

KATIE CANNING - LORE AND FLAVOUR TEXT

In-Game Region Descriptions: *Te Awaroa National Park*

Written in first-person point-of-view as reserve warden Kiri Taylor

BAY OF REST

European colonists liked to commemorate their voyages with these kinds of names. I guess they must've been totally stuffed after a long journey and gotten some kip in here. Not very exciting, eh? Anyway, the Māori history of this area is far more interesting. Ngāi Tahu ancestors went up into the hills around Stonecastle Valley to capture kakapo, these big, weird, flightless parrots, so they could use their feathers in ceremonial clothing.

MOTURANGI INLET

This is one of my favorite places in the reserve to head out to with a chilly bin and get some relaxing in. I've told you I don't like being called a hippie, but there's something meditative about just gazing out on to where the little island meets the sky and sea. It's no wonder our ancestors named it "Moturangi", "sky island".

In-Game Region Descriptions: *Silver Ridge Peaks*

PROSPERITY

The ironically-named Prosperity is a ghost town established in 1870 at the height of the Silver Boom. In its heyday, it boasted a general store, a saloon, and even a school. These days all that's left is this collection of scattered buildings, high up in the hills where Rocky Mountain elk and mule deer visit almost as much as tourists do.

LAKE PROSPECT

Tourists with glints in their eyes still sometimes pan for gold in the lake here, though the activity has been put on hold recently due to the detection of pollutants in the water. There are still plenty of hiking and hunting opportunities in the lush, open plains and trembling aspen groves, however.

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ALPINE OPS

Different deer species were introduced to New Zealand in waves throughout the nineteenth century. By the early twentieth century, the population of red deer in the southern South Island

had exploded, threatening native flora and leading the government to encourage decisive action against the deer menace. From the 1960s, professional hunters shot and extracted deer from helicopters in remote regions of the South Island. High venison prices led to an extraordinarily competitive industry for those brave — or foolish — enough to sign up. Hunters would jump from the helicopters straight onto the deer and twist their necks, the so-called "bulldogging" technique. Unsurprisingly, the industry was poorly regulated and accidents, sometimes leading to death, were common.

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MINER THREAT

Legends have it that the mines around here are inhabited by creatures called Tommyknockers, little figures dressed in miners' garb who commit random acts of mischief. The "knocker" in their name comes from the knocking on mine walls they were said to do, either to warn of an impending collapse or to bring it about, depending on your attitude towards them.

THE WILDE WEST

The infamous Irish dramatist and wit Oscar Wilde visited these parts during the height of the Silver Boom in 1882. In Leadville he delivered a lecture on aesthetics at the local opera house, described the bemused miners as "the best dressed men in America", and declared his fondness for a sign reading "Please do not shoot the pianist. He is doing his best", saying that it was recognition that "bad art merits the penalty of death".