

Waimarama
Hawke's Bay

Acknowledgments:



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Waimarama

I. Hughes

Heritage Trail

Waimarama

Hawke's Bay

The hills and the plateau to the southeast of Hastings, are places of great beauty and historical interest. Rising from sea level to 640m, mudstones capped with limestone have been uplifted, tilted and otherwise affected by the subducting (going under) Pacific Plate, to leave a complicated and fascinating landscape. Sliding slopes overlooking the Pacific Ocean, once forested and now predominantly under grass, carry streams from a high rainfall area (2000mm on the plateau) to lower areas with only 800mm average annual fall. Traversing areas of limestone, these streams have good flow characteristics, and have carved interesting channels; even fragile arches are to be found.

The first Europeans to visit Hawke Bay (named after Sir Edward Hawke, First Lord of the Admiralty) were aboard Captain Cook's ENDEAVOUR which anchored offshore in 1769. While never actually setting foot on this coast, they did trade with the Maori people who had been in the area since about the 12th Century. The first Europeans to land were the whalers, who set up coastal stations. About 1836 the graziers and land speculators started arriving followed by labourers and craftsmen, all of whom left their mark on the landscape.

The Waimarama Heritage Trail is close to 100km long and can be driven in 2.5 hours. However, to enjoy it fully, one or more days could be taken to visit all the sites and to enjoy all the walks! The Trail includes a section of non-sealed road. Vehicle fuel is available in Hastings, Havelock North, Waimarama and Clive. If you take any of the walks, you are advised to carry valuables with you, and to lock your vehicle.

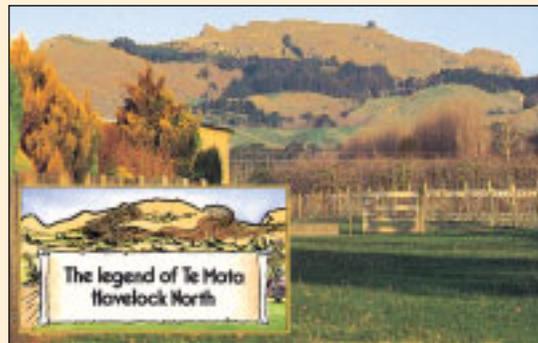
Brochures referred to in the text are available from Visitor Information Centres. All distances are from the Hastings Visitor Information Centre in Heretaunga Street. This is located adjacent to the rail crossing with the associated water feature.

The Trail follows Heretaunga Street East to "In The Oaks" on the city boundary (1.7km). The trees at this produce shop/café are all that remain of an avenue of oaks planted

by Thomas Tanner in 1876. The Trail continues ahead along Havelock Road over the rich Heretaunga Plains where there are plant propagators, market gardens, orchards and vineyards.

1. The Havelock Hills

(Viewed while driving along Havelock Road). Ahead the highest peaks of Te Mata and Te Hau are part of Te Mata Trust Park and form the distinct silhouette of a "Sleeping Giant".



The New Zealand Souvenir Co. Ltd.

According to Maori legend the Te Mata hillscape is a sleeping giant, with the hill being the body of the Maori Chief, Te Mata, from Waimarama. This chief preyed upon the Heretaunga people who decided that their best strategy was to beguile him with their own chief's daughter. A girl of great beauty, she set him seemingly impossible tasks. These he accomplished until she asked him to eat his way through the hill that divided their people. His first great bite was his last! By this time, however, the maiden had fallen in love with the giant, and laying her cloak over his body she jumped from the summit in despair. Te Mata's body is seen today silhouetted along the skyline, still complete with its cloak of grass.

Approaching Havelock North, The Trail crosses the bridge (4.0km) over the Karamu Stream. This old bed of the Ngaruroro River once separated Hastings from Havelock North and today offers a pleasant walk along 'Parks'Reach' (Karamu Stream Walkway) to Crosses Road. Ahead is the colourful village centre and a trail by-pass to the Tainui Heritage Walk which has access from Keith Sands Grove.

Immediately after the bridge, bear left at the roundabout (into Karanema Drive) and pass the Mary Doyle Trust Life Care Complex and the BP station. Proceed straight through the next roundabout at Napier Road; the road

then bears left into Te Mata Road. Continue along Te Mata Road, past Hereworth School (on the right), to the roundabout (5.6km) at Simla Avenue. The Trail diverts up Simla Avenue and then follows the ridge up Te Mata Peak Road to:



Te Mata Trust

I. Hughes

2. Te Mata Trust Park

(Entrance at 9.3km). The walks that converge at the entrance car park are strongly recommended; they pass through forest covering steep limestone to places of great beauty. (Refer to Notice Boards and Te Mata Trust Park brochure). Driving on, the road passes Peak House Restaurant (10.2km) and at its end (11.5km) there is another car park on the summit of Te Mata Peak (399m). Here there are magnificent panoramic views that extend west to Mt Ruapehu and east to Portland Island off the Mahia Peninsula.

Returning down the hill and on down Simla Avenue, turn right into Te Mata Road. The Trail now continues past award-winning vineyards (refer Havelock North Heritage Trail) to join Mangateretere-Waimarama Road to the east of the Havelock hills. Turn right into Mangateretere-Waimarama Road. Vistas open up (21.2km) of the lower Tukituki Valley with vineyard and winery developments. On the right, the tall limestone cliffs of Te Mata and Te Hau are popular with hang-gliders. Cross the Tukituki River Bridge (25.7km), and identify the road corner with the route to Waimarama proceeding up the hill, and Kahuranaki Road continuing ahead to Elsthorpe.

A short diversion may be made along the Kahuranaki Road to Ormond Gardens, specialists in plants for dry conditions. Within the Gardens is an excellent viewpoint of the Tukutuki River.

The Trail follows up the hill on Waimarama Road and continues east past a water-bird haven, Lake Lopez (28.8km) to then cross Maraetotara Stream. Turn right immediately

after the bridge and follow Maraetotara Road up the valley alongside the tree lined stream to..



Maraetotara Falls

I. Hughes

3. Maraetotara Falls and Heritage Walk

(24.9km) With an upper catchment of higher rainfall and limestone geology, the Maraetotara Stream has a good sustainable summer flow. In 1922 the Havelock North Borough Council built a dam on top of Maraetotara Falls to raise the head for a piped intake to a hydro-electric power station constructed downstream. A tree-shaded walk leads 10 minutes upstream to the falls and 20 minutes downstream through limestone scenery, past the old turbine house and a surge tower. Lock your cars!



IPENZ Plaque - Mokopeka

J. Watt



Mokopeka Powerhouse

I. Hughes

4. Mokopeka Hydro-Electric Power Station

(33.0km) For permission to view, and/or for reservations at the (seasonal) restaurant, please phone 06 874 7999 or 06 874 7881. Add about 2km for this diversion.

The Mokopeka hydro-electric power station was built by John Chambers in 1892. He studied electricity by correspondence before ordering equipment from London. The canal and dam were built by hand. At first a 14HP generator lit the farm and powered a workshop. By 1912 he had enlarged the plant to produce 17 kilowatts at a standard 110 volts with the old generator retired to occasionally drive a water pump. Today this power plant is still operational and is "probably the oldest operational station in the world" (IPENZ plaque).



5. Maraetotara Gorge Scenic Reserve

(42.7km) Past the Maraetotara School (40.8km) this Reserve fills a deep interesting valley with a picnic area and view point close to the road. A rough track to the south of the view point leads down to a small natural limestone arch across the stream in a setting of native forest.

This remnant patch of forest, together with those at Mohi Bush and at the higher Maraetotara Scenic Reserve, serve as reminders of the old forest that once covered this entire area. Pre European fire was one factor in the forest's demise, and this is noted in local Maori legend. However, a long history of storm damage followed by fire has been suggested by recent Hawke's Bay research. In more recent times timber milling has been a final act in the conversion to pasture.

To drive up to the crest of the plateau, the Trail turns right into Waipoapoa Road (46.1km). The Wairunga Golf Course, Function Centre and (seasonal) Restaurant (phone 06 874 6839 for reservations and permission to enter) has wonderful views of Motu-o-Kura (Bare Island) and the Pacific Ocean. Some 200m further up the road is the entrance to.



Mohi Bush

I. Hughes

6. Mohi Bush Scenic Reserve

(48.3km) Turn left through gate to grassed parking area. The longer of two walking tracks (allow 90 minutes) passes through a fern clad gully supported by extra moisture from damp limestone. Regenerating tawa is one feature of this once milled reserve.



One thing to watch for is the giant nettle, Ongaonga, which can cause severe allergic reaction. It is the food plant of the Red Admiral Butterfly. Almost wiped out by man's use of insecticides, this butterfly is making a comeback, laying its eggs, one to a branch on the tips of stinging hairs. When the caterpillar hatches, it rolls the leaf over to make a protected home with stinging hairs pointing in all directions, and feeds at night while predators sleep.

Return down Waipoapoa Road to the intersection with Maraetotara Road and Okaihau Road, turn right into (unsealed) Okaihau Rd past..

7. Te Aratipi Station

Site of at least two historic Maori battles. By the time missionary William Colenso came on the scene in the mid 1840s, the pa sites throughout the Waimarama area were deserted with only 80 to 100 Maori surviving.

The Waimarama area has been inhabited since man first settled Hawke Bay. In the twelfth century, Toi arrived and one of his descendants, Rangitane, defeated the original people and occupied this coast.

Then came the period of "The Third Settlement" when the Takitimu waka (canoe) deposited Tūtirangui-Wetewetōa, Tunui, Tuaitiki and Taewha at Waimarama before sailing south. Taewha was a tohunga or priest of makutu (sorcery) and he established a school to the southwest, called Maugawharau. One of his best pupils was Mahu from Wairoa whose 'exit examination' was to turn someone to stone using his newly acquired powers. Unwittingly this turned out to be his niece Kurapatū who was cutting flax in the lagoon. In separate incidents others were also turned to stone, and on the Kouipu Ridge, especially in misty conditions, limestone features look like people climbing a hill, some carrying children.

About 1550, Te Aomatarahi invaded Hawke's Bay from the north and defeated the Rangitane people. Defending first their Matanginui Pa and later the Rangitoto Pa, both of which had natural stone defences, they hurled rocks down on their attackers taking a great toll. But things went against them, and after retreating to reform on the crest of Hakakino they were finally defeated.

The victors, the Ngati Kahungunu settled in the area taking the women and by the late 1700s it is estimated that a thousand people lived in the numerous villages scattered along the (greater) Waimarama area.

In post European times the Waikato Maori attacked Hawke's Bay with superior weapons. Traditional fortifications were of no avail and most Kahungunu fled to Mahia, but the Waimarama people who stayed fought a successful rearguard action back up to Te Aratipi.



8. Matanginui Viewpoint

(see cover photo)

(58.6km) lies further down Okaihau Road, just after the Trail passes through a spectacular gap. Defensive positions occupied the summit of the flanking hills. The northern pa had buttresses of shaped fitted stone, a fortress such as European iron-age man built. The other pa, Rangitoto sat close by the present site of the television translator.

The views from Matanginui over the Pacific Ocean include the island Motu-o-Kura (Bare Island) and the present seaside resort of Waimarama.



Motu-o-Kura Island

J.Watt

9. Motu-o-Kura (the island of Kura)

is where, in earlier days, the Waimarama people would take refuge during tribal attacks. With no water supply on the island, the attacking force might wait for thirst to take its toll. However, rising to just such an occasion, Maori legend has a magnificent woman swimmer Kura, diving to obtain fresh water from a sea-bed spring to the southwest of the island. This spring (Nga Puhake-o-te-ora, or The 'Burp' of Life) still exists today as a bubble of fresh water on the sea floor.

At the bottom of the hill, turn right to Waimarama to enjoy a beautiful surfing beach and a park-like domain.

10. Waimarama

(62.2km) at the beach-side Paparewa Reserve. (For use of boat ramp, phone caretaker/kaitiaki 06 874 6767).

On the beach near the Kuku Rocks the Takitimu waka (canoe) was beached using skids of totara logs. Two stones remain that are said to be those that were used to anchor





Waimarama Beach

I. Hughes

the canoe. The landward one 'Taupunga' is located up the beach nearer the present Domain. The name 'Taupunga' is also that of the main whare at the present-day Waimarama Marae.

At the Kuku Rocks, and before the days of road transport, European settlers loaded bales of wool from wagons in to whaleboats. These were then rowed out to a waiting coastal steamer belonging to Richardson's of Napier.

At the south end of the beach at the car park with beach access, is the start of a long rock-hopping walk south along the coast to Karamea (alias Red Island), "a rock-hound's heaven". Cray Bay at the halfway point is an interesting destination for the less agile. (Allow 6-7 hours for a return walk and time your visit to be at Karamea at low tide. Note that tides are one hour earlier than Napier. Lock your cars.)



Waimarama Domain

I. Hughes

Returning back along the road, turn right into the Waimarama Domain to beach access, car park and the Surf Life Saving Patrol. (Lock cars. Swim only between



flags on beach, if patrol is on duty.) Proceed through the avenue of Phoenix Palms and turn left and left again at public telephone to rejoin Waimarama Road. Turn right into Waimarama Road.

Proceed past the fire station and stay (north) on the main Waimarama Road, noting the turn-off to the Marae and the Church of St. Mark (built 1917) on the right, and follow the road up the hill to a point where, looking back to Waimarama, there is a fine view of the island Motu-o-Kura and the Waimarama coast.

Continue on Waimarama Road to the Ocean Beach turnoff to your right (77.5km) and follow signs to..



Ocean Beach

I. Hughes



11. Ocean Beach Lookout

(81.8km) Ocean Beach is another fine surf beach. (Please take special care if you drive down the steep narrow road to the beach: 'down' traffic should give way to 'up'.)

Two beach walks are available:

1. South along the beach to Waimarama (7.5km one way). Choose low tide. Allow 4.5hours return.
2. North along the beach to Whakapau Bluff. (8 km one way; allow 4.5hours return). Whakapau Bluff prevents easy access to the stretch of coast north to Cape Kidnappers, although locals know a reef/sandbar just off shore that can be waded at low tide if no surf is running. Tantalizingly between the Bluff and the Cape, is the site of William Morris' 1838 Rangaiika whaling station, the boiler from the wreck of the GO AHEAD (1887), and two rock arches.



Returning to Waimarama Road the Trail meets Maraetotara Road which had been followed earlier, and proceeds back westward over the Maraetotara River Bridge toward the Tukituki River. At the Mount Erin Viewpoint are further views of the Tukituki Valley and Te Mata Peak. At the bottom of the hill, turn right, and just prior to the Tukituki Bridge turn right again into Tukituki Road (91.2km). Proceed 5.7km to view on your right and only from the road.

12. Tuki Tuki Homestead.

(96.9km) The homestead was destroyed by fire in 1994 but has been rebuilt. It was originally built about 1878 by William Nelson as 'The Lawn' at Mangateretere. During the 1890s the house was left empty with a reputation of being haunted by a female ghost. In 1900 it was purchased by Stewart Scrimgeour, loaded onto sledges and towed across the river to this site by two of Pilcher Brothers' steam traction engines - quite a feat for those days. Because ghosts cannot cross running water, the house was no longer haunted!



Havelock Hills Viewpoint

I. Hughes

The road climbs to 'The Havelock Hills Viewpoint' (98.1km) and then, crossing a ridge, a view opens to the west of the fertile expanse of the Heretaunga Plain. It is hard to visualize that this plain was all swamp and lagoons in 1850.

At Raymond Road (102.9km) turn right and continue along this road to the Haumoana School, where turn left into Parkhill Road and later, right into East Road to visit the seaside townships of Te Awanga and Clifton. (Refer to Kidnappers' Escape brochure/map for information along the way on accommodation and gardens, arts and crafts, food and wine, tours and museums. The British Car Museum and the Millennium Museum are special.)

At Clifton is the start of the walk or ride to..



Gannets - Cape Kidnappers

B. Stephenson

13. Cape Kidnappers Gannet Reserve

From Clifton (111.3km) this famous scenic beach walk is a highlight of any visit to Hawke's Bay. Best months at the gannets are November through February; the reserve is closed July through October. (Do watch the tides, and also watch for active rock falls under the cliffs. Note that the walk is only possible at low tide - depart Clifton not less than 3hrs after high tide and leave the Cape not later than 1.5hrs after low tide. Allow a leisurely 3hrs to walk the beach, 1.5hrs to climb up to the Plateau, and 3hrs to return. Commercial trips are also available, by beach and overland. Inquire at visitor centres or check the notice board at Clifton, located across from the café. Refer to the Department of Conservation's pamphlet 'Guide to Cape Kidnappers Gannet Reserve', and to the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Ltd's fold-out 'Cape Kidnappers' for geology. Brochure charges apply.)



The Trail returns along the coast via Clifton Road and East Road to Parkhill Road. Turn right into Parkhill Road, and cross the concrete bridge (once wooden and known as Black Bridge) over the Tukituki River (119.4km). Proceeding straight through the Lawn Road roundabout, and continuing on Mill Road, the Trail passes to the west of the once prosperous port of East Clive.

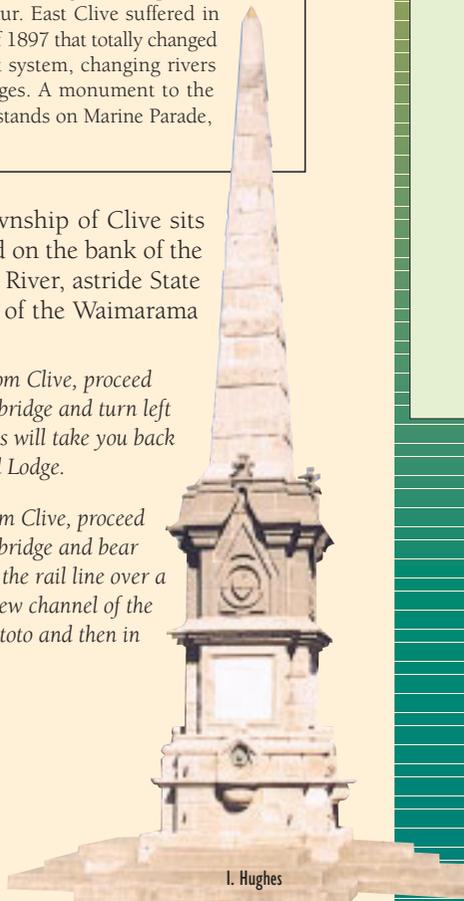
It was close to here that HMS HERALD moored to collect signatures for the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, and for some years the area was the major port for Hawke's Bay. Spread between two rivers, its trading boats collected wool and old sheep from the interior, and tallow was rendered down in three factories for export. By 1887 there were also two breweries, a steam flourmill, seven large dairies, and numerous market gardens supplying the interior. The steam launch BELLA navigated the Ngaruroro River as far as Whakatu, and there were landing stages at Havelock North adjacent to the present Crosses Road Bridge, and at the Riverbend Camp. On the Tukituki River canoes and lighters worked upstream as far as Waipukarau until the rivers silted up and blocked with gravel. Napier then became the main harbour. East Clive suffered in the Good Friday Flood of 1897 that totally changed Hawke's Bay's transport system, changing rivers and washing away bridges. A monument to the heroism of the rescuers stands on Marine Parade, Napier.

Today the present township of Clive sits at the end of Mill Road on the bank of the old Ngaruroro (Clive) River, astride State Highway 2 at the end of the Waimarama Heritage Trail.

To return to Hastings from Clive, proceed through Clive, cross the bridge and turn left into Farndon Road. This will take you back to Hastings via Stortford Lodge.

To proceed to Napier from Clive, proceed through Clive, cross the bridge and bear right to follow alongside the rail line over a second bridge across a new channel of the Ngaruroro River to Awatoto and then in to Marine Parade.

Clive Monument - Napier



I. Hughes



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