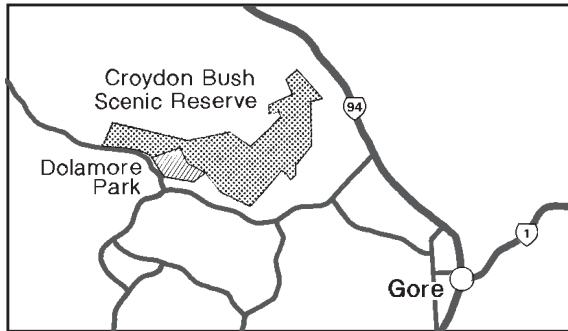


Croydon Bush Tracks

Introduction

Croydon Bush, located approximately 10 kms to the north west of Gore, provides a glimpse of the past. Surrounded by farmland, Croydon Bush shows what much of Southland once looked like with forest, grassland and shrubland communities.



Native podocarp hardwood forest is home to a range of birds including bellbird, kukupu (NZ pigeon), South Island fantail and tomtit, grey warbler, brown creeper, silveryeye and tui.

One of the most stunning times to visit Croydon Bush is at Christmas when the forest blushes with an abundance of flowering rata.

In 1893 the then mayor of Gore, Mr D L Poppelwell made a case to the government for the protection of the "fast disappearing bush." This resulted in 130 ha being protected in 1895. Subsequent additions have increased the reserve to 867ha.

Walking Tracks

Within Croydon Bush there are several tracks and routes maintained by the Department of Conservation, Gore District Council and Hokonui Tramping Club. The map opposite shows those tracks managed by the Department of Conservation.

Dolamore Track

The Dolamore Track is maintained to walking track standard. The loop track, maintained by the Department of Conservation, begins at Dolamore Park carpark and takes 30 minutes return to walk. A side walk off the loop track to a lookout should take approximately an extra 30 minutes return.

From Dolamore Park carpark, the track crosses Waimumu Stream. Turn left after the bridge onto a well formed gravel track, which climbs gradually through mixed podocarp hardwood forest

towards a ridge. After about 15 minutes, a sign marks a turn off towards a lookout point which provides panoramic views of the Southland Plains and even Bluff Hill and Stewart Island on a clear day.

The return section of the loop track heads downhill from here and meets up with the boardwalk section, which can be followed out to Dolamore Park.

Whisky Creek Track

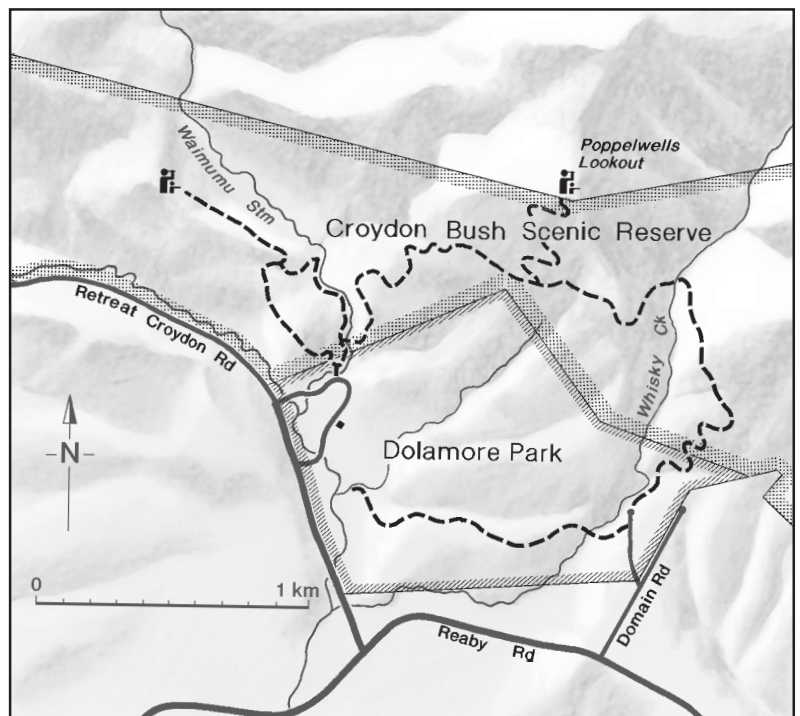
This section of the track is maintained to tramping track standard.

From Dolamore Park carpark, cross Waimumu Stream and turn right along the wheelchair accessible boardwalk. Turn right, cross the bridge climbing steadily to a ridge. This section of track passes through podocarp hardwood forest before crossing a hillside face on an easy grade.

A sign marks a turnoff to Poppelwells Lookout. Care is needed on the steady climb to the lookout where you are rewarded with commanding views of the Southland Plains. On a fine day seats at the lookout make it an ideal lunch spot.

Returning from Poppelwells Lookout, follow the track to Whisky Creek and then on to the car park just off Domain Road.

From the carpark the way back to the Dolamore Park picnic area is via a well formed grass track. Allow approximately two hours for the loop trip and 30-45 minutes extra for the Poppelwells Lookout side trip.



NEW ZEALAND
ENVIRONMENTAL
CARE CODE

Protect plants and animals

Remove rubbish

Bury toilet waste

Keep streams and lakes clean

Take care with fires

Camp carefully

Keep to the track

Consider others

Respect our cultural heritage

Enjoy your visit

Toitu te whenua
(Leave the land undisturbed)

Walking Track

Track surface well formed and even

Tramping Track

May be a rough walking surface

Marked Route

No track provided - tree markers highlight route

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Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Other Tramping Opportunities

Other tramping opportunities are available on marked routes which are maintained by the Hokonui Tramping Club. Contact the Hokonui Tramping Club for more information about these tracks.

Hidden Valley Route

This route is suitable for more experienced walkers, though it is reasonably easy to follow.

From the Whisky Creek carpark at the end of Domain Road, the Whisky Creek track is followed until it joins the line of an old water race. Here the Hidden Valley Route heads off to the right along the old water race crossing two streams. The track follows the second stream for a short distance before climbing steeply through bush to an open grass and scrub glade. It then continues down through the glade meeting a track alongside Whisky Creek. Follow the track downhill until it comes out on the Whisky Creek track. The loop is completed along the track back to the carpark (3kms, 2 hours).

SafetyWatch
0800 999 005
Report any safety hazards

Dolamore Park



Grant's Picnic Area Routes

The eastern end of Croydon Bush Scenic Reserve, accessed from Croydon Bush Road, is locally known as Grant's Bush. The Hokonui Tramping Club maintains three routes in this area.

The most well formed of these, Grant's Track, starts from the left hand side of the clearing at Grant's Bush, and follows the ridge to the fenced farmland where a route can be followed with a short stroll through tussock to East Peak (2kms, 1/2 hour return).

Middle Track is reached by going right from Grant's picnic area, crossing a stream and following a marked track through to a paddock. Middle Track turns immediately uphill into the native bush at this point and is marked with orange track markers.

Richardson Track is reached by crossing the paddock mentioned above and entering a pine plantation on the northern side. The route goes through the plantation, crosses a stream and goes upstream into the native bush.

Both Richardson and Middle Tracks are steep, rough and rocky but not difficult to follow. They eventually end at East Peak.

Dolamore Park Scenic Reserve

Dolamore Park lies in the south western end of the Croydon Bush Scenic Reserve.

The park was named in honour of the Dolamore family whose gift of £30,000 in 1947 made the development of the picnic area and facilities possible. Today the park is administered by the Gore District Council.

Dolamore Park encompasses 95 hectares of native podocarp forest, expansive lawn areas and a range of exotic plantings. Extensive areas of mature rhododendrons make a spectacular show in spring.

Dolamore Park provides camper facilities including toilets, power points for camper hook up, electric BBQs which are operated by a 50 cent coin and also a kitchen block with zip, sink, three pin power points and lights.

The charge for camping is \$5 per night per person with school children free, payable to the park caretaker or by mailing direct to:

Gore District Council,

PO Box 8,

Gore

Ph. (03) 208 9080

Fax (03) 208 9087

Dolamore Park operating hours are 8:00am until dusk. Late camper arrivals are by arrangement with the caretaker.