



# Taumaruui

## Heart of the King Country



## Where Adventure Begins





# **TAUMARUNUI**

## **EXPERIENCE OUR GREAT OUTDOORS**



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Individual leaflets available at Taumarunui I-Site or [www.ruapehudc.govt.nz](http://www.ruapehudc.govt.nz)

**Acknowledgements:** – Cheryl Bigham, Shirley Barton, Graeme Cosford, Peter Panton and Paperplus Taumarunui. 06/2014

# Taumarunui – the centre of everywhere





# Taumarunui Adventures

## A1. Kakahi Glow Worms (*Arachnocampa luminosa*)

Kakahi

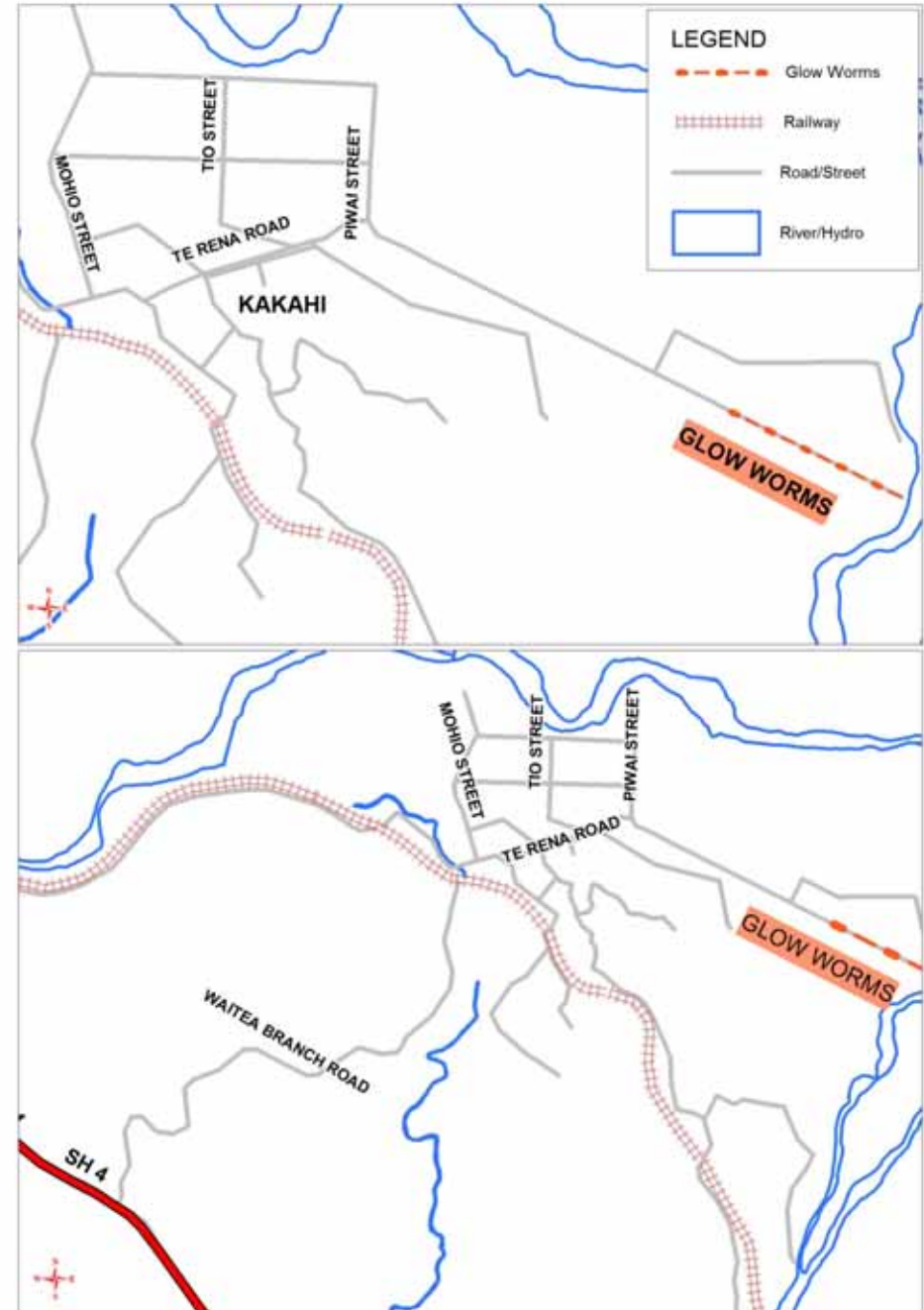
15 minutes from Taumarunui

This little excursion is New Zealand's best kept secret. No caves, no tunnels, little walking and they are free to see.

A railway line was meant to cross the Whakapapa River at this point but never went ahead. The cutting to the river was made, fortunately for us, and now we have an amazing 100m long glow worm grotto. This display is spectacular and rivals the stars in the sky. Cars can be driven through to the river but it is preferable to walk through as the fumes are not good for the glow worms.

Drive into Kakahi off SH4, South of Taumarunui. This was once a thriving mill town but not much is left now which is a shame. Continue along Te Rena Road and take the right hand fork where the sign pointing left says Piwai Street. From here drive along the narrow, dirt road that was obviously cut for a railway. The cutting is at the river end of this road.

This trip has to be made after dark or the glow worms are not visible. If a torch is taken and shone on the glow the very tiny worms are visible with their crystal like beads hanging down around them. This is a fantastic experience and certainly worth the effort of waiting until after dark.





# Taumarunui Canoe & Kayaking

## A2. Whanganui River

Cherry Grove to Ohinepane 2 ½ to 4 hours paddling

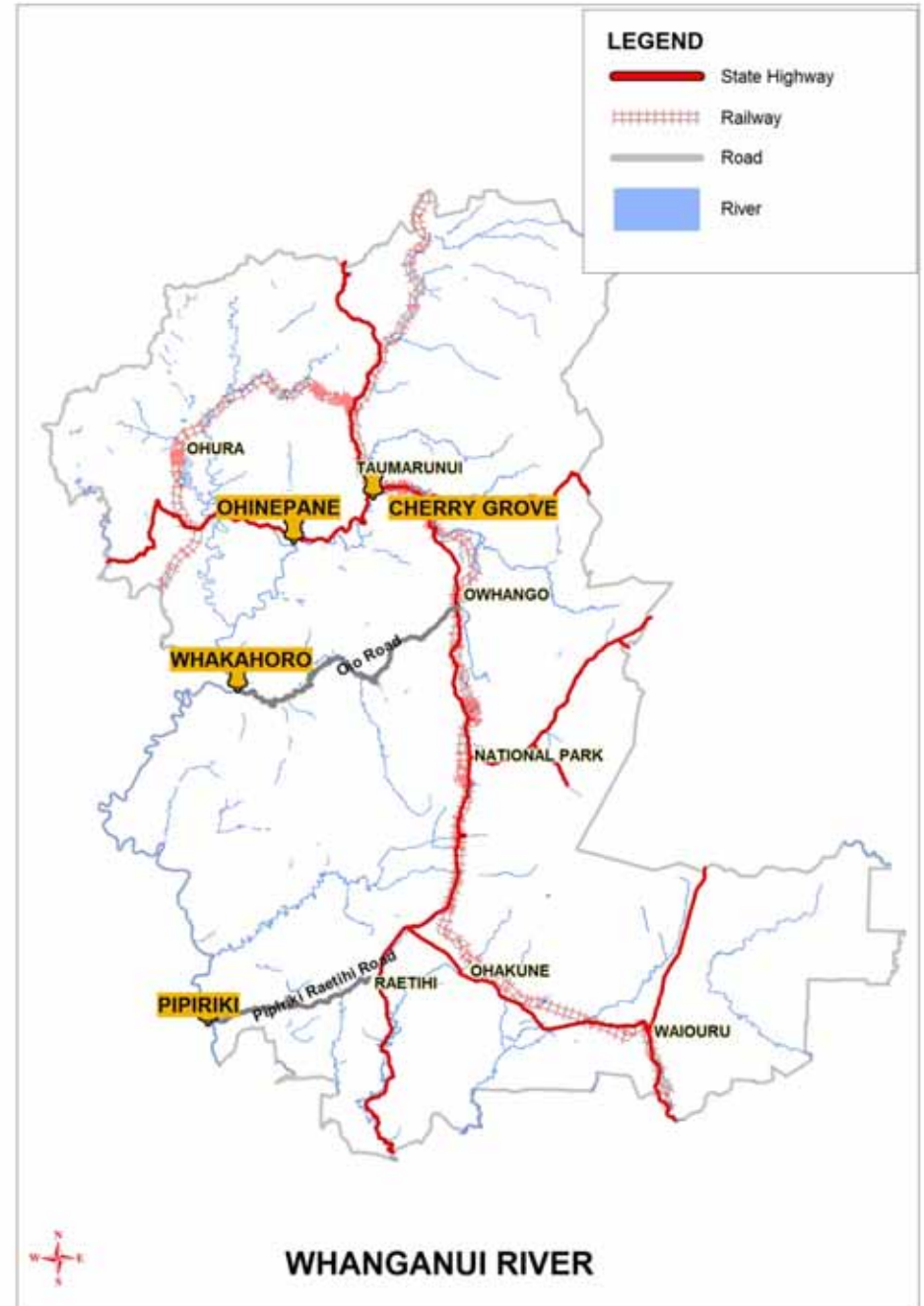
Cherry Grove to Whakahoro 8 to 10 hours paddling

Cherry Grove to Pipiriki 3 to 5 days

The paddle to Pipiriki is known as one of the 9 Great Walks of New Zealand and is a very popular 3-5 day trip. Visit the iSite for information and to pay camping fees before leaving. However if you don't have the time or inclination to go all the way 2 shorter options are available.

Going as far as Ohinepane has the excitement of some good rapids along with the beauty and peace of paddling down river. It tests your skills without being too difficult and makes for a very enjoyable few hours.

To paddle from Cherry Grove to Whakahoro is a full day trip but allows you to enjoy more of this beautiful river. There are less rapids after Ohinepane but don't be too complacent. Rivers must always be respected. Passing the confluence of the Ohura River and its waterfall there are totem poles in the adjacent paddock. Other streams and smaller waterfalls along the way make a very interesting day. A salt spring trickles into the river on the right side of the river before Whakahoro but is not always easy to find. When the Returuke River is reached, on the left side, it takes a bit of effort to paddle upstream, especially if the river is low. There is a small rapid that can cause problems just before reaching the landing. Canoes and kayaks can be hired and transport arranged in Taumarunui.





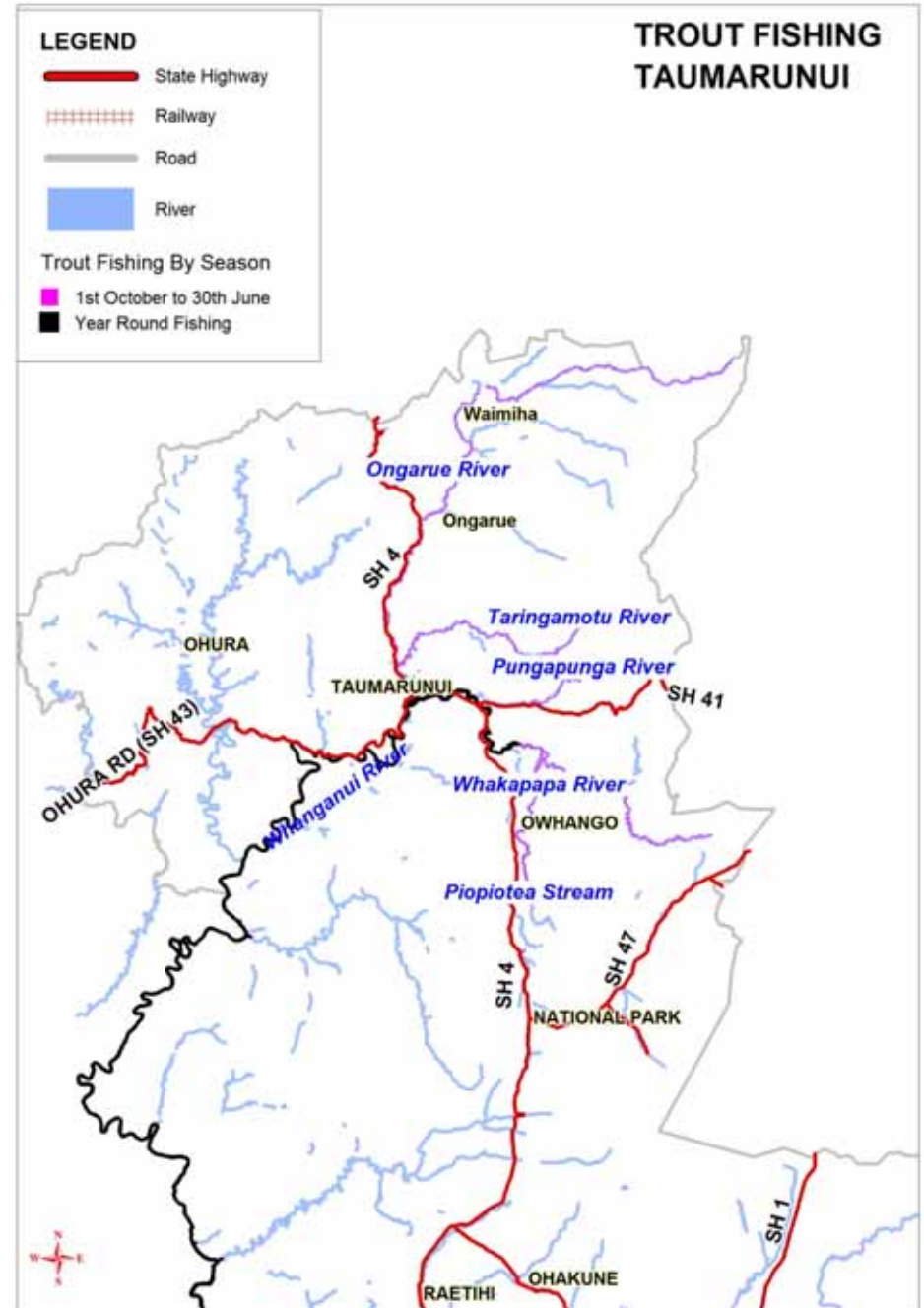
### A3. Taumarunui Trout Fishing

Whanganui River      Ongarue River  
 Pungapunga Stream      Taringamotu Stream  
 Whakapapa River

This area is in the Fish & Games' Auckland-Waikato Region and their licence must be bought to fish here. Trout fishing has become very popular since some high profile competitions have been held here very successfully. The fishing is both enjoyable and productive.

The Whanganui River below the Whakapapa River is open for fishing all the year round. All legal lures and baits can be used with a bag limit of 5. The rest of the area has a season from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. Above the Waimiha Stream on the Ongarue River and on the Pungapunga and Taringamotu Streams spinners and artificial flies can be used with a bag of 5 allowed. Below the Waimiha Stream on the Ongarue River legal lures and bait can be used and the bag limit is again 5. Above the Whakapapa River on the Whanganui River and the Whakapapa River below the Piopotea Stream spinners and artificial fly can be used but the bag limit is 2. Above the Piopotea Stream on the Whakapapa River spinners and artificial flies can be used but only 2 brown trout can be taken and no rainbows. The minimum size of any trout taken is 30 cm.

This area has many beautiful and stress-free fishing spots that are easily accessible and not over crowded but courtesy is always a good plan.





# Tarrangower Golf Course

## A4. Taumarunui Golf Club

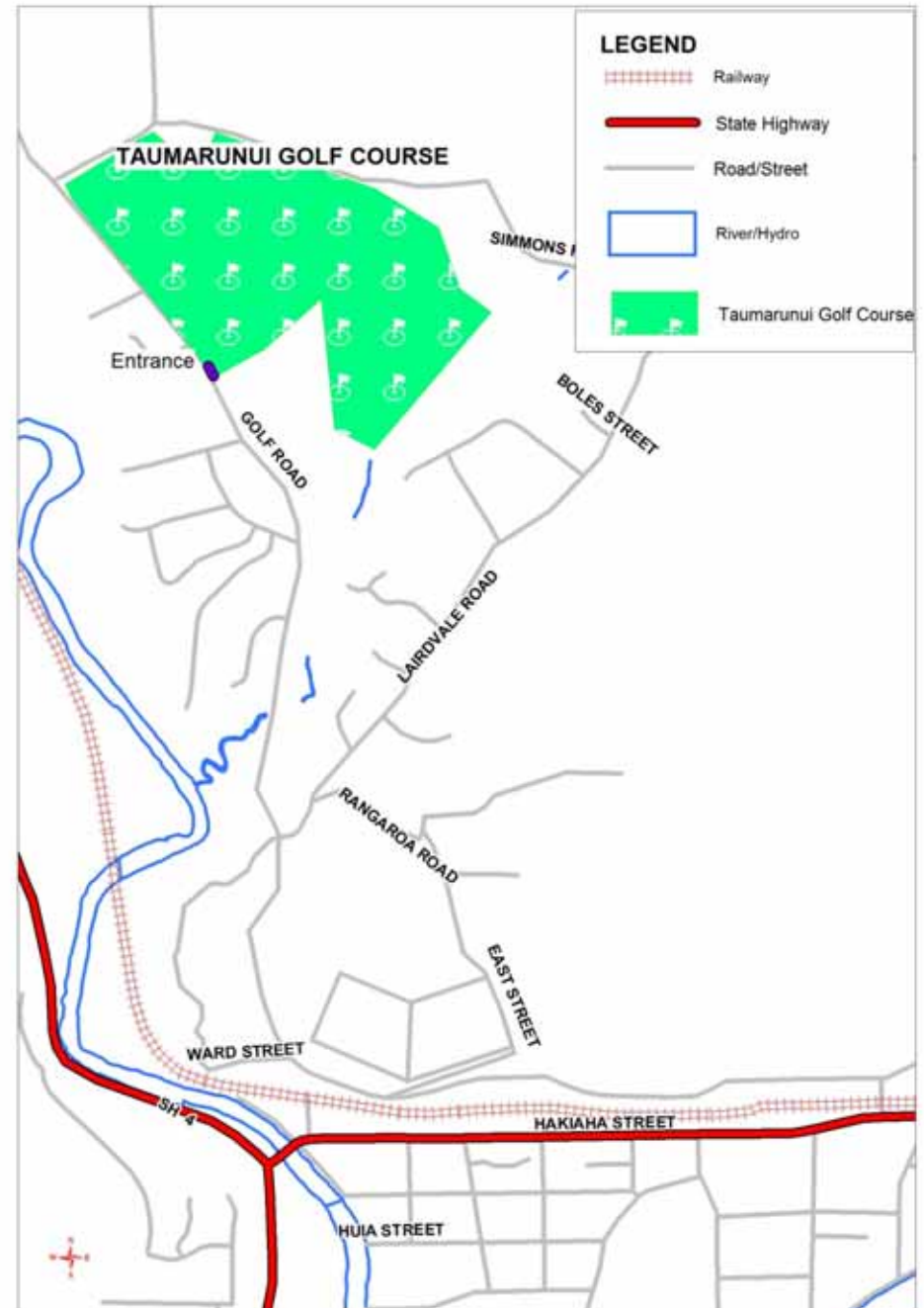
Golf Road, Taumarunui  
[www.taumarunui-golfclub.co.nz](http://www.taumarunui-golfclub.co.nz)

Tarrangower is a beautiful 18 hole Golf Course and is considered to be one of New Zealand's best. It is kept in pristine order throughout the year by dedicated Green Keepers and Grounds Men who work along with many volunteer helpers.

This undulating Course is attractively planted with a great variety of trees and has views of Mounts Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Hikurangi. It has a pond with a fountain, a water hazard and a reasonable supply of sand bunkers. This makes for a very enjoyable and challenging game of golf.

The trees grow straight and tall due to the lack of wind and fertile soil, as can be seen by the redwoods and other tall conifers decorating the Course. The autumn and spring colours are spectacular because of the cooler winters, and the lack of wind also means they retain their flowers and leaves for longer than in other areas. This creates the park like appearance of the Course that is admired and enjoyed by players from all around the world as well as New Zealand.

Many tournaments are held here; some National ones, as well as local, and the visiting golfers always enjoy the hospitality given. Casual players are very welcome to come and experience this beautiful Course.





## A5. Forgotten World Adventures

### Rail Carts

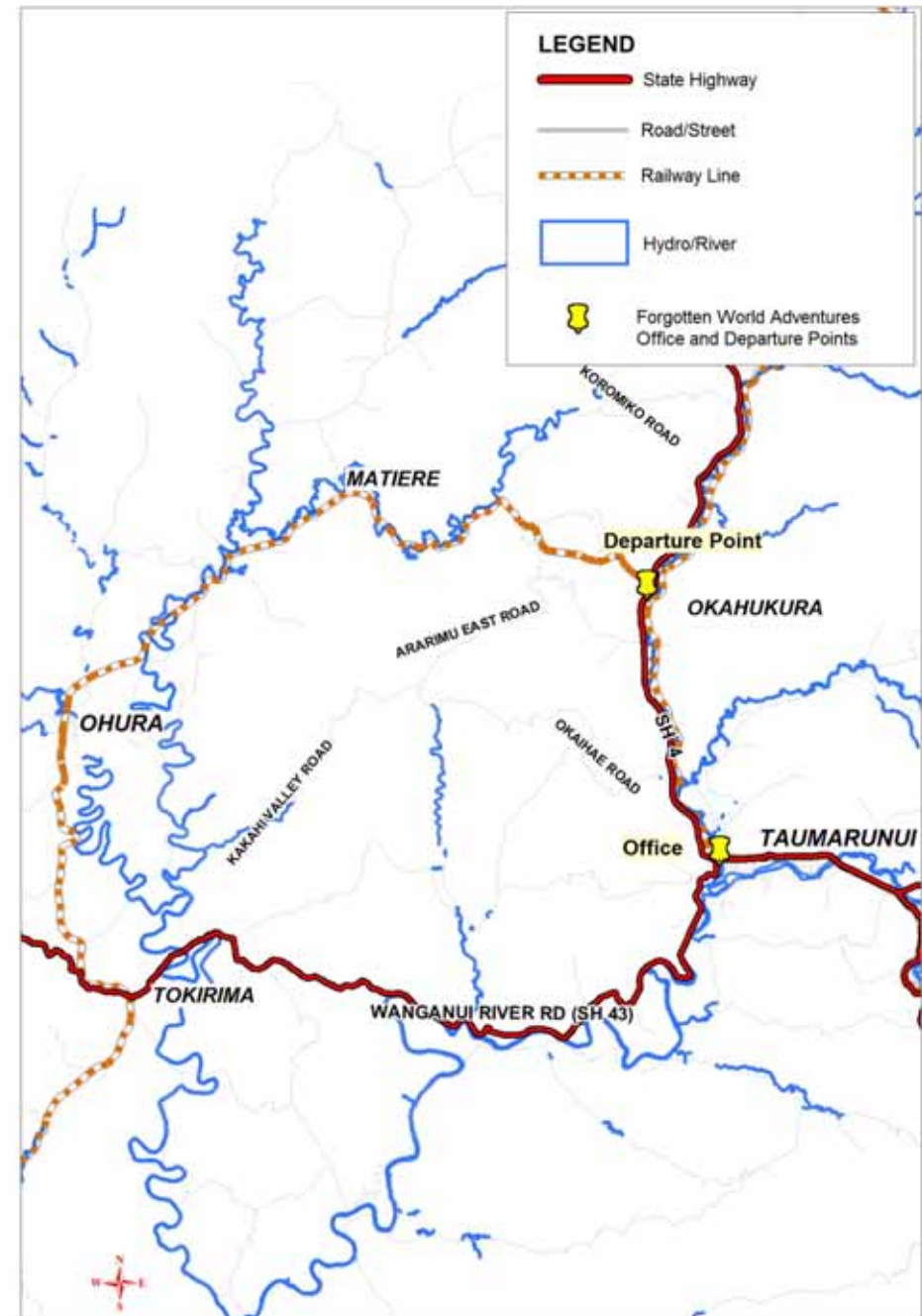
[www.forgottenworldadventures.co.nz](http://www.forgottenworldadventures.co.nz)

Phone: 0800 72452278

The forgotten World Adventures Rail Cart excursions are unique and offer a number of trips to suit all tastes. To rumble along old, decommissioned railway lines in converted, self-drive golf carts through tunnels, over bridges and passed townships that time forgot, is a wonderful experience.

The summer season trip to historic Whangamomona goes through 20 tunnels of various lengths making a very interesting day with a different vista unfolding every time you emerge from each tunnel. Lunch and shuttle is included in the price. Visits to the Lavender Farm and jet boat rides are also included in some excursions making an enjoyable day and something a little different. Shorter winter Explorer trips are also available.

The railway runs through spectacular King Country landscapes that most people never get to see. The hills, the valleys, the bush and the rivers all have a special appeal and are all very photogenic.





# Taumarunui Jet Boat Adventures

## A6. Taumarunui Jet Tours

[www.taumarunuijettours.co.nz](http://www.taumarunuijettours.co.nz)

Phone; 0800 853886, 07 8945988

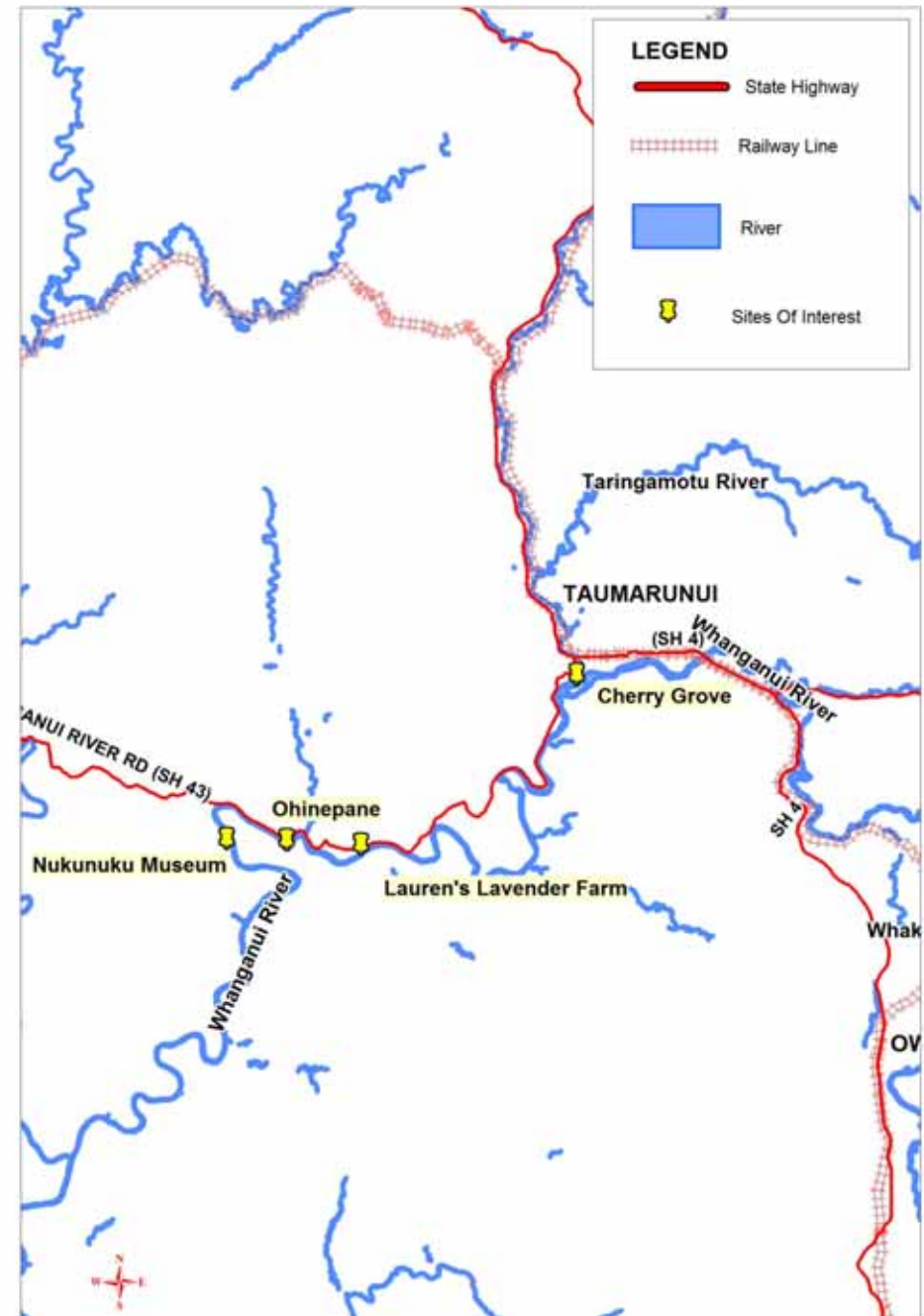
Taumarunui Jet Tours provides some of New Zealand's most unique and exciting adventures. From the shorter ½ hour trip to full day tours, we offer a number of flexible options to suit every adventurer.

We invite you to come and explore one of the best kept secrets, the Whanganui River. Take in the spectacular scenery of both farmland and of the hidden depths of the Whanganui National Park, hearing about the unique history of steamboats and early settlements.

Take a trip to Laurens Lavender Farm for a cup of coffee and a wander through the beautiful garden setting of these flamboyant and bee laden flowers. A visit to the Nukunuku Museum is a great historical venture and a trip to the well-known Bridge to Nowhere and the beautiful Mangaparua Valley is really worthwhile. On the way view the totem poles and the lovely Ohura water fall at the confluence of the Ohura River.

We also cater for transporting trampers and cyclists to and from the access points for walks and cycle trails in the Whanganui National Park.

A trip on this beautiful river over rapids, passed farmland and the bush covered hills, valleys and waterfalls, is a great way to spend a day.





# Taumarunui Jet Boat Adventures



## A7. Taumarunui Canoe Hire & Jet Boat Tours

[www.taumarunuicanoehire.co.nz](http://www.taumarunuicanoehire.co.nz)

Phone: 0800 2266348 07 8955351

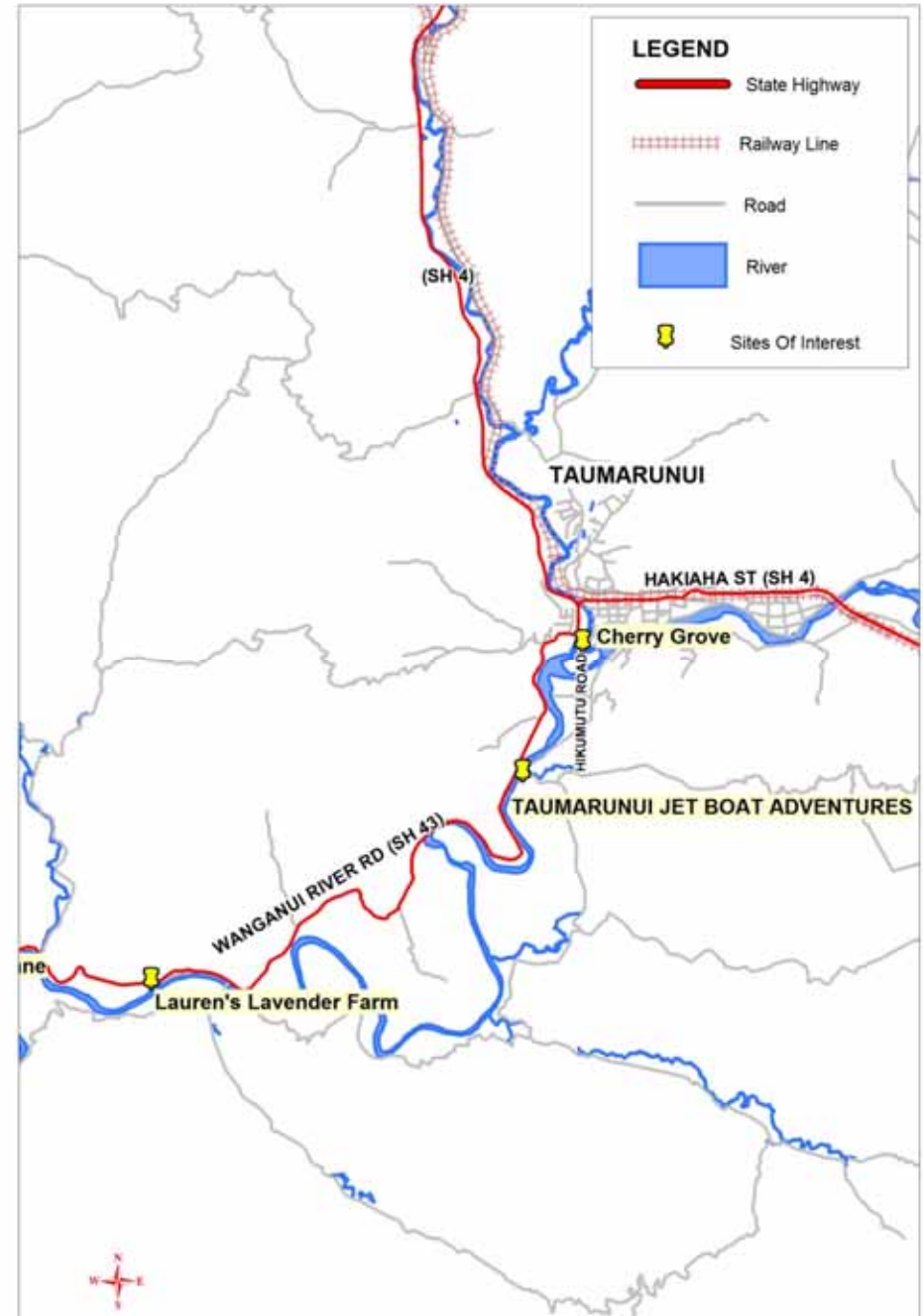
Taumarunui Canoe Hire and Jet Boat Tours is situated 3 km from Taumarunui on Hikumutu Road and has accommodation and campervan parks on site. This gives you the opportunity to get the best advice to plan your trip to make the most of your time whether it is on the jet boat or in canoes or kayaks.

A trip down this beautiful river and through the amazing Whanganui National Park is a memorable adventure with its waterfalls, rapids, farmland and lovely bush. A few spins along the way adds to the excitement making it an experience to remember.

Delivering Trampers and Cyclists to and from access points along the river and also keeping an eye on those enjoying the river by canoe or kayak is all in a day's work.



[http://www.tripadvisor.co.nz/Attraction\\_Review-g1142008-d1950758-Reviews-Taumarunui\\_Canoe\\_Hire\\_and\\_Jet\\_Boat\\_Tours-Taumarunui\\_Manawatu\\_Wanganui\\_Region\\_Nor.html#REVIEWS](http://www.tripadvisor.co.nz/Attraction_Review-g1142008-d1950758-Reviews-Taumarunui_Canoe_Hire_and_Jet_Boat_Tours-Taumarunui_Manawatu_Wanganui_Region_Nor.html#REVIEWS)





# Taumarunui Animal Adventures

## A8. Nevalea Alpacas

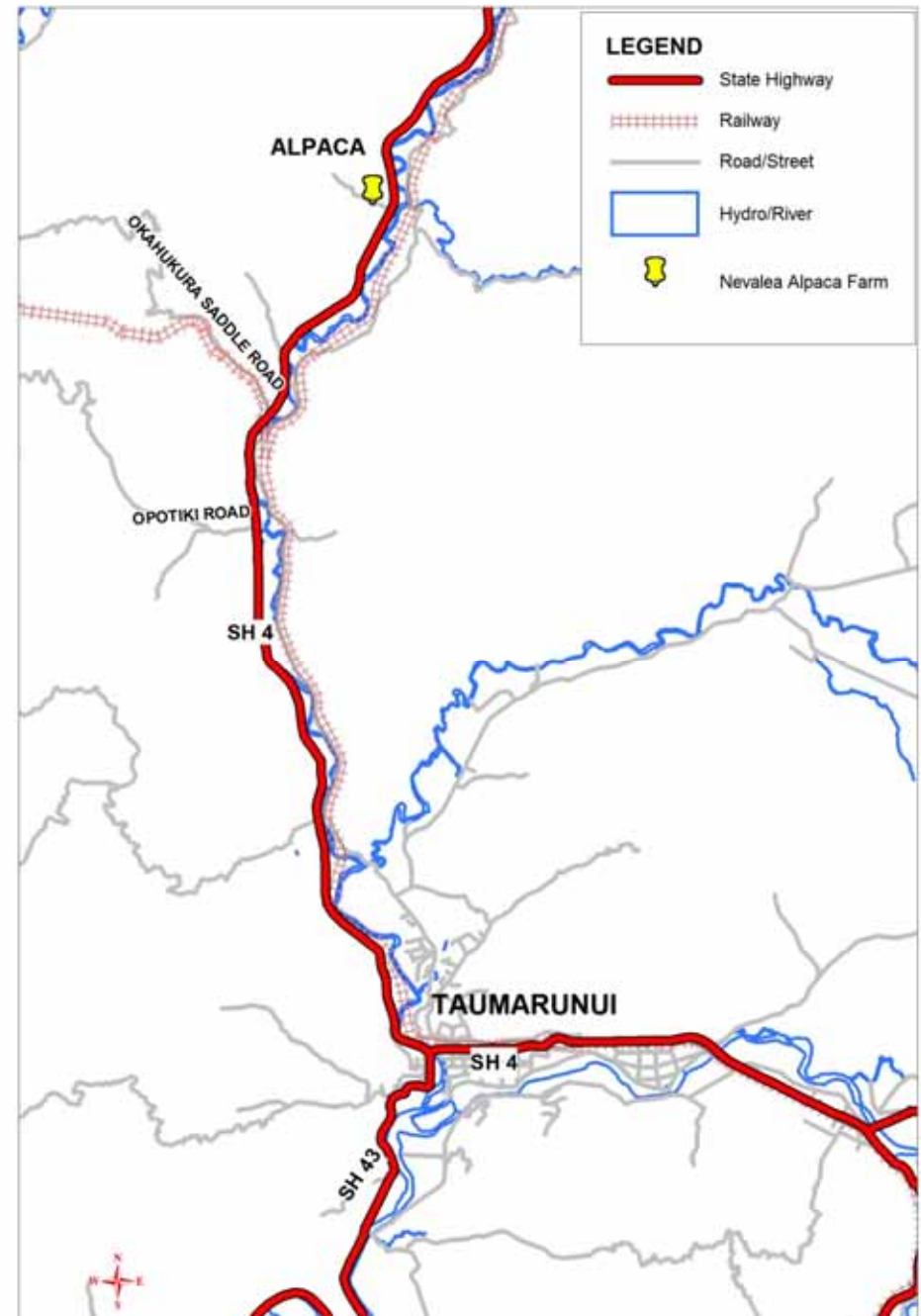
[www.nevaleaalpacas.co.nz](http://www.nevaleaalpacas.co.nz)

Situated on SH 4, just 16 km North of Taumarunui, the Nevalea Alpaca Farm is very easy to find and to stop for a visit is a great way to break a journey or to spend an hour or so.

This farm has over 400, individually named, Huacaya Alpacas that are a native of Chile and Peru. They live happily along with the sheep and cows and thrive in the King country climate. Seeing a herd of them in a paddock, with their variety of colours, is a real attention grabber.

These beautiful, curious and interesting animals produce a delicate, soft fleece that can be used for either knitting or textiles. The colour palette of fibre consists of whispery whites, earthy browns and beautiful blacks and is available in the shop and over the internet as carded fleece as well as spun in balls and cones. Clothing and accessories, made on the premises with their own fibre, are also available. Alpacas are for sale and full support is given to new buyers. Herdsire services are also offered.

A visit to this special place is a wonderful experience for both young and old as all the alpacas are friendly and very social. Both large groups and individual people are very welcome to come and get to know these gentle animals with the cute little faces, and to browse in the shop full of beautiful garments.





# A9. Taumarunui

## Places to Visit

**Lauren's Lavenders, Café and Shop:** [www.laurenslavender.co.nz](http://www.laurenslavender.co.nz) Phone 07 896 8705 email: enquiries@laurenslavender.co.nz

**Nevalea Alpacas and Shop:** [www.nevaleaalpacas.co.nz](http://www.nevaleaalpacas.co.nz) Phone 07 896 6333

**Bradley's Gardens & B&B:** [www.bradleysgarden.co.nz](http://www.bradleysgarden.co.nz) Phone 0274452074: email: melana.bradley@xtra.co.nz

**Lesmoyle Park and B&B:** Garden open by appointment. email: [ikellas@farmside.co.nz](mailto:ikellas@farmside.co.nz) Phone 07 895 5016

**Imagine Gallery:** [www.imagine.gen.nz](http://www.imagine.gen.nz) Phone 021 058 9698

**The Teacup Gallery:** email: [theonaturner@gmail.com](mailto:theonaturner@gmail.com) Phone: 021 02272562, 07 895 7807

## Other Things to Do

**Forgotten World Adventures: Rail Carts:** [www.forgottenworldadventures.co.nz](http://www.forgottenworldadventures.co.nz) Phone 0800 72452278

**Taumarunui Canoe Hire & Jet Boat Tours:** [www.taumarunuicanoehire.co.nz](http://www.taumarunuicanoehire.co.nz) Phone: 0800 2266348

**Taumarunui Jet Tours:** [www.taumarunuijettours.co.nz](http://www.taumarunuijettours.co.nz) Phone: 0800 853886, 07 8945988

**Trust Waikato Heated Swimming Pool:** 07 895 5425 Open Weekdays 6 a.m. to 8.45 a.m. 3.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Hunting:** [www.gobush.co.nz](http://www.gobush.co.nz) : [www.huntdownunder.com](http://www.huntdownunder.com) :

## Service Providers

**Blazing Paddles Canoe Adventures:** Canoe & Kayak Hire & Shuttle: [www.blazingpaddles.co.nz](http://www.blazingpaddles.co.nz) Phone 07 895 5261, 0800252946

**Epic Cycle Adventures:** Cycle Hire & Shuttle: [www.epiccycleadventures.com](http://www.epiccycleadventures.com) Phone 022 023 7958

**Taumarunui Canoe Hire & Jet Boat Tours:** Cycle, Canoe & Kayak Hire & Shuttle: [www.taumarunuicanoehire.co.nz](http://www.taumarunuicanoehire.co.nz) Phone 0800 2266348

**Timber Trail Shuttle, Ongarue:** [www.timbertrail.net.nz](http://www.timbertrail.net.nz) Phone 027 496 1764

## Contacts

**Taumarunui Golf Club:** [www.taumarunui golfclub.co.nz](http://www.taumarunui golfclub.co.nz) Phone 07 8967257

**Taumarunui Tramping Club:** [www.taumarunuitrampingclub.co.nr](http://www.taumarunuitrampingclub.co.nr) Phone 07 895 7667

**Taumarunui Cycle Club:** Phone 07 896 7861

**Taumarunui RSA:** [www.taumarunuirsa.co.nz](http://www.taumarunuirsa.co.nz) Phone 07 895 7517

**Taumarunui Cosmopolitan Club:** Phone 07 895 7151



# Taumarunui Cycle Trails

## C1. Makokomiko Road Circuit

Time:- 2 hours

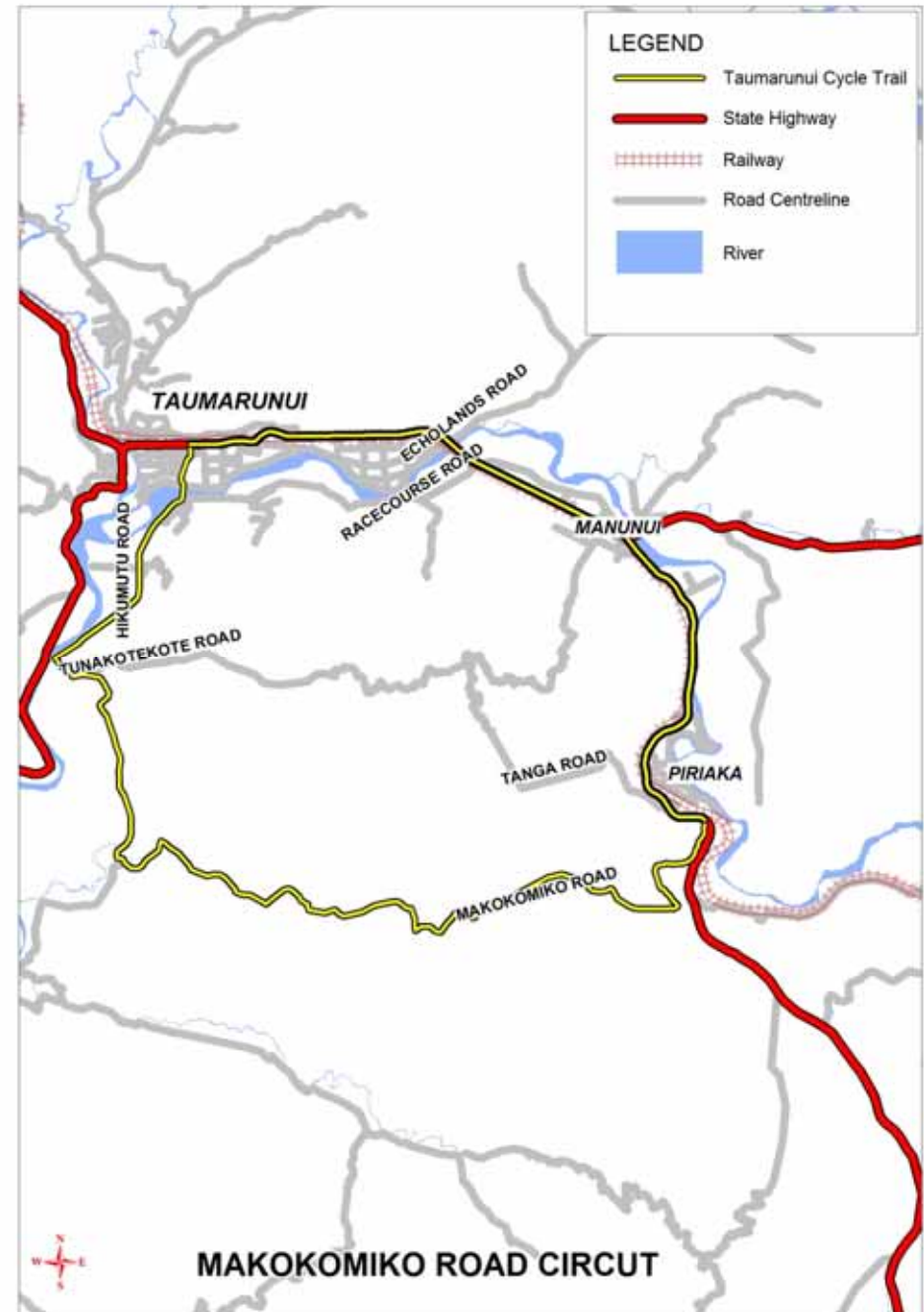
Distance:- 28.5 km

Medium

From Taumarunui ride south, on SH 4, to Piriaka where on the hill to your right is the oldest, unpainted house in NZ which made its film debut in "Wild Horses".

Continue past the village, a short distance uphill, until Makokomiko Road turns to the right. A portion of this road is gravel as it travels through beautiful farmland to Hikumutu Road corner. Follow this road back to Taumarunui, crossing the Whanganui River again over Victory Bridge. This is a relatively easy, undulating circuit and once off SH 4 very little traffic is encountered.

This is a ride that is very popular with the local cyclists as it is not too hard and is really enjoyable.





# Taumarunui Cycle Trails

## C2. Taumarunui to Historic Double Bridge

Time:- 30 minutes each way.

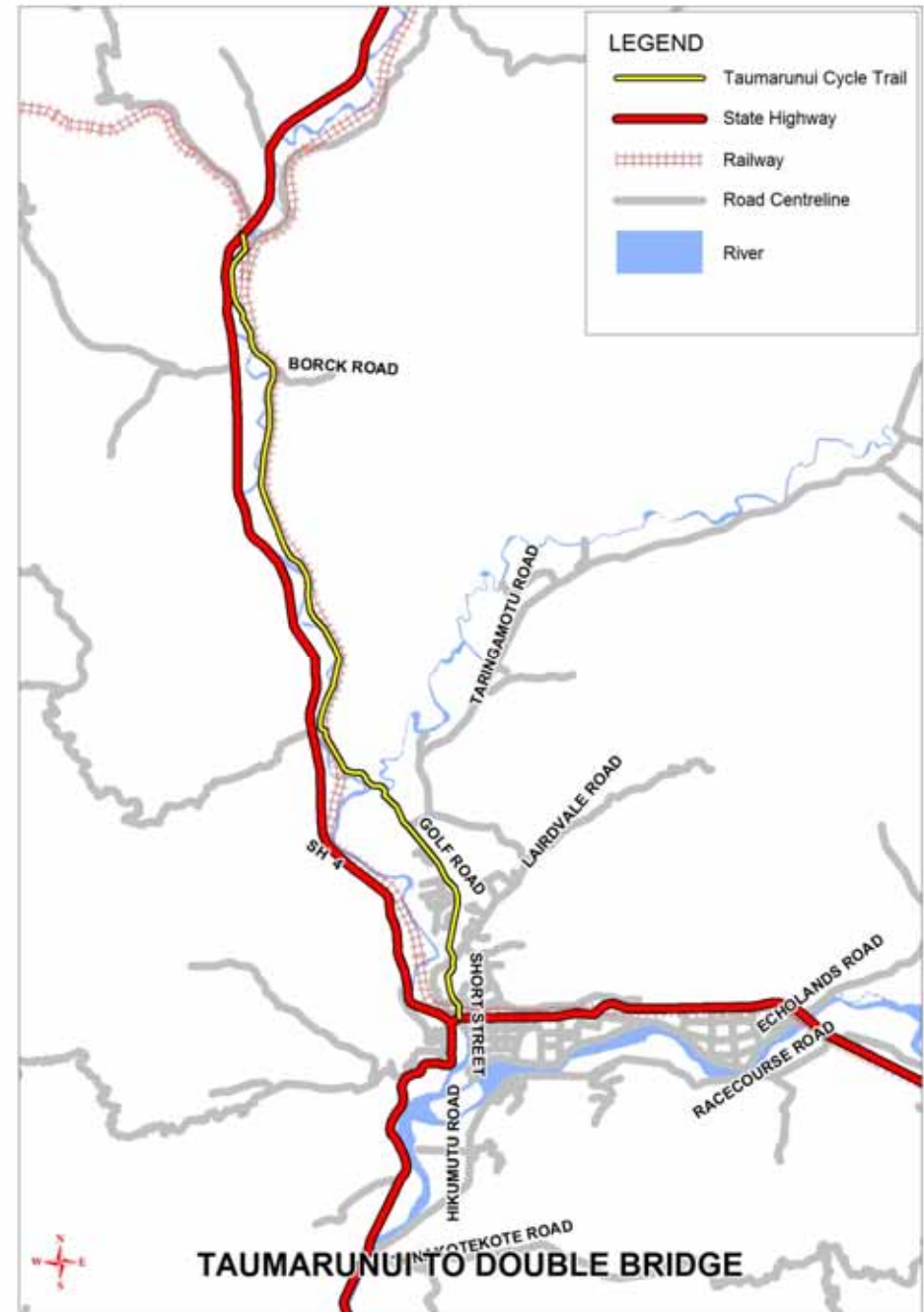
Distance:- 11.5 km. each way.

Easy

Beginning at Taumarunui this short bike ride is all sealed and easy riding with only 2 dips along the way.

Turn right at McDonald's corner; go under the rail bridge onto Golf Road. Just follow this road past the Golf Course to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round-a-bout. Go straight through this onto Ongarue Back Road and follow it to the double bridge. There is a level railway crossing on this road so be wary of trains. Lights operate but no barrier arms.

Riding through the rural area to the double rail/road bridge, where the **Rail Carts** begin their journey, is a very pleasant, family ride.





# Taumarunui Cycle Trails

## C3. Ongarue Back Road to Timber Trail

Time:- 1 ½ hours

Distance:- 28 km.

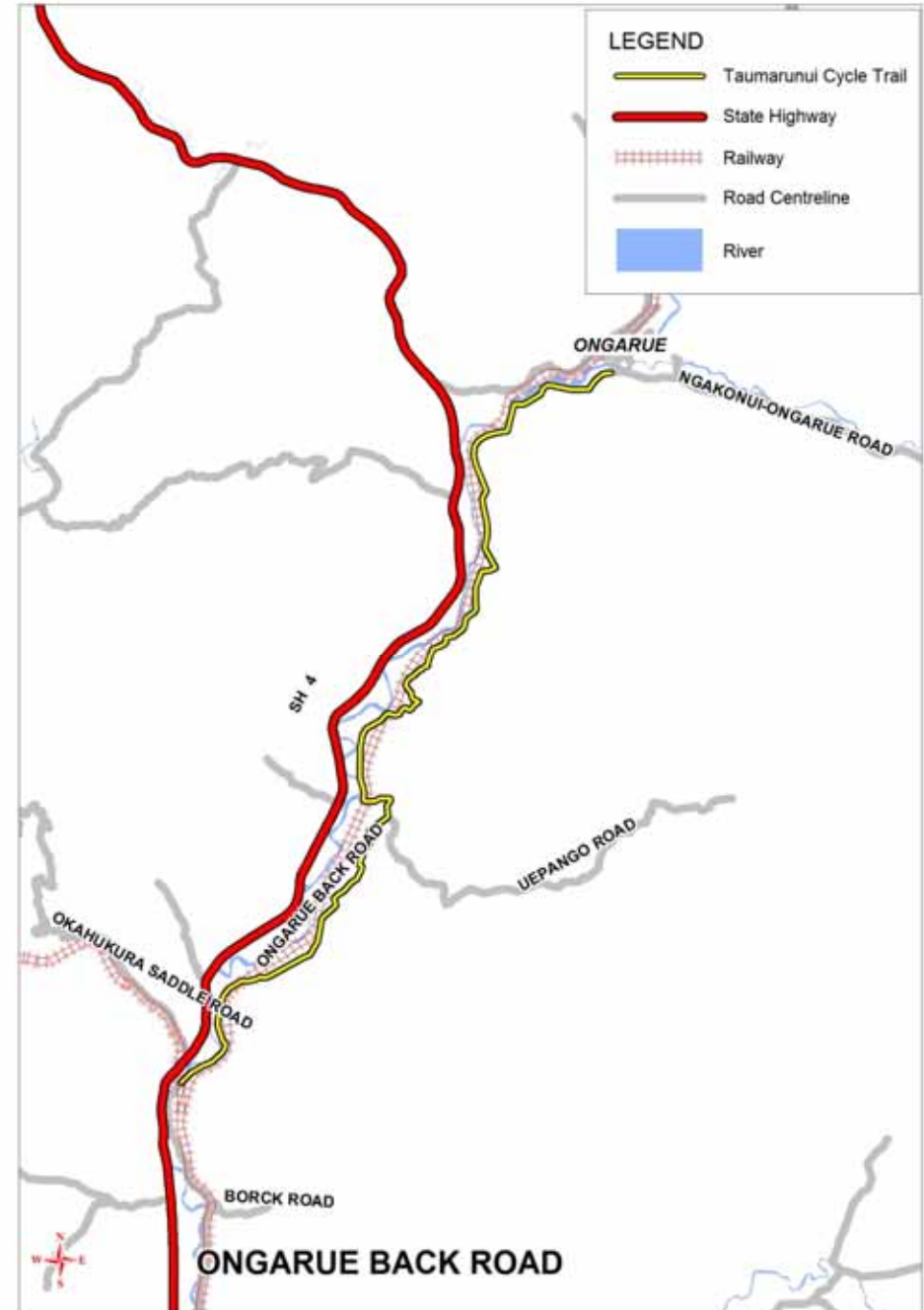
Medium

Taumarunui to Historic Double Bridge trail is the first section of this ride.

At the bridge entrance, veer right onto the gravel road. This road is undulating with 2 hills as it passes through scenic farmland travelling along both the Ongarue River and the Main Trunk Railway line.

It has 2 level railway crossings, only 1 having lights, and 1 under pass. Very little traffic is encountered but do take care at the crossings.

The last 1.7 km from the road junction is on seal and is well sign posted to the Timber Trail. Turning left at this point takes you to Ongarue.



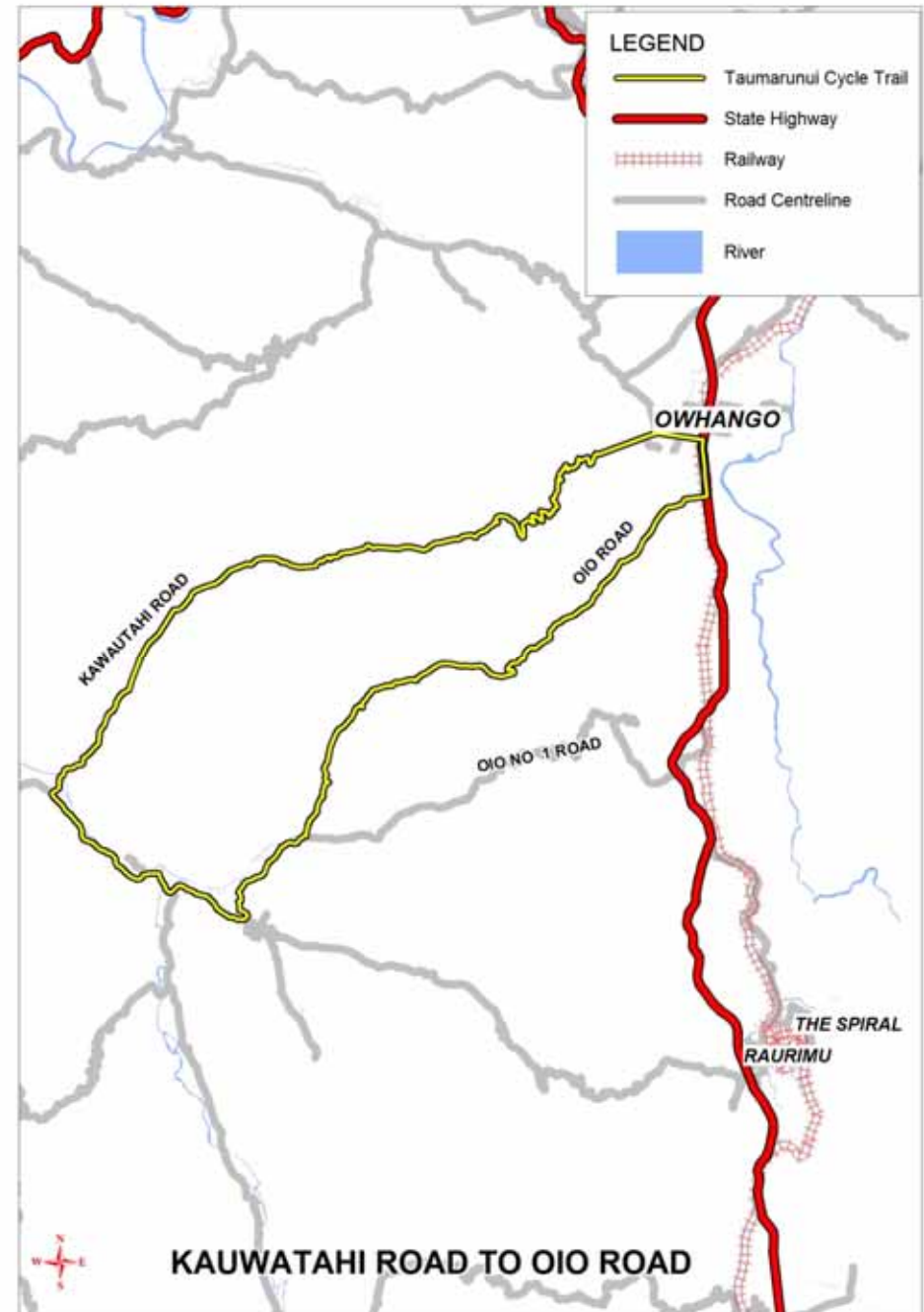
# Taumarunui Cycle Trails

## C4. Kawautahi Road to Oio Road

Time:- 1 ½ hours Distance:- 21 km

Medium

Leaving from Owhangō on SH4, where the **42<sup>nd</sup> Traverse** ends, go south past the hotel and turn right over the railway line, onto Kawautahi Road. After 2.2km the seal runs out and the road becomes winding and steep, typical King Country. The summit is finally reached after a climb of 2 km. The countryside is very rugged and much is bush covered with plenty of bird life. What an amazing downhill ride, it would be enough to make any rally driver cringe. After 12 km from the beginning the country opens out and the ride becomes undulating. Don't miss having a stop at the beautiful Kawautahi Falls. After 21 km of enjoyable cycling, Kawautahi Road joins onto Oio Road. Oio Road travels right to Whakahoro and the Whanganui River, part of the **Mountain to Sea Cycle Trail**, or choose to go left onto Oio Road back to Owhangō.





# Taumarunui Cycle Trails



## C5. Forgotten Highway Cycle Trail

### Lauren's Lavender Farm

Time:- 50 minutes. Distance:- 14.5 km. Medium.

### Ohinepane

Time:- 1 hr 10 min. Distance:- 18 km.

**Saddler Road:-** 22 km

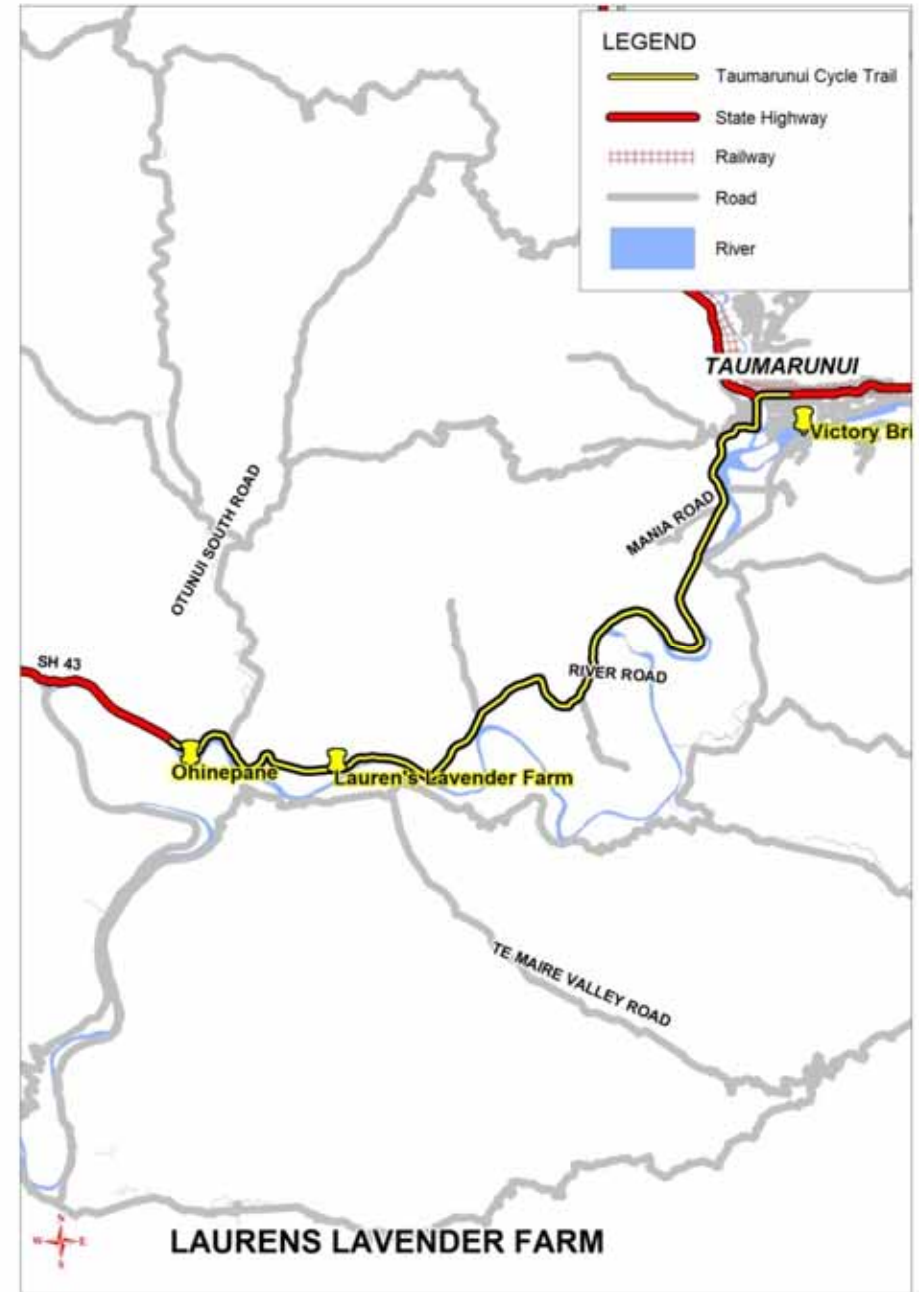
**Niven's Lookout:-** 37.7km (steep)

**Whangamomona:-** 80km (part gravel road)

This trail is designated a 2 day, 150 km trip to Stratford on SH43 stopping at the historical Whangamomona for the night. However shorter trips can be done to suit your time or fitness levels.

The trail starts from Taumarunui going North, cross the bridge over the Ongarue River then turn left up Hospital Hill. It is sealed and undulating most of the way and follows the Whanganui River in the early stages.

Two short trips are to Lauren's Lavender Farm, a lovely restful place to stop, especially if you need a cup of coffee. Another good stopping point is Ohinepane where many canoe and kayaks either start or end their journey, or camp for the night. This canoeing river trip to Pipiriki is one of **New Zealand's 9 Great Walks**.



# Taumarunui Cycle Trails

## C6. Okahukura Saddle Road

Time:- 1hour 10 minutes

Distance:- 17 km

Hard

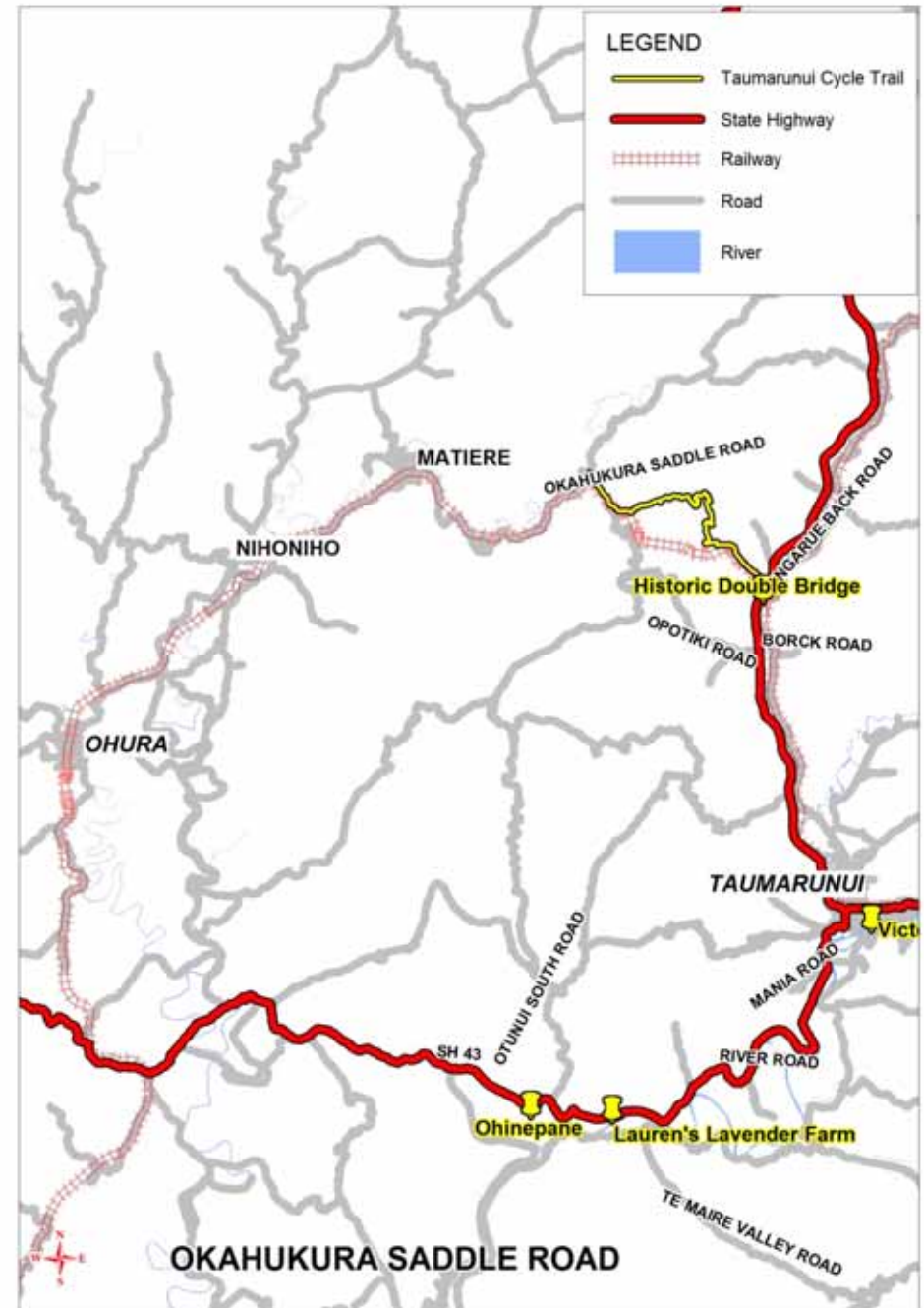
The 30 minute, 11.5 km **Taumarunui to the Historic Double Bridge** trail is the first section of this ride.

The cycle trail climbs from here, gently at first, all the way up to the summit of the Okahukura Saddle and is sealed all the way.

It starts by going over the double bridge and across SH 4 to Okahukura Road. This road has fantastic countryside and bush views making the effort really worthwhile. It is very steep – but just think of the great ride back!

It takes about 40 minutes to ride up but 14 minutes to come back down. This is not a busy road but do take care.

For a longer ride of 90 km continue from the summit going down the other side to Matiere, Nihoniho, and Ohura and then along River Road back to Taumarunui, similar to what is done in the **Dave Logue Classic Cycle Race**.





# Taumarunui Cycle Trails

## C7. Hikumutu Road Cycle Trail

Owhango to Taumarunui

Time:- 1 ½ to 2 hours

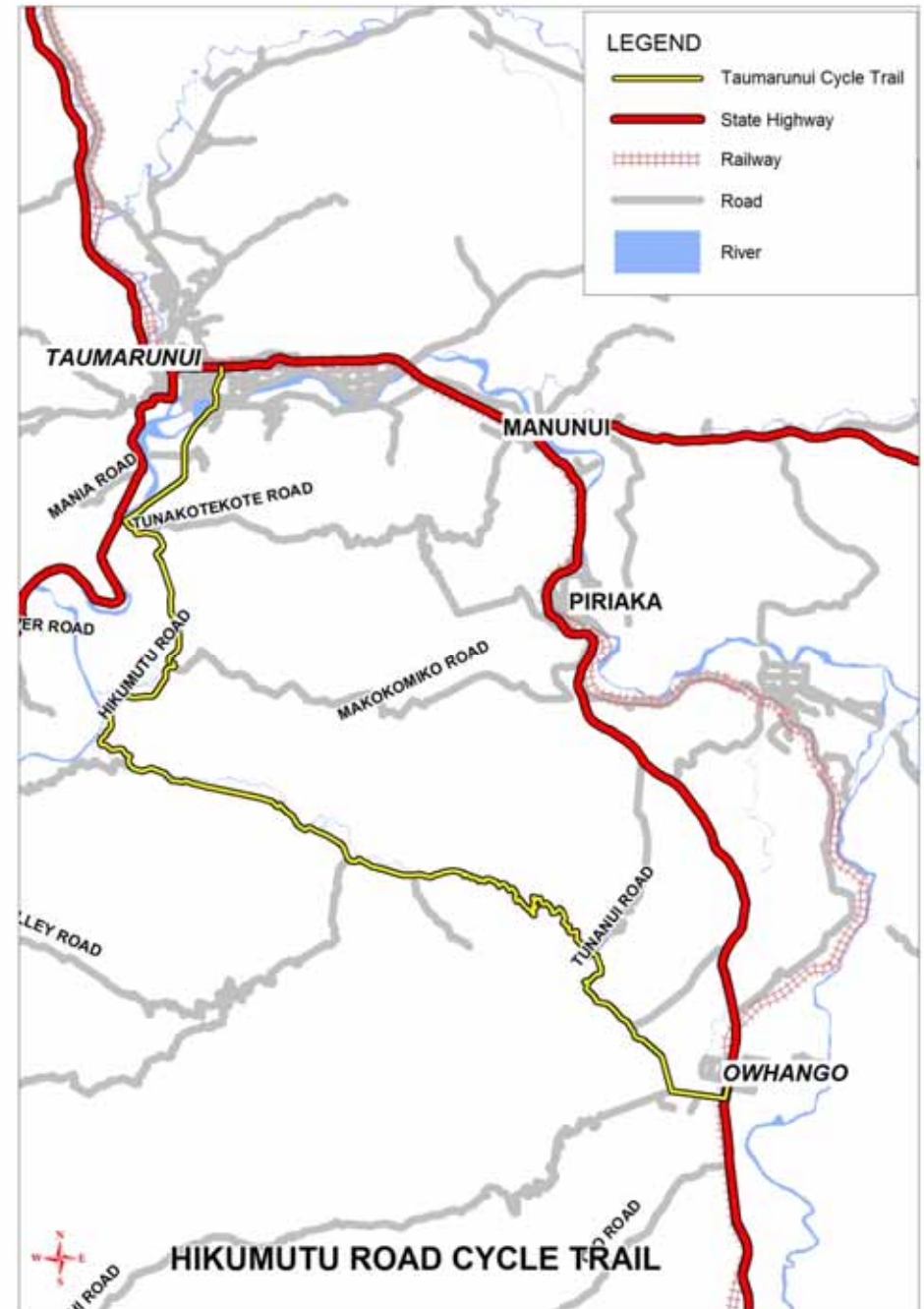
Distance:- 25 km

Medium

Starting from Owhango on SH4, where the **42<sup>nd</sup> Traverse** ends, ride south past the hotel and turn right onto Kawautahi Road and over the railway line. After 1.4 km the trail turns right into Hikumutu Road which is mostly gravel but travels through amazing countryside. After the initial undulating section, the road becomes narrow, very windy and very steep.

Cars seldom use this part of the road so it is a great ride down through very rugged, bush clad countryside. Eventually the road widens and becomes undulating again as farms become more evident. Some of the climbs are a bit mean on these undulating sections.

After 15.8 km the road is sealed and at 19 km it reaches the junction with Makokomiko Road. After another 6 km of undulating road, cross Victory Bridge over the Whanganui River back to Taumarunui. This is an exhilarating ride but leaving from Taumarunui would be a real gut- buster.



# Taumarunui Cycle Trails

## C8. Racecourse Road Circuit

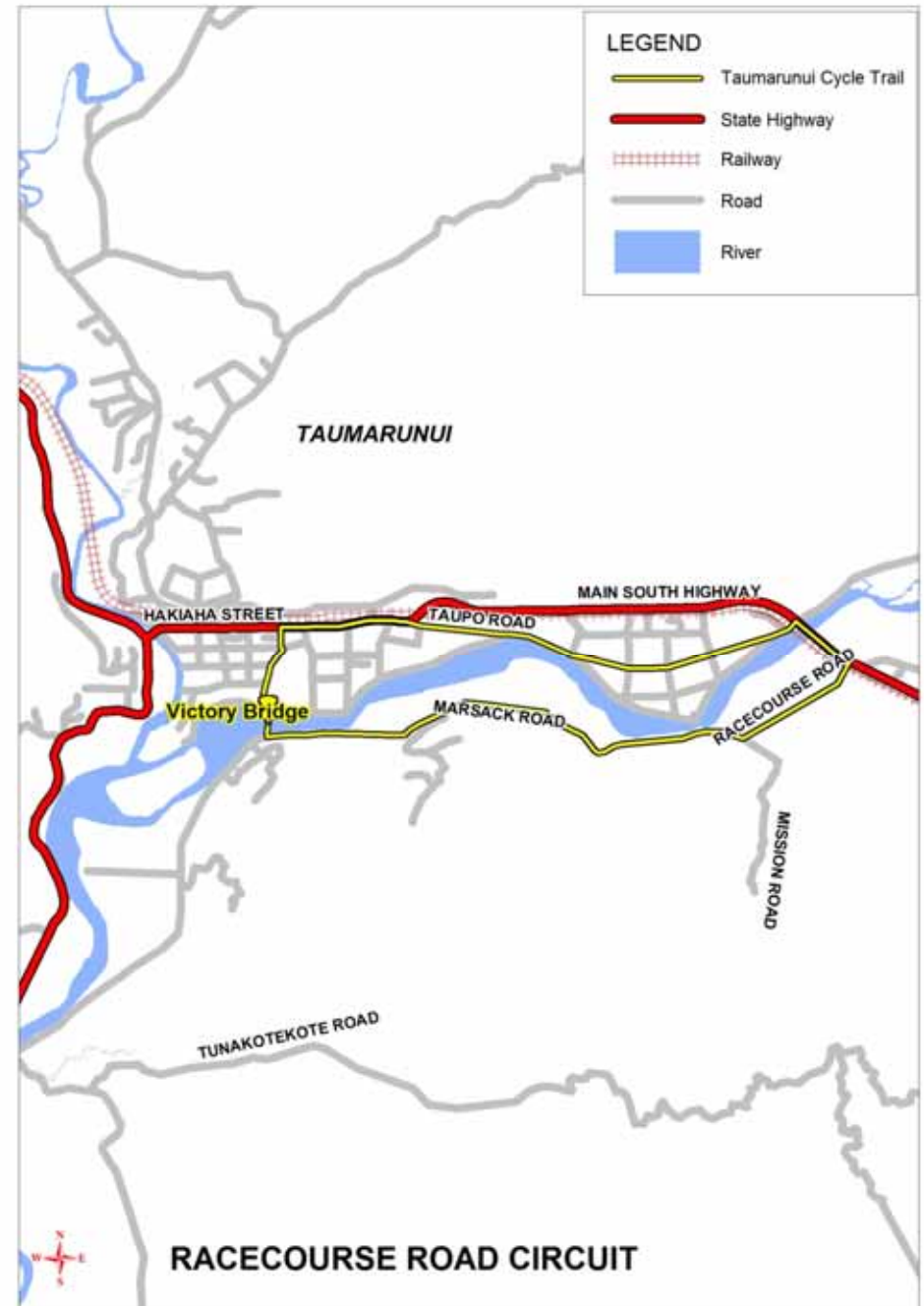
Time:- 30 minutes

Distance:- 9.5 km

Easy

From Taumarunui, ride south and under the road bridge to Matapuna along Taupo Road until the rail and road bridges at Manunui are reached. The big loop takes you around to the road bridge which is crossed and then a short distance on the trail turns right into Racecourse Road. The ride from here goes through a rural area and passes the old, original abattoir, near the right hand corner onto Marsack Road. The first 1 km of this road is gravel but it is a pretty area where views of the town can be seen. The entrance to the **Sunshine Walk** is just before Victory Bridge. On reaching Victory Bridge take another right and ride back into town.

A good family ride as only a short section is on the main highway.





# Taumarunui Cycle Trails



## C9. Ngakonui – Ngapuke Circuit

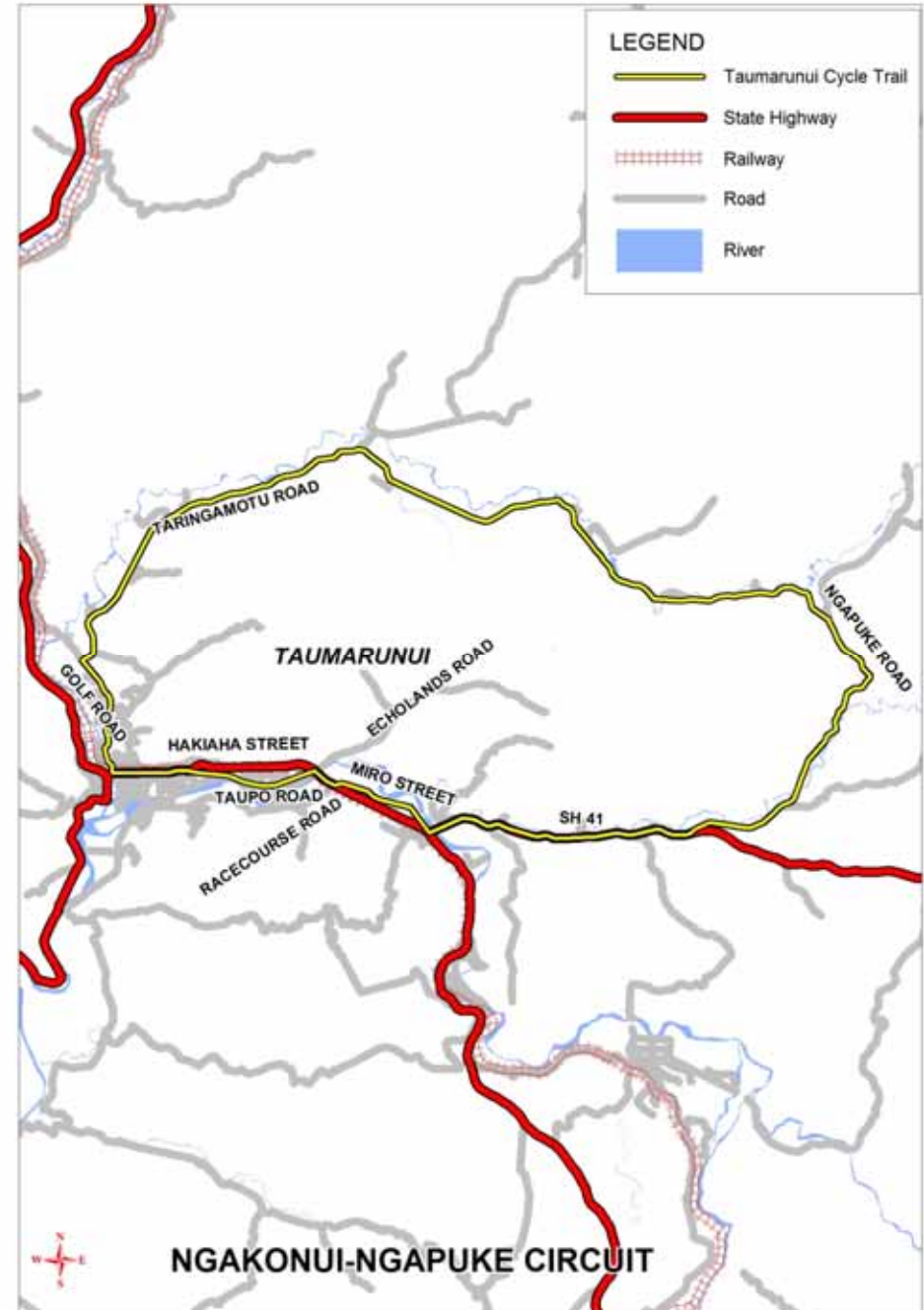
Time:- 2 to 3 hours

Distance:- 42.6 km

Medium

This ride is a favourite one with the local cyclists.

From Taumarunui turn right at McDonald's and ride up Golf Road to the 2<sup>nd</sup> roundabout. Turn right here onto Taringamotu Road which veers to the left a short distance on. Ride past the airport and continue until reaching a T junction at 11.5 km near Ngakonui School. Turn right and ride through beautiful farmland and homes with lovely gardens. At about 22 km the gentle undulations become a little steeper and the land becomes more rugged. The countryside again changes to lovely farmland as Ngapuke is neared. Pass Ngapuke School at 28 km and the junction with SH 41 is reached at 30 km. Turn right here onto the SH 41 and a further 6 km on, the Whanganui River is crossed at Manunui. Turn right here into Miro Street and ride north on this road until it comes again onto SH4 where with a right hand turn the Whanganui River is crossed again. Turn right to go around the loop and under both bridges onto Taupo Road in Matapuna. By travelling this way the least possible time is spent on the Highways as a safety measure. Continue down Taupo Road until back in Taumarunui.



# Taumarunui Cycle Trails

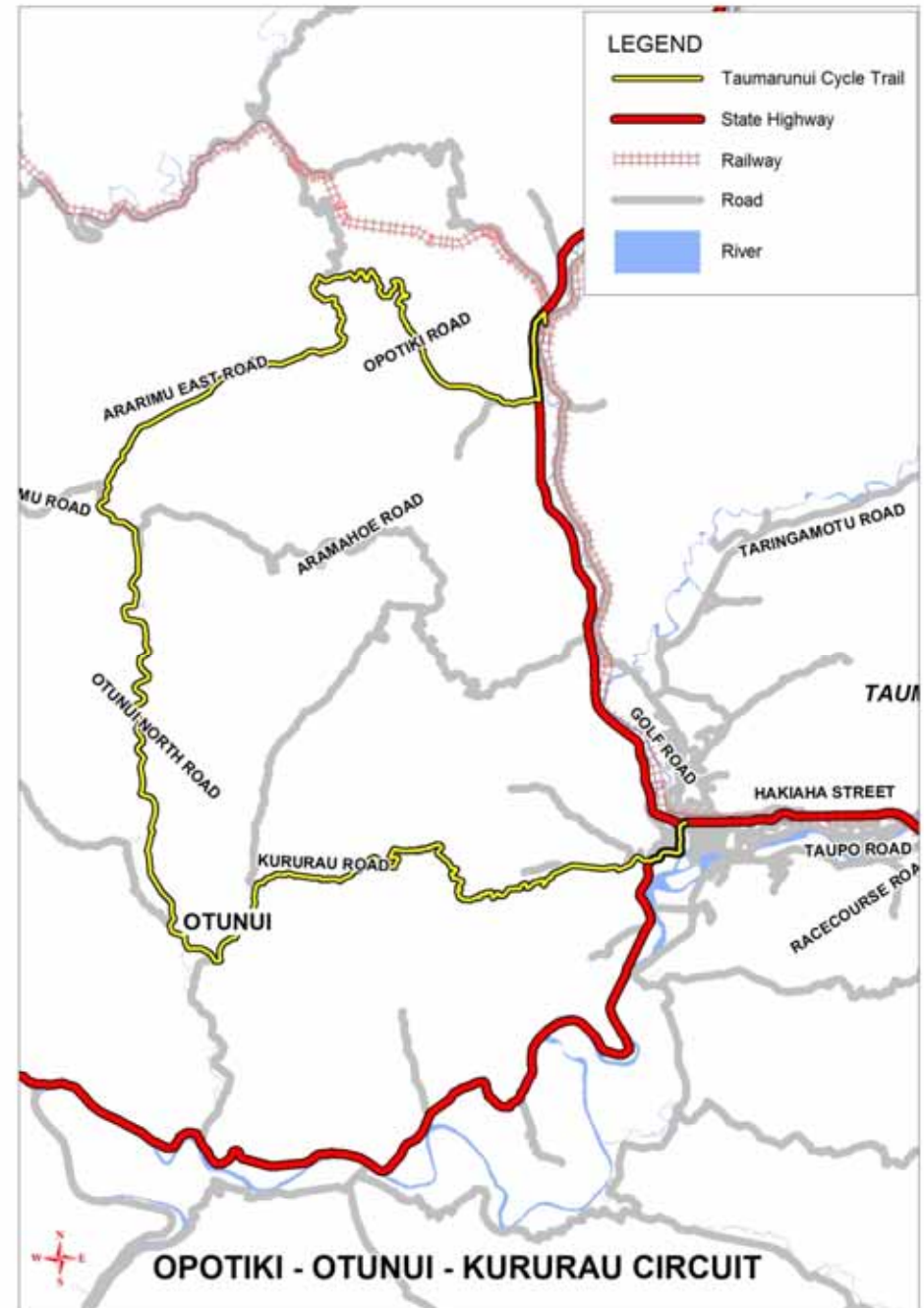
## C10. Opotiki – Otunui – Kururau Circuit

Time:- 3 to 4 hours

Distance:- 55 km

Hard

This trail begins with the **Taumarunui to Historic Double Bridge** trip then crosses the bridge and turns left onto SH4. 1.3 km along SH4, turn right into Opotiki Road which is all gravel. Just before a bridge marking the beginning of the climb an old, original slab hut, once belonging to Chunder Lou, a bachelor who farmed that area, is worth a look. This road is very narrow and changes direction 259 times in the next 6.5 km. The bends are nearly all hair pin and were built to be suitable for carts, by the local farmers. 2 watering holes can be seen on the way up, the top one is fed by a spring and Mrs Carter used to leave cups there so travellers could have a drink. After 21.5 km from Taumarunui the summit is reached and the views are fantastic. The Opotiki Road becomes Ararimu Road and drops down the hill and eventually becomes Otunui North Road at about 30km where the old Aramahoe School is. At 38 km the road is sealed again and is undulating to Otunui. Turning onto the gravel Kururau Road at 40 km it quickly becomes narrow and winding with a steady climb at first before becoming very steep to the summit where there are terrific views over Taumarunui and out to the mountains. It is a lovely fast ride down till it reaches River Road at the bottom of Hospital Hill where there is a small climb then a good glide down back into Taumarunui.





# Taumarunui Cycle Trails



## C11. Ngakonui – Ongarue Timber Trail

Time:- 2 ½ hours Distance:- 38.5 km

Hard.

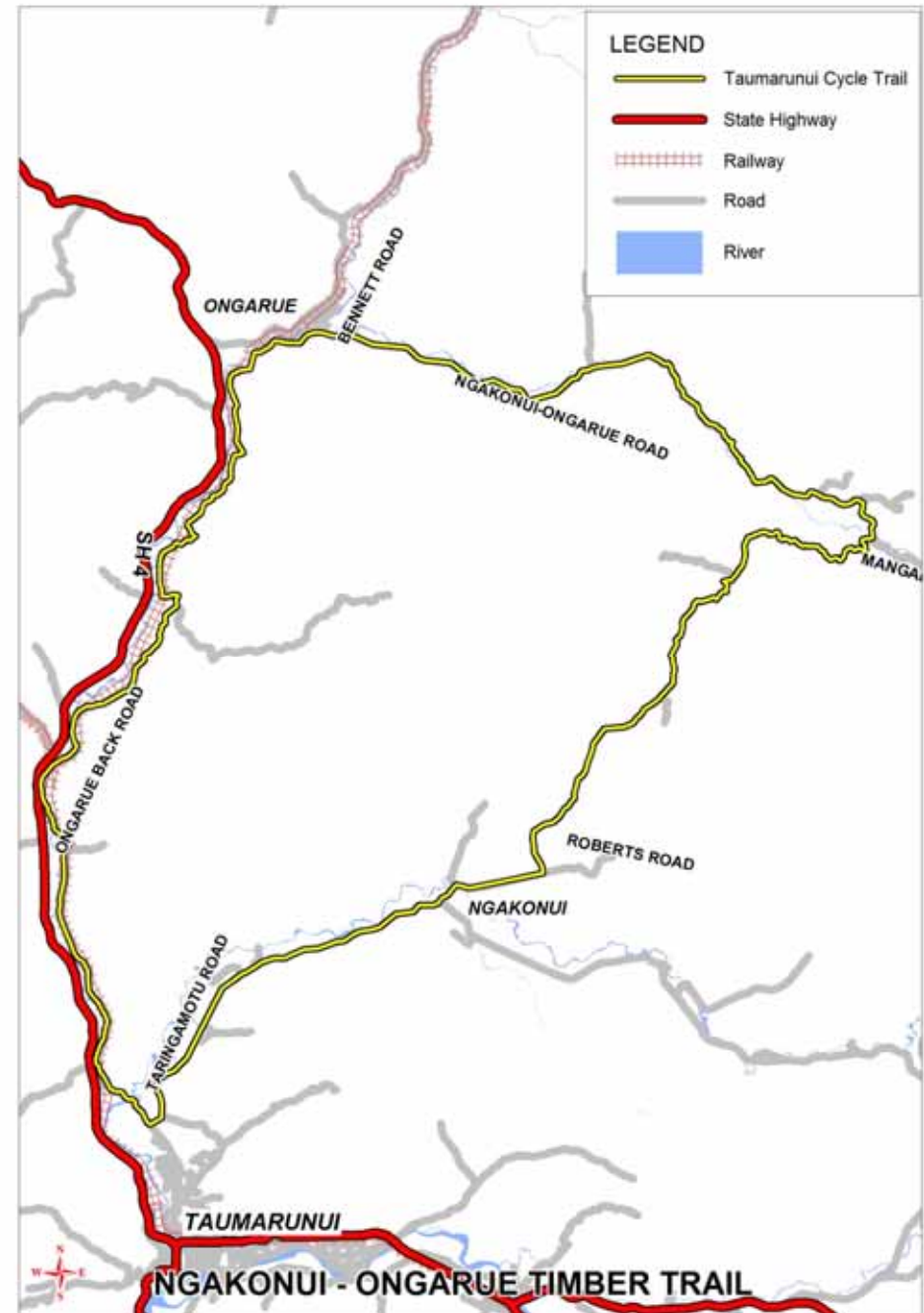
From Taumarunui this ride is the same as the first 11.5 km section of the **Ngakonui to Ngapuke** trail to the T junction at Ngakonui School. Take the left hand road and going downhill veer to the right at the bottom. This road is undulating with some steep climbs travelling through beautiful but steep farmland. After 10.4 km, from the Ngakonui corner, the road becomes gravel and narrows as it winds downhill quite steeply. It passes through a narrow valley with wonderful rock cliffs on the sides before opening out again into farmland. At 25.6 km it is back on seal and the Bennett Road end of the **Timber Trail** is reached after 27 km of good riding. This trail can become a circuit by continuing back to Taumarunui via the **Ongarue Back Road**.

**Taumarunui to Ngakonui** 11.5 km – 30 minutes

**Ngakonui to Timber Trail** 27 km – 2 hours

**Ongarue Back Road** 16.5 km – 1 - 1 ½ hour

**Double Bridge to Taumarunui** 11.5 km - 30 minutes



# Taumarunui Cycle Trails



## C12. The Timber Trail

Distance: 85 km

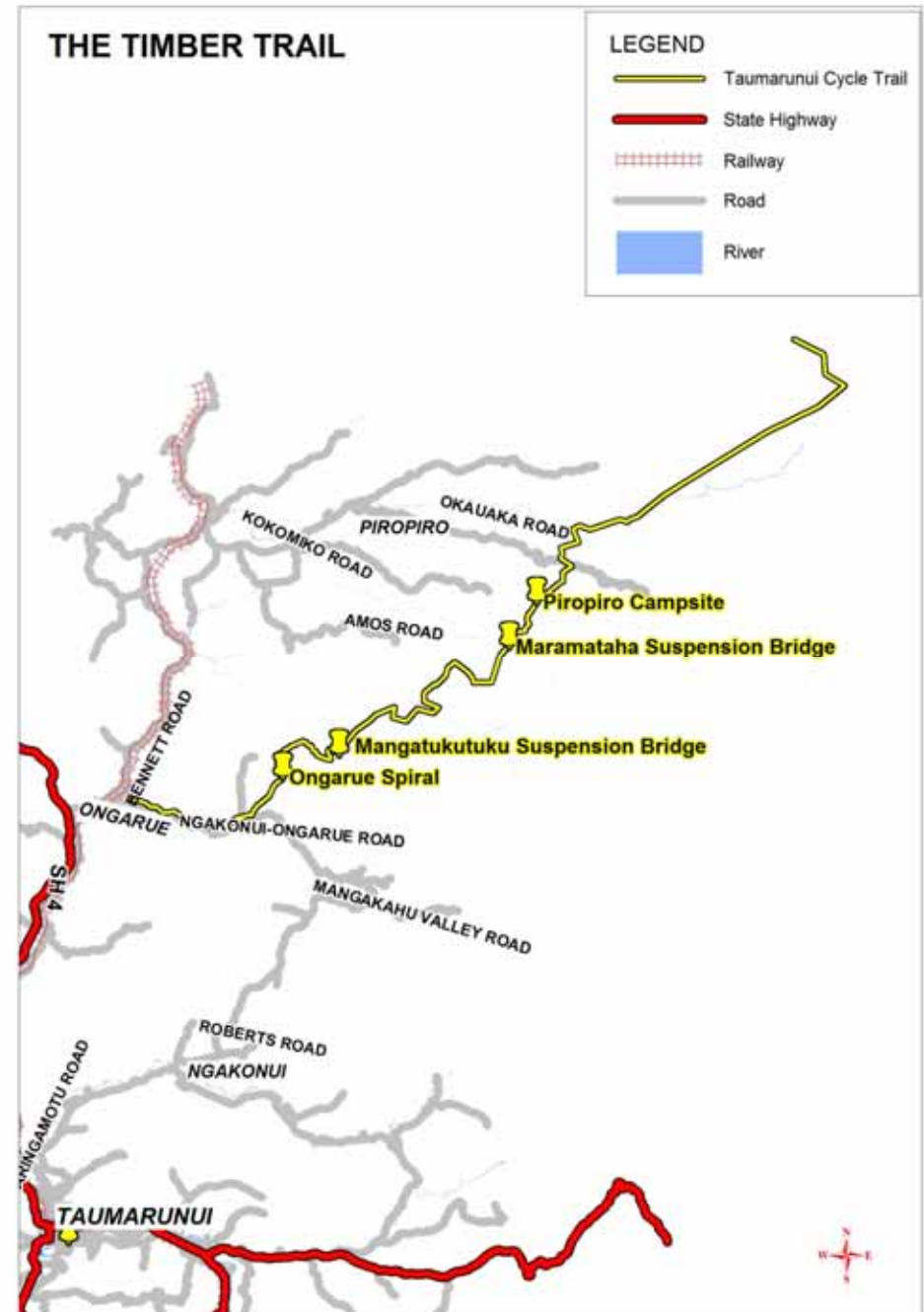
Time: 1 to 2 days

Grade 2 - 3

This trail begins at Barryville Road, Pureora and as it is quite steep, in parts, a good level of fitness is required. It travels through beautiful native bush with descriptive signboards along the way. The North section finishes at Piropiro Campsite and this is where many riders prefer to begin their trip.

The section from Piropiro to Ongarue has two large swing bridges, the Maramataha and the Mangatukutuku. It also has a spiral with bridge and tunnel, a relic from the timber Loco era that has been restored and renewed. History sign boards are at many places along the trail making it an interesting and educational trip. This section is also a good cycle from the Ongarue end.

This trail can also be used as a walking track but allow 4 days if wishing to go the whole way. If you decide to ride (or walk) this trail it would be wise to get the Timber Trail brochure, that is readily available from I-Sites or on the web, for more detailed information.





# Taumarunui Cycle Trail

## C13. 42 Traverse

Distance: 46 km

Time: 4 – 7 hours

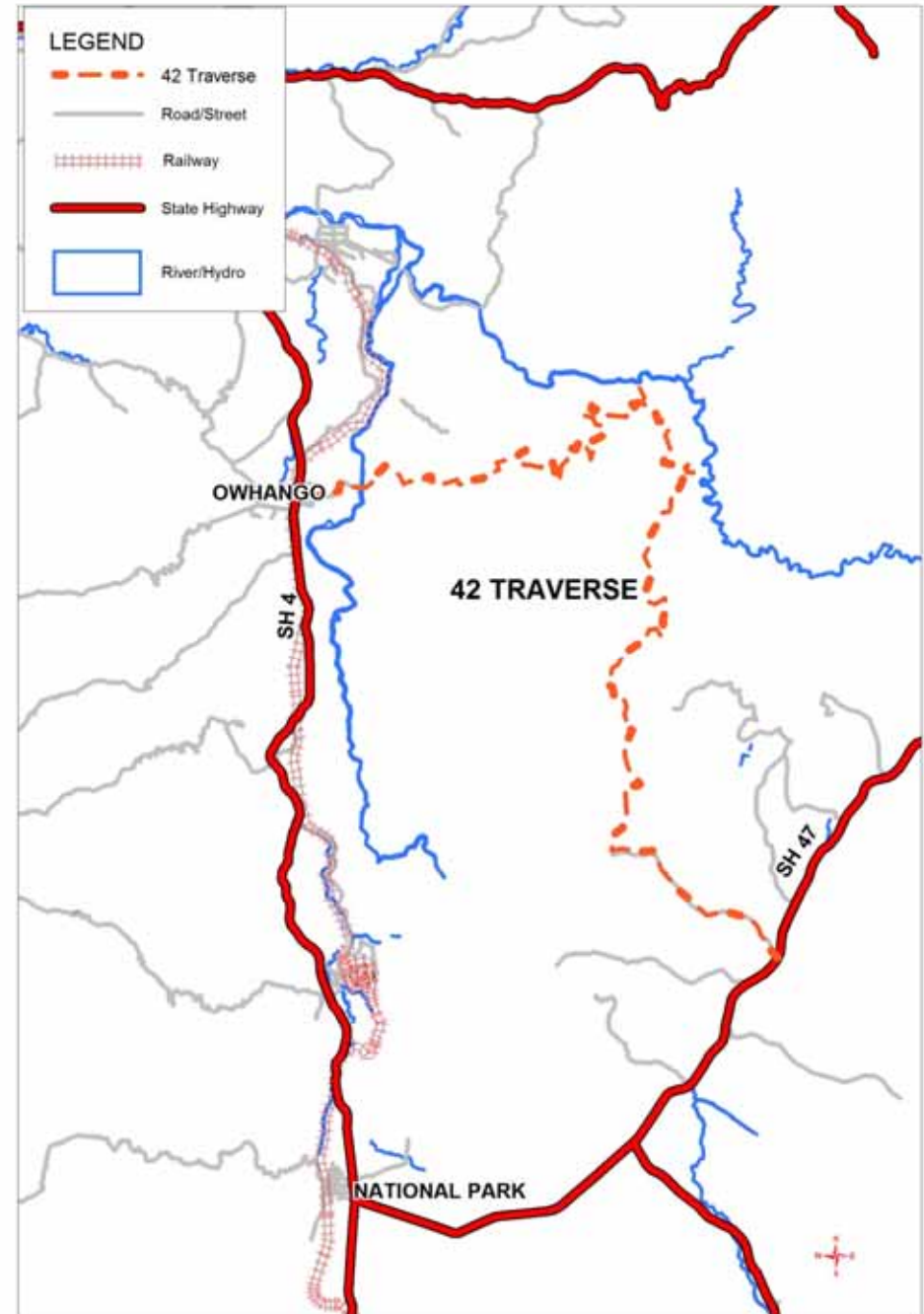
Grade: 3 – 4

This trail begins at Kapoor's Road off SH 47 north of the Chateau Road. It follows old logging tracks through beautiful bush, across streams, up big hills and has long, winding down-hills. It is one of the great rides of the North Island and is very popular.

Towards the end it passes a picturesque waterfall viewed from a small bridge before coming to the bridge over the Whakapapa River where you could meet your transport to save a 2 km climb up to Owhango.

It can be a hard, muddy ride, especially after rain, but is very enjoyable as long as you have a reasonable level of fitness. Cell phone coverage is not good so it is much better to cycle in groups as a safety issue and carry warm and waterproof clothing, food, water, a repair kit and spare tube (remember it is alpine).

It is a great ride but don't take it too lightly and be aware that ATV's and 4x4's use this track as well.



# Taumarunui Walks

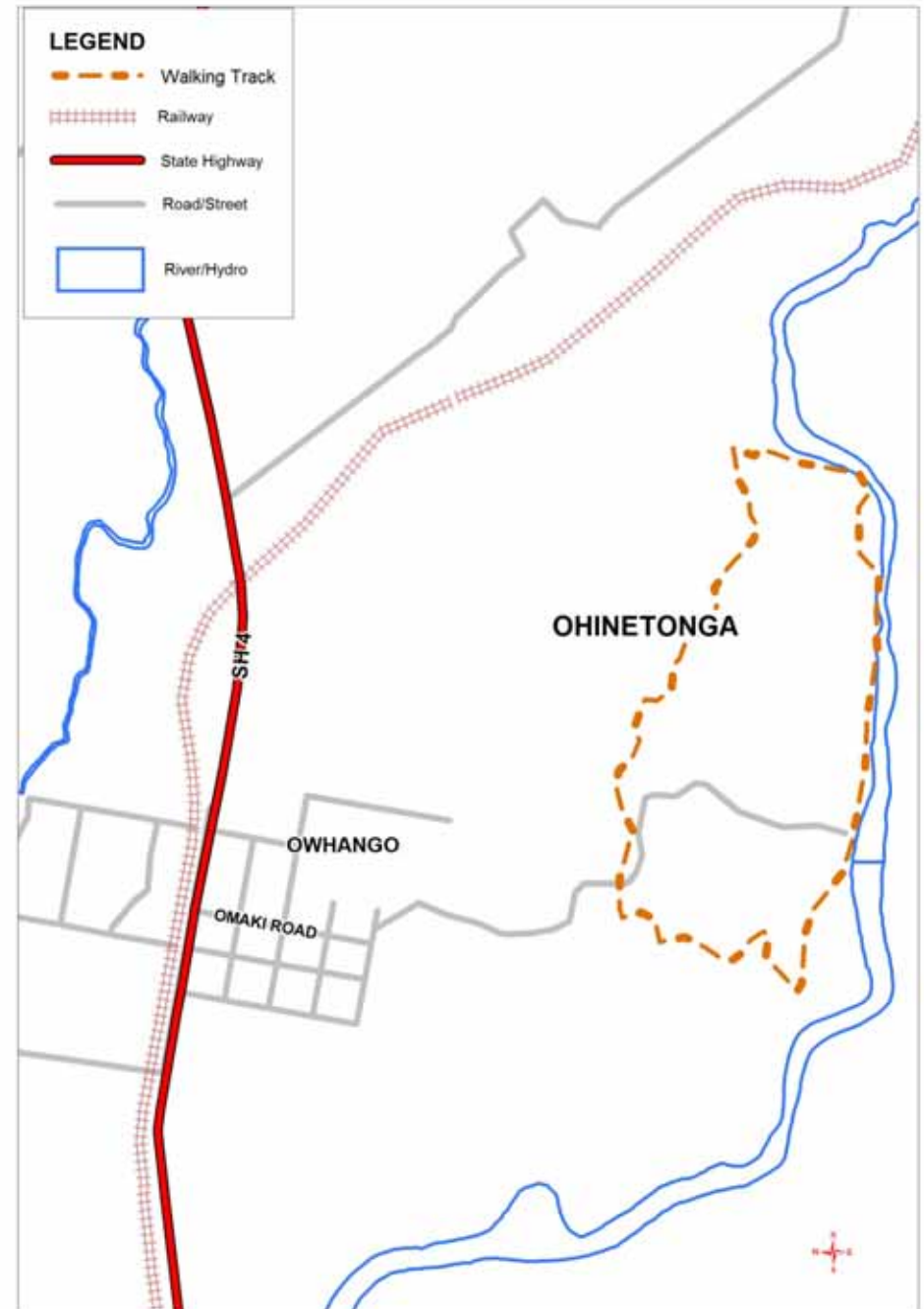
## W1. Ohinetonga

Owhango, SH4,

20 minutes from Taumarunui

2 hours, Easy.

This wonderful family outing has many options whether it be picnicking, swimming or walking through the lovely bush. Turn left off SH4 at the Walking Track sign in the centre of Owhango and drive through the Ohinetonga Reserve to the Whakapapa River. A concrete bridge spans the river with the road continuing as the end of the **42<sup>nd</sup> Traverse Cycle Ride**. Massive rocks under the bridge form a turbulent cataract as the river tumbles through the valley. A picnic area with toilet facilities and parking denotes the beginning of the track. A narrow road passes through the bush to a small parking area if you choose not to walk the first section to the swimming hole. This is a popular place for the locals even though there is no sandy beach. From the second car park a well formed track with board walks winds its way up the hill through lovely native bush. At the top a massive totara tree is protected by a platform. Following on along the track there is a small descent and then a lagoon with fantastic reflections comes into view. A boardwalk crosses the lagoon then the track climbs again and comes out on the road. From here you can either go down the road or cross it to finish the loop. The type of bush changes as you continue on the track which goes down to the river and along the bank back to the picnic area. Bird life is plentiful and easily heard as you walk this great track.





# Taumarunui Walks

## W2. Sunshine Track

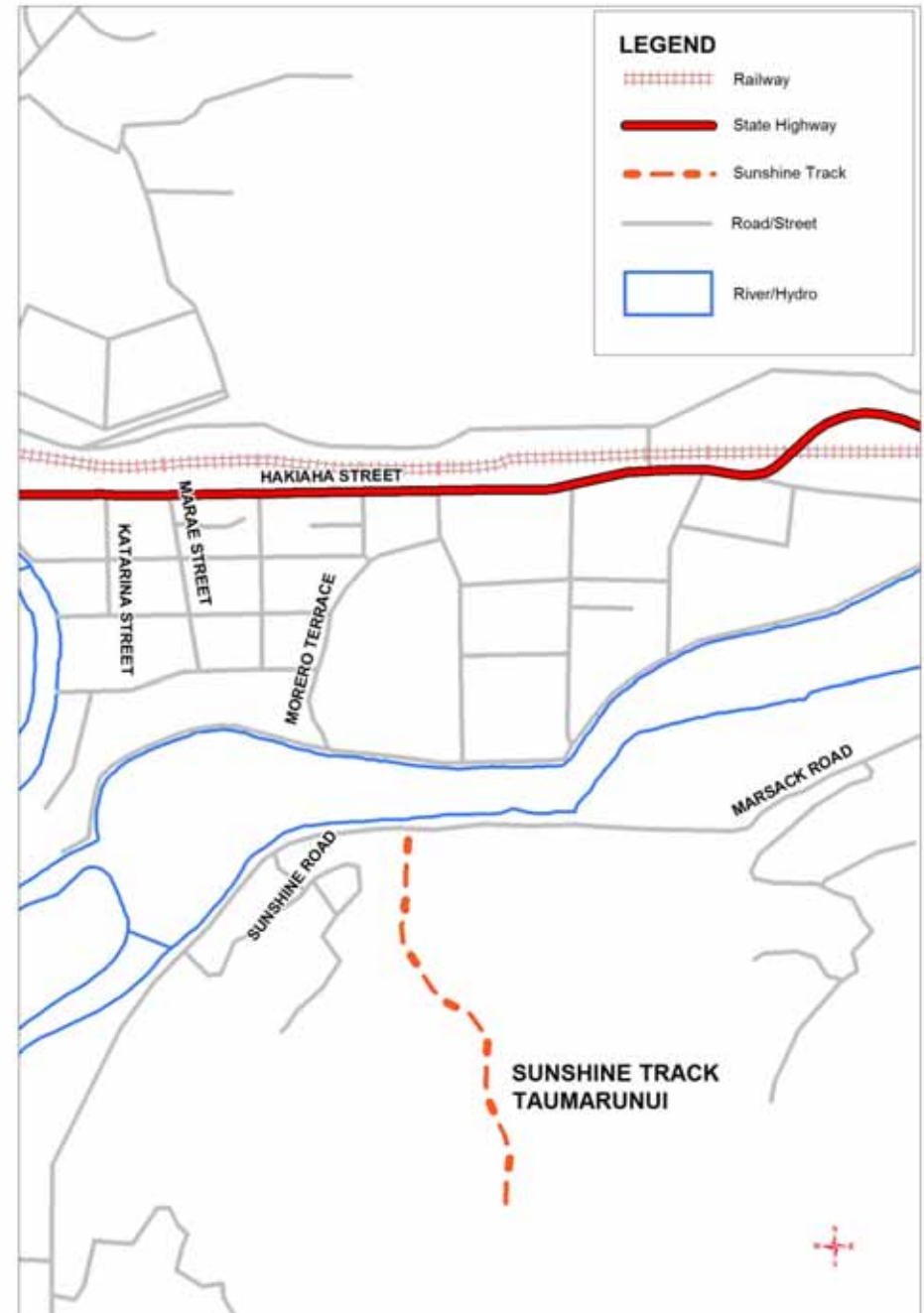
1 hour return

Moderate

This is not a very long walk but it is really lovely and worth the effort. Cross Victory Bridge and turn left down Marsack Road and the entrance to the walk is sign posted on the right. The narrow drive leads to a small car park with a wooden fence and a stile denoting the beginning of the track.

The track is well-formed with plenty of steps on the steeper parts but can become a little muddy after heavy rain. It takes about 40 minutes to walk up if you take your time to enjoy the lovely bush on your way. It winds up through a valley with large kahikatea, totara and pungas along the way. Beautiful birdsong will serenade you all the way up.

When the top of the track has been reached, climb over the stile to the grassy area on the other side. This is a good place to have a snack and a rest after the walk up. From here you get a view of the Whanganui River Valley and a look at the lovely redwood plantation on the other side of the fence. It is really worth the climb to see these magnificent trees before beginning the walk back downhill. The return is very much quicker, and all too soon the magic moment has gone. The lovely feeling of having reached the top, the bush, the birds and the views will stay in your memory for many years.



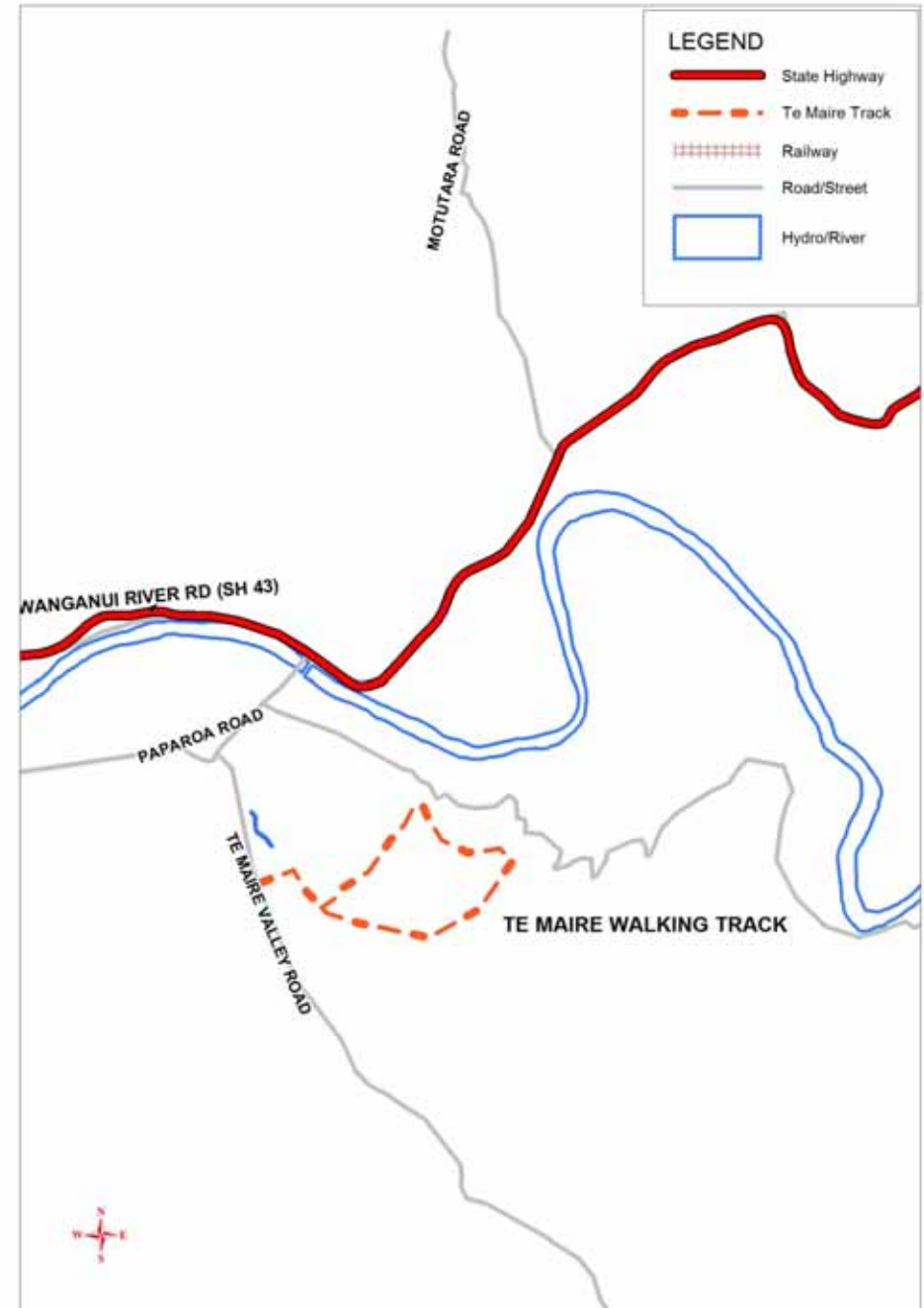
# Taumarunui Walks

## W3. Te Maire Track

Te Maire, SH 43, 10 Minutes from Taumarunui

2 hour, moderate, 5 km

Drive 12 km down SH 43, from Taumarunui and cross the Te Maire Bridge on Paparoa Road. A short distance on turn left into Te Maire Valley Road and continue to the car park. The reserve is sign posted and here is the beginning of a very enjoyable walk. This is the most northern part of the Whanganui National Park. The moss covered bush is fairly dense to begin with and is cool and pleasant. Board walks cross some boggy places and a swing bridge crosses the attractive Te Maire Stream that tumbles over a clay bottom. A short distance on the track divides to form a loop. The track is an uphill climb, with the left branch being shorter and steeper but with good steps to help as it meanders back and forth. There are picnic tables set amongst the bush where you can sit and contemplate and listen to the bird life. It is a lovely walk to the top where there is another picnic table to take time for a rest. The track continues along a ridge and eventually drops downhill again to the junction to form the loop. From here it is just a short walk back over the swing bridge to the car park. This is a good track and an ideal family walk, as it is not too steep. After rain parts can become a little muddy and slippery but it is a very pleasant way to spend a couple of hours.





# Taumarunui Walks

## W4. Te Peka Lookout and Reserve

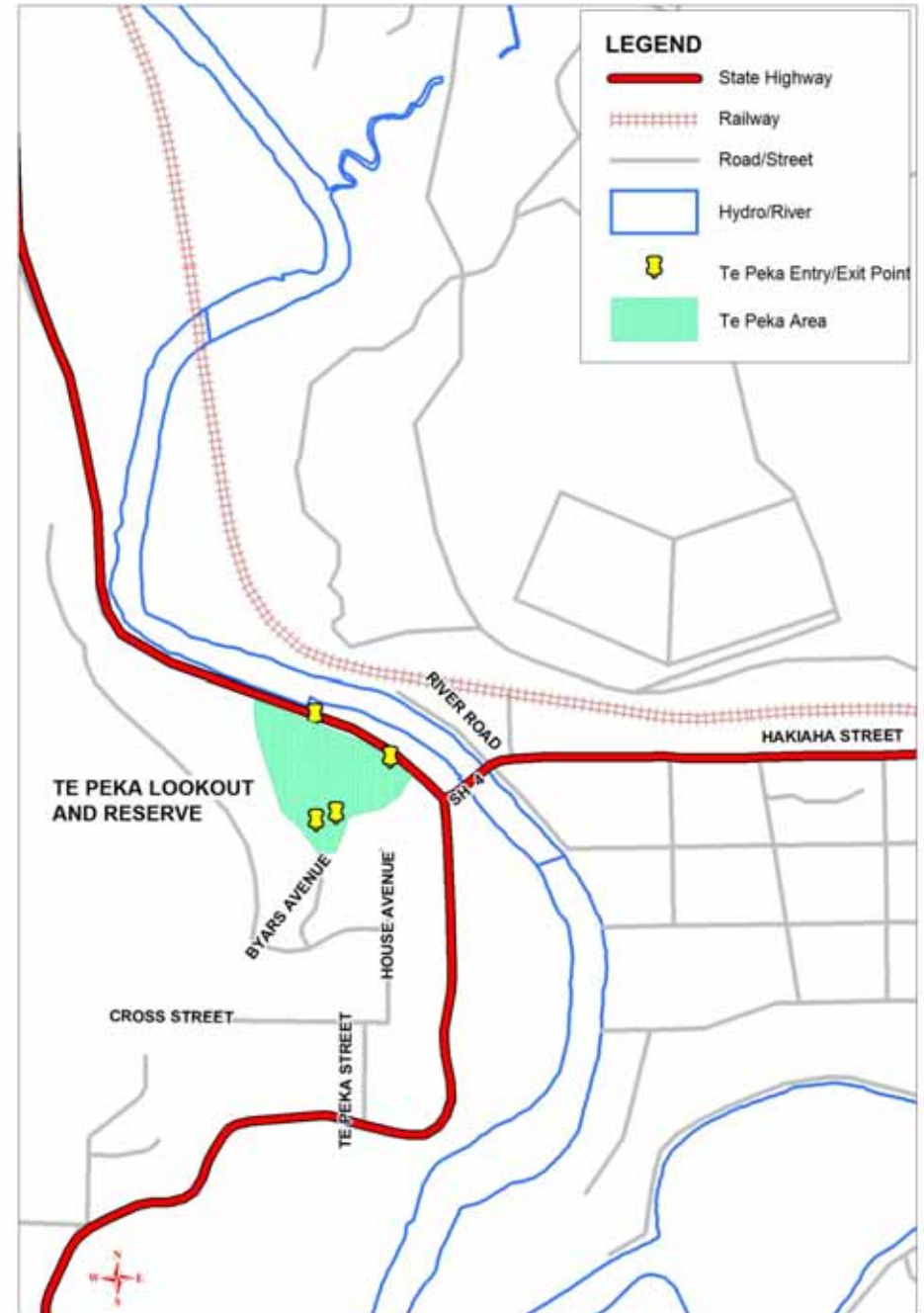
Hospital Hill

Moderate

This lookout is on Hospital Hill at the end of Byers Avenue and has panoramic views over the town and surrounding country side. A gazebo, with a lit cross on the top, is a focal point of the Western end of Taumarunui and the views from here are fantastic. It spans the mountains, rivers, town and valleys. It is a 'must visit' even if you choose not to walk the tracks.

On the face overlooking the Ongarue River a few dedicated locals are clearing and planting 2.65 hectares of bank from the Lookout to SH4. The noxious weeds are being removed and trees and shrubs are replacing them. 3 km of walkways form 2 main tracks, with added loops, winding through this bush and run from the lookout down to access ways on SH4. There are seats for contemplation and rest placed along the way. The trees are exotic and native adding colour and texture.

This area makes for an interesting wander from either the top or the bottom and shows what a difference a few inspired people can make. They are changing an untidy bank into something very attractive and enjoyable. Now it brings pleasure to many and is an asset to the town.



# Taumarunui Walks

## W5. The Whanganui River Bank Track

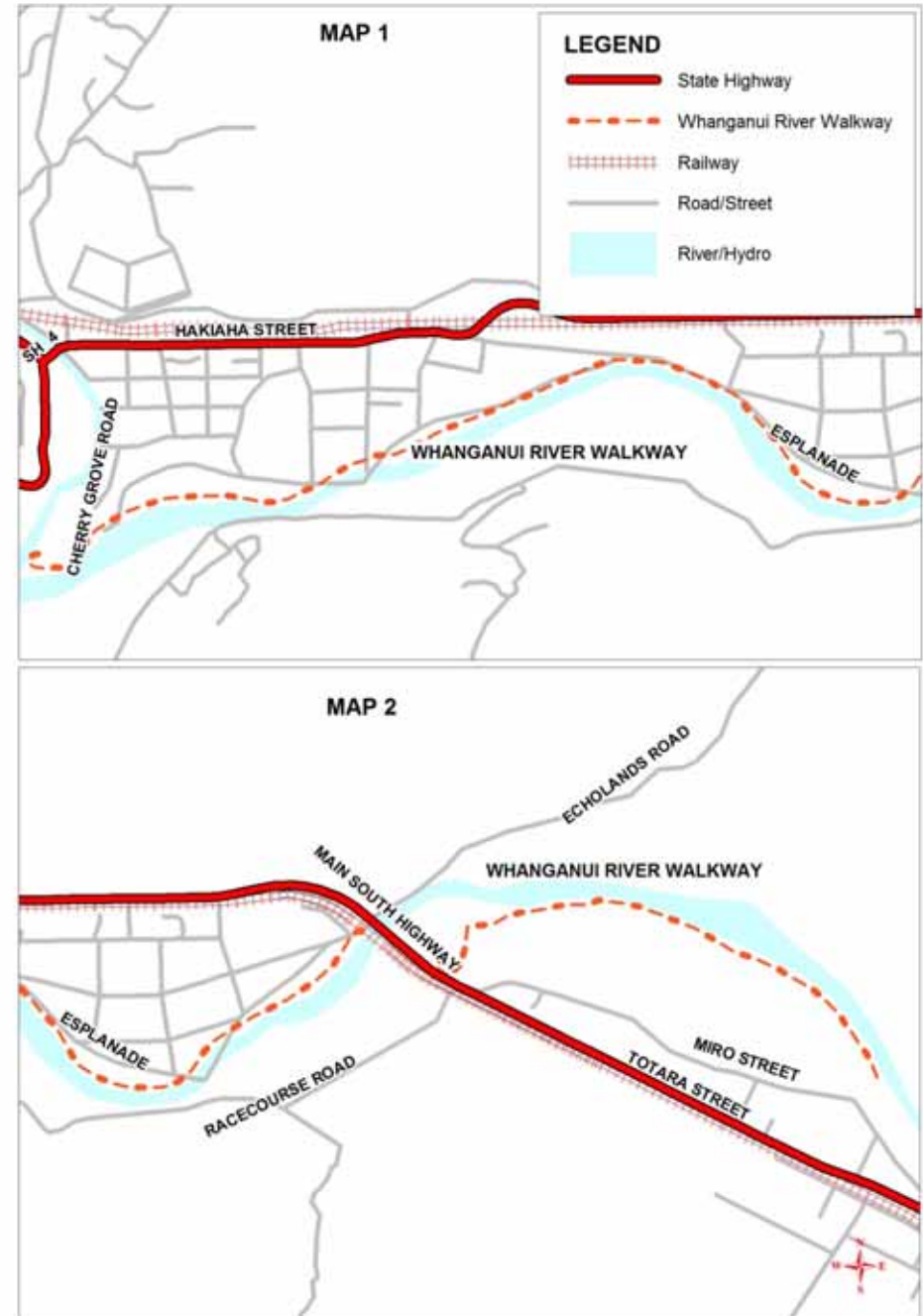
2 hour walk, 8 km

Easy.

This is a very pleasant walk beginning at Cherry Grove where the Ongarue and the Whanganui Rivers meet. Just through the Cherry Grove gates to the left is the start of the track and it follows the river upstream, on a well formed path. It passes under Victory Bridge and then continues along the stop bank to Matapuna where the river tumbles over a clay bed and children enjoy the river slides in the summer time. The river sparkles in the sunshine as it hurries along and often fishermen can be seen hoping for a trout. At quite a few places on this first section you can leave the track and retrace your way to Cherry Grove along the roadway if you prefer to do a circuit.

At Manunui the track goes up onto SH4 where you cross the bridge spanning the Whanganui River and cross left to the Saw Millers Commemorative Grove beside the Holiday Park. This stand of totaras was spared the axe and saw in the early days and is now a fitting memorial.

The track meanders through this reserve to join the river again and follows it upstream to the Manunui Sports Ground. Sometimes this part of the track suffers erosion from flooding but for all that it is a very pleasant walk. Having a picnic along the way is enjoyable and relaxing. Transport back needs to be arranged or it will be a long walk back.





# Taumarunui Walks

## W6. Rangaroa Reserve Walk

30 minutes,

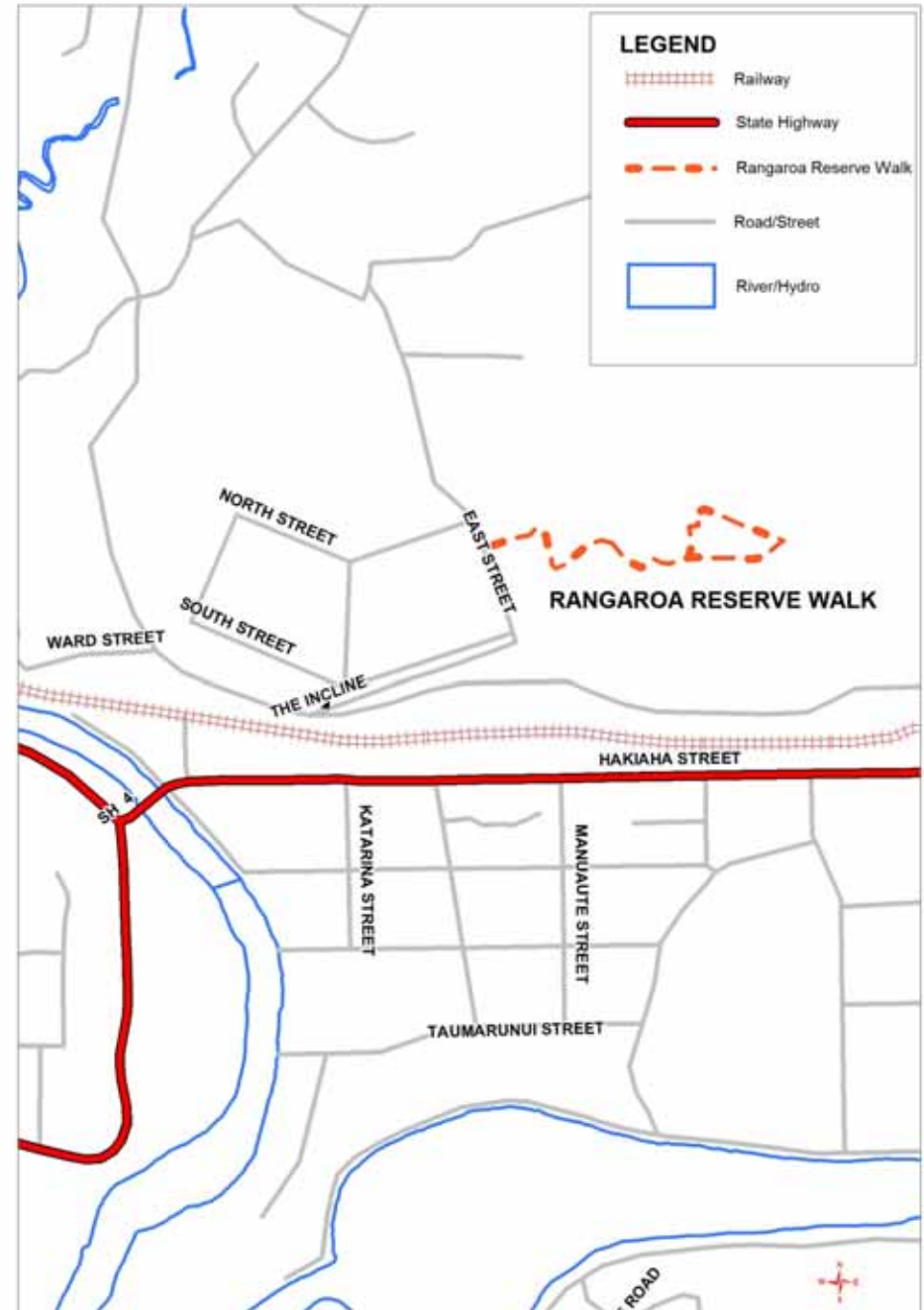
Uphill.

The entrance to this walk begins from the Rangaroa Reserve sign near the swings on East Street, Rangaroa. The track winds around a scrubby area to a small stand of redwoods. The concrete pad here is all that remains of the Scout Den that succumbed to fire.

Not far in from the beginning of the track is a concrete structure across a small stream and this was once a small reservoir used to provide water for the tanks for filling the steam engines in days gone by

The track winds up the hill and even though there are some steps it is still quite steep. Some very large totaras are quite close to the track and it is good they have been preserved so close to town.

The track divides into two to form a loop at the top and ends abruptly at a fence line. There is a seat here to take a rest and enjoy the lovely views over the southern end of Taumarunui and the Whanganui River. It is good to stop and take time to enjoy the scenery before beginning the quick trip back to East Street.





# Taumarunui Walks

## W7. Mount Hikurangi

4 hour walk,

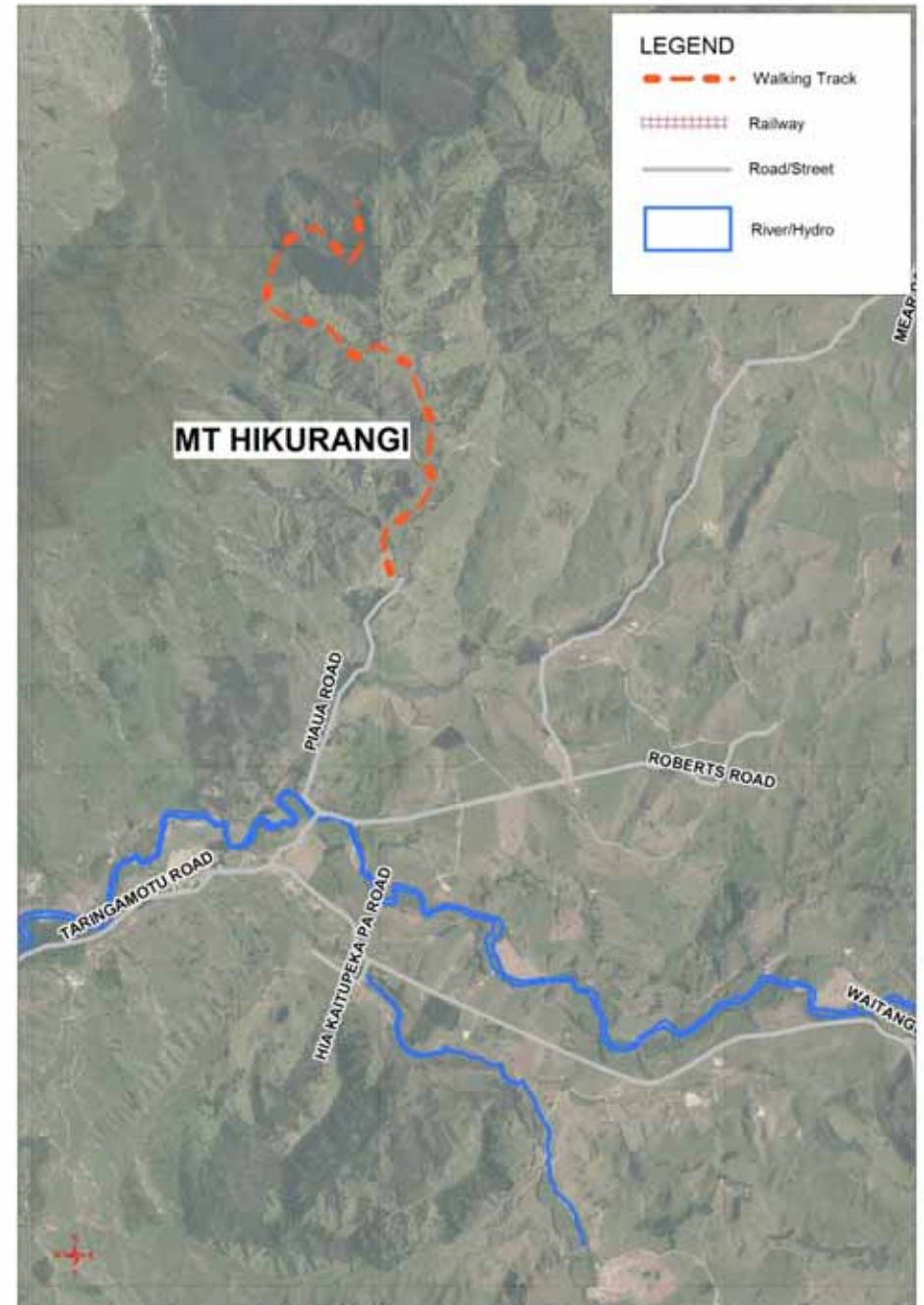
Steep.

This 771m high mountain is a landmark of the area and in spite of its shape is not a volcano but is still a very interesting and steep climb. On clear days the views are superb. The track begins at the end of Piaua Road, on a private farm managed by Tonia and Danny Richardson. It is necessary and polite to phone for permission to access the area and to leave your vehicles there. The phone number is 07 896 7804.

After leaving the homestead the track quickly climbs up the ridge but take time to enjoy the views when you need to catch your breath. Towards the top, the track passes through some scrubby bush until you emerge on the top at a trig. From here you can enjoy seeing Mounts Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe, Tongariro and Egmont (Taranaki) with Taumarunui nestled down in the valley below.

The track, marked with marker tape leads to the other side of the summit where there is a great picnic spot and views of Mt Pirongia and over the Waikato. This edge is a precipice and drops straight down hundreds of feet.

The return journey is undertaken much quicker and on reaching the cars a certain satisfaction is felt at having attained the summit of this special landmark.





# Taumarunui Walks

## W8. Ongarue Timber Trail

Ongarue

5-6 hours to Mangatukutuku Swing Bridge, 26 km return.

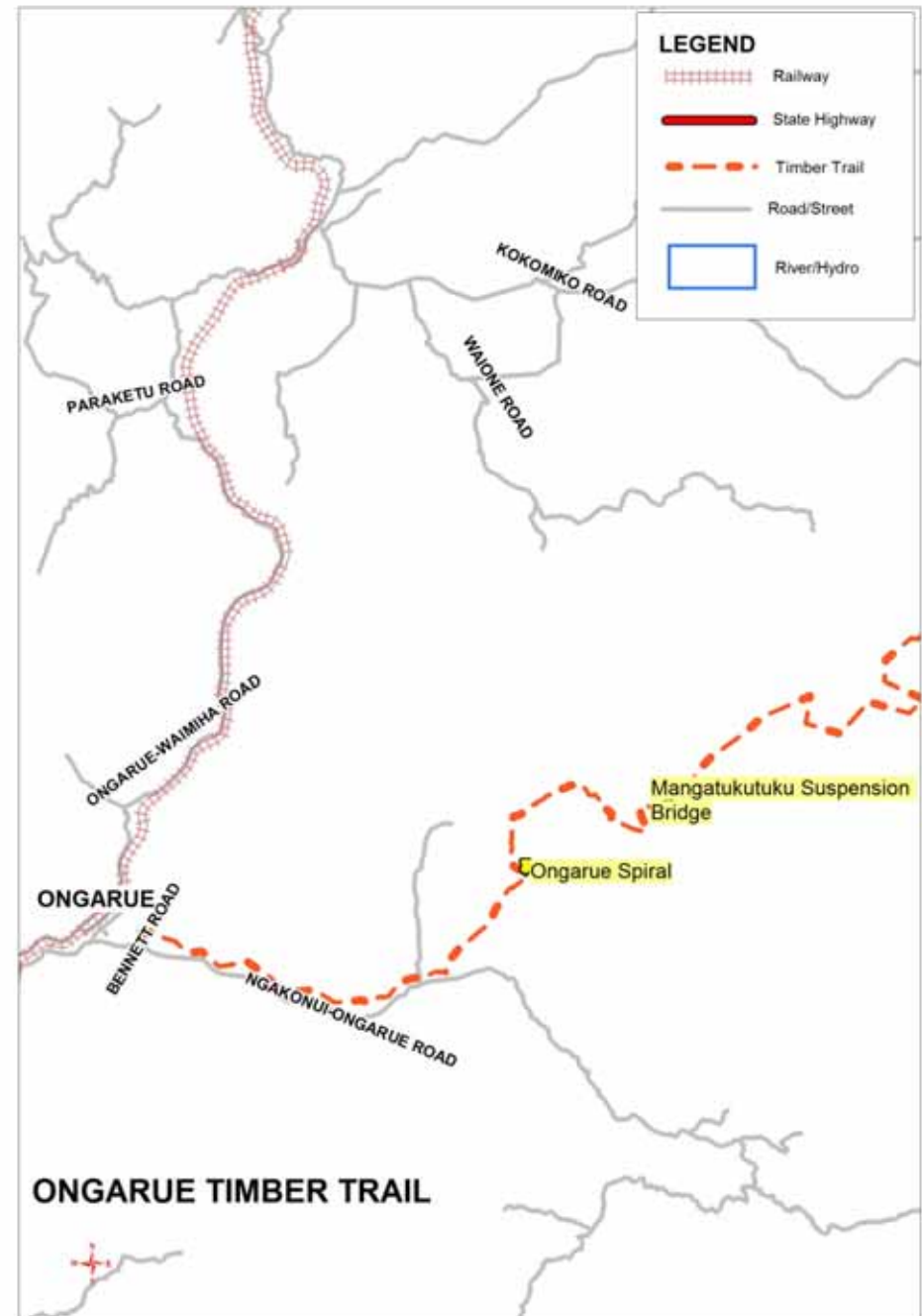
3-4 hours to the Ongarue Spiral, 15.6 km return.

This trail is part of the Timber Trail Cycleway but makes an interesting walk up to the restored Ongarue Spiral or to the Mangatukutuku Swing Bridge.

Car parking is at Bennett Road and the first 5 km is over a pumice track to where the trail starts its uphill journey. It is an easy walk up to the spiral with its 50 m curved tunnel and over bridge. A torch is an asset here as it is very dark and often a bit wet. Watch out for bikes as they come down quietly and often very fast.

The original engineering feats can only be marvelled at and sign boards have been set up to tell the history of the place. Parts of the old curved viaduct over the Mangatukutuku can still be seen along with other relics. The scenery of the bush is great even though it was well cut over in years gone by.

If you are not a cyclist then this is a very good walk to do as it is historical and interesting, beautiful and not too steep.



# Taumarunui Road Walks

## W9. Racecourse Road Circuit

10 km

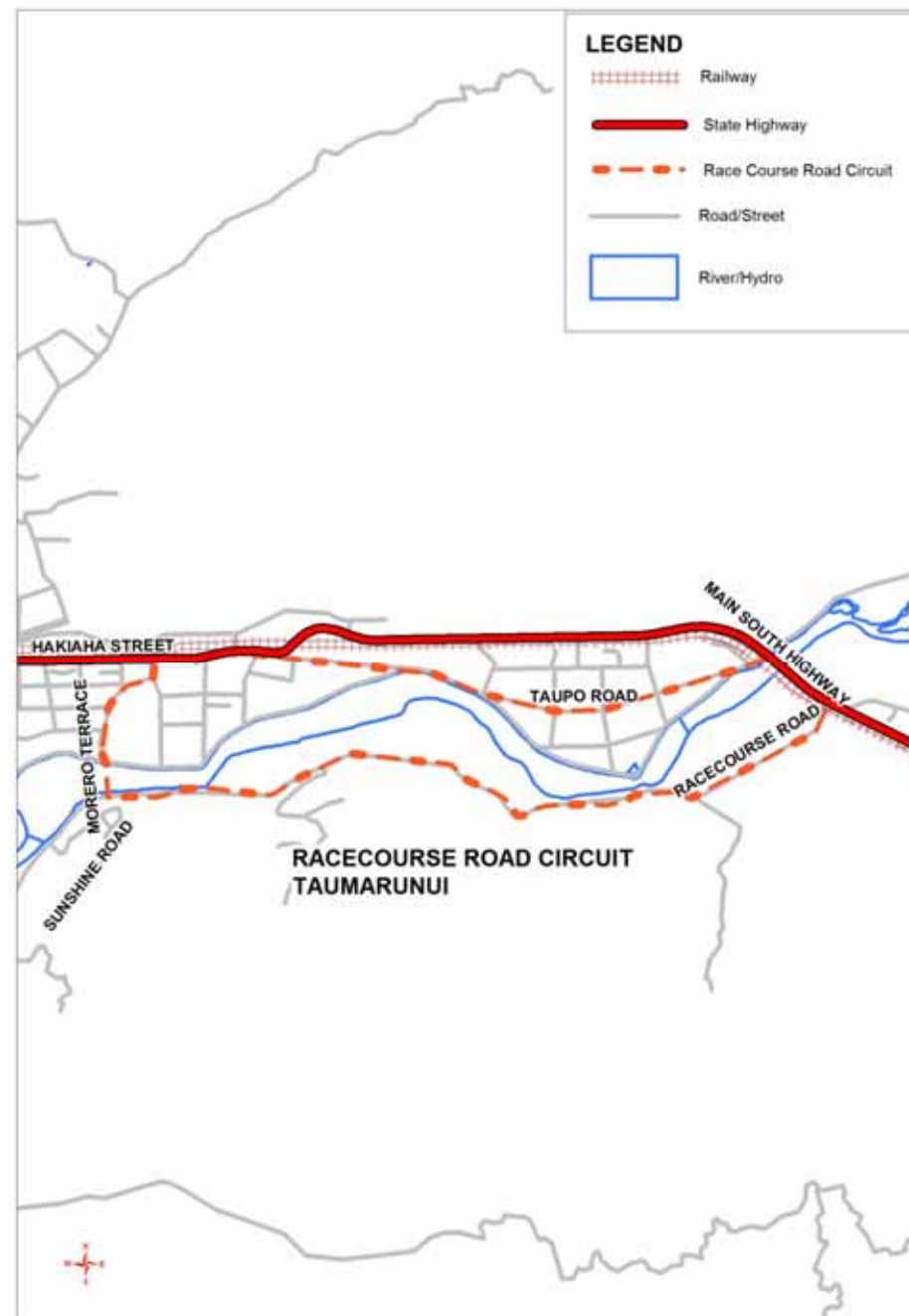
2 ½ hours.

Easy.

Walk from town down Morero Terrace and cross Victory Bridge. Turn left into Marsack Road and follow this on down the hill and along the flat until a left turn takes you onto Racecourse Road. Enjoy the views of the Whanganui River and also of the town and its environs.

As you begin on Racecourse Road on the right is the old building of the town's first abattoir and towards the end of that road is the large buildings of the old freezing works. At the end of Racecourse Road cross the railway line, then go left down SH4 and cross the road bridge over the Whanganui River. At the other end, go down the track, on the left, onto Taupo Road. From here veer right and follow Taupo Road into town or go onto the river bank and walk beside the Whanganui River back which is very enjoyable.

This is a very pleasant walk with views of river and town and a bit of history. As it is nearly all flat it is an easy enough walk.





# Taumarunui Road Walks

## W10. Lairdvale Road Circuit

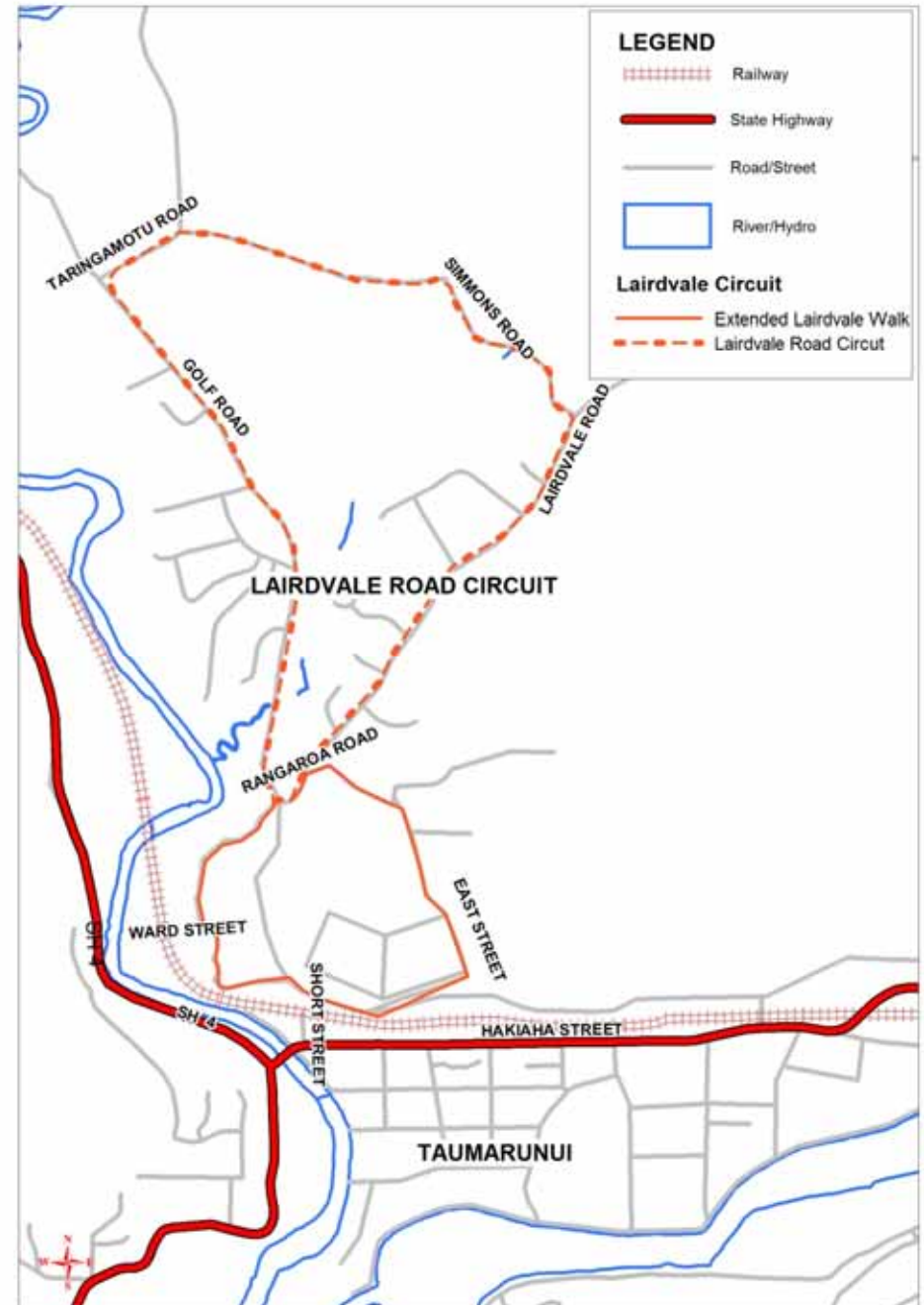
1 hour, 5 km.

Easy

This enjoyable walk follows Golf Road North from the round-a-bout at the Ward Street/Lairdvale Road junction to the next round-a-bout at the Ongarue Back Road/Taringamutu Road junction. It passes the Golf Course gates and goes beside the 8<sup>th</sup> fairway. Watch out for stray golf balls! Near this second round-a-bout are the Taumarunui High School and the heated swimming pool.

Turn right into Taringamutu Road and walk along to Simmons Road which is also a slight right. This road continues running beside the golf course then veers away to pass through a small grove of totara trees. At the end of Simmons Road turn right into Lairdvale Road and follow this back to the first round-a-bout. This walk passes through both urban and rural areas and is a really pleasant and popular walk.

The walk can be extended by turning left into Rangaroa Road, towards the end of Lairdvale Road and follow it uphill to East Street. Walk along this then go down The Incline, turn right into Bell Road continuing to Short Street. Cross this to Ward Street. Walk up Ward Street and follow it up and over the hill to come out again at the first round-a-bout. This extra section adds 2.4 km and also gives a bit of hill work as an added bonus.



## Taumarunui Walks

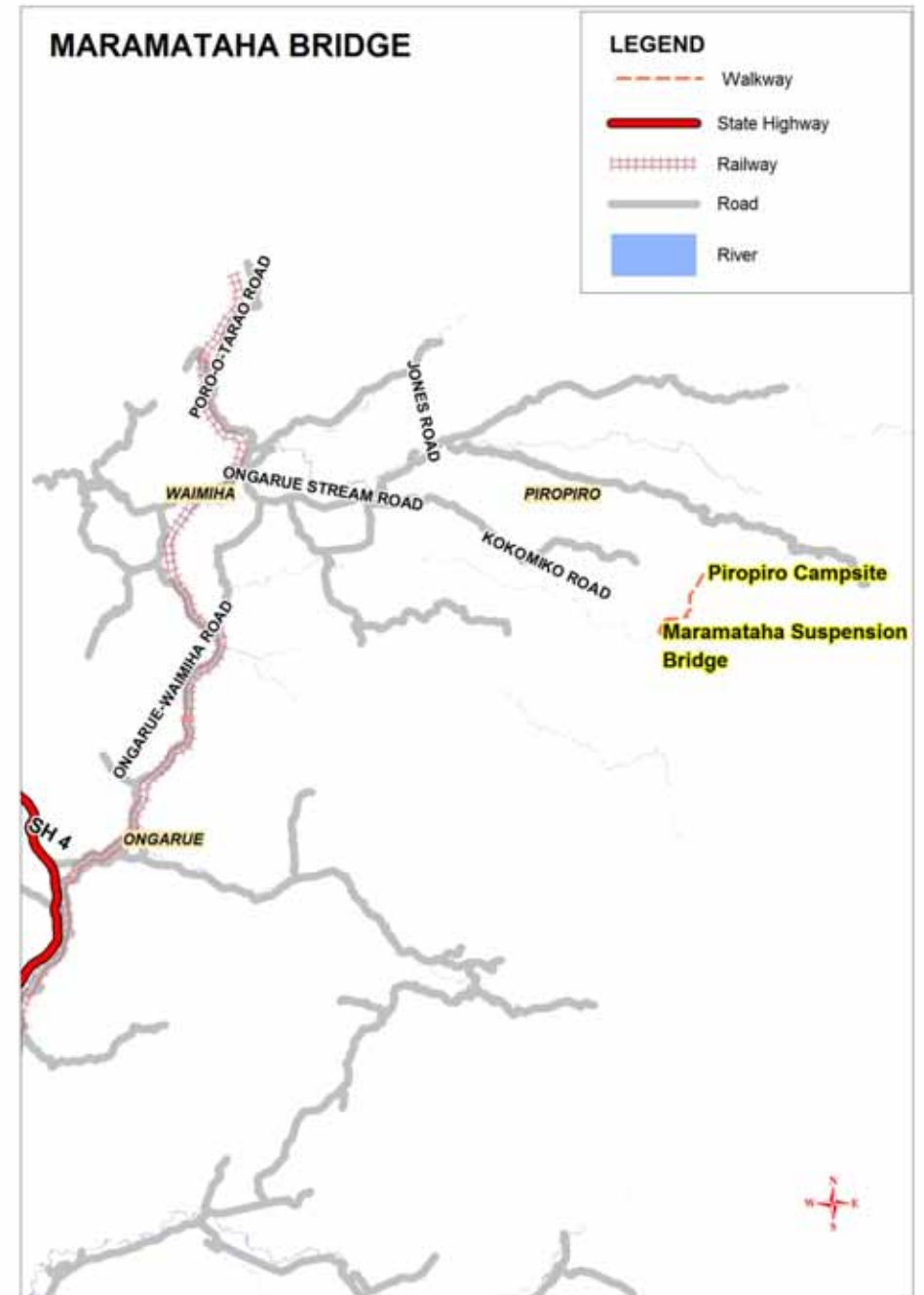
### W11. Maramataha Bridge Walk

1 hour driving from Taumarunui, 59 km

1 hour easy walk each way, 2.9 km

This fantastic, family friendly walk is a great way to spend a lovely day with beautiful bush, a good track and amazing bird song. Drive North from Taumarunui to the Ongarue turnoff and follow the Timber Trail signs to the Piropiro Camp Ground via Ongarue-Waimiha Road, Ongarue Stream Road and Kokomiko Road. When the camp ground is reached drive straight ahead to Piropiro Road and turn right. Follow this road for 2 km until the gate and car park for the walk is reached. The well-formed track is undulating but not too steep, passing through thick bush all the way making a very enjoyable walk. The bird song is really loud and beautiful and we were privileged to see a group of the lovely little white heads flitting among the trees.

On reaching the 141 m. Maramataha Swing Bridge its height and length is amazing. It is an awesome feat of engineering and it is a long way down to the stream below. After crossing the bridge, continue up the road and around the corner where there is a good view of the bridge and this makes a good lunch stop. It is then time to return back to the car park and another wonderful walk is over.





# Taumarunui Walks

## W12. Manunui Reserve

### Sawmillers Commemorative Grove

Easy

This small block of bush at Manunui, a few minutes south of Taumarunui, was left intact in recognition of the Sawmillers of earlier days. It is a great memorial for them and an asset for us, as it has many beautiful large trees throughout. It is situated between SH4, the Whanganui River and beside the Taumarunui Holiday Park.

The flat, meandering track is entered from where the Sawmillers sign is, at a picnic area and there are two exits, one at the northern end of the Holiday Park to the river and the other on the eastern corner behind the Polocross Grounds. This end continues along the river as the Whanganui River Bank walk.

The tracks branch and loop through this untouched bush to give the best opportunity to enjoy the birdsong and all the lovely native trees and understory. An hour can be easily spent wandering along the tracks and a picnic at the entrance or beside the river finishes off an enjoyable walk.

