

## Geography

The Buller District covers an area of 8574 sq/km, stretching from Punakaiki in the south to Karamea in the north, and inland as far as Springs Junction. The district is sparsely populated with an average of 1.3 people per sq/km, compared to the national average of 15.0 per sq/km (2001 Census).

Around 87% of the land is public lands vested in the Department of Conservation. A further 3-4% is vested in the Council, making around 90% of the district either DoC or Crown land.

There are four main towns in the district. Westport sits at the mouth of the Buller River, and is the administration centre for the district, servicing the port and airport.

Reefton sits in the heart of the Victoria Forest Park, and was the first town in the southern hemisphere to have a public supply of electricity (first public lights in 1888).

Karamea is the northern most town, servicing tourist entry into the Kahurangi National park, Oparara basin and the famous Heaphy Track.

Punakaiki is located at the southern end of the district, and is a small settlement halfway between Westport and Greymouth. It is home to the Paparaoa National Park, Dolomite Point and Pancake rocks.

There are two major earthquake fault lines running through the district, and there have been three 'major' earthquakes in 1929, 1962 and 1968. The Buller *Kawatiri* River is the river with the greatest flood discharge in New Zealand, and the district suffered a major flood in 1926, with the majority of the Westport town inundated.

The Buller district is part of the West Coast region, which stretches from Buller in the north to Westland district in the South. Around 600kms long, the West Coast is a narrow coastal strip that plunges from the Southern Alps to the sea, and is no wider than 70kms at any point.

## Demographics

The population count for the Buller District, as at the 2006 census was 9,702. The total population count for the Maori population in the Buller District as at the last census was 801.

Numbers of people counted in the Buller at the 2006 census;

<b>Total Population</b>		
Year	2001	2006
Males	<b>4,884</b>	<b>4,968</b>
Females	<b>4,740</b>	<b>4,731</b>
Change since 2001 Census		<b>78</b>

<b>Maori Ethnic Population</b>		
Year	2001	2006
Males	<b>378</b>	<b>423</b>
Females	<b>384</b>	<b>381</b>
Change since 2001 Census		<b>42</b>

Area	Population
Karamea	423
Hector-Ngakawau	234
Granity	216
Orowaiti	612
Little Wanganui	204
Mokihinui	174
Buller Coalfields	489
Westport Rural	1218
Charleston	276
Inangahua Junction	159
Westport Urban	3990
Reefton	951
Inangahua Valley	321
Mawheraiti	360
Maruia	174

A summary of the data collected at the last census is listed below. Further information can be obtained from [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz).

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Buller</b>	<b>National average</b>
Residents over 65	15.6%	12.3%
Residents who identify with European ethnic groups	81.1%	67.6%
Those 15 years and over who have a post-school qualification	29.0%	39.9%
Median income	\$18,000	\$24,400
Households with access to a telephone	85.3%	91.6%
Households with access to the internet	46.7%	60.5%

## Driver industries

The unemployment rate in Buller district at the 2006 census was 4.5%, compared to 5.1% for all of New Zealand.

The top labour force industry for the West Coast was 'agriculture, forestry and fishing', followed by retail trade, manufacturing, accommodation, cafes and

restaurants, health and community services, education, construction, property and business services and transport and storage.

Mining, agriculture and tourism are seen as the three industry driver groups for the West Coast economy. Mining production accounts for 70% of the total West Coast primary sector exports, with coal the biggest earner.

Recent statistics published by the west Coast Development trust show that West Coast jobs have risen 2.4% over a period in which national growth was 3.6%. This information was obtained from the Development West Coast Regional Profile published in 2007.

## **Tourism**

Tourism in the Buller district revolves around the landscape and natural features, and is closely associated to the Department of Conservation managed lands and facilities. On average, just under 6,000 individuals walk the Heaphy Track (which extends from Golden bay to Kohaihai, just north of Karamea) each year. The Oparara basin includes limestone arches and caves, with some of the best examples of sub-fossils in New Zealand; Department and Community funded track network showcases these natural features.. The Kahurangi National Park is popular to tourists. It is made up of 452,889 hectares and contains a wide range of ecosystems, diverse rock types and geological history, and over half of all New Zealand's endemic plant species. It is currently up for World heritage status, and if achieved, heritage tourism to the area is likely to increase.

Punakaiki is a major tourist spot. With its beautiful coastline, and opportunities for horse-riding, canoeing, tramping and day-treks, it attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors traveling the Coast each year. The Pancake Rocks and blowholes attract on average 400,000 visitors per annum.

The Department of Conservation managed area at Cape Foulwind, Westport, attracts around 122,000 visitors per year.

Other tourism opportunities in the district include guided hunting and fishing, and adventure tourism opportunities such as jet boating, 4 wheel driving or uni-mog trips (also available to see mine operations). There are many day walks and mountain biking opportunities, at heritage areas such as the Charming Creek Walkway, Nile River, and Denniston, which combine nature walks with the heritage and history in the area.

## **Education**

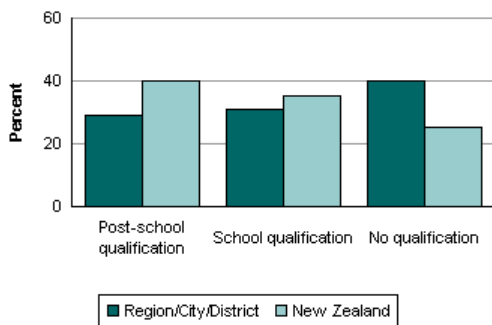
There are eleven schools in the Buller region, spread over a large area. Three of the larger schools are located in Westport, two are in Reefton and the remainder are in very remote isolated areas.

School	Location	Type	Roll	Decile
Buller High School	Westport	Secondary Co-ed	357	3
Granity School	Granity	Primary Co-ed	52	3
Inangahua Junction School	Inangahua	Contributing Co-ed	10	6
Karamea Area School	Karamea	Composite Co-ed	93	5
Maruia School	Maruia	Full Primary Co-ed	21	9
St Canices School	Westport	Full Primary Co-ed	171	4
Waimangaroa School	Waimagaroa	Full Primary Co-ed	31	2
Westport North School	Westport	Full Primary Co-ed	305	4
Westport South School	Westport	Full Primary Co-ed	177	4
Reefton Area School	Reefton	Composite Co-ed	206	3
Sacred Heart School	Reefton	Full Primary Co-ed	43	4

There have been no tertiary education facilities in the Buller until recently, with Tai Poutini Polytech opening a branch office in Westport.

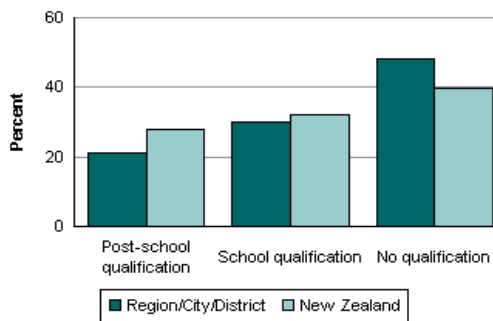
Westport also has the main office for Buller REAP, providing 'cradle-to-grave' educational resources to rural communities.

**Highest Qualification for People Aged 15 Years and Over- Buller District and New Zealand, 2006 Census**



- **29%** of people aged 15 years and over have a post-school qualification compared with **39.9%** of people throughout New Zealand
- **40%** of people aged 15 years and over have no formal qualifications, compared with **25%** for New Zealand as a whole

**Highest Qualification for Maori Aged 15 Years and Over – Buller District and New Zealand, 2006 Census**



- **21.2%** of Maori aged 15 years and over have a post-school qualification, compared with **27.9%** for Maori throughout New Zealand
- **48.3%** of Maori aged 15 years and over in Buller District have no formal qualifications, compared with **39.9%** of New Zealand's Maori population

## Area Units- Total Population and Maori population

Age Group by Sex, for the Census Night Population Count, 2001 and 2006		
Year	2001	2006
Karamea	549	519
Hector-Ngakawau	288	234
Granity	240	225
Orowaiti	687	621
Little Wanganui	225	267
Mokihinui	171	210
Buller Coalfields	483	474
Westport Rural	1200	1335
Charleston	564	606
Inangahua Junction	159	174
Westport Urban	3999	3966
Reefton	978	1017
Inangahua Valley	291	321
Mawheraiti	387	363
Maruia	219	240

Maori Descent by Sex, for the Census Usually Resident Population Count, 2001 and 2006		
Year	2001	2006
Karamea	45	30
Hector-Ngakawau	51	36
Granity	27	15
Orowaiti	45	36
Little Wanganui	18	15
Mokihinui	30	36
Buller Coalfields	87	69
Westport Rural	87	105
Charleston	33	30
Inangahua Junction	12	6
Westport Urban	372	402
Reefton	117	108
Inangahua Valley	30	30
Mawheraiti	27	21
Maruia	15	21

## Ethnic groups

In the 2006 Census, 81.1% of people in Buller District belong to the European ethnic group, compared with 67.6% for New Zealand as a whole.

8.6% of people in Buller District belong to the Maori ethnic group, compared with 14.6% for all of New Zealand.

Year	2001	2006
European	8784	7575
Maori	762	804
Pacific Peoples	51	63
Asian	57	75
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	15	24
Other Ethnicity	0	1458

**Ethnic Groups  
in Buller  
District**

**Ethnic Group for the Census Usually Resident Population Count, 2001  
- Buller District Area Units**

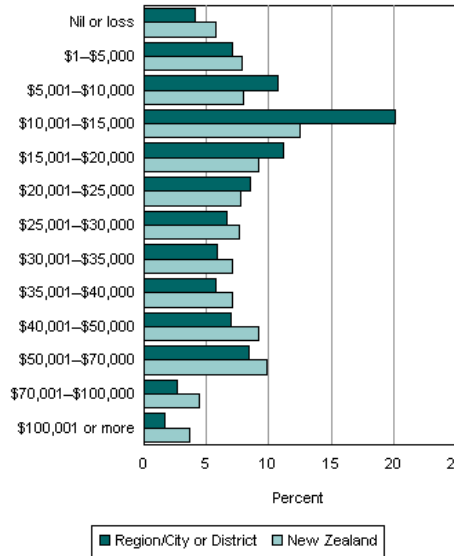
Area/Ethnicity	European	Maori	Pacific Peoples	Asian	Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	Other Ethnicity
Karamea	408	24	9	3	0	0
Hector-Ngakawau	264	48	3	3	0	0
Granity	228	30	3	6	0	0
Orowaiti	588	39	0	3	0	0
Little Wanganui	189	12	3	3	0	0
Mokihinui	144	24	3	0	0	0
Buller Coalfields	438	66	6	3	0	0
Westport Rural	990	66	9	15	6	0
Charleston	261	24	3	3	3	0
Inangahua Junction	126	6	0	0	0	0
Westport Urban	3438	297	18	18	6	0
Reefton	921	90	3	6	0	0
Inangahua Valley	297	18	0	3	0	0
Mawheraiti	360	15	0	0	3	0
Maruia	138	3	0	0	0	0

**Ethnic Group for the Census Usually Resident Population Count, 2006  
- Buller District Area Units**

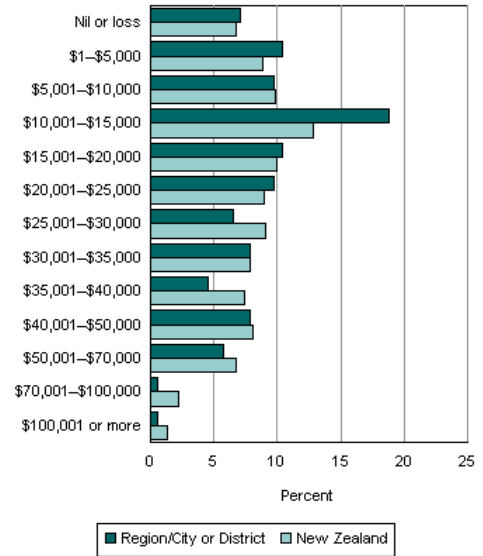
Area/Ethnicity	European	Maori	Pacific Peoples	Asian	Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	Other Ethnicity
Karamea	327	24	3	3	3	72
Hector-Ngakawau	183	27	6	3	3	30
Granity	162	18	0	3	0	48
Orowaiti	492	27	0	6	9	102
Little Wanganui	165	12	6	3	0	18
Mokihinui	135	30	0	0	0	27
Buller Coalfields	369	60	6	9	0	81
Westport Rural	921	90	9	6	3	210
Charleston	186	15	0	6	3	69
Inangahua Junction	120	6	0	0	0	15
Westport Urban	3057	345	27	21	0	558
Reefton	768	105	3	9	6	120
Inangahua Valley	243	24	0	6	0	54
Mawheraiti	312	12	0	0	0	36
Maruia	138	9	0	3	0	24

# Income

**Income for People Aged 15 Years and Over**  
Buller District and New Zealand, 2006 Census



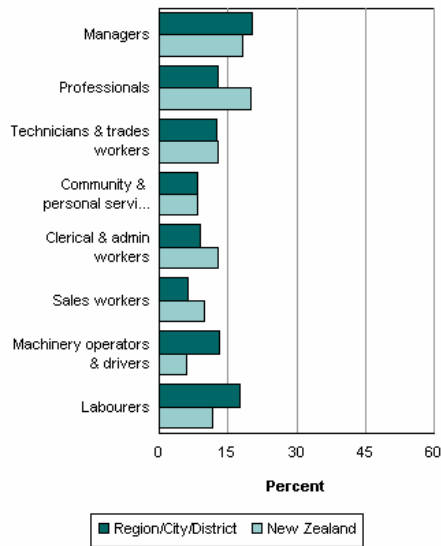
**Income for Maori Aged 15 Years and Over**  
Buller District and New Zealand, 2006 Census



- The median income in Buller District is **\$18,000**. This compares with a median of **\$24,400** for all of New Zealand.
- **54.6%** of people aged 15 years and over in Buller District have an annual income of \$20,000 or less, compared with **43.2%** for the whole of New Zealand.
- In the Buller District **11.8%** of people aged 15 years and over have an annual income of more than \$50,000, compared with **18.0%** of people throughout New Zealand
- For Maori aged 15 years and over, the median income in Buller District is **\$17,200**, compared with a median of \$20,900 for all Maori in New Zealand.
- In Buller District, **56.5%** of Maori aged 15 years and over have an annual income of \$20,000 or less, compared with **48.3%** of Maori throughout New Zealand
- **7.1%** of Maori aged 15 years and over in Buller District have an annual income of more than \$50,000, compared with 10.2% of all Maori in New Zealand

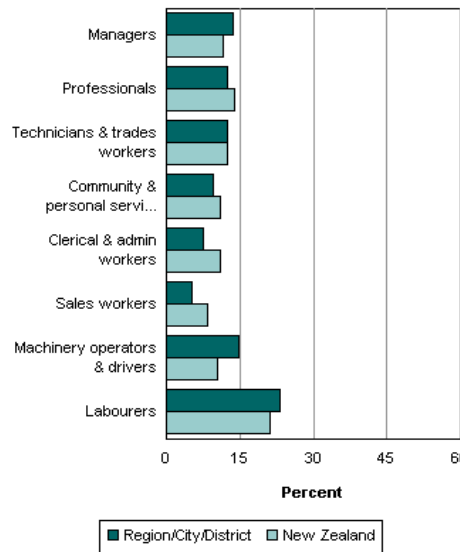
## Work

**Occupation for Employed People 15 Years and Over -Buller District and New Zealand, 2006 Census**



- The unemployment rate in Buller District is **4.5%** for people aged 15 years and over, compared with **5.1%** for all of New Zealand
- The most common occupational group in Buller District is **'Managers'**, and **'Professionals'** is the most common group in New Zealand

**Occupation for Employed Maori 15 Years and Over Buller District and New Zealand, 2006 Census**



- The unemployment rate of Maori 15 years and over in Buller District is **10.7%**, compared with **11.0%** for New Zealand's Maori Population
- The most common occupational group for Maori in Buller district is **'Labourers'**, and **'Labourers'** is the most common occupational group for Maori in New Zealand

## Other links

The West Coast Development Trust – [www.wcdt.org.nz](http://www.wcdt.org.nz)  
Ph 03 768 0140, email [trust@wcdt.org.nz](mailto:trust@wcdt.org.nz)

West Coast Regional Council – [www.wcrc.govt.nz](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz)

Statistics NZ (Buller Community Profile) – [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz)

Buller Community Development Company – [www.westcoast.org.nz](http://www.westcoast.org.nz)

Tourism West Coast – [www.west-coast.co.nz](http://www.west-coast.co.nz)

Buller District Council – [www.bullerdc.govt.nz](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz)