

# Mahoenui Giant Weta Scientific Reserve

Once thought to be extinct, Giant Weta were rediscovered amongst gorse bushes near Mahoenui in 1962. The Giant Weta find sanctuary inside the spiny fortress of gorse and are therefore protected from predation by rats, possums, hedgehogs and other introduced pests. Wild goats browsing on the introduced gorse plants help to maintain a dense and closely cropped regrowth of spines, and are therefore important in protecting the weta. The Mahoenui Giant Weta Scientific Reserve is the only reserve in the country where gorse and goats are protected.



Access to the reserve is via private property and is strictly controlled by the Department of Conservation and the adjoining landowner. For access and a guided tour of the reserve please contact:

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