

How to get there

From Wanganui drive to Kai Iwi and turn right onto Rangitatau East road. Travel 20 km (11km beyond Bushy Park) and turn left onto Junction Road. The entrance to the walks is on the left about 1 km along Junction Road. The Carpark is at the start of the private Quarry Road. Walk 200 metres up the Quarry Road to the main sign and the start of the tracks.



TAKE CARE

Remember to take some warm clothing as the Trails are up to 580 metres above sea level. The temperature there is usually at least a few degrees lower than Wanganui. Note that it has a much higher rainfall than Wanganui so on a marginal day in town it is likely to be much worse there.

- Take drinking water as there are no facilities available
- Please keep to marked tracks
- Fence lines may be obscured so watch out for barbed wire
- Do not proceed into the adjacent pine forest
- The quarry area is off bounds to the public
- All hunting at Waitahinga is by permit only



Dogs are welcome but please be aware that from time to time there may be pest control operations in the forest. Be aware of any notifications and signs that indicate a poisoning operation in place.



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The Waitahinga Trails is a Wanganui Tramping Club volunteer project initiated by Basil Hooper and supported by fellow enthusiastic club members. They have cleared and cut tracks for various fitness walking experiences.

The Club, with the blessing of the Wanganui District Council, adopted the project to commemorate their 60 year celebration in December 2012.

So far in support has been

Wanganui District Council
Walking Access New Zealand

Display Associates Ltd for the signs and their maintenance of

Photographs by B. Hooper

The Koru Photo by D. Harries

This first and very preliminary brochure by Display Associates Ltd



WAITAHINGA TRAILS

Requiring Easy To Moderate Fitness



Waitahinga Trails are a collection of walks on the no longer used Wanganui town water-supply, 12km beyond Bushy Park.



Background

Waitahinga was purchased by the Wanganui Council in 1903 in what had to be a visionary plan to solve the burgeoning town's water problems. The previous owner of the main 660 ha block was G.F.M. Moore who is better known as the original owner of Bushy Park. The Waitahinga dam was built in 1904 and its height was increased in 1926. It was decommissioned in the 1990s.

Wanganui Tramping Club approached the Council and gained permission to create and maintain these trails for public use as a community project to mark the 60th anniversary of the club. Harry's ridge and Tom's ridge are named to commemorate club members Harry Stimpson (1930-2011) and Tom Luff (1935-2011). They were stalwarts of exploring these back country areas and were inspirational leaders to many club members who followed them over the years.

Most of the walking trails are under a native forest canopy. This forest is a combination of the original forest including tawa and rimu and very old regeneration dating back to when the land was purchased in 1903. The ancient looking mahoes on the flatter areas are examples of regeneration. You will follow an old fence line for several kilometres on the longer walks. This fence was built of local totara and the stumps of the trees felled for it are still evident. This fence subdivides the land that was originally owned by G.F.M. Moore and indicates that he farmed the native forest to some extent, perhaps to overwinter cattle. In places it is hard to believe the fence is over a hundred years old.

Waitahinga is still owned and controlled by the Council. This includes the commercial pine forest adjacent through the margins of which the Pines Walk passes. Please do not proceed further into the pine forest. The active quarry area is also off bounds to the public. All hunting at Waitahinga is by permit only.



The Picnic Dell is only a few minutes off the Quarry road and about 10 minutes from the Carpark. It is a secluded clearing surrounded by native forest. This is a lovely picnic destination for the less fit and a nice place to wait while someone else completes a longer walk.



The Chicken Run this is an easy walk beyond the Picnic Dell up to some viewpoints overlooking the Wanganui/ Waitotara backcountry from Mt Egmont in the west to Mt Ruapehu to the North East.



Cropper's Clearing is a small sheltered clearing deep in the forest. It makes a pleasant destination after an hours easy walk utilising the Okehu ridge. The Pines and the Rimu Walk provide two alternative routes to parts of this trail.



Waitahinga Dam the longest walk is a loop beyond Cropper's Clearing and down Harry's or Tom's ridges to the Waitahinga Dam. This walk descends gently 270 vertical metres to the dam 2 hours walking time away from the carpark. Allow more time to return. Tom's ridge is slightly longer than Harry's. If you leave the carpark at 9 to 9.30am and have a break at Cropper's Clearing before going down Tom's ridge, then the Dam is easily reached by lunchtime.

