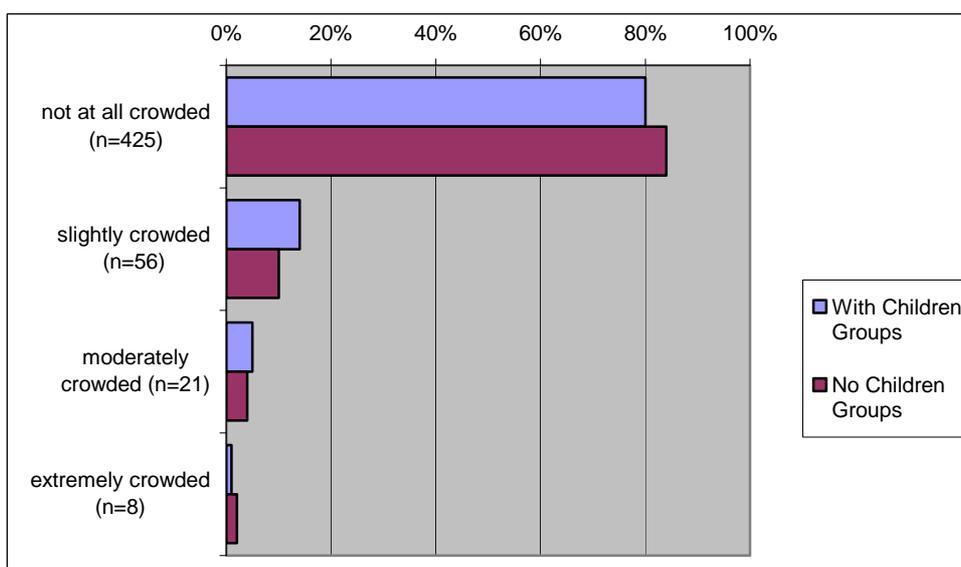


Figure 45: Comparison groups with/without children: Perceptions of crowding

Overall satisfaction with their experience was high – for both groups – those with children and those without. 96% and 98% of respondents from groups with children and without children respectively recorded that they were either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” (Figure 46).

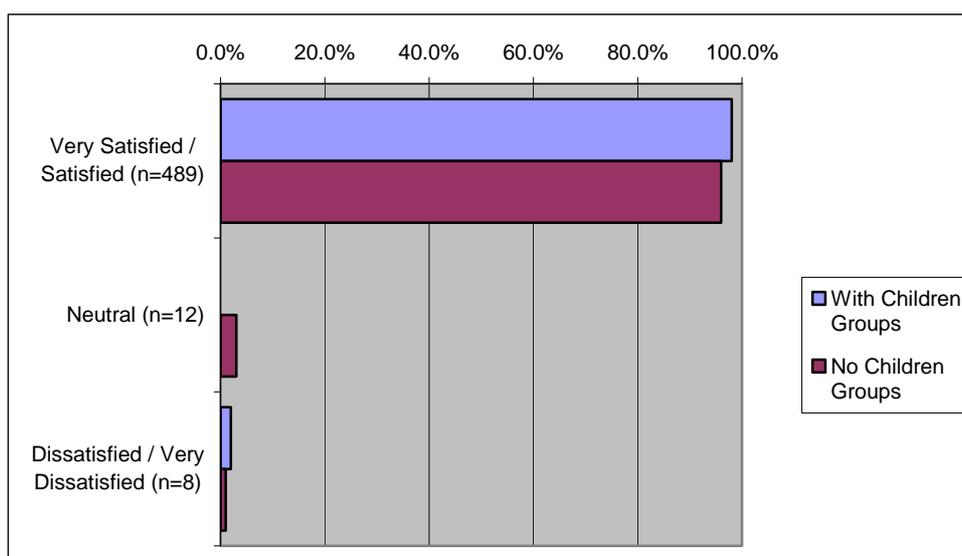


Figure 46: Comparison groups with/without children: Overall satisfaction

Respondents were asked if they would return or not. A very high percentage of respondents indicated that they would return, with very little discernible difference between the groups with children and groups without children (Table 5).

Table 5: Comparison groups with/without children: Likelihood of returning

	Combined			
	With Children Groups		No Children Groups	
Likelihood to Return	Frequencies	Percentage	Frequencies	Percentage
Would Return (n=490)	80	99%	410	96.0%
Will Not Return (n=16)	1	1%	15	4.0%

Respondents were asked to indicate the main reason for returning in an open-ended question. An analysis of the results is shown in Figures 47. There was a great deal of similarity in the reasons listed, from respondents in groups with children and those without children. The groups with children showed a marginally higher attribution of the quality of nature and the environment as being the major drawcard for a return visit. The remoteness, lack of crowding and range of facilities all scored marginally higher for groups without children.

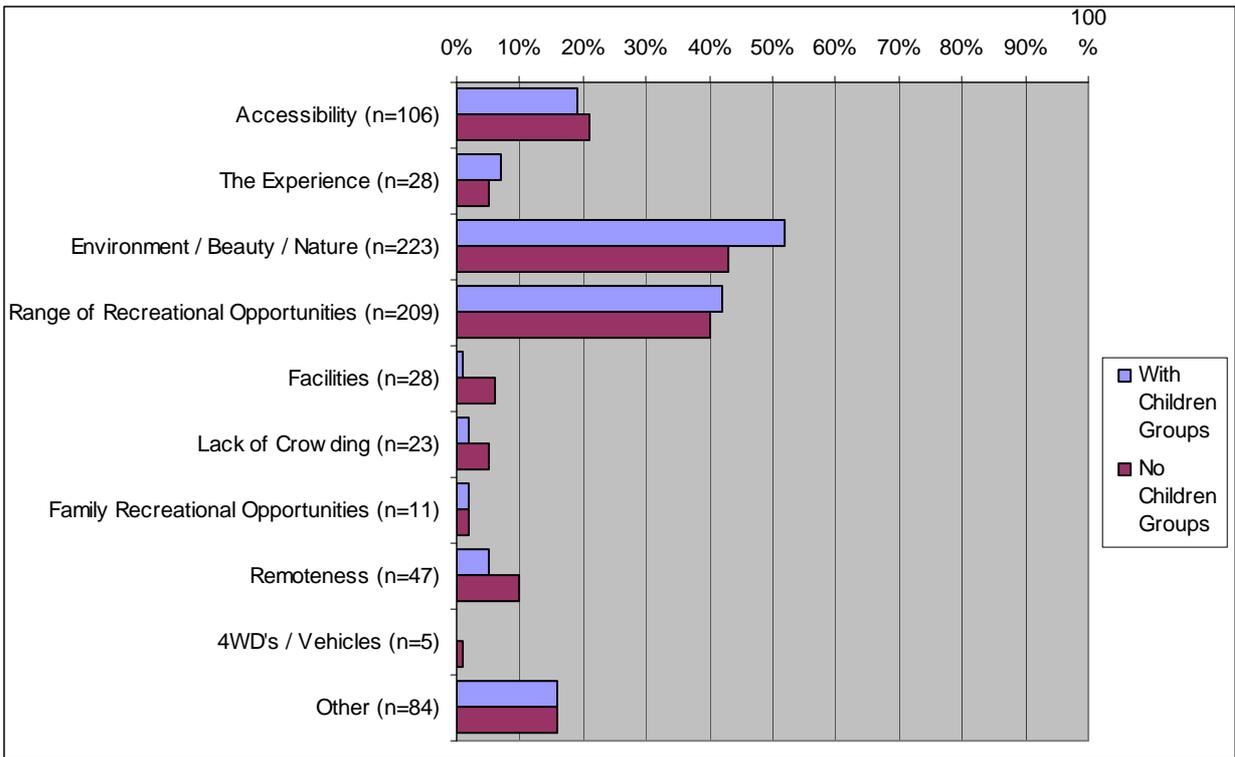


Figure 47: Comparison groups with/without children: Reasons for returning

4. Conclusion

Overall the data sets from each visitor sample – ACP and RCP – showed a remarkable level of similarity. For both parks, the motivations for visiting, the pattern and style of the visit were highly comparable.

Visits to the parks were dominated by New Zealanders, with a very low proportion of international visitors. Most visitors were from the South Island and many from the local region. Most respondents were regular users of the outdoors, but were first time users of either parks - the ACP in particular. Most visited the parks in groups of two or in small groups.

While foot use dominated within the parks, there were a higher number of 4WD users in RCP. Day trips and short stays of 2-3 nights predominated in both parks, however there were more longer stays in RCP. The use of huts was greater than the use of tents, although tenting use was higher in ACP than RCP.

Motivations for visiting the parks were identical between the parks: tramping, to experience solitude, scenery, easy access to nature and to take children into the outdoors were the most common motivations. Perceptions of crowding were very low in both parks. Overall visitor satisfaction was very high for both parks, although there was a higher percentage of “very satisfied” respondents in ACP than RCP.

The analysis of children vs non-children groups (for both parks combined) revealed very little difference between the groups. Groups with children made more use of unofficial word of mouth information sources about the park, and tended to camp more frequently, with slightly more short stays. Motivations for visiting the parks were slightly different, with more emphasis on taking children into the outdoors, and other activities such as mountain biking and picnicking being marginally more common.

Both groups with children and groups without children reported low levels of crowding and very high levels of satisfaction with their experience in the new Conservation Parks.

While this combined data analysis reveals a high level of satisfaction with the Ahuriri and Ruataniwha Conservation Park visitor experience, the findings do suggest some opportunities for enhancement. In particular, considering the use of the parks by groups with children, there may be an opportunity to provide more in the way of introductory materials with a child-focus, addressing the natural values and recreational activities in the area. This could perhaps expand to more active children with biking and camping details; e.g. overnight hut experience at ACP base hut or Shamrock Hut.

Also, considering the similarity between the ACP and RCP visitor profiles and motivations, it may be of benefit to provide more direct linkages between the parks in terms of DOC information provision. Also expanded information into ways of combining the two conservation parks in one recreational experience could be useful for some visitors.

The small hut size in ACP and greater prevalence of camping, suggests that there may be potential to designate more camping areas perhaps at points such as Quailburn Road end or near Ahuriri base hut.

And finally, the RCP provides an opportunity for 4WD users that is not available in the ACP, however, qualitative responses to the RCP survey suggest that the impacts of this activity needs to be borne in mind, especially considering the motivations of the majority of users, in terms of the quest to experience solitude.

Appendix A: Visitor questionnaires

RUATANIWHA CONSERVATION PARK VISITOR SURVEY

Section One: Your Visit

- 1) Please indicate where you spent most of your time on this visit to the Ruataniwha Conservation Park (tick as many boxes as are applicable)

Ben Ohau Range	1	Maitland Valley	3	Hopkins Valley	5	Dobson Valley	7
Freehold Creek	2	Temple Valley	4	Huxley Valley	6	Lake Ohau	8

Other (please specify) _____

- 2) How would you describe your use of the Ruataniwha Conservation Park in the past three years?

Regular user	1	Occasional user	2	First time user	3
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- 3) How many people in your party on this visit including yourself? ADULTS (>18yrs) _____
CHILDREN _____

- 4) Indicate the duration of this visit to the Ruataniwha Conservation Park? DAY(s) _____
NIGHTS(s) _____

- 5) If staying overnight did you use:
- | | | | | |
|---------|-----|---|----|-----------------------|
| a tent? | Yes | 1 | No | 2 |
| a hut? | Yes | 1 | No | 2 |
| other | Yes | 1 | No | 2 (please name) _____ |

- 6) Please indicate the mode of transport you used to travel to the Conservation Park:

4 Wheel Drive (4WD)	1	Non 4WD	4	On foot	7
Motorbike	2	Bicycle	5	Other _____	8
Horse	3	Campervan	6		

- 7) What was your main mode of travel within the park?

4 Wheel Drive (4WD)	1	Non 4WD	4	Other _____	7
Motorbike	2	Bicycle	5		
Horse	3	On foot	6		

- 8) How did you hear about this area? (Please tick as many options as are applicable).

Department of Conservation	1	Television	6
Friends/Family	2	Newspaper/magazine article	7
I-Site	3	Brochure	8
Travel Agent	4	People I met while travelling	9
DoC internet site	5	Guide book (Title: _____)	10
Other (please specify _____)	11		

Section Two: Motivations

- 9) This list gives common reasons for visiting and undertaking recreation in New Zealand's outdoors. Please rate your reasons for visiting the **Ruataniwha Conservation Park** based on the level of importance to you (please circle one number per line only).

	Not at all Important	Extremely Important
(a) To visit the new Conservation Park	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(b) Horse riding	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(c) Scenery/sight seeing	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(d) Picnicking	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(e) Climbing	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(f) Mountain biking	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(g) Hunting	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(h) Fishing	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(i) Tramping	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(j) Camping	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(k) Because of the easy access to nature	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(l) To learn about New Zealand plants/wildlife/history	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(m) Bird watching	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(n) To take my children/family into the outdoors	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(o) Participating in a guided activity	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(p) 4 wheel driving experience	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(q) To experience the solitude of the area with my own party	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
<i>Are there any reasons that you feel are important that have not been mentioned? If so could you please list and rate them below.</i>		
(r) _____	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(s) _____	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	

- 10) Did you feel crowded or that there were too many people at this location? (Please circle one number)

Not at all Crowded	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Extremely Crowded
1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....

Section Three: Facilities

- 11) Are you aware of the Annual Hut Pass system: Yes 1 No 2
- 12) Indicate if you used an Annual Hut Pass/prepaid ticket Hut Pass 1 Ticket 2 NA 3
- 13) Did you seek information about any of the following conditions prior to visiting the park on this visit?
- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|---------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Road conditions | Yes 1 | No 2 | If 'Yes' what was the information source? _____ |
| Weather conditions | Yes 1 | No 2 | If 'Yes' what was the information source? _____ |
| Track conditions | Yes 1 | No 2 | If 'Yes' what was the information source? _____ |
| Hut facilities/fees | Yes 1 | No 2 | If 'Yes' what was the information source? _____ |
| River levels | Yes 1 | No 2 | If 'Yes' what was the information source? _____ |
| Fire restrictions | Yes 1 | No 2 | If 'Yes' what was the information source? _____ |

14) From the list below please indicate your level of satisfaction with the services/facilities you used on this trip.

<i>Applicable</i>	Very Dissatisfied.....	Very Neutral.....	Not Satisfied
a) DoC visitor information centre	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
b) DoC website	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
c) Road conditions	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
d) Information and interpretation panels	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
e) Ruataniwha Conservation Park brochure	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
f) Huxley Forks Hut	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
g) South Temple Hut	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
h) Temple amenity area	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
i) Monument Hut	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
j) Red Hut	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
k) Elcho Hut	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
l) Brodrick Hut	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
m) Other hut (specify which: _____)	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
n) Other hut (specify which: _____)	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
o) Toilets (specify where _____)	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA
p) General track and trail maintenance	1.....2.....3.....4.....5		NA

15) OVERALL, how satisfied were you with your experience at the Ruataniwha Conservation Park? (circle one number)

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5

16) Would you return to this area? Yes 1 No 2

Why or why not?

17) Please comment on any improvements you think are necessary for the Ruataniwha Conservation Park

Section Four: About Yourself

- 18) What is your nationality? _____
- 19) Which country do you normally live in? _____
- a) If 'New Zealand', where? _____
- 20) Please indicate how many years you have been using the New Zealand outdoors? _____ years.
- 21) How would you describe your use of areas the New Zealand outdoors?
- | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Regular user | 1 | Occasional user | 2 | First time user | 3 |
|--------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
- 22) Do you belong to any recreation organisations or clubs? Yes 1 No 2
- If 'Yes', which?
- _____
- 23) Do you belong to a 4 Wheel Driving Club? Yes 1 No 2
- If 'Yes', which club?
- _____
- 24) How old are you?
- | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---------------|---|---------|---|
| 15 – 19..... | 1 | 35 – 44..... | 4 | 55 – 64 | 6 |
| 20 – 24..... | 2 | 45 – 54 | 5 | 65+ | 7 |
| 25 - 34 | 3 | | | | |
- 25) Are you: Female 1 Male 2
- 26) What is your current employment status?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Employed full time | 1 | Student | 5 |
| Employed part time..... | 2 | Self Employed | 6 |
| Unemployed..... | 3 | Retired | 7 |
| Other | 4 | | |
- 24) What is/was your usual occupation? (please specify) _____

THANK YOU for participating in this survey.
Please return it in the drop-box or by post in the post-paid envelope.

DON'T FORGET TO ENTER THE PRIZE DRAW

If you want to enter the Kathmandu Prize Draw please fill in the following details

10) Did you feel crowded or as if there were too many people at this location? (Please circle one number)

Not at all Crowded 1.....	Slightly Crowded 2.....	Moderately Crowded 3.....	Extremely Crowded 4.....
---------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------

11) Would you return to this area? Yes 1 No 2

(a) Why or why not?

Section Two: Motivations

12) This list gives common reasons for visiting and undertaking recreation in New Zealand's outdoors. Please rate your reasons for visiting the **Ahuriri Conservation Park** based on the level of importance to you (please circle one number per line only).

	Not at all Important	Extremely Important
(a) To visit the new Conservation Park	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(b) Horse riding	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(c) Scenery/sight seeing	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(d) Picnicking	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(e) Climbing	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(f) Mountain biking	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(g) Hunting	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(h) Fishing	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(i) Tramping	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(j) Because of the easy access to nature	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(k) To learn about New Zealand plants/wildlife/history	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(l) Bird watching	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(m) To take my children/family into the outdoors	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(n) Participating in a guided activity	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(p) 4 wheel driving	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(p) To experience the solitude of the area with my own party	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
<i>Are there any reasons that you feel are important that have not been mentioned? If so could you please list and rate them below.</i>		
(q) _____	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	
(r) _____	1.....2.....3.....4.....5	

Section Three: Facilities

13) From the list below please indicate your level of satisfaction with the facility/facilities you used on this trip. Refer to the map to remind yourself of the locations of access trails and information panels.

	Very Dissatisfied.....	Neutral.....	Very Satisfied	Not Applicable
ROAD ACCESS				
a) Road between Birchwood Station and Canyon Creek	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
b) Road from SH8 to Quailburn historic site	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
c) Road between SH8 and Birchwood Station	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
d) Canyon Creek car park area	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
FISHING and ACCESS TRAILS				
e) Ben Avon Boundary Fishing Access	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
f) Ben Avon Waterfall Access	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
g) Birch Stream Access	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
h) Cattle Yards Fishing Access	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
i) Ahuriri Base Hut Fishing Access	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
INFORMATION PANELS/KIOSKS				
j) SH8-Birchwood Road entrance information kiosk	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
k) Park Entrance Wetlands information panels	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
l) Canyon Creek Road End information kiosk	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
HUTS/TOILETS				
m) Hideaway Biv	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
n) Snowy Gorge Hut	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
o) Ahuriri Base Hut	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
p) Top Dingle Hut	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
q) Ben Avon Hut	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
r) Shamrock Hut	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
s) Hagens Hut	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
t) Top Hut	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
u) Toilets (specify where _____)	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
TRACKS				
v) Canyon Creek Car Park to Upper Ahuriri Valley	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
w) Ahuriri Base Hut to Dingle Burn	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
x) Ben Avon Waterfall Track	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
y) Quailburn Bush and Historic Site	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA
z) Canyon Creek Car Park to Canyon Creek	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....5 NA

14) OVERALL, how satisfied were you with your experience at the Ahuriri Conservation Park?

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5

15) If you think parts of the Ahuriri Conservation Park need more visitor management please specify where and what improvements you would make to the area:

Section Four: About Yourself

- 16) What is your nationality? _____
- 17) Which country do you normally live in? _____
- a) If 'New Zealand', where? _____
- 18) Please indicate how many years you have been using the New Zealand outdoors? ___years.
- 19) How would you describe your use of areas the New Zealand outdoors?
- Regular user 1 Occasional user 2 First time user 3
- 20) Do you belong to any recreation organisations or clubs? Yes 1 No 2
- a. If 'Yes', which?
- _____
- 21) How old are you?
- | | | | |
|---------------|---|---------------|---|
| 15 – 19 | 1 | 45 – 54 | 5 |
| 20 – 24 | 2 | 55 – 64 | 6 |
| 25 – 34 | 3 | 65 + | 7 |
| 35 – 44 | 4 | | |
- 22) Are you: Female 1 Male 2
- 23) What is your current employment status?
- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Employed full time..... | 1 | Student | 5 |
| Employed part time..... | 2 | Self Employed..... | 6 |
| Unemployed..... | 3 | Retired..... | 7 |
| Other | 4 | | |
- 25) What is/was your usual occupation? (please specify) _____

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Name: **Address:** **Email:**