



Heritage Trails



FARNDON HERITAGE TRAIL Frimley-Waitangi



Tangi a Te Ruru sculpture, Whakatu

Photograph: Ivan Hughes

Hawke's Bay
the Real
Discover  New Zealand

FARNDON HERITAGE TRAIL

Frimley-Waitangi

Introduction:

The Farndon Heritage Trail takes visitors through areas that have been historically associated with the orcharding and fruitgrowing industry in Hawke's Bay, as well as some sites of Maori significance. The route touches the Ngaruroro River in several places. This river is significant for its numerous floods and their effect on the Hastings region in its past and more recent history. The name of the Farndon Trail is taken from one of the roads in the area and its related land and building features. Farndon is a village in England where the sweetheart of a young surveyor of this local region lived.

*This trail traverses 22.6km and can be driven or cycled.
Cumulative mileage is noted in red.*

The Heritage Trail starts in Hastings at the intersection of St Aubyn Street, Frimley Road and Pakowhai Road. *Park on Pakowhai Road outside Hastings Girls' High School.*

1. Hastings Girls' High School (opened March 1956)

Secondary education began in Hastings over a century ago on the site of the current Hastings Boys' High School in Karamu Road. *(See Hastings Urban Drive Heritage Trail brochure)* Initially this school was co-educational but due to pressure of the post-war baby boom, by 1954, a new high school became necessary. As was the fashion then, the new school on Pakowhai Road was created for girls. It was built on

Plaque and one of a pair of the windows from the Williams' homestead in the Hastings Girls' High School hall





Section of the mural on the back wall of the Hastings Girls' High School hall

Don Trask

the former Frimley Estate, owned by the pioneering (James Nelson) Williams family. Miss Constance Miller, the first headmistress, oversaw much of the school's building and layout. Particular highlights were the assembly hall, with local artist and teacher, Geoff Fuller's mural of Women through the Ages, a swimming pool and gymnasium. The assembly hall also proudly displays two magnificent lead-light window panels, brought to light and restored more recently. These panels once graced the Williams' family home in the same vicinity. Enquire at school office, phone 06 873 1133 to view during school hours.

Continue along Pakowhai Road to

2. Lindisfarne College (200m) (200m)

Named after the Holy Island of Lindisfarne off the northeast coast of England. Lindisfarne College has also developed a strong Maori cultural dimension since 1972 through the introduction of the Te Whaiti-Nui-A-Toi Scholarship which has historical connections to the Maori Synod through the work of Presbyterian missionaries to the Ngai Tuhoe people of the Te Urewera region.

About half the students are full or weekly boarders. Many are overseas students. Its sister school, Iona College for girls, is situated in Havelock North.

The vision of Lindisfarne College is to build outstanding character in young men, that they may go on to live lives of success and significance. The cornerstones of academia, sport, culture and Christian dimensions are incorporated, daily, into the school-life of each student.

Note the sculptures by New Zealand artist, Paul Dibble.



'The Performance' by Paul Dibble

Eila Shearer

(Refer to Hastings Urban Drive Heritage Trail brochure for further information on Lindisfarne College.)

Continue along Pakowhai Road

This was one of the original orcharding areas in Hawke's Bay. The following sites were significant orchards in their time.



Orchard workers having a tea break c.1961

Mardon family collection

3. Lowcroft (900m) (1.1km) (1006 Pakowhai Road)

This was the home of Francis (Frank) and Phoebe Lowe. They were married in 1868 in Christchurch and spent time at Mount Hutt and Tinwald in Canterbury. They arrived in Hastings and built their home in 1899. Frank died four years later and Phoebe remained until 1920 when their son, Sidney Clifford Lowe, took over the family home and Phoebe moved into a small house next door.

Sid planted out the orchard, helped by his brother, Arthur Lowe next door. Orchardng was not easy

due to the frosts and hailstorms and when World War II caused labour shortages it was decided to remove the orchard. Some of the land was sold to the Breen family owners of Mahora Stud Farm. Each Christmas a marquee was set up on the side lawn of the house and the front lawn was the scene of many happy croquet games.

The earlier home has been considerably modified but the original architectural style has been retained so what you see is much the same as it was in earlier times.

Note the magnificent trees at the roadside.



Lowcroft

Don Trask

Continue along Pakowhai Road

4. Bute Orchard (100m) (1.2km)

Born in Rangiora to Scottish parents in 1874, Alexander Morris Robertson moved to Hawke's Bay in the 1880s to establish a bakery in Napier. In 1900 he bought a 21-acre block of land here in Pakowhai Road and, whilst running dairy cows to provide an income, planted three acres of orchard which was named 'Bute Orchard' after the family's ancestral home in Scotland. With his wife Nell's help they extended their plantings, but at an early stage the crop was destroyed by frost. Undeterred they continued to expand the orchard and between 1914 and 1918 built a two-storey homestead. One of Morris' sons, Ian, took over the property during World War II and grandson, Hugh followed. Ian's two brothers had orchards in Bay View thanks to their father's foresight.

In 2000 the property was sold to the Hettinga Estate which set about converting from orchard to grape vines. Four years short of its centenary, in 2009 the landmark two-storey Hettinga Estate (formerly Bute), homestead was destroyed by fire. The Hettinga family have since sold this property to a Twyford orcharding family and the grapes have been removed. An innovative seasonal roadside fruit and veggie stall has been set up where the big house once stood.

On the north side of the original Bute Orchard the Garden Depot now stands. This is where the original Horton's and later Wilson's nurseries stood. These nurseries supplied many of the original fruit trees planted on the Heretaunga Plains.



The homestead before it was destroyed by fire in 2009

Robertson family collection

Continue straight ahead through the roundabout to

5. Pernel Orchard and Crasborn family development (600m) (1.8km)

The Mardon family orchard (33ha) was well known in its time, developed over 100 years to produce some of the finest pip and stone fruit in the world for both overseas and local customers. Over the last 20 years they shared their joy of growing fruit through the development of their unique orchard tours. A roadside fruit shop, cafe and gift shop was also on site. The original 4ha block, situated in Evenden Road, was purchased by Harry Mardon in 1912. Harry's wife Mabel was the eldest daughter of Frank and Phoebe Lowe. In 1936 he was joined by his son Percy and wife Nell who bought an adjoining orchard in Pakowhai Road, the name





Hawke's Bay Today

'Pernel' being derived from their first names. Most of this business was sold to the Crasborn Family in 2016 however Harry Mardon's great grandson Iain continues to operate an orchard business on some of the property in Morley Road not sold to the Crasborns, retaining the Pernel name for his orchard.

The Crasborn redevelopment includes an exciting new cidery, tap room and restaurant. This cider will be produced from famous Hawke's Bay apples.

Continue along Pakowhai Road and turn left onto Morley Road

6. Old Canning Shed (500m) (2.3km)

Approximately 200 metres along this road on the left stands an old building very close to the roadside. This building, constructed by the Morley family in 1912, originally housed the Bluebell Fruit Canning and Preserving Company. Peaches, pears, nectarines and tomatoes from the family's adjoining orchard were canned here. Jam and sauces were also produced. The outbreak of war in 1914 meant that



Opening of the Bluebell Fruit Canning and Preserving Co in 1912

Reg Morley

tin plate became a scarce resource and the factory was forced to close in 1915. Since then the building has been used for fruit packing and storage. More recently the interior has been redesigned.

Return to Pakowhai Road and turn left and continue to

This stretch of Pakowhai Road between Elwood Road and Pakowhai Country Park used to be lined with poplar trees.

7. Poplar Avenue (800m) (3.1km)

It is not known when the trees were planted but in earlier days there was an avenue of large Lombardy poplar trees (known as Poplar Avenue) on either side of Pakowhai Road stretching from Elwood Road to the banks of the original course of the Ngaruroro River where the old bridge is now part of Pakowhai Country Park site. In later times the trees were removed from one side of the road but the others flourished until the danger to traffic of falling branches unfortunately meant the end to this iconic feature. The rest of these trees were removed some time in the 1960s.



Poplar Avenue circa 1920s

John Fortnam

Whakatu loop (900m) (4.0km)

Turn right onto Ruahapia Road then next left onto Whakatu Road. Follow through to Rangitane Road and turn left then left again to the end.

Note: due to road realignment and reconstruction this next section of the trail will change during 2018.

The name Whakatu means ‘to cause to stop’. This name came about when local Maori hapu wanted to go to Napier for the funeral of Sir Donald McLean (politician) in 1877. There was no station here and the authorities would not agree to stop the train to let people from Te Karamu and its neighbourhood join it. The Maori arranged their own stop by standing across the track.

8. Te Pakiaka Maori Reserve

(2.5km) (6.5km)

This small (approx 1 hectare or 2.5 acres) Maori reserve was named Pakiaka after the large stand of kahikatea trees (Pakiaka Bush) located 3km east between SH 2 at Mangateretere and Lawn Road. In the 1850s the area was more or less surrounded by swamps. Whakatu Pa, also in the area, was on the south side of the old Ngaruroro River somewhere adjoining the now Karamu Stream and Clive River.

This is the burial ground for members of the hapu Ngati Hori, Ngati Hinemoa and others who reside in Whakatu and surrounding districts of Clive and Haumoana. In 1858 the Chief Puhara of Pakowhai was killed in the Battle of Pakiaka and his remains lie within the Reserve. The memorial headstone of Rev Raniera Wiki (1875) Ngati Porou is found here. He was appointed by the Bishop of Wellington (in whose diocese Hawke’s Bay then lay) to serve the Heretaunga Plains from Kohupatiki to Opapa from 1867-1871.

Note: when entering and leaving any Maori urupa (burial ground) please observe Maori protocol by washing your hands with the water provided.



Te Pakiaka Reserve

Ivan Hughes

Return to Whakatu Road, turn left



Radio mast

Ivan Hughes

On the left note the tall tower at the Transpower Whakatu substation. Now, no longer used by Transpower as part of their communication system, the tower broadcasts three local AM radio stations, Radio Live 1368, Radio Kidnappers 1431 and The Wireless Station 1530.

Cross the railway line, turn left onto Anderson Road, passing several large cold stores and offices on the right and note old freezing works on left further down the road (see later site) before turning right onto Station Road, then to the corner of Groome Place.



Foyer in David Trubridge's building

Trubridge website

9. David Trubridge Ltd (2.6km) (9.1km)

David Trubridge is an internationally recognised light-fitting and furniture designer. He started his operation in 1996 as a small designer/maker business. The company is driven by a strong environmentally conscious philosophy which forms all aspects of design and production. In 2004 he was selected for the Antarctica Arts Fellowship programme. It was an experience that inspired him to heighten his pursuit of environmental sensitivity.

Continue on Station Road and turn left onto SH 2, being careful of the main road traffic. Where the road takes a right curve, turn sharp left onto Railway Road and almost immediately right turn onto Essex Crescent.

At Essex Park walk for ten minutes along the footpath beside the Clive River to view



Tangi a Te Ruru, a steel sculpture

Ivan Hughes

10. Tangi a Te Ruru (1.2km) (10.3km).

This morepork (ruru) sculpture (pou) watches over the Clive River and Kohupatiki Marae on the other side of the river. This is the original site of the pre-European fortified pa Otanenuiarangi. The pou honours the history of where the local Maori came from which is inseparable from who they are today.

From Essex Park continue along Essex Crescent to see on your right

11. St Therese Hall Whakatu Trust (200m) (10.5km)

This building was built in 1957 from a design drafted by Hawke's Bay architect John Scott for the Roman Catholic families of Whakatu who raised money and erected a building to hold Sunday Mass.



St Therese Hall

Ivan Hughes

These families gifted it to the Catholic Church and it was well used by local community groups for over thirty years.

In 2004 the church ceased to hold Sunday Mass on the site. The St Therese Hall Whakatu Trust was formed by descendants of some of the original families. Negotiations with the Catholic Church have placed it back into the ownership of the Trust.

Continue around the crescent, turn right onto Railway Road which becomes Anderson Road to

12. Whakatu Freezing Works

(1.5km) (13.0km)

Originally this building was owned by farmer shareholders. These local farmers set up the meatworks (Hawke's Bay Farmers' Meat Company Limited) in 1913/14 in Whakatu north of the railway line. Killing commenced on 6th January 1915 and the operation eventually grew to have six sheep chains and one beef chain and at the peak it processed over two million sheep and lambs and around 100,000 cattle per year. The New Zealand sheep population peaked at just over 70 million in the mid-1980s.

The large brick facade survived the 1931 earthquake and is now partly removed due to upgrading of



Whakatu Freezing Works building

Archives

earthquake standards. Industry was attracted to this site by its proximity to two sewer lines plus the railway and artesian water supply.

Whakatu was shut down in 1986 with the loss of 2,160 jobs (1,800 meat workers). The whole Whakatu site was purchased in two parcels by Whakatu Cold Stores Limited, a Hastings company, then in turn by Scales Corporation. Approximately 90% of the original site is now utilised for other purposes.

Return along Anderson Road, Whakatu Road, Ruahapia Road and turn right into Pakowhai Road. Before the Chesterhope Bridge turn right into Farndon Road and turn into the Pakowhai Country Park car park. From here you can walk under the bridge to

13. Pakowhai Country Park

(3.2km) (16.2km)

From the car park the old Pakowhai Road bridge now leads onto a pedestrian and cycle way. This bridge, completed in December 1940, spans the old Ngaruroro River bed which is now the Raupare Stream. It was used until the Chesterhope diversion in 1965 made it redundant for road traffic.

Pakowhai Country Park (Hastings' biggest dog park) is upstream of Pakowhai Road, covering 47 acres (19.02 ha) alongside the Ngaruroro River. The Raupare Stream flows through the middle of the park along the former course of the Ngaruroro River where it once joined near the upstream boundary of the park. The former water course has been altered with Raupare Stream straightened and deepened to improve drainage. The stopbanks on either side of the park are the true right banks for both the old and new Ngaruroro River courses.



Pakowhai Country Park showing the Raupare Stream

Hawke's Bay Regional Council



This park was established in 1973 largely due to a committed community group led by Dr Michael Bostock and a Trust was formed. Its objectives were to establish, maintain, control and manage a country park for the enjoyment of the public, to foster interest in recreational facilities, particularly the enjoyment of exotic and native flora and fauna. Over the years plantings and the facilities built have been undertaken by volunteer organisations. Today it is administered by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.



Ngaruroro River at Pakonhai in the 1960s

Mardon family collection

Story of the Rivers Catchment

The alluvial Heretaunga Plains are, historically, a flood-prone area fed by four substantial rivers, the Esk, the Tutaekuri, the Ngaruroro and the Tukituki. Our trail passes through the Tutaekuri and the Ngaruroro River areas. These waterways would meander and change course frequently causing widespread flooding but this gave us the rich soils which today are important for our economy.

The earlier course of the Ngaruroro River, which rises to the west of the Kaweka Range, was altered by a major flood in 1867 when it changed its course at Roy's Hill, to the west of Hastings, joining the Waitio Stream at Fernhill. When it originally flowed south of Hastings it deposited the accretion that forms the Gimblet Gravels. Once almost considered wasteland, today this land is a valued asset supporting many high quality wineries. Now this area is drained by a number of smaller streams which together flow into the Karamu Stream, southwest of Havelock North. This then winds its way north

to become the Clive River at Pakowhai where it is joined by the Raupare Stream and then flows to the sea.

In 1969 the Ngaruroro River was diverted down a constructed channel starting adjacent to the Pakowhai Country Park, where the original bridge was made redundant and replaced by the Chesterhope Bridge. It then flows directly to the sea and joins the Tutaekuri at Waitangi.

This diversion prevented flooding of the Karamu Stream and the Hastings area.

The Tutaekuri River, which rises in the Eastern Kawekas has also been a part of the flood problem. Its lower reaches originally flowed more or less via what is now Riverbend Road in Napier, into the lagoon and then to the sea through Ahuriri adjacent to the port.

This changed in 1931 when the earthquake altered the land levels. A diversion channel for the Tutaekuri was completed in 1936 and today both the Ngaruroro and the Tutaekuri share a complicated variable entry into the sea at Waitangi. This can be seen at the Waitangi site.

This area has been a site of ancestral occupation by mana whenua, in particular the hapu of Ngati Hori, Ngati Hawea, Ngati Hinemoa and Ngati Toaharapaki, whose marae in the area are Kohupatiki, Ruahapia, Matahiwi and Waipatu.



1938 Pakowhai flood showing Poplar Avenue in the foreground Archives

Across the road from the entrance to Pakowhai Country Park car park the cemetery marks the site of Pakowhai Pa.



Memorial for Karaitiana Takamoana, an early Maori politician

Ivan Hughes

14. Pakowhai Pa (Home of the Kowhai)

Taraia built a pa here at a very early date when he sailed across Hawke Bay and up the Ngaruroro River. In 1850 it was the home to the chief Puhara and the site of the first Catholic mission in the Ahuriri District. The chief took the French missionaries under his protection when they arrived in 1850. The mission flourished at Pakowhai and the brothers laid out vineyards and cultivations, taught and nursed the people and schooled them in the ways of profitable farming. This all came to an end in 1857 when Puhara was killed in one of the battles at Pakiaka, near Whakatu. His people were forced to move away, and without their protection the missionaries also had to leave. They moved across the river to Meeanee, where they re-established their mission. The mission cemetery is still at Pakowhai.

In 1854 Alfred Domett, District Commissioner of Crown Land for the Ahuriri District, recommended this site for the principal town and indicated that it would be named Clive.

In the latter half of the 19th century Pakowhai Pa had many fine European-style houses, a church, an accommodation house, a school. The Maori newspaper, *Te Wananga*, was printed and published here at Pakowhai. Karaitiana Takamoana built many of the buildings, and a large estate here, valued at £40,000 in 1880. Karaitiana died in 1879, his body was taken to Pakowhai and was laid to rest in a large vault, with his brother Meihana, on the original burial ground of the French mission. This monument is the only memorial to the once

important Pakowhai Pa that was abandoned after a series of floods in 1893 and 1897. The people made a new home at Waipatu.

Continue 2.3km (18.5km) along Farndon Road and pass over the overhead railway bridge. On the right is Kobupatiki Marae, one time home of Bishop Frederick Augustus Bennett, the first Maori Anglican Bishop of Aotearoa.

Continue further along Farndon Road to Farndon Park.

The land around these rivers is very fertile. Even before European settlement of Hawke's Bay, every pa had its own grove of peach trees grown from their stones which had been accepted as currency. Maori grew wheat, potatoes, corn and peaches for their own use and as provisions for schooners trading out of Auckland. The rivers also provided rich sources of food.

15. Farndon Park (2.0km) (20.5km)

This 20-acre (8 hectare) park was purchased by the government in 1870 for £210 from Henare Tomoana, Manaena Kawatini, Te Meihana Tini and Paoro Torotoro and was to be developed as a botanical garden. The name Farndon is from an English village, home to the sweetheart of one of the railway surveyors, Sam Powdrell (1874), working on the new line which was to pass through here.

Farndon Park had been the venue for national, provincial and local sporting activities since the 1870s. Famous for Labour Day sports, it was also the home of the Clive Rowing Club, Clive Rugby Football Club (1878), the Clive Tennis Club (1881) and later the H.B. Rowing and Clive Netball Clubs.



Farndon Park

Gary Baines collection

The war memorial gates (1955) and baths are also on this site.

Across the road from the present day Farndon Park memorial gates was the Farndon Hotel opened in the 1870s. The proximity to both the park and the railway station led to the two-storeyed hotel being used by many sporting teams for 'refreshments'. Partly demolished in 1898 a portion was moved across the bridge and re-erected opposite the corner of School Road and Main Road.



Farndon Hotel

Gary Baines collection

Farndon Road joins SH 2. Turn left. 100m on the left is a short lane which goes down to the railway line to

16. Clive Railway Station *(No longer there)* *(100m) (20.7km)*

On this side of the Ngaruroro River the railway passed through the Waikahu area of Clive and the first mention of the name Farndon is when the new station was erected in 1874. The station was renamed the Clive Station on 20th August 1923. The station was a hive of activity in the early days as most of the local produce, as well as the output of Whakatu freezing works, was transported by rail from Farndon to Napier for export. With the increase in motor traffic the Clive Station activity was reduced dramatically. In 1968 it closed as a



Farndon/Clive Railway Station

Gary Baines collection

fully operational station. In the 1970s fire severely damaged the original station and it was demolished. Quin Buildings now occupy the site.

Clive racecourse (1881) was situated on the other side of the railway line from the station. This is now farmland.

Continue 100m along SH 2. From the left side of the road observe on the right the building opposite on the corner of Hellyers Lane.

17. Farndon Brewery (100m) (20.8km)

John McLashan opened the Waitangi Brewery, also known as the Farndon Brewery on the Main Road, near Hellyers Lane in 1877. In 1880 his new Horehound Beer was introduced, especially brewed for teetotallers and this became a favourite of the times. Peter Raven bought the brewery in 1888 but two years later the company was bankrupt, signalling the end of commercial brewing in Clive. The base of the cottage here, built in 1865, is made of blocks of clay, sand and pumice from the beach. This is the oldest surviving building in Clive.



Waitangi Brewery known as Farndon Brewery

Gary Baines collection



The brewery building today

Ivan Hughes

Continue along SH2 to Hobeapa Hawke's Bay.

18. Hohepa Hawke's Bay

(1.0km) (21.8km)

Founded in 1957 through the joint venture of Dame Marjorie Allan and local farm entrepreneur, Sir Lewis Harris. Hohepa is Maori for Joseph, the name of Harris's father. Inspired by Steiner philosophy, they wished to provide education and social therapies for children, young people and adults with intellectual and neurobiological conditions and the associated high-end needs and behaviours. They believed in the freedom and dignity of the individual and that every life should be fully lived with purpose.

Today Hohepa Hawke's Bay is one of the region's foremost caregivers.

Supported activities include special therapies of music and speech, home-life routines and seasonal celebrations like their Country Fair. Diverse vocational activities involve most adults weekdays 9am-4pm and cover weaving, candle-making, woodwork and grounds' maintenance.

Significant contributions to the daily life of the Hohepa community include growing vegetables, milking and cheese-making. Award-winning artisan cheeses attribute their uniqueness to the Demeter milk produced by cows raised in a humane and caring environment, the sandy, salty soils and everything being done by hand. Each batch of cheese differs slightly in taste, depending on the grass and the weather. All surplus produce is sold in the shop, at the Farmers' Market or around NZ.



Hohepa shop

Hohepa website

*Continue north along SH 2, crossing the Ngaruroro River.
Turn right into Waitangi Regional Park.*

On the right is the Colenso Memorial.



William Colenso Memorial

Ivan Hughes



19. Waitangi Regional Park

(800m) (22.6km)

William Colenso took charge of the C.M.S. (Church Missionary Society) Church of England here in 1844, conducting his first service on 4th January 1845 in front of 150 Maori. What they thought of his message cannot even be imagined, but they were in awe of the other strange beasts in their midst, the horse and cow.

The ten acres of land granted to the C.M.S. was low lying and swampy and likely to flood at the first sprinkling of rain. This grant was from the Te Awapuni Pa people, chief Takamoana and his half-brother Tomoana, who took the name Henare (Henry).

The chapel was here and Colenso's residence was on the opposite side of the river (Hohepa area). Colenso's career as a missionary was ruined in 1852 when the church discovered he had fathered a son, Wiremu, to his maid Ripeka. After Colenso's departure, finally in 1858, the Anglicans reluctantly moved from Te Awapuni (Waitangi) to Kohupatiki. All traces of the mission complex and burial grounds were swept away with the great floods of 1867, 1893 and 1897.

William Colenso has been acknowledged in this area by a memorial.

The area has been recently redeveloped by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. Note the wildlife wetland plantings, including a Northern rata seedling planted 2017, to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the

Celestial Compass with Maori Pou. This site is for your enjoyment with its splendid 360 degree views of Hawke's Bay and the sea, and has self-explanatory information boards.



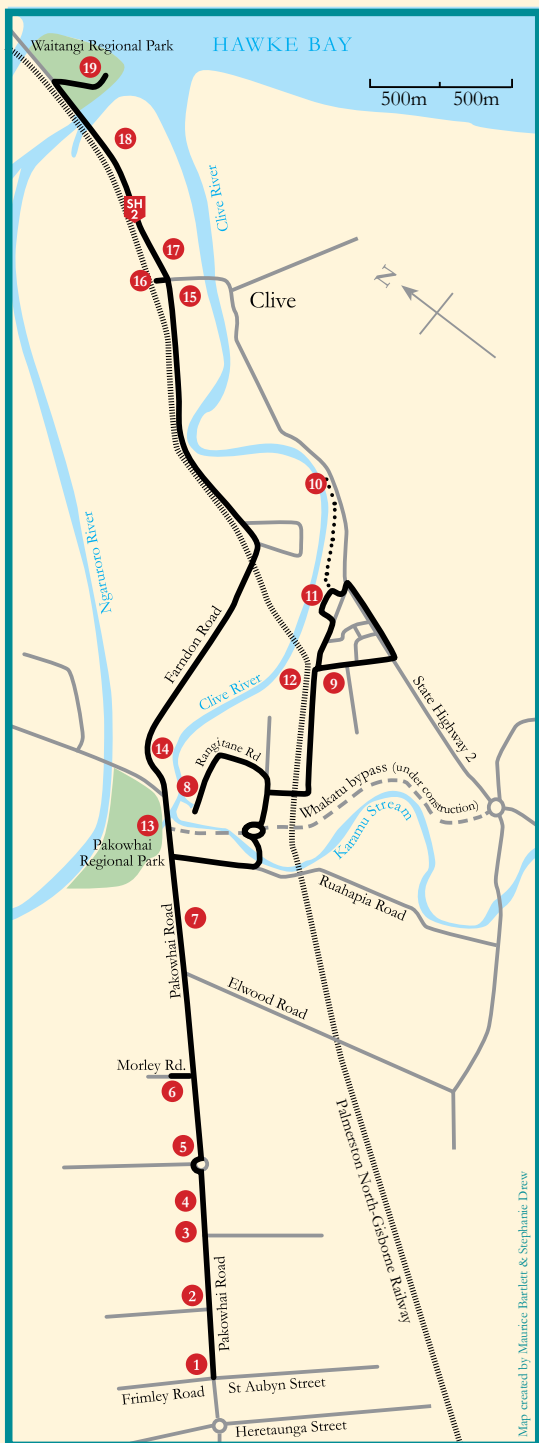
The Celestial Compass looking towards Cape Kidnappers

Ivan Hughes



The entrance to the Celestial Compass is through the waharoa (gateway) representing the chief on the right, his two wives on the left, and the sky god above. The circular panel at its base absorbs light during the day and glows in the evening.

Don Trask



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Please Note:

At the time of printing this brochure the Whakatu Bypass is still under construction. When the bypass is completed a revised version of this Farndon Trail brochure will be printed.

Please take extra care on the higher speed restriction sections of the roads.

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