



# Pirongia and Raglan tracks

Waikato



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

# Introduction

Pirongia Mountain is a distinctive landmark 25 km south-west of Hamilton. An ancient volcano, its dramatic skyline and dark, green forest contrasts strongly with the surrounding farmland. The mountain rises up from the farmland in a series of steep ridges, culminating in a number of subsidiary peaks before the summit at 959 metres above sea level. Extensive views of the Waikato Basin across to the Kaimai Ranges and the west coast harbours are available from the various high points.






13,500 ha of bush-covered slopes of the mountain are protected and form part of the Pirongia Forest Park. Karioi Mountain, north-west of Pirongia, is also part of the park and rises sharply from the Raglan coastline to 756 m.

Tramping tracks provide access to the top of both mountains, with easier grade walking tracks on the lower flanks of Pirongia. Other walks between Hamilton and Raglan are also featured in this publication; these include Wairēinga / Bridal Veil Falls, Karakariki and the Karamu Walkway.

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## Recreation symbols

-  Camping
-  Picnic
-  Caving
-  Information panels
-  Lookout/viewpoint

For track symbols see page 2



## Track classification



**Easy access short walk:** Suitable for people of all abilities, wheelchairs and pushchairs. Walking shoes required.



**Short walk:** Well formed, easy walking for up to an hour. There may be steps or slopes. Suitable for most abilities and fitness. Walking shoes required.



**Walking track:** Easy to moderate walking from a few minutes to a day. Track is mostly well formed, some sections may be steep, rough or muddy. Walking shoes required.



**Tramping track:** Challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking. May have steep grades. Suitable for fit, experienced and adequately equipped people. Tramping boots required.



**Route:** Unformed, suitable only for people with high level backcountry skills and experience.

## Enjoying the outdoors safely

**Track markers:** Tracks are marked by orange triangles and developed to different standards. Choose the type of track that best suits the skills and abilities of your group. Other coloured markers or tape are for pest control purposes and should not be followed.

**Track times:** These are based on an average family group. They are a guide only and may vary depending on the weather and track conditions.

**Essential gear:** Be well prepared for all types of weather and conditions. Have strong comfortable shoes (or boots if tramping), suitable clothing and equipment. e.g. rain parka, warm clothes, hat and sunscreen. Carry a first aid kit, food and drink.

**Safety:** Tell a friend or relative of your intentions. Remember, safety is your responsibility. See [www.adventuresmart.org.nz](http://www.adventuresmart.org.nz).

**Water:** The high level tracks on Pirongia and Karioi follow steep-sided ridges. Water is difficult to find, especially in summer, so be sure to take sufficient drinking water with you.

**Wasps:** Wasps can sometimes be a problem so take care.

## Pirongia Mountain

*Some 2.5 million years ago, the Pirongia landscape was subjected to a series of volcanic eruptions. The rocks indicate that the eruptions were not violent but quite continuous explosions accompanied by flows of thick lava and avalanches of rock and mud. While Karioi was built up from one central vent with a later vent at Te Toto Gorge, Pirongia was shaped by a series of vents.*

Pirongia Mountain has always loomed large in the lives and traditions of people in the Waikato, acting as a backdrop to surrounding activity. It was named 'Pirongia te aroaro o Kahu' (the fragrant presence of Kahu) by a tohunga of the Tainui canoe in honour of his wife.

Pirongia Mountain is the largest area of native forest remaining close to Hamilton and is of considerable conservation value due to the variety of plant life and wildlife habitats available. Rimu and tōtara are found at lower altitudes along with tawa and tree ferns. Higher up, the forest changes; hardy plants like kāmahī, tāwari, horopito and mountain neinei grow on exposed ridges and near the summit, thick mats of mountain flax, coprosmas and ferns are common. Northern rātā and kohekohe are still present in the canopy but are a favourite food of possums. A special feature is the 700-year-old pāhautea trees that grow near Pahautea Hut.

Pest control programmes undertaken by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the community are in place to help save these and other vulnerable species, including wildlife. Grey warblers, fantails, tomtits, pipits, harriers, kingfishers, New Zealand falcons, kererū, tūi, bellbirds and whiteheads can still be seen, although kiwi and kōkako have disappeared from the area. Several species of native fish and a huge variety of aquatic invertebrates are found in the mountain streams.

Dactylanthus flower



**Dactylanthus taylorii/Pua ō te reinga** is a rare and endangered plant found on the ridges of Mt Pirongia. It is New Zealand's only completely parasitic flowering plant and grows partially underground. The short-tailed bat, also endangered, pollinates the flowers, attracted by the plant's sweet-smelling nectar. Many of the plants are caged to protect them from possums.

## Pirongia tracks

*There are many entry points onto Pirongia Mountain with tracks of varying standards and length.*

Tracks are listed in terms of their destination: Kaniwhaniwha tracks, Grey Road / Mangakara, lookouts on Pirongia and tracks to Pirongia Summit (see centrefold map on p 12).

## Kaniwhaniwha Tracks

*These tracks are accessed from Limeworks Loop Road and are suitable for family outings, although the track to the kahikatea tree may be too long for very young children.*

### Nikau Walk

(2 hr 30 min / 7 km return)



The walking track starts from the Kaniwhaniwha car park through a planted area and follows along the stream to a loop walk, lush with nikau palms and tree ferns. It is ideal for family cycling but do follow directional signs around the loop track. There are opportunities for swimming and picnicking along the stream and a picnic/campsite with toilets is a short distance off the track (this is accessible by wheelchair but not all of the loop track). This walk can be combined with a trip to the Kaniwhaniwha Caves for added interest.

### Kaniwhaniwha Caves

(2 hr 30 min / 7 km return)



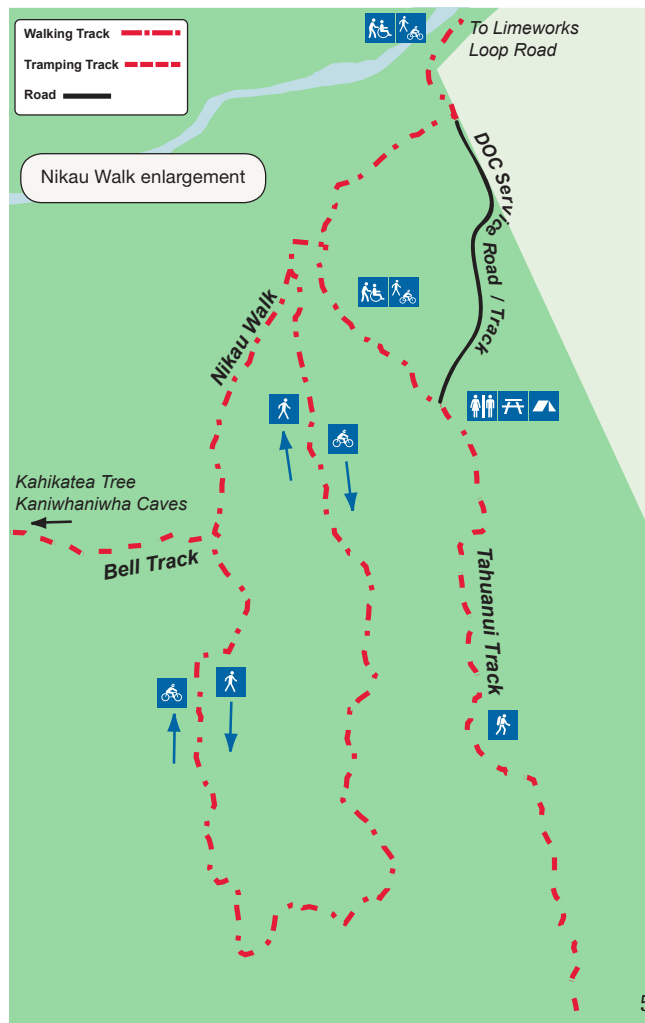
The two limestone caves are near the start of the Bell Track, 5 min from the junction with the Nikau Walk. You can walk through the 20-m-long main cave but please note, the cave is wet underfoot. You will need a torch. The second, smaller cave is tight and narrow.

### Kahikatea tree

(6 hr / 12 km return)



From the Kaniwhaniwha car park, follow the Nikau Walk on to the Bell Track and past the Kaniwhaniwha Caves. The track becomes undulating, with some uneven ground and muddy sections along Blue Bull Stream up to the swingbridge. Do not cross the swingbridge but continue upstream for 10 min beyond the bridge to the kahikatea tree with its distinctive buttressed trunk. At 66.5m, this is the tallest recorded native tree in New Zealand. Kahikatea were once widespread in the Waikato, but many trees were felled to make boxes for exporting butter and to clear the land for farming. The Bell Track continues to the summit across the swingbridge (see p 10).



## Grey Road / Mangakara

*At the end of Grey Road, there is a large parking area with viewing tower and information shelter. It is a good place to learn more about Pirongia Forest Park and is also the location of Pirongia Forest Park Lodge (see p 24 for booking information).*

### Mangakara Nature Walk

(1 hr / 1.5 km return)



This walk is well suited to family outings. It provides a self-guided trail through attractive native forest, with fine examples of rimu, kahikatea, tawa, pukatea and kohekohe. Points of interest along the walk are marked with numbered posts and informative signs. The track descends from the car park to Mangakara Stream, doing a loop around the stream and then back along the track to the car park. There are sections of boardwalk, steps and slopes. The track is not suitable for pushchairs.

Points of interest along the way include:

- 1:** A tall miro with distinctive 'hammered' bark.
- 2:** A tawa log that fell during a storm and is going through a natural cycle of decay.
- 3:** A large rimu with unmistakable olive-green drooping foliage and grey-brown slabby bark.

**4:** An ancient kahikatea. This forest giant was here when Captain Cook visited New Zealand.

**5:** Parataniwha, a vigorous, spreading herb, growing in damp, shaded conditions. The leaves were once used for wrapping kūmara, which was then cooked in a hangi.

**6:** Two entwined trees that look like one.

**7:** A large boulder on the forest floor that is well worn by flowing water, suggesting it was once part of a stream bed.

**8:** Rewarewa (New Zealand Honeysuckle) with striking red flowers in spring that are rich in nectar and are an important food source for tūi and bellbirds.

**9:** Long black vines of the supplejack/kareao. The crew of Captain Cook's ship gave it its English name.

**10:** Colourful rocks in the stream reflecting their volcanic origins. Algae and moss grow on many.

**11:** A pukatea with distinctive buttresses and reddish-brown roots of rātā descending down the rear side of its trunk.

**12:** Nīkau, New Zealand's only mainland native palm and the most southern naturally growing palm in the world.

A detailed factsheet can be found at:  
[www.doc.govt.nz/mangakaranaturewalk](http://www.doc.govt.nz/mangakaranaturewalk).



Nīkau fruit

## Tracks to Pirongia lookouts

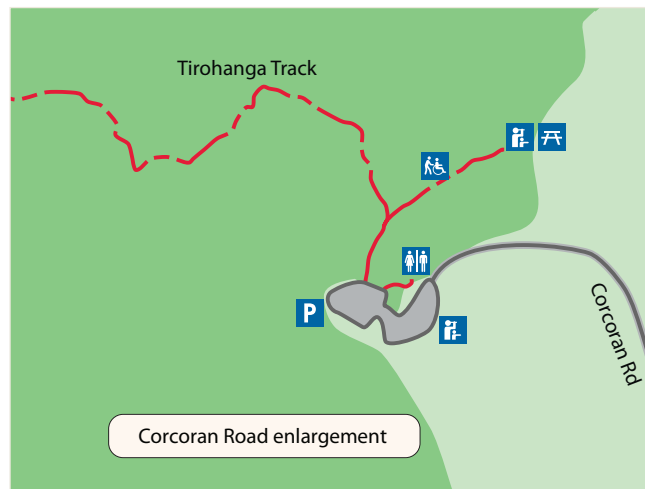


A moderate level of fitness is required for these tracks (except for the short walk at Corcoran Road). The lookouts listed here are achievable in a round trip taking a day. There are other viewing places higher up the mountain along the summit tracks.

### Corcoran Road Lookout

(15 min return)

A 100-m-walk that is suitable for wheelchairs leads through forest from Corcoran Road end to a picnic area and view point. There are extensive views across the Waikato Basin to Hamilton and Te Aroha Mountain beyond. There are also views from the car park for less able visitors.



### Ruapane Lookout

(via Tirohanga Track 1hr / 2 km one way)

A steady climb from Corcoran Road along the Tirohanga Track leads to Ruapane Trig. The track starts from the car park and follows a formed track up steps. Nearer the top, the formed track ends and a tramping track leads up over rock to the trig view point. An excellent view extends across the Waikato Basin to the Kaimai Ranges.



### Ruapane Lookout

(via Ruapane Track 1 hr 30 min / 4 km one way)

Ruapane Track starts at the Waite Road car park and follows up a slippery gully before reaching the bush edge. From here, the track follows a ridge that becomes steeper as it reaches the junction of the Tirohanga Track. It then climbs steadily up a rocky outcrop to the trig.



Ruapane lookout

### Wharauroa and Mahaukura Lookouts

(via Mahaukura Track 2-3 hr / 4.6 km one way)

The Mahaukura Track starts at the Grey Road car park and climbs steadily through tawa forest to Wharauroa Lookout. The last 30 m before the view point are quite steep and chains have been bolted to the rock to guide you. The lookout offers one of the best views from Pirongia of Hamilton, Te Awamutu and the surrounding landscape. Another 30 min along the track is Mahaukura Lookout with further views south toward the King Country.



### Wharauroa and Mahaukura Lookouts

(via Wharauroa Track 2 hr / 3.5 km one way)

The Wharauroa Track provides an alternative access to these lookouts. The track crosses private farmland from O'Shea Road car park so please keep to the marked track and use stiles. The bush edge is reached after 30 min and then there is a steep climb up a tawa-covered spur to the lookouts.



### Hihikiwi Lookout

(3-4 hr / 4.8 km one way)

The track starts off steeply from Pirongia West Road before settling into a steady climb to Hihikiwi Lookout. The track is muddy in places with some sections of boardwalk and a wooden viewing platform at the lookout. The lookout is one of the best vantage points over the west coast harbours and a great place to watch the sunset if staying at Pahautea Hut.



## Tracks to Pirongia Summit

*A good level of fitness is required for these tracks to the summit of Pirongia Mountain. Because of poorly drained soils, many of the tracks can be very muddy, especially after rain.*

### Mahaukura Track

(4–6 hr / 9 km one way)

From Grey Road car park, follow the track to Whararua Lookout then on for another 30 min to Mahaukura. The track undulates over small peaks and is uneven underfoot. From Mahaukura, the track descends steeply before climbing again towards Pirongia summit viewing tower.

This track can also be accessed off O’Shea Road via the Whararua Track (see p 9).



### Tirohanga Track

(3–5 hr / 6.5 km one way)

The track starts from Corcoran Road, climbs to Ruapane then traverses an undulating ridge on uneven ground before passing Tirohanga Bluff, a pinnacle of hard lava signifying its volcanic origins. The track then descends and climbs before reaching the Pirongia summit. On a clear day look for Mt Taranaki and Mt Ruapehu in the distance.



### Tirohanga to Mahaukura round trip

(8–11 hr / 12 km return)

This is a popular round trip for people overnighing at Pahautea hut. Cross from Grey Road car park to Ruapane via the Mangakara Nature Walk and Link Track then follow the Tirohanga Track to the summit viewing tower. Return via Mahaukura Track to Grey Road. This is the easier circuit rather than doing it the other way round via Mahaukura then Tirohanga.



### Bell Track

(6–10 hr / 18.5 km one way)

Starting at the Kaniwhaniwha car park, follow the Nikau walk on to the Bell Track and past the Kaniwhaniwha Caves. Cross the bridge near the big kahikatea and climb a spur to a series of clearings. The last clearing signposted as the halfway point has a small stream nearby and is a good campsite. The track becomes quite muddy at this point and continues along the ridge to the Cone (second highest point on the mountain) and then to Pahautea Hut. It is another 30 min to the summit of Pirongia.



### Tahuanui Track

(4–5 hr / 10.7 km one way)

From the Kaniwhaniwha car park, follow the Nikau Walk to the campsite. The Tahuanui track leaves the campsite beside the stream and climbs steadily up a ridge to join the Tirohanga track before the summit.



### Hihikiwi Track

(4–6 hr / 6.4 km one way)

This is the shortest track to Pahautea Hut. Starting at Pirongia West Road, 10 km from Ngutunui School, the first section of track climbs steeply via a series of steps before settling into a steady climb to Hihikiwi Lookout. There are views west along the way but the best vantage point over the west coast harbours is at the lookout. From here, there is an elevated boardwalk and steps all the way to the hut (800 m). It is another 30 min from the hut to the summit.

The Hihikiwi and Tahuanui Tracks are part of Te Araroa, a walking trail from Cape Reinga to Bluff. See [www.teararoa.org.nz](http://www.teararoa.org.nz).



### Other Pirongia tracks

#### Oparau Route

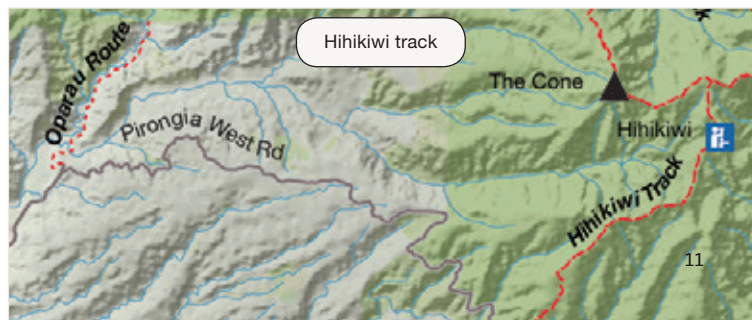
(1 hr one way)

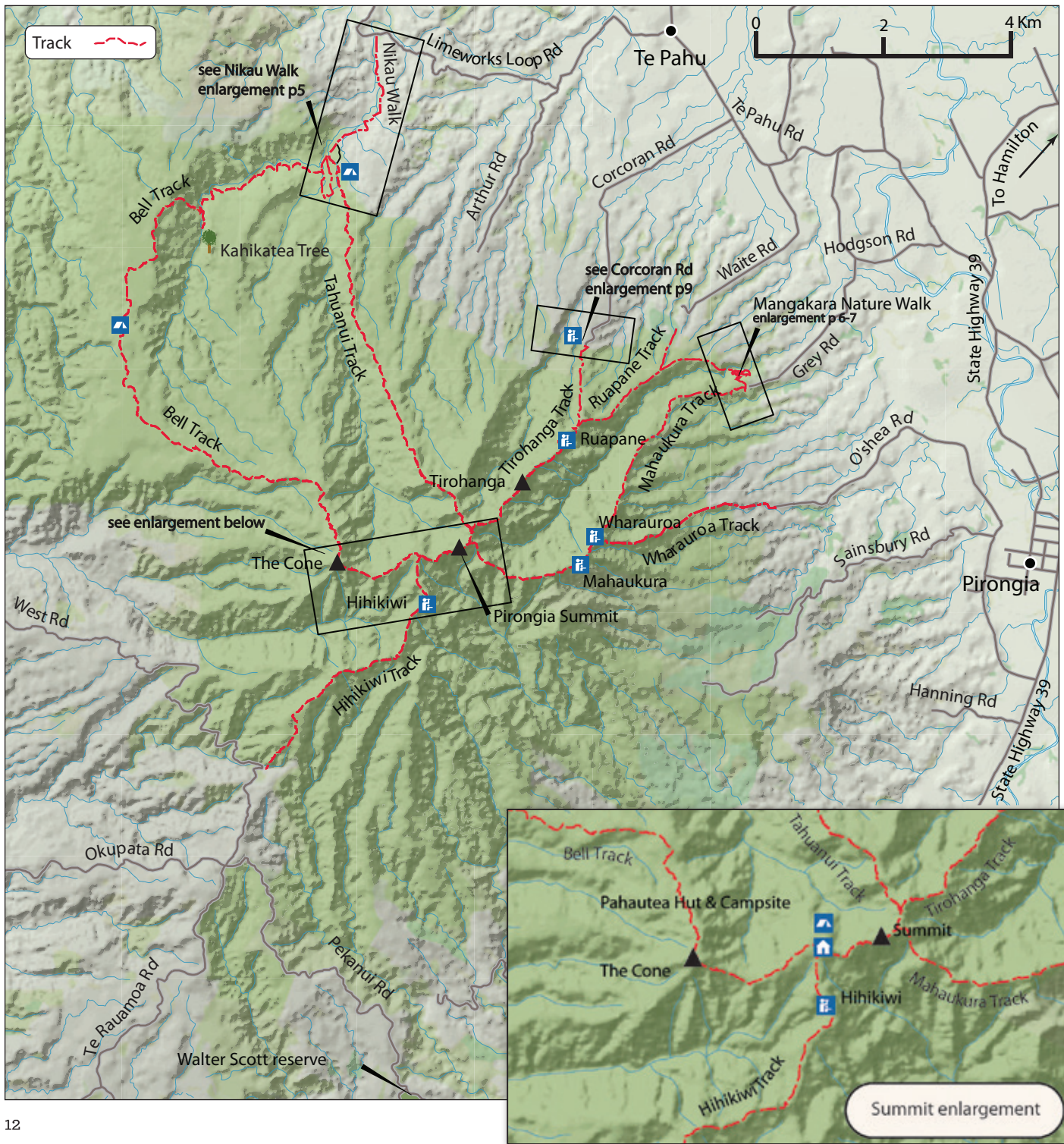
From Pirongia West Road, this unmarked route follows a rough roadline across farmland to the park boundary. The Oparau River is not bridged and can be impassable after heavy rain. Please note this route does not go to the summit.



#### Walter Scott Private Scenic Reserve

This small reserve off Scott Road (off Pekanui Road) on the southern side of Pirongia Mountain (enroute to the Hihikiwi Track) is owned and managed by Forest & Bird. There are several short walks ranging from 10–20 min and a 1 hr 30 min loop track with some steeper grades and steps.







# Karioi

*Karioi is a distinctive volcanic mountain west of Hamilton, with spectacular views from the summit as far south as Taranaki, the Herangi Range and Pureora. There is also a good view of all the local harbours as well as Pirongia, Maungatautari and Te Aroha Mountains.*

Karioi Mountain can be accessed from Ruapuke Road on the south side or via a drive around the coast to Te Toto Gorge, 13 km from Raglan. The last 4 km of Whaanga Road are unsealed.

At Te Toto Gorge car park, a viewing platform provides magnificent views along the coast north and south and into the Te Toto amphitheatre, formed by the erosion of an ancient volcano. The area is of significance to Māori, and there are signs of occupation over a long period. Many of the karaka trees were most likely planted by resident Māori.

This section of coast is one of the few places left in the North Island where there is an intact sequence of forest from mountain top to sea level.

## Karioi Track

*(3 hr 30 min to summit, 3 hr to lookout)*

This is the steeper but more scenic of the two summit tracks. Once over the stile at the start of the track, it's all up hill, but there are plenty of good vantage points to stop, catch your breath and admire the view. After passing through a grove of kānuka, the track climbs up a grassy slope before reaching the main ridge. Chains and ladders have been installed to help negotiate the occasional rocky outcrop.

At a large rocky bluff the track sidles around to the north for a short distance then climbs steadily to the ridge. At this point, a short 10-min side track takes you to a lookout providing good views across Raglan Harbour. Back on the main track it is another hour to the summit (756 m above sea level) along an undulating ridge. Excellent views can be had from the helicopter pad at the top of the Wairake track. The vegetation along the ridge has been sculptured by the strong prevailing westerly wind. The forest changes from kohekohe at lower

altitudes to tawa forest, to kamahi and tāwheowheo towards the top. Other species of note include miro, toro, horopito and *Dracophyllum traversii*.

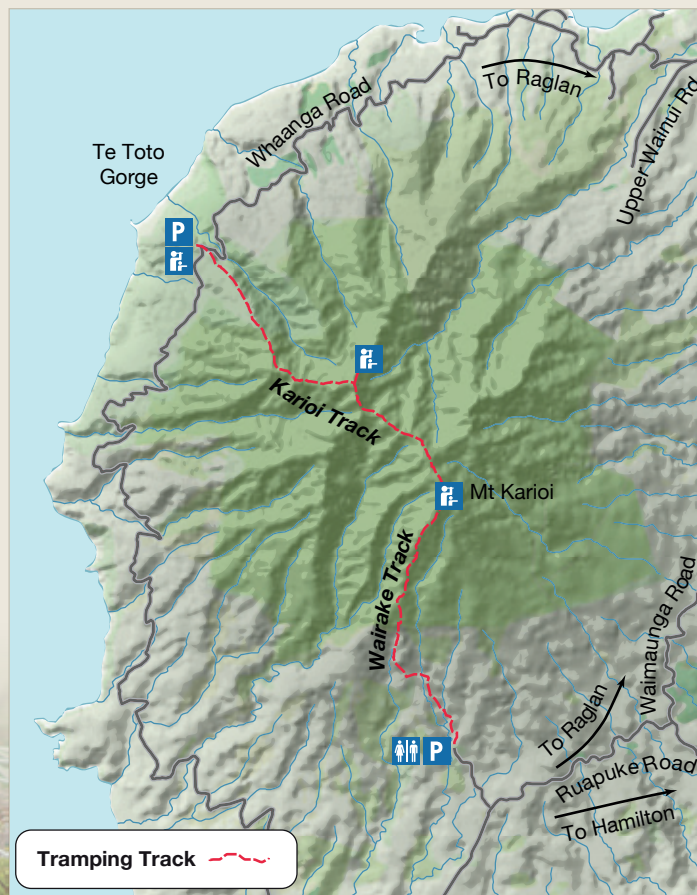
## Wairake Track

*(2–3 hr to summit)*

This is the shortest route to the summit.

The car park is off Ruapuke Road and it's a 40-min walk across private farmland to the bush edge. Please respect the access privilege which is only available during daylight hours. From the bush edge, the track climbs steadily through coastal forest, comprising kohekohe, māhoe, rewarewa, kamahi and a variety of ferns and shrubs, to the summit. The track is not as steep as sections of the Karioi Track and does not have the same views.

It is possible to do a traverse of Karioi Mountain by combining the Karioi and Wairake Tracks but you will need to arrange transport at either end.





View of Raglan from Karioi

## West coast wildlife

This coastline is part of the range of Maui's dolphin, the world's smallest and rarest marine dolphin. These dolphins are closely related to the South Island Hector's dolphin and are found only on the west coast of the North Island. Maui's dolphins are smaller than common dolphins, with unique grey and black colouring and a distinctive rounded dorsal fin. They number less than 150 and are listed internationally as 'critically endangered'.

New Zealand fur seals also make their home along this stretch of coast, with nearby colony numbers reaching close to 1000 seals. Other marine species that may be occasionally seen include southern right whales, humpback whales, orcas, beaked whales and common dolphins.

Some 30 km offshore, lies Karewa/Gannet Island, home to a large breeding colony of gannets. These handsome birds feed on fish and can occasionally be seen in the harbours, along with orange beaked oyster catchers, herons, white spoonbills and migratory birds such as godwits, which make a trip to Alaska each year.

Gannets on Karewa/  
Gannet Island



Maui's dolphins

## Bryant Memorial Reserve

### Ngarunui Track

(20 min / 800 m one way)



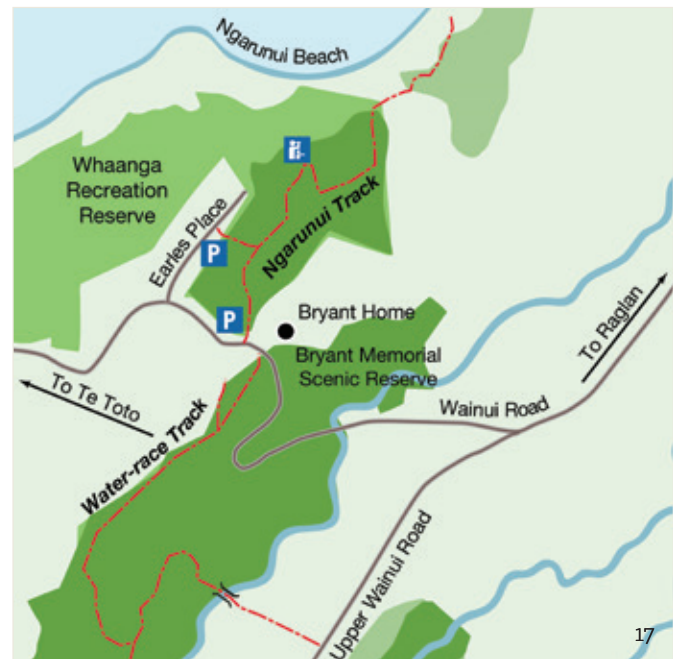
Access is from Wainui Road along the coast south west of Raglan. From the car park beside the Bryant Home Children's Bible Camp, follow the steps down to a well-formed track through a small patch of coastal forest, with tree ferns, nikau palm, kawakawa and kōwhai in abundance. A third of the way down there is a lookout providing excellent views northward along the coast, and at the bottom, steps lead on to Ngarunui Beach. From Ngarunui Beach, you can walk along the seashore to Wainui Reserve (administered by Waikato District Council). There are toilets at Wainui Reserve and also Manu Bay. Alternative access to the Ngarunui track is via 50 steps from Earles Place, which has limited parking.

### Water-race Track

(25 min / 1 km one way)



Across the road from the Bryant Home Children's Bible Camp is another track that takes you through regenerating coastal forest. The track follows an historic water-race that in 1924 powered a generator providing electricity for Bryant Home. An alternative entry to the track is from Upper Wainui Road down an access strip leading to a bridge. The track links up with the Water-race Track.



## Wairēinga / Bridal Veil Falls

### Car park to top of falls

(10 min / 600 m one way)



### Top of falls to base of falls

(10 min one way)



Access is via Te Mata Road off the Hamilton/Raglan Highway (SH23). Turn left into Kawhia Road, 1 km past Te Mata and travel another 4 km to the car park.

It is an attractive easy walk through native forest following the Pakoka River to the top of the Wairēinga / Bridal Veil Falls. This section of track is designed for assisted wheelchair use and is suitable for children's pushchairs. The two viewing platforms at the top of the falls provide spectacular views of the falls and surrounding countryside.

From here, the track descends steeply down stairs to a midway view point. The track continues down more stairs to the bottom view bridge and information shelter where there is a magnificent view directly across the pool and up at the falls. *Please note the water quality of the pool and river is not healthy for swimming.*

Rocks around the pool are mainly soft sandstones that have been worn down by the river to form a large amphitheatre. If you look up from the base of the falls, you can see the band of hard basalt rock (which came from a volcano about 1.5 km away) that has resisted the erosive power of the water and now forms the lip of the spectacular 55-metre falls.

Wairēinga means leaping waters, referring to wairua (spirits) leaping the great height of this waterfall. Wairēinga is also spiritually known by tangata whenua (people of the land) to be occupied by patupaiarehe (fairies) who are kaitiaki (guardians) of the area.



### The changing earth

The spectacular cliff face of Wairēinga was created some 2.5 million years ago when molten lava from a volcanic eruption flowed down a river course, pooling in a valley. As the lava slowed, the top and bottom started to cool and shrink. Cracks and joints appeared, running directly down from the surface of the flow. Because the hotter and semi-liquid part of the lava was still moving, the joints developed a distinctive curve.

## Karakariki Reserve

### Karakariki Track

(waterfall 20 min, fenceline 1 hr one way)



Turn off the Hamilton/Raglan Highway (SH 23) into Karakariki Road and then left into Karakariki Valley Road to the car park at the end.

Cross two cattle stops then climb the stile into the paddock and go across the swingbridge where you'll reach another stile. This initial section of the track crosses private farmland so please respect the access privilege and avoid disturbing stock. Once over the stile, follow a stream through remnant bush (this section can be muddy) and open grassy areas. It doesn't take long to reach the small waterfall, which is a good place for a picnic and dip in the pool in summer. You can explore further upstream where there are other pools and waterfalls. Look for fossils in the stream.

From the stream, a track heads up a bush-covered ridge, passing some big rimu and groves of nīkau. The track finishes at a fenceline with views across farmland to the bush covered ranges beyond. It is private property beyond the fence so you will need to retrace your steps back to the waterfall. *Please do not climb over the fence.*



## Karamu Walkway

*Superb 360-degree views and impressive limestone bluffs are features of this walkway. It also provides an opportunity to walk over farmland with farm animals close at hand. You can choose to do the whole walkway or a section of it.*

### Four Brothers Track

(15 min / 630 m one way)

Start at the Four Brothers Scenic Reserve car park on the Hamilton-Raglan Highway (SH 23). A moderate 15-min climb through bush leads to the reserve's southern boundary, open farmland and good views.



### Karamu Walkway North

(1hr 30min one way / 2.7km)

Start from the car park on the Hamilton-Raglan Highway along the Four Brothers Track before crossing open farmland. This section of the walkway is across private land so please respect the access privilege. Follow the white posts and orange markers along the main ridge to Old Mountain Road. There are great views of the Hakarimata Range in the north, Karioi and the coast to the west, Pirongia to the south and Hamilton city to the east.



### Karamu Walkway South

(3 to 4 hr one way / 7.8km)

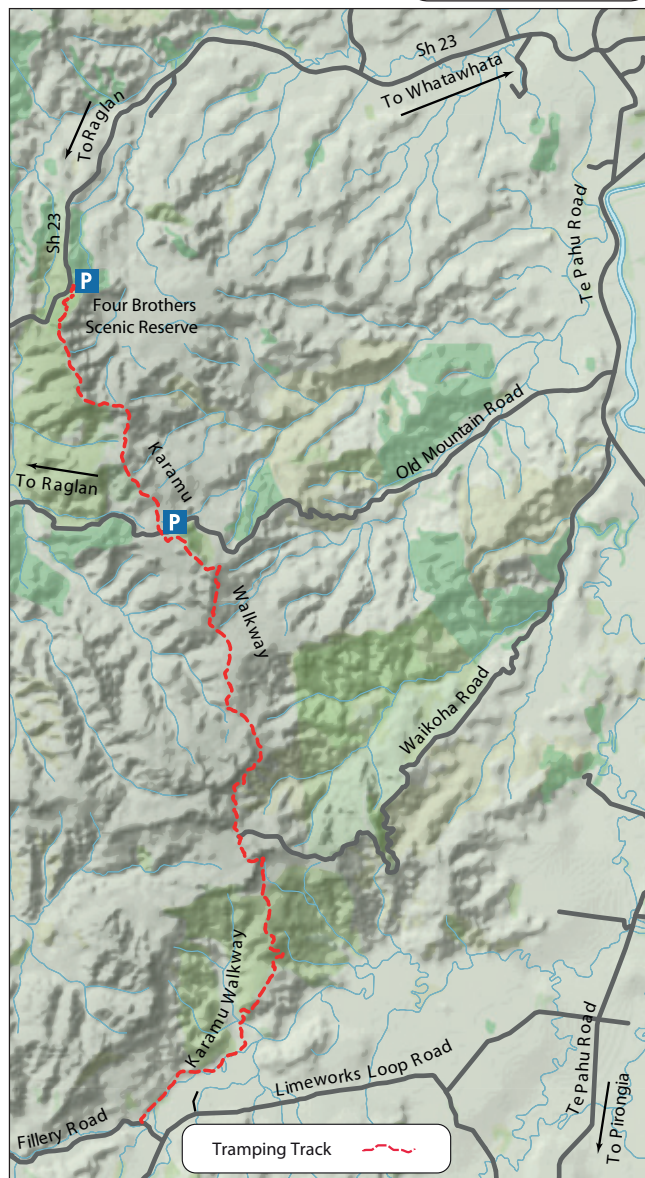
This section of walkway starts on the south side of Old Mountain Road. After an initial climb you cross gently-rolling pasture studded with outcrops of limestone before dropping down to a bush remnant at the southern end of the track. The track descends steeply in places through the bush (which is slippery when wet) and then down a farm road to the grassy flats, with some large tōtara and kahikatea along the way. Follow the markers that bypass Limeworks factory, leading to access roadway and Fillery Road. Parking is available on the access road before the factory.

If you don't want to retrace your steps, you will need to arrange transport from either Limeworks Loop Road or Old Mountain Road.



### Please note:

- Walkway is closed 1 August to 31 October
- Keep to the marked route
- Use stiles, not gates
- Avoid disturbing stock
- Do not take dogs on the walkway
- Do not carry firearms
- Avoid hay barns and other farm structures



*Please note walkway is closed 1 August to 31 October for farm management purposes.*



## Conservation

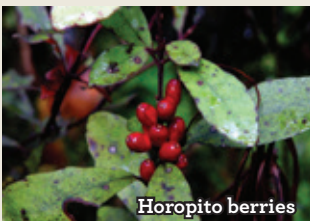
DOC is responsible for conserving New Zealand's natural and historic heritage. It manages threatened species, minimises biosecurity risks, restores and protects historic and cultural sites on public conservation land, and promotes appropriate recreational use and enjoyment of protected places. Wherever possible, these functions are carried out in partnership with the community and tangata whenua.

Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society, Te Pahu Landcare, Kariori Maunga Restoration Project, and A Rocha Aotearoa NZ are local community groups undertaking conservation work in partnership with DOC to restore and enhance the native flora and fauna of Pirongia and Kariori. The work involves pest control, bird counts, vegetation studies, monitoring of pests before and after trapping, weeding and tree planting, and many hours of volunteer labour.

More information about these and other community groups undertaking conservation work in the Waikato can be found at [www.doc.govt.nz/waikatocommunityprojects](http://www.doc.govt.nz/waikatocommunityprojects).



Tomtit/miromiro



Horopito berries



Kiekie flower



Greywarbler/riroriro



Whitehead/popokatea



Dracophyllum traversii

## Other activities

### Hunting

Pigs, goats and possums are present in low numbers in Pirongia Forest Park. Pigs are found mainly on the western side of Pirongia.

Permits to hunt in Pirongia Forest Park and Karakariki Scenic Reserve are available from DOC's Te Rapa Base or Hamilton offices phone 07 858 1000. You can also obtain a permit online at [www.doc.govt.nz/hunting](http://www.doc.govt.nz/hunting) for areas designated for open hunting.



### Fishing

Brown and rainbow trout are present in Kaniwhaniwha Stream. Only fly fishing is permitted. Licences are obtained from most sports shops or the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council.



### Picnic areas

*There are a number of great picnic spots:*

**Beside a stream:** Nikau Walk, Kaniwhaniwha car park and upstream camp/picnic site, Karakariki and Wairēinga / Bridal Veil Falls.

**On the coast:** Bryant Memorial.

**With a view:** Grey Road, Corcoran Road.



## Restrictions

### Fires

Fires are not permitted in reserves and high risk sites in Pirongia Forest Park. Campers, picnickers and hut users are encouraged to carry portable gas stoves. Pahautea Hut (see p24) has no fireplace and fires are not permitted.

There is a fireplace at the Kaniwhaniwha Campsite where fires are permitted (bring your own firewood).



### Domestic animals

Domestic animals are prohibited on all tracks except for certified guide dogs and permitted hunting dogs.



## Accommodation and camping

### Pahautea Hut

Pahautea hut is situated at the Bell/Hihikiwi Track junction 30 min below the summit. It sleeps 20 people on platform bunks. The hut has mattresses and a sink bench with tap water but does not have a heater or cooking facilities. Overnight visitors should carry their own cooking equipment. Fires are not permitted. Leave the hut clean and tidy and carry all rubbish out. Hut tickets are available from DOC offices and retailers displaying the 'Backcountry Huts' sign.

#### Hut Fees:

Adult	\$5 / night
Youth (11-17 years)	\$2.50 / night
Child	Free

Please be honest and purchase your tickets before your trip from DOC offices or retailers displaying the 'Backcountry Huts' sign. Paying fees helps keep huts available for public use.



### Pirongia Forest Park Lodge

Pirongia Forest Park Lodge, situated at the end of Grey Road, is a residential outdoor education facility run by the Pirongia Forest Park Lodge Society. The lodge can accommodate 42 people in bunk rooms plus there are two self-contained cabins for hire that each sleep three people. For further information and bookings contact the manager on 07 871 9570, email: [warden@pfplodge.org.nz](mailto:warden@pfplodge.org.nz) or see [www.pfplodge.org.nz](http://www.pfplodge.org.nz).

### Backcountry Campsites

There is no road access to any of these campsites.

Use of the campsites is free.

#### Pahautea Hut Campsite

There are nine raised camping pads next to Pahautea Hut and a shelter that has a table and sink bench with tap water plus a boot-washing bay and toilet block. You will need to carry your own cooking stove and carry out your rubbish. Fires are not permitted.

#### Kaniwhaniwha Campsite

A campsite with toilets, picnic tables and fireplace is situated in a grassy clearing beside the stream, 45 min walk up the Kaniwhaniwha Stream on the Nikau Walk.

#### Bell Track Campsite

There is a remote campsite in a clearing along the Bell Track. See Bell Track page 10. Use of this site is free



- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable ground
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimise the effects of fire
- Respect wildlife and farm animals
- Be considerate of others

  
leave no trace  
NEW ZEALAND

## Further information

The track information in this brochure was correct at the date of printing, but facilities and services can change. For more information, visit the DOC website at [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) or contact:

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