



Short facts

Length: 15Km.

Average walking time: 6-7 hours going south, 7-8 hours going north.

Track Standard: Tramping Track

Prohibitions: Dogs only on leash, no fires.

Equipment: Good tramping footwear essential, warm clothing and waterproof rainwear, first aid kit, whistle and torch.

Cautions: Tell someone where you are going, the number in your party and expected duration of trip.

Signage: Always keep to the marked trail. Deviation from poled route on farmland is not permitted.

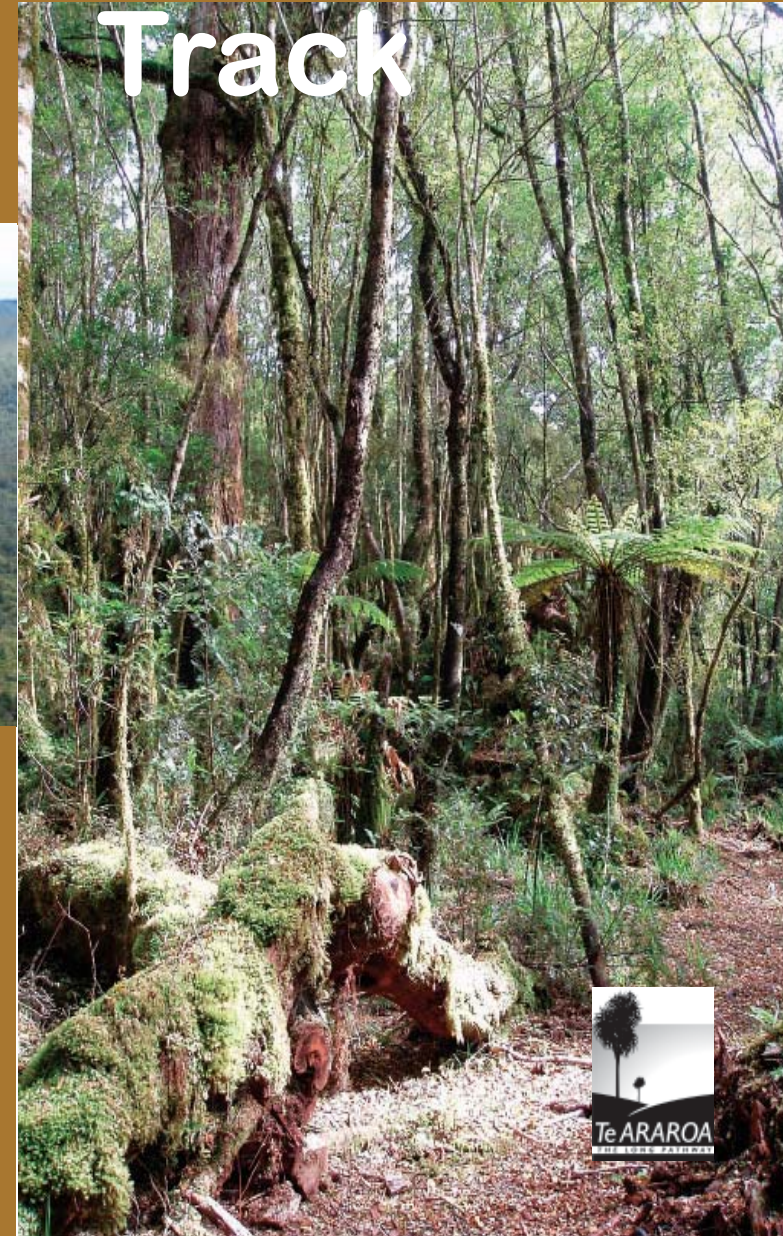
Crossing streams: Use caution. The rocks are slippery and the streams can be dangerous when water levels are high.

Mobile phones: Coverage is limited but there is some reception along the Makahika Ridge.

Topo Map: Series 260 S25 Levin.

Mangahao Makahika

Track



Kapiti Island, the South Island, the Makahika Valley and Gladstone Road are seen again before reaching the terminus of the Makahika tramline formation. It was near this point that the Bartholomew Timber Company ended native logging in this area of the Tararuas in early part of the 20 century.

From here, the trail follows the former tramline route with benched track and cuttings clearly visible in many places.

Several crossings of the Makahika stream are encountered and about 30 minutes after meeting the tramline, open clearings appear amidst the native bush.

On 23 February 2008, the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Helen Clark opened the track and a plaque commemorating the opening can be seen on the track.

These clearings become more frequent until the park boundary is reached where a further orientation sign is located. Across the river is the former sawmill site.

For the last half hour, the track follows a poled route along an unfenced right of way through private land and crossing the Makahika Stream before reaching the stile at the Poulton Drive parking area.

For walkers going from south to north, an extra hour added to the walking time is recommended due to the steeper uphill section between the Makahika Tramline and the Horowhenua Lookout.



Services

Transport: Assistance to and from road ends or vehicle drop off can be arranged through the Shannon Progressive Association and can be contacted through Owlcatraz, phone 06 362 7872 or email owlcatraz@xtra.co.nz.

Accommodation: Available in Shannon and Levin

Management: The Mangahao Makahika Track is maintained by Te Araroa Manawatu Trust in association with The Department of Conservation.

Any track hazards may be lodged with info@teararoa.org.nz or reported to Department of Conservation, Kapiti Area Office, phone 04 296 1112 or 0800DOCHOT (362468).

History: The area through which the trail passes has a lot of history, most notable being the period during the Mangahao Hydro development.

Contact: For further information on this or other Te Araroa Trails, visit the website www.teararoa.org.nz.





The Mangahao Makahika Track

The Mangahao-Makahika Track connects Burtton's Track which lies between Palmerston North and Shannon with the Arapaepae Lookout Trail near Levin.

Getting there

Starting from Shannon follow Mangahao Road past Mangaore Village, the National White Water Kayak Course and the Mangahao Power Station.

From here the road is a narrow and winding climb for 6 km to the saddle and a 1km descent to the Tokomaru Valley Road junction on left which leads to the start of Burtton's Track, part of the Te Araroa Trail leading to Palmerston North.

From the junction, it is a further 2.4 km drive along the Mangahao Road passing the Arapeti (Tokomaru #3) dam. 400m past the sign designating the entry into the Tararua Forest Park is a small parking area from where the walking track begins.

If starting from Levin at end of Queen Street East follow around Gladstone Road for about 8 km passing the Levin water treatment works and the Gladstone Road Reserve.



On the right is Poads Road crossing the Ohau River. Continuing up Gladstone Road and 300m past the Makahika Outdoor Centre on left is the eastern entrance to the Arapaepae Lookout Trail that Te Araroa returns to Levin.

It is a further 1.9 km along Gladstone Road Poulton Drive junction to the car park and start of the Mangahao-Makahika Track.

For details of Burtton's Track

and The Arapeape Lookout Trail see separate brochures available by downloading from the website. teararoa.org.nz

Track Description

The track can be walked from either direction but is easiest from the Mangahao Road end as the steepest and longest gradient is then downhill.

The following track description applies to the walk when undertaken from north to south.

From the parking area, the track enters the bush and climbs to a low spur where an orientation sign is located indicating approximate walking times.

- Blackwood Stream 1 hour
- Horowhenua Lookout 3 - 4 hours
- Makahika Tramline 5 - 6 hours
- Gladstone Road 6 - 7 hours

The track continues in a southerly direction for 2.5km passing some fine examples of large Rimu trees that escaped the bushman's axe, before descending and crossing three tributaries of Blackwood Stream. The stream so named after the magnificent Black Beech in the vicinity. This is the last drinking water until reaching the Makahika Stream.

The track continues south with an easy and a gradual gain in elevation before veering to the west passing an area of re-generating Manuka on land that was once



farmed before turning south and following the Makahika Ridge.

Passing spot 657, the highest point on the trail there are several openings to the west that give an outlook down to the Mangaore Stream along with views of Kapiti and on a good day the South Island is visible. The Horowhenua Lookout, a small cleared area with seating, is reached after three to four hours walking from the road end and gives a grand vista of Shannon, Horowhenua and the Manawatu.

The track soon drops off with a steady descent of 350 metres passing Kapiti Viewpoint Archey's Lookout) where

