

## The Trees

The tree sites are listed here from North to South.

1. Awakiki Bush. Signed from the scenic highway. Walk in 2 kms to one of the biggest and oldest totara in the Catlins.
2. Cannibal Bay. Turn off the scenic highway on the Nuggets road, then Sandy Bay Road and then Cannibal Bay Road. Great views and windswept totara trees at the Bay.
3. Pounawea. Signed from Owaka. Turn right at Pounawea foreshore then through the camping ground to the forest reserve with big totara, rimu and kahikatea in mixed podocarp forest.
4. Owaka Valley. Signed from Owaka, notable along the river are native kowhai & ribbonwood. Valley farmsteads nestle in exotic tree plantings.
5. Chloris Pass on road to The Wisp. NZ cedars to North of Saddle, Rata to south.
6. Catlins River. Many fine native silver beech trees - both along Catlins Valley Road and the riverside walking track.
7. Houipapa. Viewed from the Scenic Highway, these big old kahikatea indicate what the forest must have been like once.
8. Purakaunui Falls. Beech trees are gradually invading the podocarp forest from a stream bourn seed source in this natural forest.
9. Viewing platform on the Puaho road provides a overview of unlogged podocarp forest grading from young wetland forest in the foreground to old sand dune forest in the distance.
10. Papatowai. The estuary features ancient gnarled rata trees on the south bank. The Old Coach Road and Loop Track in the Tahakopa Bay Reserve feature fine old rimu, matai and totara trees in mixed podocarp-kamahahi forest. Also a narrow riverside strip of silver beech forest - the southernmost beech in New Zealand. The Shank's bush nature trail (entrance at the Tahakopa Valley Road turn-off) features varied forest types and a written interpretation guide.

11. The Florence Hill lookout provides an overview of the Tautuku podocarp forest which is unlogged between the road and the sea. The biggest trees, some dated to 1000 years old, can be seen on the nature walk opposite the outdoor education centre. The scenic Lake Wilkie walk features natural forest succession which is explained in an excellent forest interpretation trail. The Tautuku boardwalk trail provides access to the estuary through a good example of logged forest in an early stage of regeneration rich with fuchsia, manuka, wineberry, and three finger.
12. The walk to the Caves passes through logged podocarp, featuring many twisted kamahi and dense tree fern forest (three species of tree fern). Petrified wood is present in the caves.
13. McLean Falls. The first section of the track is through frost-hollow vegetation - small leaved shrubs, some rare, that evolved from rainforest species during the ice ages. The track then traverses moist old podocarp forest especially rich in ferns and with some very large fuchsia trees.
14. West of the Chaslands farmland, the Scenic Highway passes though fine unlogged podocarp forest with some large roadside rimus.
15. Look out for the native kowhai trees along the Waikawa River. Flowering in early spring.
16. Curio Bay. Walk over the remains of a 180 million year old Jurrassic forest. Conifer ancestors of modern podocarps and kauri, also tree ferns.
17. The coastal road route via Slope and Waipapa Points is through farmland that was only partly forested at European settlement. There are many picturesque examples of exotic and native trees shaped by the dominant southwesterly wind.



## A Visitors' Guide

**Following the tree trail provides an opportunity to learn about Catlins flora and take you to some out-of-the-way scenic locations.**

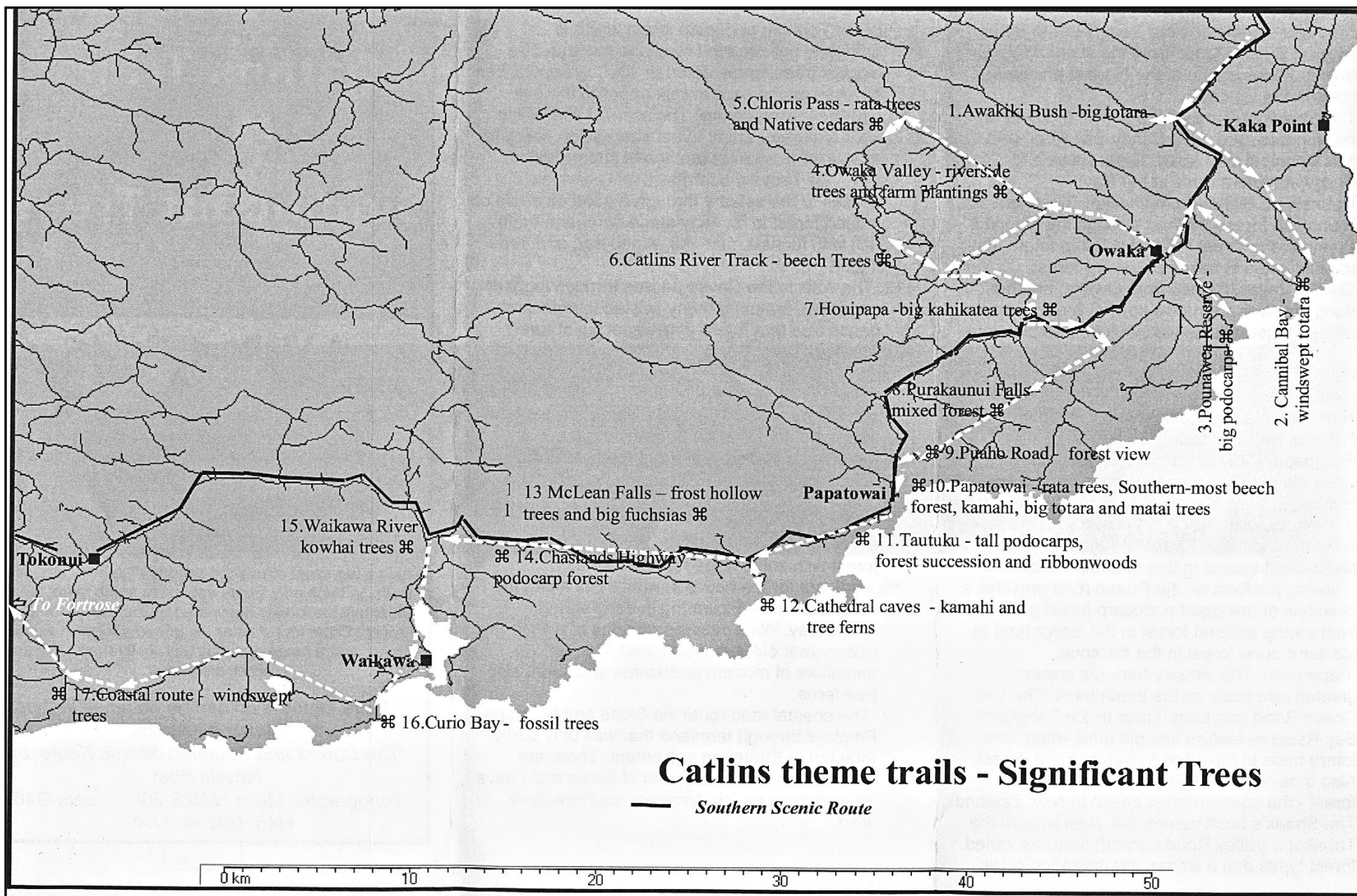
With its moist climate, the Catlins is good tree growing country and some trees have been dated at over 1000 years old.

Two broad types of native rainforest grow in the Catlins. The mixed podocarp forests of the lower lands contain large and ancient rimu, matai, miro, totara and kahikatea which often tower above the canopy of kamahi and other trees. In the higher areas and along some rivers there are extensive forests dominated by the towhai, or silver beech. Other forest types include rata forest, riverine forest, and a range of exotic (non-native) amenity and production trees.

More information can be obtained in the following sources:

*'The Catlins and Southern Scenic Route' by  
Neville Peat  
Topographic Maps NZMS 260, sheets G46,  
H46, G47 and F47.*





Brochure published by Catlins Promotions and sponsored by: