Te Ara Pātaka, is the Summit Walkway traversing the central spine ridgeline of Banks Peninsula connecting the Lyttelton crater to the Akaroa crater.

A network of feeder tracks lead up to it from the valleys below.

The tracks are historic routes, traversed in pre-European times and later forming early stock driving routes.

Their use as recreational tracks was envisaged by Harry Ell 100 years ago.

The following pictures show the main track from Gebbies Pass to Hilltop – a 2½ day tramp perfect for families, youth groups and Christchurch trampers and visitors.
Day 1  Gebbies Pass to Packhorse Hut - 2hrs

Tussock gives way to pines and then the massive volcanic Remarkable Dykes.

The historic Sign of the Packhorse Hut is a favourite with families introducing children to tramping.
Day 2 morning
Packhorse Hut - to Mt Herbert/Te Ahu Pātiki Summit

3 hrs
A tougher walk suitable for families with older children ready for the next challenge.

Climb through bush and up southern flank of Mt Bradley with views to Te Waihora.

Have lunch on the summit of Te Ahu Patiki/Mt Herbert. 919m high, it is Banks Peninsula’s highest point with stunning views in all directions.
Day 2 afternoon Mt Herbert/Te Ahu Pātiki Summit to Rod Donald Hut 3 hrs

After lunch descend to Port Levy Saddle, with striking view to Te Pohue.

Remnant totara is encountered at Waipuna Saddle before the track leads down to the new Rod Donald Hut high above Western Valley.
Day 3 morning Rod Donald Hut to Montgomery Reserve  4 hrs

Along the tops, with views to Kōkourārata and Little River, through the totara skeletons alternating with reserves
Day 3 afternoon Montgomery Reserve to Hilltop 1.5 hrs

Stunning views of Akaroa crater, and a descent through bush culminating at the ancient totara, and ending at the Hilltop Hotel where kids can enjoy a reward.