

Dawson Falls and East Egmont

Nga hīkoi o Mounga Taranaki

Egmont National Park



Welcome

Nei rā te mihi atu ki ā koutou i raro i te korowai o tō tātou nei tauheke a Taranaki.

Greetings to everyone who sits under the cloak of our ancestor Mounga Taranaki.



Dawson Falls/Te Rere o Kapuni



Only 30 minutes drive from Stratford, the picturesque Dawson Falls/Te Rere o Kapuni roadend (902 m altitude) is home to the 18 m high waterfall, Dawson Falls or Te Rere o Noke.

A small visitor centre (check opening hours) has information and displays.

Department of Conservation Konini Lodge offers booked

backpacker style accommodation for individuals and groups. Also at this roadend is the privately operated Dawson Falls Mountain Lodge.

East Egmont/Pōpō

At 1172 m altitude, East Egmont has the highest roadend in Egmont National Park. Offering spectacular alpine views the roadend is just 20 minutes drive from Stratford. Three kilometres before the roadend at Pōpō, the privately operated Stratford Mountain House offers café dining and accommodation. Many walks start from here.

Further information

For park information, hut tickets, Konini Lodge bookings:

- **North Egmont Visitor Centre**
(Open daily)
Egmont Road RD6
Inglewood
Phone: (06) 756 0990
E-mail: egmontvc@doc.govt.nz
- **Dawson Falls Visitor Centre**
(limited opening hours - check website)
Manaia Road
Kaponga
Phone 027 443 0248
E-mail: egmontvc@doc.govt.nz
- **www.doc.govt.nz**

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Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

The Mighty Mounnga



The majestic andesitic volcano Mt Taranaki or Egmont (2518 m) is the central point of the 34,170 ha Egmont National Park. Approximately 125,000 years old, it is the park's most recent volcanic peak. Last erupting around 1755 AD the mountain is now considered dormant.

Local Māori believe Mounnga (Mt) Taranaki once stood with the mountains of the central North Island. After a dispute over the maiden Pihanga, Taranaki fled his ancestral home, carving out the bed of the Whanganui River on his journey to the coast.

Egmont National Park became New Zealand's second national park (after Tongariro) in 1900. Named Mt Egmont by Captain Cook, the traditional Māori name of Mt Taranaki is now more widely used.

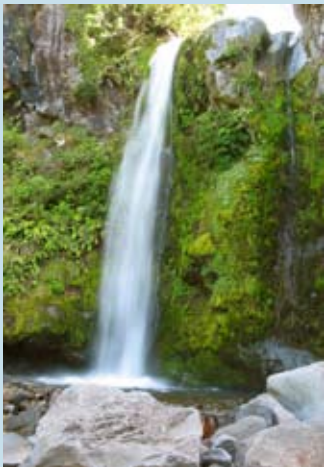
Sacred to Māori, visitors are asked to respect the mounnga by not standing directly on the summit peak, not camping or cooking on or around the summit area, and removing all rubbish.

Te Rere o Noke

Dawson Falls (waterfall) was named after Thomas Dawson the first European to discover this 18 m high waterfall in 1885.

To Māori they are known as Te Rere o Noke or the Falls of Noke, a Māori warrior who hid from his pursuers behind the falls.

Dawson Falls / Te Rere o Noke
Photo T. Weston



Flora and Fauna

Lush rainforest on the mountain's lower slopes is evidence of the park's high rainfall. Dripping with moss and lichens this tōtara and kamahi forest is sometimes referred to as 'goblin forest'. On higher slopes the forest gives way to dense subalpine shrubs and alpine herb fields.



Tui feeding on mountain flax
Photo: D. Devery-Smith



Pied tōtiti/miromiro
Photo: P. Schilow

Common forest birds include: tomtits/miromiro, tui, bellbirds/korimako, and woodpigeon/kererū.

Other birds present but less likely to be seen are the North Island brown kiwi, fern bird/kōtātā and blue duck/whio.

An endemic giant land snail and many species of native fish are also in the park.



Stoat. Photo: Nga Manu Images.

Stoats, rats, possums and goats pose a threat to the forest and its wildlife. Stoats and rats are trapped using rectangular trap boxes seen along several tracks within the park. Goat and possum control is regularly undertaken.



Setting stoat traps

Be Prepared






- Check weather forecasts before you go - **METPHONE** 0900 999 24 or www.metservice.com.
- Weather on the mountain changes rapidly. You must be well prepared with suitable clothing and equipment for all weather and conditions.
- Take a map / track brochure.
- Buy hut tickets for overnight hut stays.
- Tell someone responsible where you are going and your estimated time of arrival back.
- Consider taking a personal locator beacon (available for hire from North Egmont Visitor Centre).

Snow, high rainfall and storm damage can make tracks impassable - check with visitor centres for up to date track information.


Your safety is your responsibility

Track categories

Choose the type of track that most suits the skills and abilities of your party.

-  **Easy access short walk:** suitable for people of all abilities, wheelchairs and children's buggies.
-  **Short Walk:** well formed, easy walking for up to an hour.
-  **Walking Track:** well formed easy walks from a few minutes to a day.
-  **Tramping Track:** mostly unformed but have track directional markers, poles or cairns.
-  **Route:** unformed, suitable only for people with high level backcountry skills and experience.

Dogs

-  Dogs and other pets are not permitted in Egmont National Park, even inside vehicles.



Mt Taranaki or Mt Egmont
2518 m

Fanthams Peak / Panitahi
1966 m



Syme Hut

To Waiaua Gorge Hut

(Route)

Tahurangi Lodge (Private)



Manganui Skifield

Manganui Lodge (Private)



Manganui Shelter

Stratford Plateau
1172 m



Summit Track

To North Egmont Visitor Centre

Upper Lake Dive Track

To Lake Dive Hut

Hooker Shelter
1140 m



Fanthams Peak Track

Manganui Gorge Track

Lower Lake Dive Track

Hillary Seat

Wilkie's Pools

Jackson's lookout

Enchanted Track

Curtis Falls

To Maketawa Hut

Hasties Hill

Wilkie's Pools Loop Track

Pembroke Road

Dawson Falls Visitor Centre
902 m

Konini Lodge

Dawson Falls Mountain Lodge

Swingbridge

Dawson Falls Power Station

Waingongoro Hut

Waingongoro Track

Patea Loop Track

Curtis Falls Track

Manaia Road

Kapuni Loop Track

Dawson Falls / Te Rere o Noke

Dawson Falls Lookout

Kamahi Loop Track

East Egmont/Pōpō

Stratford Mountain House

To Potaema Track

| Track Category | |
|----------------|----------------|
| | Short Walk |
| | Tramping Track |
| | Walking Track |
| | Route |



The perspective of this map may distort distances. This map does not show rivers and streams and is not suitable for navigation. For greater detail refer to Egmont National Parkmap 273-09 and NZTopo50 map series.

geographix

Dawson Falls roadend

Walks under 1 hour



Dawson Falls Power Station

Time: 5 min one way

This barrier free walk begins 50 m down Manaia Road from the Dawson Falls Visitor Centre and visits one of the world's oldest continuously operating generators.



Dawson Falls waterfall / Te Rere o Noke

Time: 10 min one way

From the visitor centre walk 400 m down Manaia Road to the sign to Dawson Falls. From here descend the short stepped track to join the Kapuni Loop Track and turn right to continue on either to the base of the falls or the lookout point.

Walks and tramps 1 – 4 hours



Kapuni Loop Track

Time: 1 hr return

The Kapuni Loop Track begins 75 m down Manaia Road from the visitor centre. It descends along the Kapuni Stream through 'goblin forest' passing the short steep track to the base of Dawson Falls / Te Rere o Noke (18 m). Continue past the falls lookout point, cross Manaia Road and head uphill through forest to the visitor centre car park.



The Ridge Loop Track

Time: 1 hr return

Follow the Wilkies Pools Loop Track and turn right at the first junction to cross the unbridged Kapuni Stream (impassable after heavy rain). Turn right again at the next junction and walk up a short steep track to join the Ridge Track. Head down the ridge and over a bridge to reach Manaia Road just below the visitor centre.



Wilkies Pools Loop Track

Time: 1 hr 20 min return

The first 400 m of this track is baby buggy/wheelchair friendly.

Starting above the visitor centre the track winds through 'goblin forest', crossing the unbridged Kapuni Stream (impassable after heavy rain) to reach the turnoff to the small lava formed Wilkies Pools. These pools were named after the Wilkies brothers who farmed locally. Return to the signpost to continue around the loop, past small waterfalls, bubbling springs and the intake weir for the power station. Recross the Kapuni Stream and head back to the visitor centre.



Hooker Shelter

Time: 1 hr one way

From the visitor centre the Fanthams Peak Track climbs through forest up to the Hillary Seat (built by the Egmont Alpine Club as a tribute to Sir Edmund Hillary). Continue on to Hooker Shelter (1140 m) to enjoy spectacular views. This shelter was named after a respected member of the Egmont Alpine Club and was once the site of an old ski hut.



Waingongoro Hut (from Dawson Falls)

Time: 1 hr 30 min one way

This family friendly tramp begins on the Wilkies Pool Loop Track then joins the Ridge Track to climb uphill before descending past the Waingongoro swing bridge to the 16 bunk hut. Return the same way or via Wilkies Pools. In wet weather follow the Ridge Track from Manaia Road.



The Plateau - Enchanted - Waingongoro Loop

Time: 3 hr 30 min - 4 hr return

Head to Wilkies Pools and on towards Stratford Plateau. Descend the Enchanted Track, turning right at the bottom to continue along to the Waingongoro swing bridge. Turn uphill to the Ridge Track junction and then follow the signs back down to the visitor centre. Unbridged streams on this track can become impassable after heavy rain.

Tramps over 4 hours



Fanthams Peak/Panitahi and Syme Hut

Time: 5 - 6 hr return

Known as Panitahi by Māori, Fanthams Peak was named after Fanny Fantham who was the first European woman to climb the peak in 1887.

This challenging tramp climbs through forest to Hillary Seat. From here it continues uphill past Hooker Shelter (1140 m) and the turnoff to Kapuni Lodge before ascending a staircase to reach steep scoria slopes. Snow poles mark the route to Fanthams Peak / Panitahi (1966 m) and Syme Hut (10 bunks) - named after local mountain climbing pioneer, Rod Syme. This route is exposed and not recommended in ice and snow unless an experienced mountaineer.



Lake Dive Hut

Time: 7 - 8 hr return

There are two options to reach Lake Dive Hut (16 bunks). The upper level track follows the Fanthams Peak track to 1500 m altitude then turns left to traverse tussock slopes before descending to the hut. The lower level track undulates through forest, crossing many streams. Combining the two gives a full day hike or a moderate overnight tramp. Rivers on the lower track can flood and become impassable after heavy rain. The upper track is exposed and not recommended in bad weather.

Overnight tramps

Waingongoro Hut, Syme Hut and Lake Dive Hut are all popular overnight tramping destinations.




East Egmont/Pōpō roadend


Walks under 1 hour

 **Stratford Plateau Lookout**
Time: 5 min one way


Beginning just below the toilets at the Stratford Plateau car park, this barrier free walk offers spectacular views of Mt Taranaki and the central North Island mountains: Ruapehu, Ngaruahoe and Tongariro.

 **Potaema Track**
Time: 15 - 30 min return

From the Potaema picnic area on Pembroke Road, walk through lowland forest to a viewing platform overlooking a large wetland with the mountain as a stunning backdrop.


 **Kamahi Loop Track**
Time: 15 - 30 min return

Begin just above the Stratford Mountain House and walk through 'goblin forest' to exit in the car park by the Mountain House.


 **Manganui Gorge Track**
Time: 30 min one way (to the ski field)

From Stratford Plateau car park follow the track to the Manganui Skifield flying fox used to transport supplies. Continue through the tunnel, down into the gorge (extreme care needed in winter conditions due to ice and avalanche danger) and up to the ski field area, operated in winter by a local club. To continue on to North Egmont Visitor Centre allow a further 1hr 30min.


Walks and Tramps 1 - 4 hours

 **Patea Loop Track**
Time: 1 hr 30 min return

From the Stratford Mountain House follow the Waingongoro Track a short way before heading uphill through forest with large Pahautea/mountain cedar trees. Cross Pembroke Road and descend through forest back to the Mountain House.

 **Waingongoro Hut (from East Egmont/Pōpō)**
Time: 1 hr 30 min one way


This family friendly tramp starts from the Stratford Mountain House and crosses several unbridged streams before reaching the Waingongoro swing bridge. Across the bridge a short track leads down to the hut. Return the same way.

 **Enchanted Track**
Time: 2 - 3 hr return


The Enchanted Track is accessed from the Stratford Plateau. Start the track to Dawson Falls then descend the Enchanted Track past Jacksons Lookout through 'goblin forest.' At the track junction turn left to the Stratford Mountain House. Allow about 40 min to walk up the road back to Stratford Plateau.

 **Stratford Plateau to Dawson Falls**
Time: 2 hr 30 min return

From the Stratford Plateau head through subalpine vegetation to Dawson Falls via Wilkies Pools. Return the same way or take the longer option via Waingongoro and Enchanted Tracks (allow an extra 1 hr 30 min).


 **Curtis Falls Track**
Time: 2 - 3 hr return

Starting opposite the Stratford Mountain House this track, with ladders and steps, undulates through mountain forest to the Manganui River. Follow the riverbed upstream to the first of two small waterfalls. The second waterfall is 15 min further upstream and can be difficult to access. Streams along this track can become impassable after heavy rain. Curtis Falls to North Egmont Visitor Centre via Maketawa Hut is a further 3 hr 30 min one way.

 **Waingongoro - Dawson Falls - Enchanted Loop**
Time: 4 - 5 hr return

From the Stratford Mountain House follow the Waingongoro Track to the swingbridge and on up to the Ridge Track junction. Dawson Falls is signposted from here. Return past Wilkies Pools towards the Stratford Plateau, then down the Enchanted Track and back to the Mountain House. Streams along this track can become impassable after heavy rain.

Other tracks

 **York Road Loop Track**
Time: 3 hr return

This family friendly historic walk begins at the end of York Road, just north of Midhirst on State Highway 3. Following the path of an old railway line this forest walk with interpretation panels passes many interesting relics.



Check, Clean, Dry

Stop the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests. Remember to Check, Clean, Dry all items before entering, and when moving between, waterways.

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

Report any safety hazards
or conservation emergencies
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

