

A window on New Zealand



Imagine yourself in a working gold mine from 100 years ago.
Photo: Destination Coromandel

The **historic and archaeological** significance of the Karangahake Mines makes the area nationally significant for the conservation of our mining heritage. The stories of iwi, hapū and whānau who live here provide a connection to the long ancestry of Māori occupation of Karangahake and their use of its natural resources. A more recent history includes the controversial acquisition of land by Pākehā settlers in the late 1800s, who established a town and lived here, working in the mines alongside Māori. The stories from this time paint a picture of the emerging egalitarianism, self-reliance and hard-work ethic that is often credited to New Zealanders.

Wildlife at Karangahake also tells a story reflected across the whole of New Zealand. Gone is the plentiful food and habitat for animal life that native forests provide, destroyed by fire or through the logging of the huge native New Zealand trees such as kauri, which would have dominated the area over 100 years ago. Pest animals such as rats, stoats and possums now roam the hills and make life extremely hard for the remaining native wildlife. Birds remaining in the area include the more common species such as the tūī, bellbird/korimako, grey warbler/riroriro and pīwakawaka/fantail. The kiwi, kōkako and kārearea populations have long since disappeared from Karangahake.



Bellbird/korimako.



Discover gold mining treasures. Photo: Destination Coromandel

Cover: Woodstock Battery. Cover inset: Get up close and personal with the river gorge from the safety of the Windows Walk.

Photos: Destination Coromandel

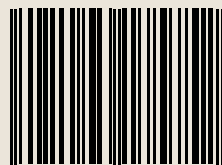
Published by:
Department of Conservation
PO Box 9003
Tauranga 3142
New Zealand
June 2013

Editing and design:
Publishing Team, DOC National Office

All photos, unless otherwise credited,
are copyright DOC.

newzealand.govt.nz

This publication is produced using
paper sourced from well-managed,
renewable and legally logged forests.



9 421005 175752 >

Karangahake

NEW ZEALAND'S
GORGE OF GOLD



Hauraki/Coromandel



THE
COROMANDEL
good for your soul

www.thecoromandel.com

Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

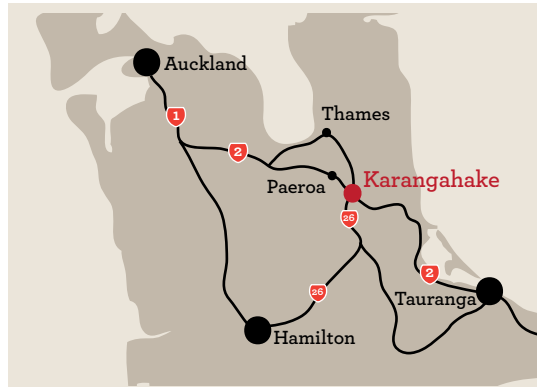
Visitors to Karangahake will enjoy the thrilling gorge views and will be guaranteed a memorable experience exploring the atmospheric disused gold mining tunnels. Karangahake offers a window on New Zealand's social and cultural identity, through the voices and stories of the people of Karangahake's past and present.

Take a look through the unique mining windows at Karangahake and establish a connection with the magnificent mountain above and the rippling waters of the Ohinemuri and Waitawheta rivers below. Massive geological upheaval has resulted in the landscape you see today, which was changed again upon the arrival of humans. This place has been transformed by the development of mining technology and the industrialisation of the country in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Touch the past on the Karangahake Windows Walk.



Take advantage of stunning views and photo opportunities.



Getting there

Located on State Highway 2 just south of Paeroa, between Auckland and Tauranga, Karangahake is easy to get to and is well signposted. It is about 2 hours drive from Auckland, or 1 hour from Hamilton or Tauranga.

Parking is available directly off the State Highway at Karangahake. Simply follow the signs for 'Karangahake Historic Walks'. Toilets, rubbish bins and basic visitor information are available in the car park. Visitors can ask for further information at the café, directly opposite the car park on State Highway 2.

Karangahake is easy to get to and enjoy.



Visitor information



Cyclists can do the Hauraki Rail Trail from the car park, with connections to Waikino, Paeroa and Te Aroha nearby. Please share with care. Cyclists are kindly asked to dismount in certain areas (check for signage).



Dogs are allowed on the Historic Walkway and the Crown Track to Dickey Flat. Dogs must be kept on leads to ensure a good experience for all visitors.



It's important that you keep to the tracks at all times, because hazards such as mine shafts and steep drop offs are found at Karangahake.

Where these are close to the track, they have been secured and blocked off with gates and fences, but please don't go off track. Tracks will be closed for visitor safety purposes when heavy rain is forecast, due to the risk of sudden rockfall. Check with the Department of Conservation Tauranga Area Office for up-to-date information if you're unsure.

Phone: (07) 5787677

Email: taurangainfo@doc.govt.nz

Bring a torch to get the most from your trip. *Photo: Destination Coromandel*



To fully enjoy the Karangahake experience, bring a good torch and explore the tunnels. Photography is encouraged—the scenery is magnificent and there are opportunities to pose with impressive machinery and other mining remains.

Further information is available online at www.doc.govt.nz/karangahake.

Track grades



Short walk—easy walking for up to an hour.



Walking track—gentle walking from a few minutes to a day.

Short walks

Windows Walk *1 hr 30 min round trip, 2.5 km*



See the very best Karangahake has to offer. The Windows Walk boasts beautiful scenery and spectacular mining remnants. A torch is recommended for mine tunnel exploration. This walk features an information trail with signage to help you enjoy a memorable trip.

A self-guide mobile app is also available for the Windows Walk, featuring historic images and stories from Karangahake's past. Download the My Parx app for free using your mobile device (search the My Parx app for 'Karangahake').

Rail Tunnel Loop *1 hr 30 min round trip, 2.5 km*



A 1.5-hour loop walk takes you through the kilometre-long rail tunnel (lighting is provided) along the river's edge and through the remains of 19th century mine buildings. Please note that sections of this track are shared with cyclists (see Hauraki Rail Trail information below).

Longer walks

Karangahake Mountain *4 hr return, 4.3 km*



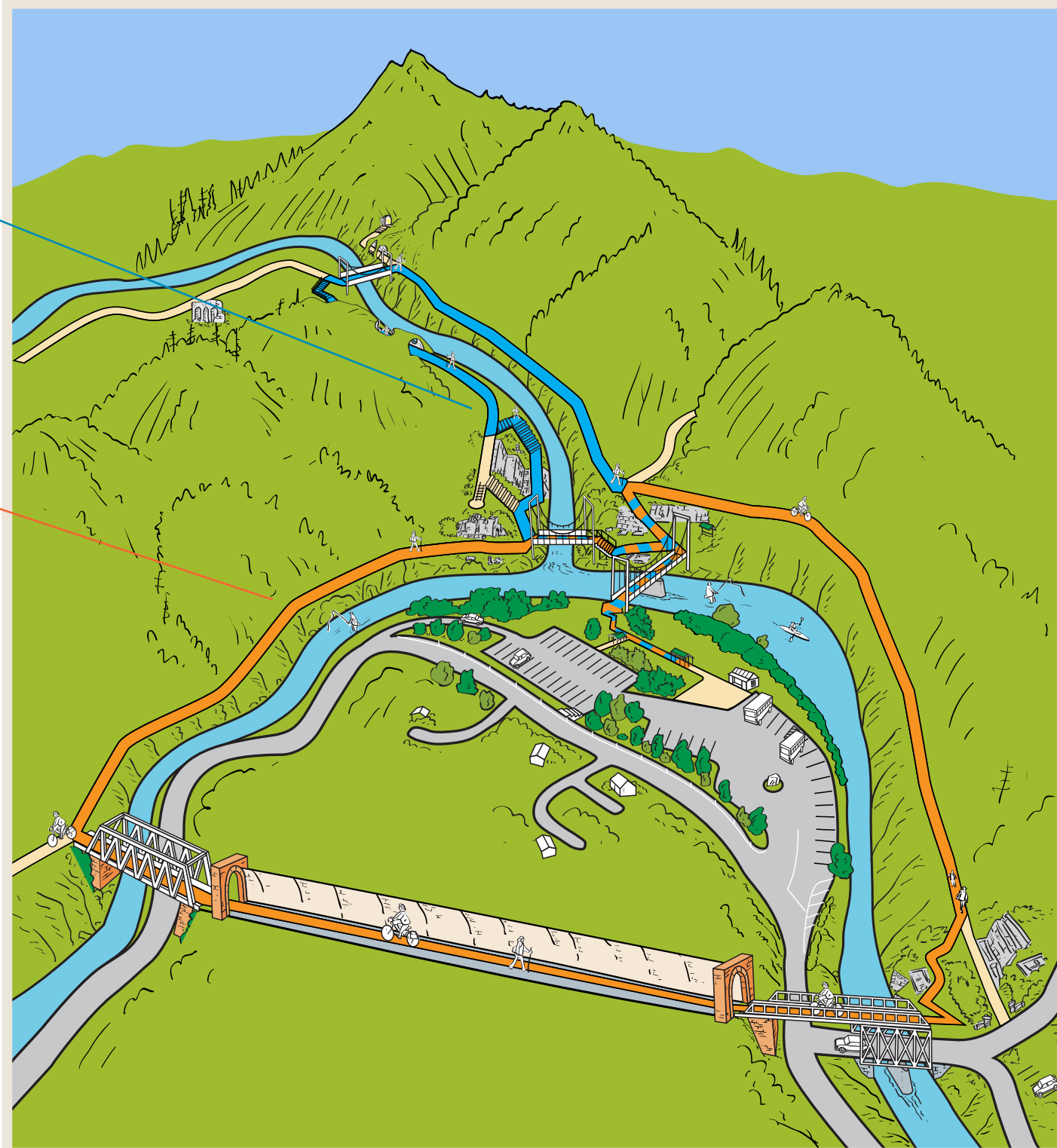
A network of tracks provides access to the summit and the forested flanks of Karangahake Mountain. It takes about 2 hours and 30 minutes to reach the top, becoming steep and exposed towards the top. A circuit can also be done by taking the County Road Track around the mountain.

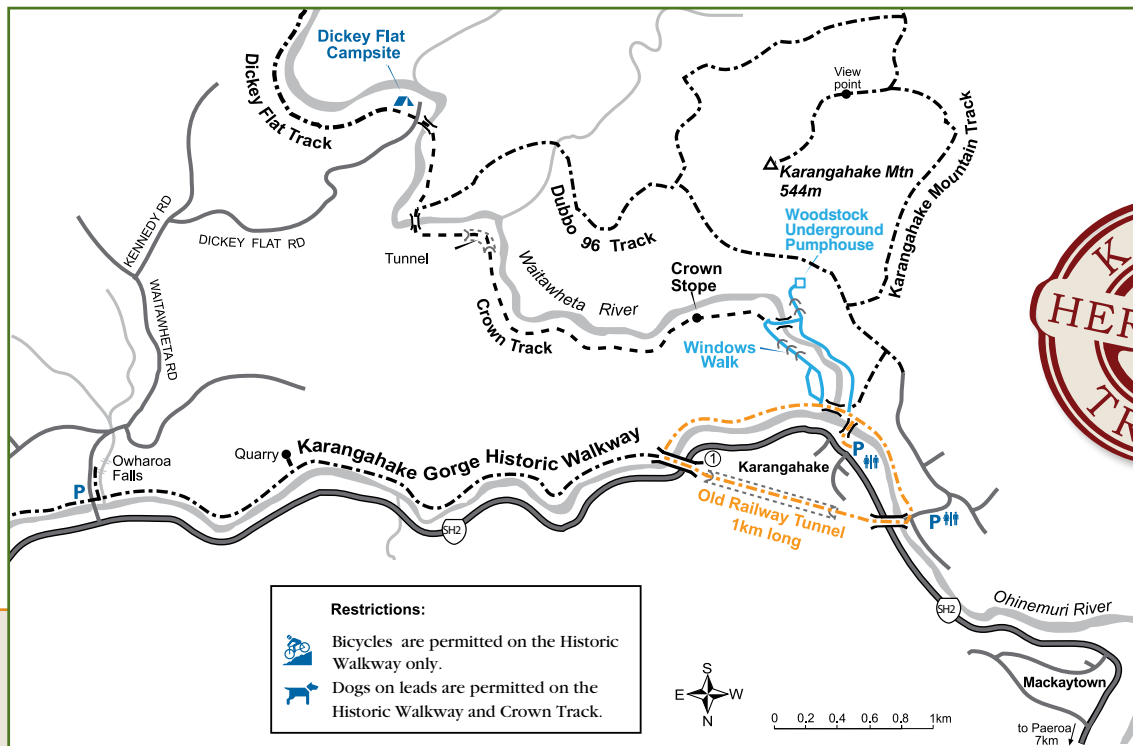
Karangahake Historic Walkway



4 hr return (2 hr each way), 7 km

Offering a pleasant day trip walking alongside the Ohinemuri River, the Historic Walkway connects Karangahake with the impressive rusting and crumbling buildings and machines of the Victoria Battery gold refinery complex, plus the tumbling Owharoa waterfall in its scenic bush setting. There is also a café and railway station at Waikino. Please note that this track is shared with cyclists (see next page).





Hauraki Rail Trail – Nga Haerenga/ National Cycleway



This 82-km cycle trail passes directly through Karangahake. Get on the rail trail at Karangahake and travel north to Paeroa, or follow the Historic Walkway to Victoria Battery and Waikino (a shared walking and cycling track).

For more information about the Rail Trail, visit www.haurakirailtrail.co.nz.

Other things to do in the area

Karangahake is a perfect short stop or overnight stay for travellers to the Coromandel, Waikato and Bay of Plenty Areas. A range of accommodation options are available in Karangahake. Camping is available at nearby Dickey's Flat Campsite (DOC). Dining options can also be found in Karangahake or nearby Paeroa.

You can continue the historic theme of your visit at Victoria Battery with a ride on a mining tramway and tour of the underground kiln tunnels, and travel on the vintage Goldfields Railway between Waikino and Waihi.

A variety of other (non-historic) attractions in the vicinity of Karangahake make for an enjoyable extended stay for all visitors.

Within an hour's drive of Karangahake, you can visit the Kaimai Heritage destinations of Waiorongomai

and Waitawheta. Alongside Karangahake, these places demonstrate the ingenuity and hard work of recent ancestors, who cut timber and dug gold in pursuit of riches. Their work left us a changed landscape, and in many cases their buildings and machines are left behind for us to explore.

Waiorongomai: The historic spa town of Te Aroha and the Waiorongomai goldfields make a great day trip. Explore the amazing historic tramway at Waiorongomai and be guided by stories and maps describing the relentless search for gold here.

Waitawheta: Enjoy a relaxed walk along a restored kauri logging tramline as far as the replica logging bogie (tram cart), and learn how kauri were logged and milled for timber 100 years ago.

For more information about these destinations, visit www.doc.govt.nz/kaimaiheritage.

Places to eat

TALISMAN CAFÉ

Opposite Karangahake Reserve
SH2, KARANGAHAKE
Ph: 07 862 8306
Open 7 days 9.00 am–4.00 pm

WAIKINO STATION CAFÉ

SH2 WAIKINO
Ph: 07 863 8640
E: waikinocafe@gmail.com
Open 7 days

WAIKINO TAVERN

8541 SH2 WAIKINO
Ph: 07 863 8381

Food and accommodation

FALLS RETREAT

Bistro & accommodation
Opposite Owharoa Falls,
25 Waitawheta Rd,
KARANGAHAKE GORGE
Ph: 07 863 8770
E: info@fallsretreat.co.nz
www.fallsretreat.co.nz

OHINEMURI ESTATE

Winery/restaurant & accommodation
Moresby St, KARANGAHAKE
Ph: 07 862 8874
E: ohinemuri.wines@paradise.net.nz
www.ohinemuri.co.nz

Accommodation

GOLDEN OWL ACCOMMODATION

3 Moresby St
KARANGAHAKE
Ph: 07 862 7994
E: enquiries@goldenowl.co.nz
www.goldenowl.co.nz

KARANGAHAKE GOLD N' VIEWS COTTAGE AND BED & BREAKFAST

21 John Cotter Rd
KARANGAHAKE
Ph: 0800 023 259
www.goldnviewsbnb.co.nz

KARANGAHAKE RIVER LODGE & CAMPERVAN PARK

45 River Rd
KARANGAHAKE
Ph: 07 862 8481
E: info@river-road.co.nz
www.river-road.co.nz

RARATU LODGE

43 County Rd
KARANGAHAKE
Ph: 021 0212527
E: aneeh2007@hotmail.com
www.paeroa.org.nz