

This booklet was compiled by the Katikati Tramping Club. Madeline (Maddy) Pyle on 07-552-0215 or president, Ian Barnes on 07-548-2351. There is no formal procedure, but we encourage prospective members to take part in at least one day tramp before making a decision. This enables us to get to know each other.

Check out coming tramps or trips on the 'Trip Schedules and Meetings' page and select one that you think would suit you. It is best to choose one that is rated 'Easy' if you are unsure of your tramping abilities. On the 'Nuts and Bolts' page check out the trip grading under Trip Procedures to see what is considered 'Easy'.

Also on this page are the full details of what is expected of those taking part in a club tramp or trip, and information on what gear and clothing to take.

Contact the leader for that tramp by email or phone. They will want to know a little about your previous walking experience and will give you an idea of what to expect on this particular walk.

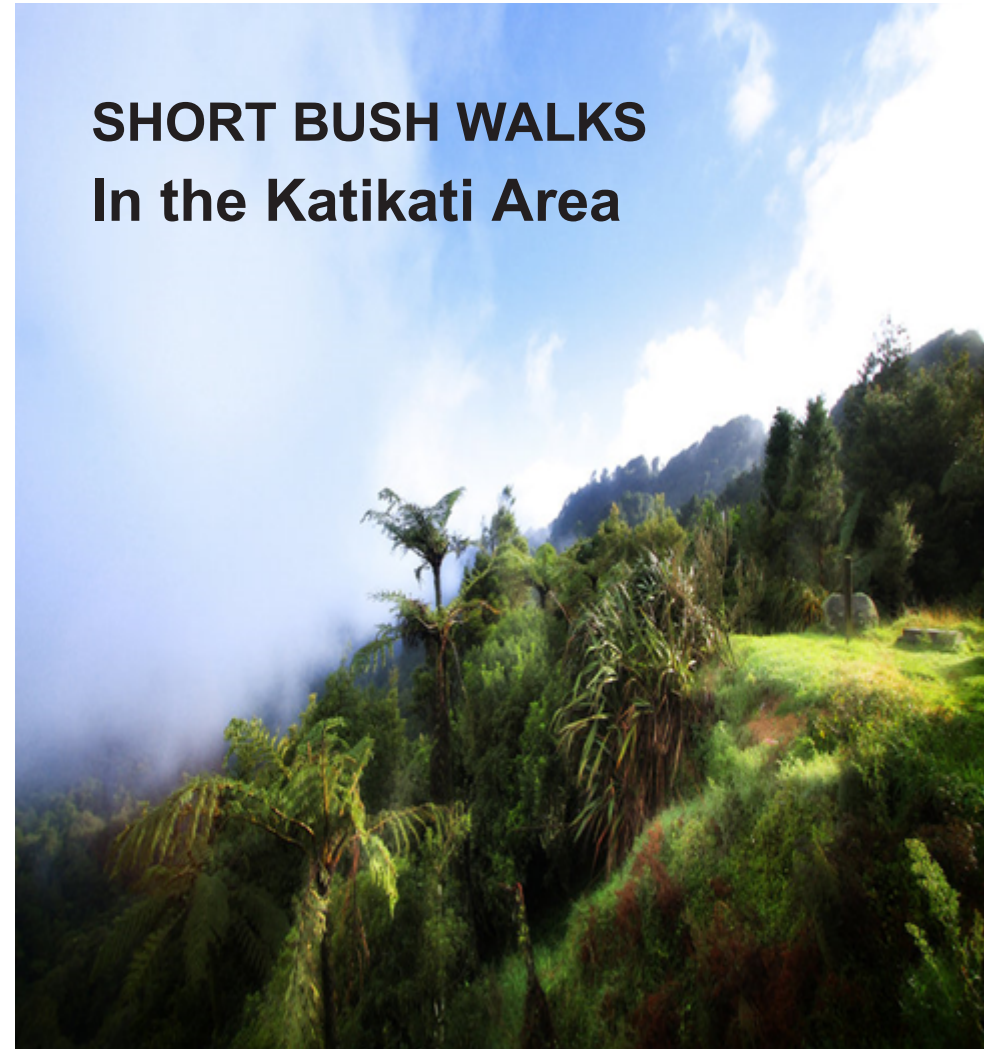
You will need to advise the leader of any health or other issues that might affect your ability to complete the walk.

Be aware that all our members are volunteers, and that tramping involves some risks. KKTC follows reasonable safety procedures, however leaders or the club cannot be held liable. Participants are ultimately responsible for their own safety.

Annual club fees are \$20 per person, payable on joining and subsequently at the time of the AGM each year.

www.sporty.co.nz/katitracks

SHORT BUSH WALKS In the Katikati Area



Katikati Information Centre

36 Main Road, Katikati – Phone: 07 549 1658

Email: katikatinfo@gmail.com

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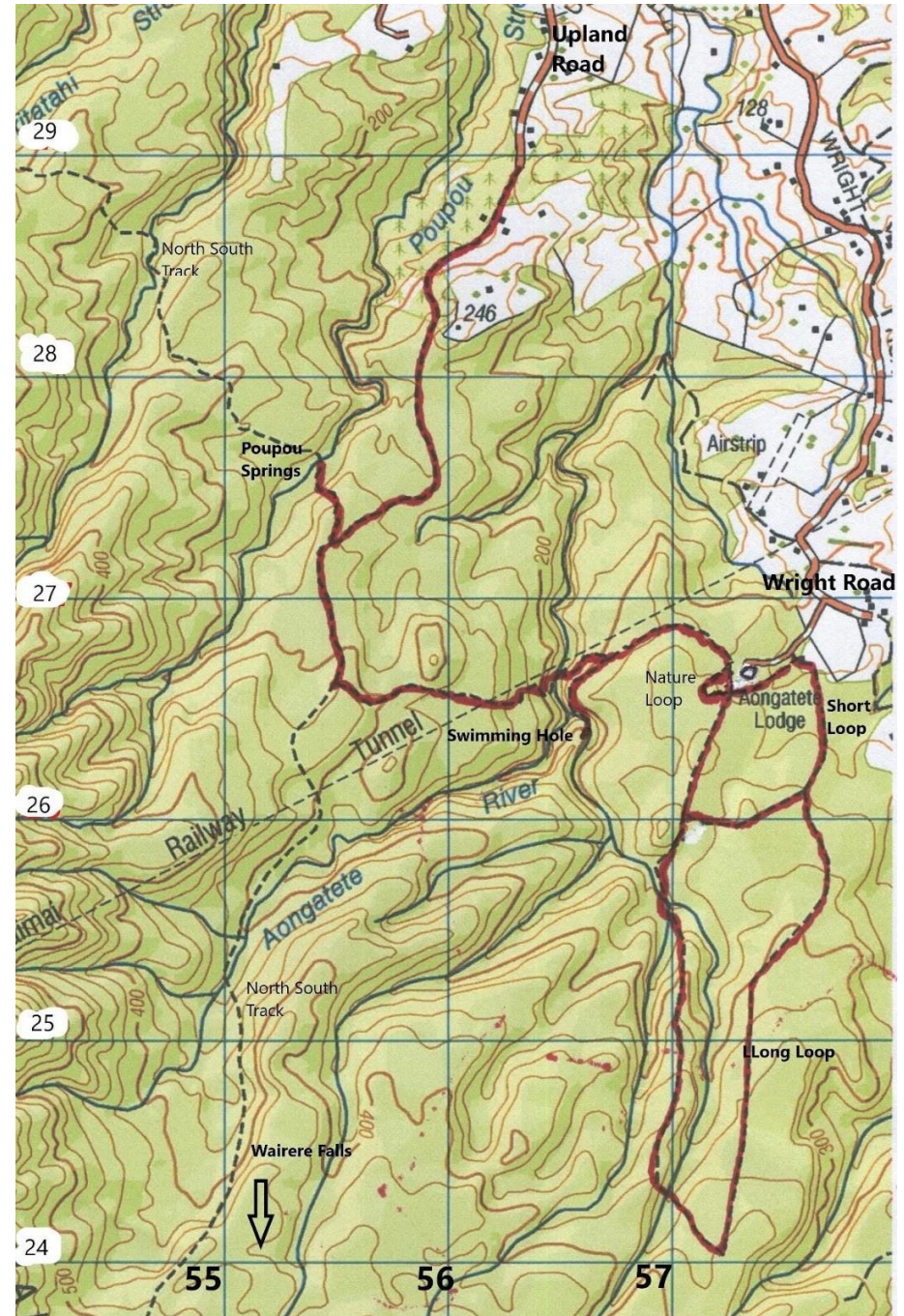
Short bush walks in the Katikati area

The walks described range from one to five hours for reasonably fit people. The routes are in sequence from north of Katikati to south. The maps are of different scales derived from Ordinance Survey maps where each side of a grid is 1 km. The north-south grid lines are numbered in dark black while the east-west grid lines are numbered with a white background. In the event of having to identify your position ideally use a 6-figure grid reference number. Identify the north south grid lines from the bottom of the map first and then the east west lines. As an example, Wairoa shelter on Map 1 is in the 51-40 grid square (5140 is a 4-figure grid reference) and the 6-figure reference is 512 409. The 6-figure reference is obtained by estimating in tenths between the grid lines from left to right along the bottom and from bottom to top along the west side.

CAUTION: In the Kaimai Ranges be prepared for weather changes and carry warm and waterproof clothing, food and water. In the track descriptions crossing a stream means fording on foot so be resigned to getting socks wet. The rocks can be slippery. Take special care especially after rain, when streams can rise very quickly. If in doubt, don't cross; turn back. Take a cell phone but reception in the Kaimais is patchy so let someone know your route intentions and time of expected return. You are advised to carry a Personal Locator Beacon if you have one, especially if alone. More detailed information on these and longer tramps, is given by the following publications, available from the Dept of Conservation, 253 Chadwick Rd West, Greerton (ph: 07 5787677):

- DOC Park Map: 'Kaimai-Mamaku Conservation Park' 1:50,000
- Guidebook: 'Walks and tramps: Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park and surrounding areas'

	<p>Kauri Dieback is a disease that kills kauri trees. To prevent the spread of kauri dieback to the Kaimai forest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• keep to defined tracks• clean your footwear, tyres, and other equipment before and after visiting kauri forest areas• and stay away from kauri tree roots <p>Visit kauridieback.co.nz or call 0800 NZ KAURI (0800 695 2874) for more information</p>
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M Aongatete Swimming Holes

1.5 hours return

At the 5-way junction follow the sign to the Swimming Hole. Continue through some delightful forest. 30 minutes from the car park pass the turning right to the Aongatete Link Track. Continue straight on to the river which is reached in another 15 minutes. Here is a series of cascades and pools, a favourite swimming place in summer. The upper pool is the largest and is reached by crossing over rocks to the far bank and scrambling several metres upstream. Beware of slippery rocks and don't attempt to cross when the river is up. For the more adventurous and sure-footed if they don't mind getting a bit wet, it is possible in good conditions to follow the riverbed down to the Lower Aongatete River Crossing described under Route N.

N Aongatete Link Track to Lower Aongatete River Crossing

2 hours return

From the 5-way junction take the route to the Aongatete Swimming Holes. The turn-off is along here on the right, 30 minutes from the car park, with a signboard easy to miss. The path leads to an old bulldozed track with slippery clay and takes you to the lower Aongatete River crossing. At this point you are almost directly above the Kaimai railway tunnel 80 metres below. (The far bank has a 15-minute steep climb leading to the North-South Track.)

Map 6 showing routes H to N

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- E** Hot Springs Rd - Tuahu Saddle including the 'Big Kauri' detour
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- G** Thompsons Track - Eliza Mine - Mt Eliza

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- H** Upland Rd - Poupou Stream
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Wright Road Aongatete area

- J** Aongatete Link Track to Lower Aongatete River Crossing
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Lindemann Road

A Lindemann Ridge Track- Wairoa Shelter

A Lindemann Ridge Track – Wairoa Shelter via kauri dam relics (4 to 5 hours return)

The Ridge Track enters the bush and climbs steeply up the ridge westwards for 45 minutes with several stairways. Higher up the grade eases and further on the track descends into the upper Wairoa Stream catchment. About 1.25 hours from the carpark the track passes an old kauri dam. This is one of several such dams operated in the Wairoa catchment in the kauri logging days of the early 1900s. Continuing westward for about 15 minutes brings one to a track junction. To the right the Lindemann Pack Track leads back to the carpark (see Route B).

The branch to the left (southwest) leads towards the Wairoa Shelter. A few minutes along this track is a small manuka clearing which was the site of another Kauri dam. Little remains of this dam except the sill logs which can be seen a few metres to the north of the track. Continuing southwest along the track for a further 20 minutes brings one to a pleasant grassy campsite and the open sided Wairoa Shelter, a convenient place to rest and refuel before making the return journey to Lindemann Road. The grassy clearing is the site of another old kauri dam, although little remains of it. From here the route leads towards Cashmores Clearing but is not included in this publication.

K Long Loop Track

3 hours, described anti-clockwise

At the 5-way junction turn left on to the Short Loop Track and follow it for 15 minutes to where the Short Loop branches off. Carry straight on and then steeply downhill to reach a tributary of the Aongatete River after 10 minutes. After 200 metres sidling along next to the riverbank make the river crossing to the far (west) bank. Proceed upstream for 40 metres and then cross back over the river to the east bank, just upstream of the confluence of another stream coming in from the east. Both crossings should be marked with large orange triangles on both sides of the river. The track then climbs steeply up onto the crest of a long ridge leading south. About 45 minutes from the river crossings the track swings away to the east, crossing a stream and up onto a flat-topped ridge. Swinging towards the north, the track gradually descends the ridge, passes the junction with the Short Loop Track and emerges from the bush just above the headquarters of the Aongatete Forest Project, toilet and car park.

L Nature Trail Loop

15 minutes

From the 5-way junction follow either of the Nature Trail signs. Along the way there are numerous interpretive boards that describe some of the ecology of the area and a number of labelled trees.

Wright Road

9 km south of Katikati turn right off State Highway 2 into Wright Road. 8 km up Wright Road turn right into Aongatete Lodge Road and park near the gate that bars the road to the lodge. Access to the lodge is for guests only and the old tracks through the grounds are no longer accessible. There is a public toilet visible from the car park, but no toilets on the walks. From the car park follow the track into the bush to the left of the gate. 10 minutes later you reach a 5-way junction where the different routes are well marked.

NB: The tracks described below are marked with DOC orange triangles. Other colours or tape show tracking and baiting lines and should not be followed.

J Short Loop Track

1 hour, described anti-clockwise

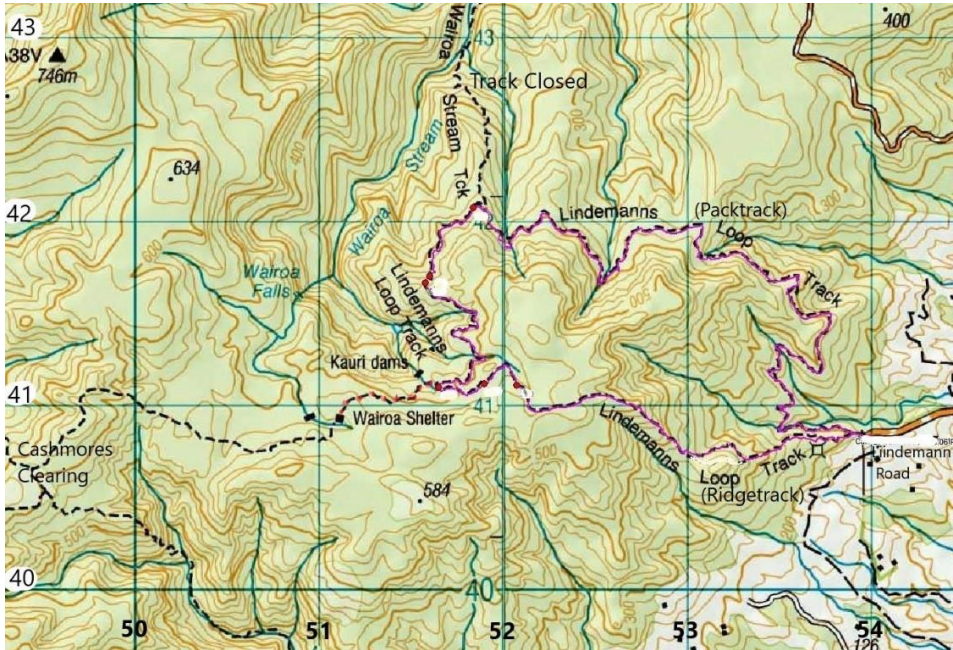
At the 5-way junction turn left, following the sign that indicates the Short and Long Loops. After 15 minutes there is a left turn indicated for the Short Loop while straight on is the Long Loop. The track climbs up over a saddle and down to re-join the Long Loop 20 minutes later. Turn left and follow the track and orange markers for 15 minutes, and down the hill past the Forest Restoration base back to the car park.

B Lindemann Pack Track (6 hours return)

This route dates from the early 20th century when pack horses negotiated the stream crossings and gullies to deliver supplies to logging camps in the headwaters of the Wairoa. After the boot cleaning station follow the Pack Track sign straight ahead. After some initial uphill steps, the Pack Track follows a very easy contour, winding its way in and out of several bushy gullies with some stream crossings. Take great care when crossing the slippery rock slabs. The track emerges through some secondary growth scrub after 2 hours to overlook the Wairoa Valley and in the distance to the north, the Ananui Falls can just be seen.

The Pack Track continues sidling southwards towards the upper Wairoa kauri dam relics for another 1 hour passing many kauri areas which have been gravelled and drained. The junction with the Lindemann Ridge Track (Route A) and the route to the Wairoa shelter and Cashmores Clearing (to the right) is then reached. To visit the old kauri dam relics (one to the left and two to the right) refer to the description in Route A. The return to the Lindemann Road carpark via the Pack Track will take the same time, i.e. 3 hours. Returning via the Ridge Track (Route A), thus completing the Lindemann Loop, is considerably shorter but much steeper down the ridge.

Map 1 showing Lindemann Loop tracks- Route A and Route B



Wharawhara Road

1 km south of Katikati turn right into Wharawhara Road. 4 km up the road there is a car park on the left. From here walk down a minor road to the left, past the water supply treatment plant to a concrete weir across the Wharawhara Stream.

Upland Road

9 km south of Katikati turn off State Highway 2 into Wright Road. 4 km from the state highway Upland Road branches right and ends 3 km further on.

H Upland Road to Poupu Stream

3 hours return

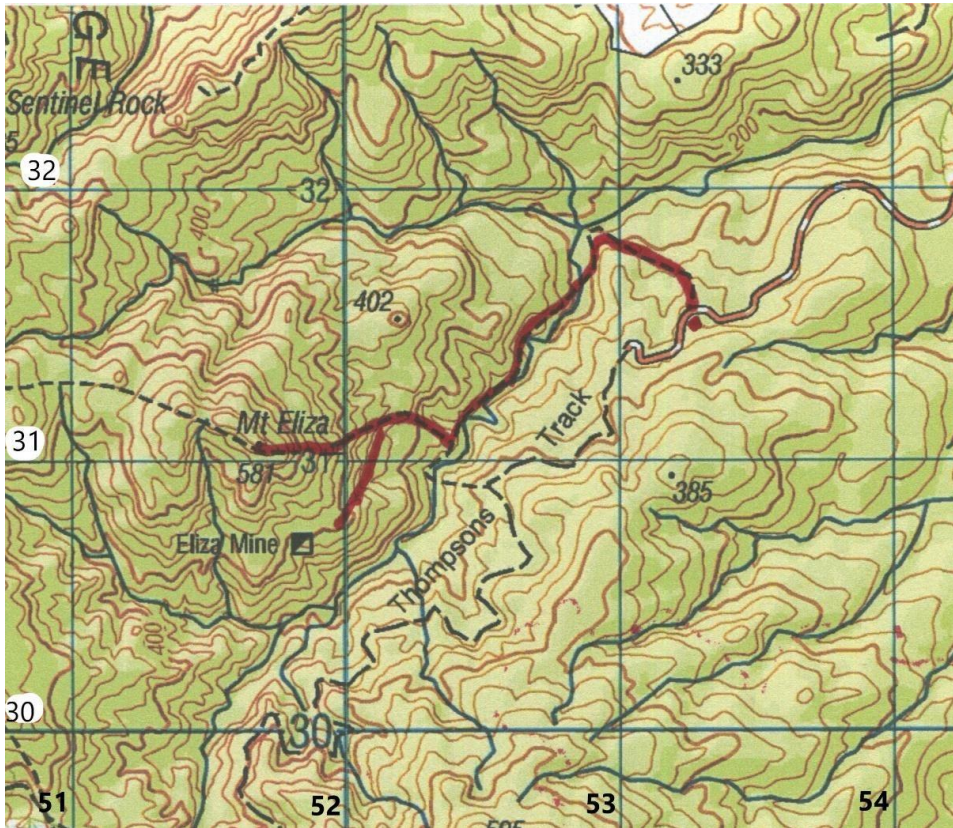
From the end of Upland Road, the track begins just to the right of a farm gate. This track through the bush links up with a bulldozer track formed during geological investigations for the Kaimai Tunnel construction. There are some slippery clay sections, but the bush is regenerating. One hour from the road end there is a track junction with signboards. This is now the North-South Track. Straight ahead the signboard indicates Wairere Falls to the south. (This track leads to the Lower Aongatete River Crossing and some hours along the North-South Track towards Wairere Falls.) Another signboard indicates Thompsons Track to the right and northwards. This is the direction to take. The track heads off north west and down into the Poupu Stream. It takes a pleasant bush walk of 30 minutes to reach the Poupu Stream. The best place to stop for a rest is on the near bank, keeping dry socks before returning to Upland Road. (Over the Poupu stream the track leads over other streams to the main divide and Thompsons Track saddle.)

I Upland Road to Lower Aongatete River Crossing

5 hours return

From the end of Upland Road follow the same route as for Poupu Stream as far as the signboard on the North-South Track, one hour from the end of Upland Road. Turn south and after 15 minutes there is a track branching off to the left that leads steeply down to the Aongatete River, reached after 30 minutes. The return journey from the river will be somewhat slower. At the river the track to the Wright Road/Aongatete Lodge Road car park and the Aongatete walks follows down the riverbed for 50 metres and then up a bulldozed track on the eastern or true right bank.

Map 5 showing Route G



C Wharawhara Road to Cashmores Clearing

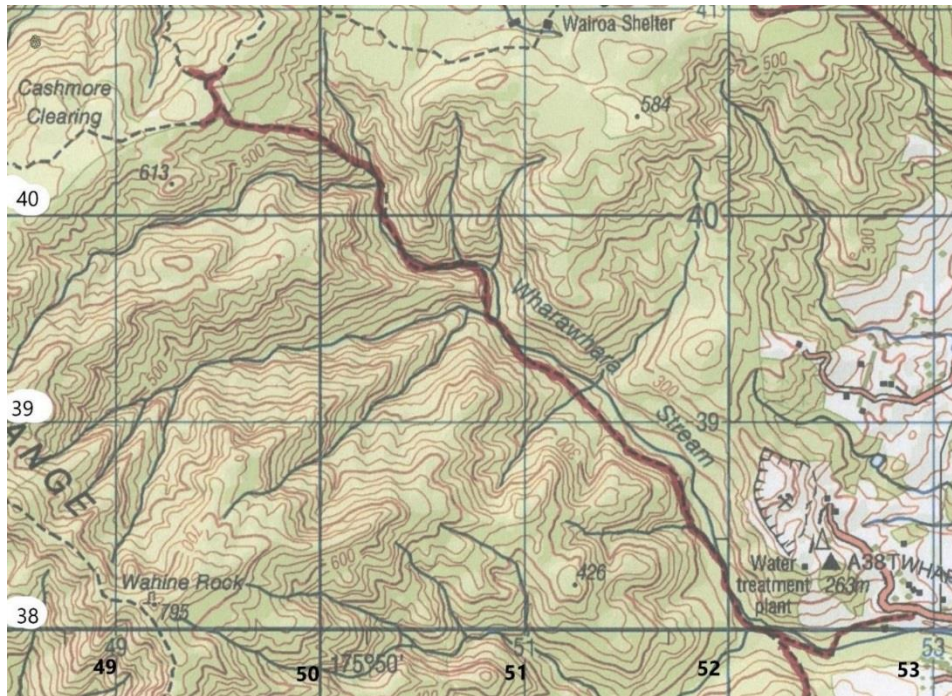
4.5 hours return

Cross the weir, which is very slippery, and follow the track upstream on the south side of the stream. About 150 metres from the weir a track comes in from the south west from Te Rereatukahia Hut but continue straight ahead. The track then crosses the Uretara Stream just above its confluence with the Wharawhara Stream and leads up the south side of the latter stream, on to an old bush tram line constructed for logging kauri 1903 – 1909. 45 minutes later the track crosses the stream and the marked route then follows up the stream bed with two more crossings before it regains the old tram line on the north bank.

About 1.5 hours from the car park the track comes to a deep pool into which the kauri logs used to plunge from the end of a 700-metre log chute. From here the track starts to climb up a steep spur via a benched zigzag track used in the past by pack horses.

Roughly half an hour of climbing brings one to the edge of Cashmores Clearing which saw much logging activity using bullock teams. This area is a swampy flat-topped ridge of secondary growth scrub and waist high rushes. At the highest part of the track at an altitude of 600 metres there is a magnificent view to the south east encompassing the harbour, Tauranga with its port and beyond. Having walked 8.1 km (2.5 hours) one reaches a track junction where one route leads north and down into the Waitawheta valley and the other east to the Wairoa dams and Lindemann Road. In this summit area DOC has undertaken some protection work near regenerating kauri. This includes boardwalk and stair construction and gravelling the track so please exercise extra care in these areas.

Map 2 showing Route C



Thompsons Track

6 km south of Katikati turn off State Highway 2 into Thompsons Track. This used to be a Maori track between Katikati and the Hauraki region then a coach road. Proceed as far as the road is maintained, about 6 km. Beyond here the track has been used by 4WD vehicles that have rendered it impassable with gullies and mud.

G Eliza Mine and Mt Eliza

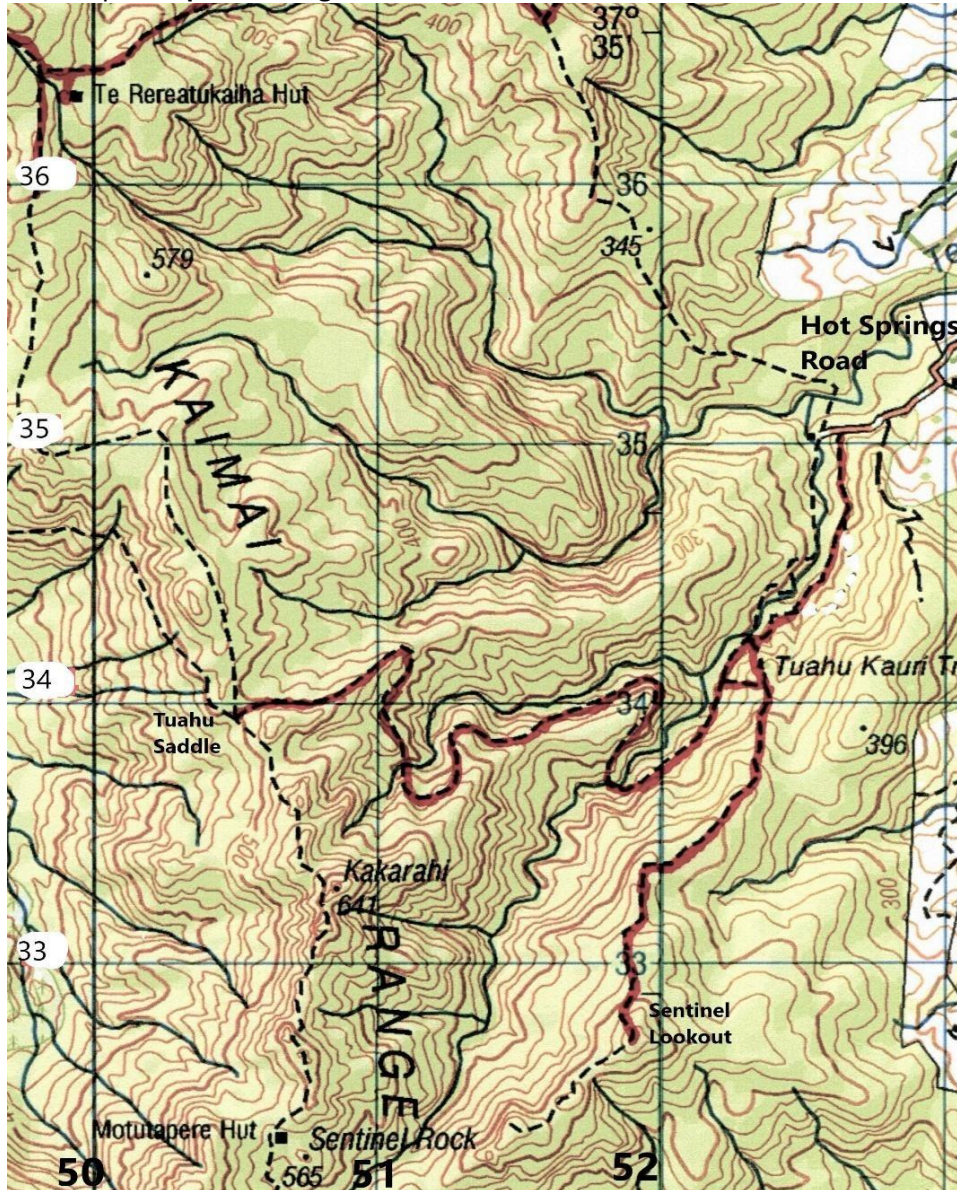
4.5 hours return

Where the road becomes impassable park on the left or right. Find the walking track on the right of the road with a signpost about 2 minutes in, marking the start of the Mt Eliza Track. The track drops down to cross the Waitekohe Stream 30 minutes from the start. The track then sidles above the stream along an old pack track constructed about the turn of the 20th century to service mining activity. Approximately 15 minutes from the Waitekohe Stream there is a signboard and turn off on the right that leaves the pack track and climbs up to the mine and Mt Eliza. It passes several shafts, open cuts and adits (take care).

About 30 minutes from the turnoff a side-track leads off to the left for about 50 metres to the entrance of the longest drive (horizontal mine shaft), 187 metres long. Some gold was discovered in the area and prospectors put several shafts and drives into Mt Eliza, but the various mining attempts proved uneconomic.

The main track continues steeply up Mt Eliza for about 45 minutes to the summit. The bush prevents any view being obtained from the top. (From here the track continues to the North-South Track along the Kaimai Range)

DOC is not keen for trampers to venture further as from here on there is subsidence and the track is completely hidden by grass and shrubs as it drops to a saddle. Anyone attempting to climb the Sentinel, however, is advised to use a rope. **Map 4 showing Routes E and F**



D Wharawhara Road to Te Rereatukaiha Hut and Baldy Knob

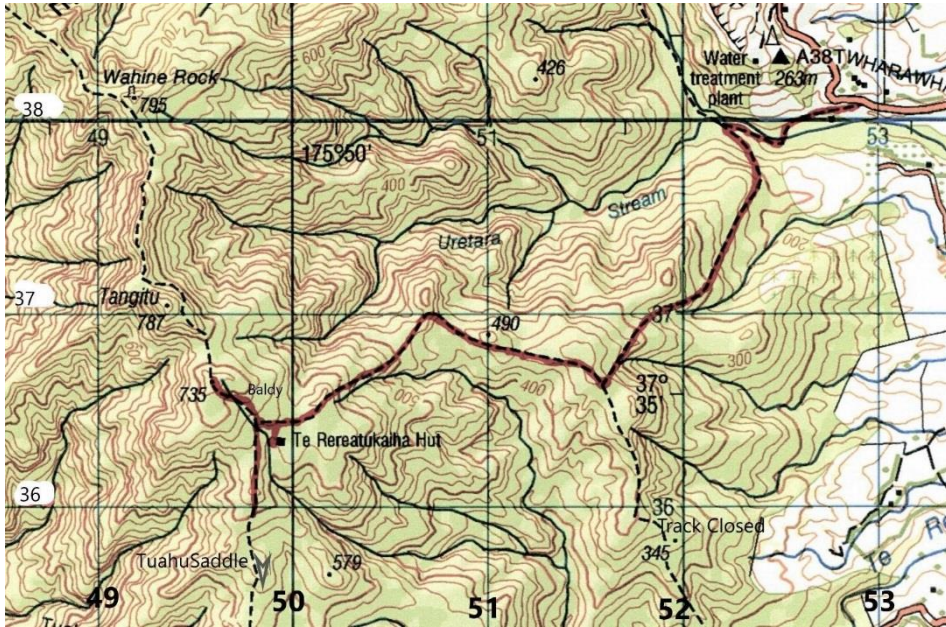
4.5 hours return

Cross the weir, which is very slippery, and follow the track upstream on the south side of the stream. About 150 metres from the weir the track meets a signposted junction. Turn south (left) to begin a steady uphill climb for 7 km to Te Rereatukaiha Hut. The bush is dense and mature all the way with some magnificent rimu, tawa and miro trees. The track is winding and easy to follow, with one large discouraging descent followed by a steeper climb up to the flatter swampy plateau. Here boardwalks lead to the upgraded and well-equipped hut that sleeps 12. This is 2.5 hours from the car park.

Rising to the north of the hut is the rocky prominence, Baldy. 15 minutes' more effort to climb another 84 metres in height results in the highlight of the day. 5 minutes on the way to the summit you pass the junction signposted to the highest point of the Tuahu Track 1.5 hours away. The crest of Baldy at 708 metres has a magnificent view from Bowentown to Tauranga, White Island, the East Coast and Mt Tarawera. A further 5-minute walk along the well-worn path to the north west leads to a grassy knob at an altitude of 735 metres (see map 3). From here the vista is 360 degrees of the BOP side as well as the Waikato side from Te Aroha, Mt Karioi towards Raglan and south to Mt Ruapehu if the day is clear enough.

The descent should take only 2 hours as it is mainly downhill.

Map 3 showing Route D



Hot Springs Road

3 km south of Katikati turn right off State Highway 2 into Hot Springs Road. The road passes the springs resort and ends at the parking area 5 km from the highway.

E Tuahu Saddle including 'Big Kauri' detour

4 hours return

The Tuahu Track follows an old Maori trail across the Kaimai Range. From the signboard at the top of Hot Springs Road the track follows up the Te Rereatukahia Valley. After 20 minutes a side loop track branches left. This loop climbs steeply for 5 minutes to the imposing Tuahu 'Big Kauri.' Here there is a boardwalk and a DOC information board and also the start of the Sentinel Lookout Track. The Tuahu Track, however, continues up the valley, crosses Te Rereatukahia Stream and, as a formed track, sidles on a steady climbing grade to reach the saddle on the crest of the Kaimai Range. Here it intersects the North-South Track along the Kaimai Range. (The Tuahu Track continues down to the Hauraki side of the range through DOC and private land.) From the saddle the North-South Track leads either north to Te Rereatukahia Hut (1 hr 15 mins) or south towards Mt Eliza. Before retracing your route from the saddle there are good views nearby of the Waikato and the Killarney Lakes below.

F Sentinel Lookout

4 hours return

Follow the Tuahu Track for 20 minutes and turn left at a small signboard indicating the Kauri Loop Track which takes 10 minutes to return to the Tuahu Track. To go to Sentinel Rock, pass the Big Kauri and after the end of the boardwalk take the track branching left. The track climbs about 2 km up a long ridge heading to the south. Keep to the ridge until reaching a grassy lookout with a wide view of the range with Sentinel Rock 0.5 km to the south-west and the smaller Sentinette in front.