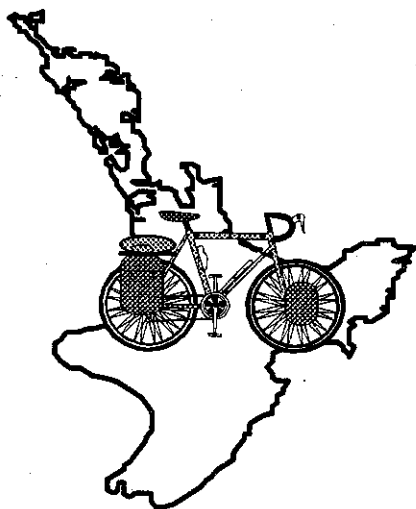


A NEW ZEALAND
CYCLE TOURING GUIDE

PEDALLERS' PARADISE

NORTH ISLAND



By
Nigel Rushton

A NEW ZEALAND
CYCLE TOURING GUIDE

PEDALLERS' PARADISE

NORTH ISLAND

NIGEL RUSHTON

Dab Hand Publishing
Lake Tekapo
New Zealand
1996

ISBN 0 - 473 - 03335 - 6

NEW ZEALAND DEPARTMENT OF SURVEY AND LAND INFORMATION
MAP LICENCE No. PL 099639/1: CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED.

Dedicated to Hitomi.

I would like to say a special thank you to all the people who have helped in one way or another,
voluntary and involuntarily!

Especially Bob & Raylee; Eric & Aidy; Gary; Mark & Sue; Frank & Sue; Charlie;
Katrina & David; Robyn & Julian; Karen & Rusty; Sue & Louis; Jill & John; Lisabeth.

Also a thank you to:

Automobile Association for allowing the use their street maps.
Government Printer for wind characteristics, and
Diane Slocombe of Auckland Visitor Centre.

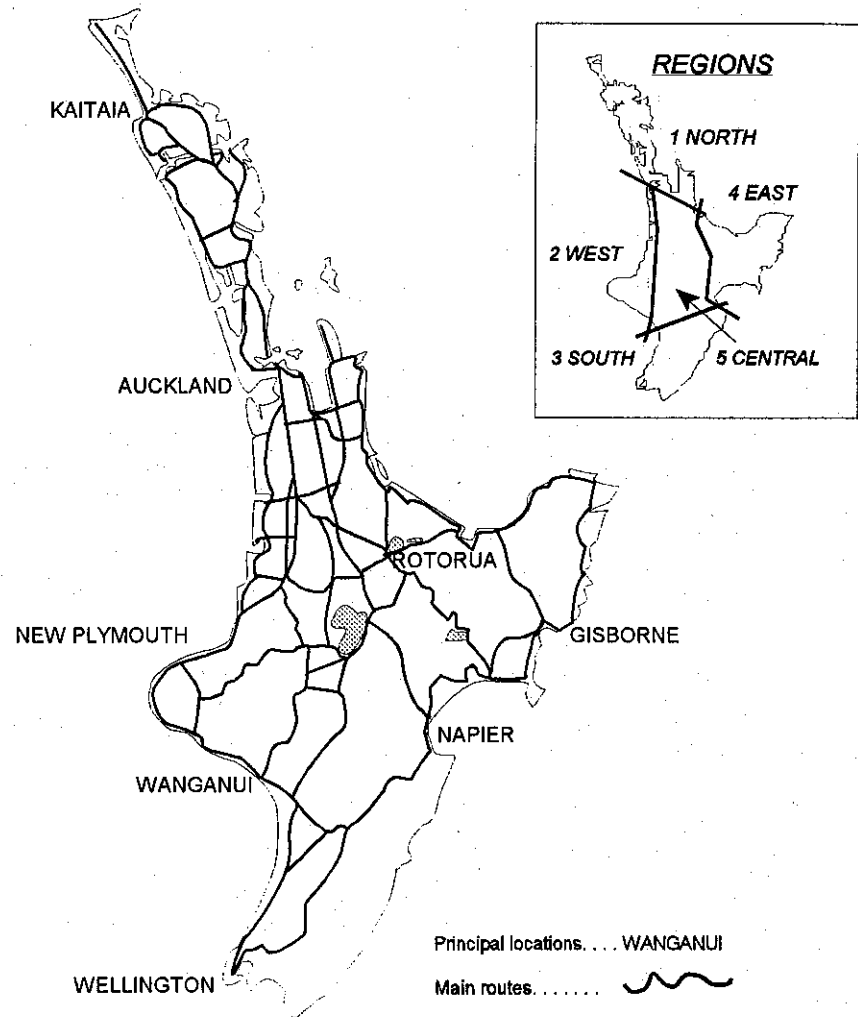
While every effort has been made to provide accurate information, the author and publisher accept
no responsibility for the safety and/or enjoyment of any person using the guide.

CONTENTS:

INTRODUCTION.		3
CHAPTER ONE:	NORTH.	7
1. AUCKLAND.		8
2. AUCKLAND - BRYNDERWYN - WAIPOUA - KAITAIA.		11
2a Alt AUCKLAND - WARKWORTH - BRYNDERWYN		13
3. KAITAIA - PAIHIA - BRYNDERWYN - AUCKLAND.		16
4. AUCKLAND - PAEROA - TAURANGA - ROTORUA.		20
4 Side Trip THAMES - COROMANDEL PENINSULA - PAEROA		21
CHAPTER TWO:	WEST.	26
1. AUCKLAND - NGARUAWAHIA - TE KUITI - NEW PLYMOUTH.		27
2. AUCKLAND - RAGLAN - KAWHIA - NEW PLYMOUTH.		31
3. NEW PLYMOUTH - HAWERA - WANGANUI.		33
3 Alt NEW PLYMOUTH - OPUNAKE - HAWERA		35
3 Link STRATFORD - WHANGAMOMONA - TAUMARUNUI		36
CHAPTER THREE:	SOUTH.	37
1. WANGANUI - BULLS - WOODVILLE & WELLINGTON.		38
2. WELLINGTON.		41
3. WELLINGTON - WOODVILLE - NAPIER.		44
CHAPTER FOUR:	EAST.	48
1. NAPIER - WAIROA - GISBORNE.		49
2. GISBORNE - OPOTIKI - ROTORUA.		51
3. ROTORUA - OPOTIKI - EAST CAPE - GISBORNE.		53
4. ROTORUA - LAKE WAIKAREMOANA - WAIROA.		57
CHAPTER FIVE:	CENTRAL.	58
1. ROTORUA.		59
2. ROTORUA - TAUPO - NATIONAL PARK - WANGANUI.		61
2a Link TAUPO - NAPIER		63
2c Alt RAETIHI - WHANGANUI RIVER - WANGANUI		66
3. BULLS - NATIONAL PARK - TE KUITI - ROTORUA.		66
3c Link TAUPO - ATIAMURI - TIRAU - HAMILTON		71
4. ROTORUA - TIRAU - PAEROA - AUCKLAND.		71
INDEX:		75

INTRODUCTION.

NORTH ISLAND



ABOUT THIS GUIDE The purpose of this book is to provide a concise, practical, and (hopefully) easy to follow guide for cycle tourers of New Zealand's North Island. The intention is to inform while still leaving something for the user to discover.

CHAPTERS: There are five chapters representing regions:

1. **NORTH** of the island including Auckland City, Northland and Coromandel circuits.
2. **WEST** between Auckland and Wanganui via Hamilton and New Plymouth.
3. **SOUTH** of a line between Wanganui and Napier including Wellington.
4. **EAST** between Napier and Rotorua including East Cape.
5. **CENTRAL** includes Rotorua to Wanganui, Bulls and back up to Auckland.

MAPS: Of the area covered are on the first page of each chapter. It includes routes, highways and some localities. Rivers and coastlines have been omitted due to lack of space, their similarity to highways and author's computing ability.

SECTIONS: Each chapter is divided into sections. They are the numbers in brackets (1a) on the front map. Each Section contains the following:

DISTANCES: Calculated using convenient points such as city centres or highway junctions.

ROUTE: The routes described are usually main highways, presumes them to be sealed and says when they're not. When alternatives, side trips or link roads to/from the main route are available, there is a brief mention here with a more detailed account later. Major options have their own section. Influencing where a reader stops for the night is not intended.

At first glance some routes may not appear to follow a logical pattern. It was decided to try to keep routes together that would go from one area of interest to another (rather than use the shortest distance between two points) and follow prevailing winds (but this is not a tailwind only guarantee!). Has the desired effect been achieved, or is it too confusing?

PROFILE: This is the side view of the section's route and is intended as a rough guide to the terrain. Distances in kilometres, elevation in metres. Only a selection of localities are shown. Due to the distances covered in each profile, the gradients look steeper than they actually are. Don't be put off!

SERVICES: Indicate what to expect in a location. Usually most are open 7 days. Below are brief definitions for those readers new to New Zealand:

- Food:** 1. **Dairy:** Is the smallest of food outlets. Usually found in suburbs or small locations. Similar to a corner shop or delicatessen. Sometimes sells takeaways. This is the place to try the famous New Zealand ice cream. Yum!
2. **Store:** Comes between a dairy and a supermarket. Often linked to a grocery chain like Four Square or Pricecutter. Sometimes closed Saturday afternoon and Sunday.
3. **Supermarkets:** Like others worldwide, even their names may be the same. Usually the cheapest place to buy food but only found in larger population centres.
4. **Takeaways:** Sell food to be taken away. Do not sit inside and eat without permission!
5. **Tearooms:** or coffee shops/cafés. An inexpensive place to sit for lunch. Pots of tea are often good value. Ice cream and takeaways are usually available.
6. **Restaurant:** Same as anywhere in the world, the most expensive of all food outlets.
7. **Pub:** Public house or tavern; licensed premises where alcoholic beverages are purchased, sometimes combined with a restaurant and/or accommodation.

Accommodation 1. Camping: there are three categories as follows:

- 1a. DoC Camp sites, run by Department of Conservation. Often located in scenic reserves. Those adjacent to highways also make good rest stops. Basic facilities like long drop toilets, picnic tables and water usually prevail. Most are "self registration" where users put the fees in a box provided.
- 1b. Domain camp sites are local council operated and located on public land (domain). Those with basic facilities have a small charge or donation. Some are not advertised and only found by asking locals. Those similar to regular motor camps are listed as such.
- 1c. Motor Camps, these are usually the most expensive camping. Facilities vary but communal kitchens

and bathrooms are standard. Guests use their own bedding and cooking utensils but sometimes these can be hired. Many have cabins; small simple huts containing beds. The best places to meet Kiwis. Note: Sometimes a minimum two person charge applies, making it expensive for solo cyclists. Obviously such situations need to be challenged.

2. **Hostels:** provide inexpensive communal accommodation. Dormitories, common-rooms, bathrooms and equipped kitchens are standard. They're useful for up-to-date information. Some hostels allow camping. There are two basic types of hostel:

2a. Backpacker, usually independently owned and operated, standards vary.

2b. YHA, run by Youth Hostels Association, membership card required. Standards fairly uniform but usually more expensive than backpacker hostels.

All known camping grounds & hostels en route are listed.

3. **Motel** are self contained units, sometimes includes a kitchen.

4. **Hotel:** is often a pub with accommodation attached, sometimes a modern motor lodge.

5. **B & B:** A guest house, farmstay or homestay. Usually small intimate places providing bed & breakfast, sometimes with 5 beds or less. Not normally listed in this guide. Local lists are available at visitor information. Note: No's 3 to 5 are the most expensive accommodation available.

6. **Lodge:** This is a difficult one. This term is used by every level of accommodation. Often a wide selection is available in the same complex.

7. **WWOOF:** or Willing Workers On Organic Farms. A work exchange scheme usually more suited to cyclists on extended tours and those interested in growing food the healthy way.

TRANSPORT: This information is limited. "Bus" refers to the regular 40 seater type, these are generally more reliable, comfortable and expensive than shuttles. "Shuttles" are often small, fast, cheap and independently operated. Most take bikes, usually for a fixed fee regardless of distance, bikes sometimes go separately from their owners.

Bicycle Shop: All known ones are listed except in cities, where a selection is made. If possible check addresses for current listings before making contact, some may have changed.

GRADIENTS: These are probably the hardest part of the guide to get right. Wind, fitness and load are important factors when assessing the degree of difficulty and presumes the reader is reasonably fit. When battling a headwind it is common for cyclists to think they're going uphill only to find it's an optical and cyclogical delusion! Not all hills are listed, sorry.

Gradients attempt to describe the kind of terrain the reader can expect. Flat, undulating, rolling and steep are the basic variants. "Quite" or "fairly steep" are less steep than "steep" and "very steep". "Mostly flat" means the reader can expect at most, a few minor rises and falls. "Undulates or rolls uphill" suggests the climb can vary with some short descents. "Variable steep" means expect the incline to fluctuate. Confused? So am I. It must be time to stop for a cup of tea.

ATTRACTIONS: Include unusual or popular sights or activities an area has to offer, like swim with dolphins, tramping and sea kayaking. Common activities such as golf, tennis etc are usually omitted. Fishing is possible almost anywhere there is water, although it is not always mentioned, if the reader has a valid licence and fishing rod.

OPTIONS: Are an **ALTERNATIVE** route, **SIDE TRIP** up a no exit or **LINK ROAD** to another highway that may be worth considering, subject to the readers preferences and time available. Minor options are listed under Options, major ones have their own section and are listed on the Contents Page.

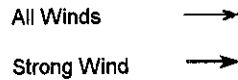
STREET MAPS: And arterial route maps are only in the Auckland, Rotorua & Wellington sections, replacing Route & Distances. There is also a brief route description. Question: Are the brief route descriptions better or more confusing than detailed written descriptions, as in the South Island Edition?

MISCELLANEOUS: This guide can be used independently but an additional map is recommended. The NZ Tourism Board produce a general give-away map of New Zealand, available from visitor information centres, although it might not be give-away much longer.

New Zealand is a relatively windy place, that is why it is so clean! Spring and autumn are generally said to be the best times to tour in terms of lower temperatures, smaller crowds and variety of hues. Unfortunately these seasons are susceptible to long periods of unsettled and windy conditions, especially after the equinox. Summer has the longest days, biggest crowds, busiest highways and highest temperatures. February and March are reputedly the best months for settled weather but long periods of rain happen at any time and is impossible to predict where. In other words; good luck!

WIND FLOW CHARACTERISTICS

Prominent Wind direction



North Island touring is well suited for doing smaller circuits, due to the far-flung attractions and highway network. Try to allow at least six months for a good look round. New Zealand is a relatively small country but there's lots to see.

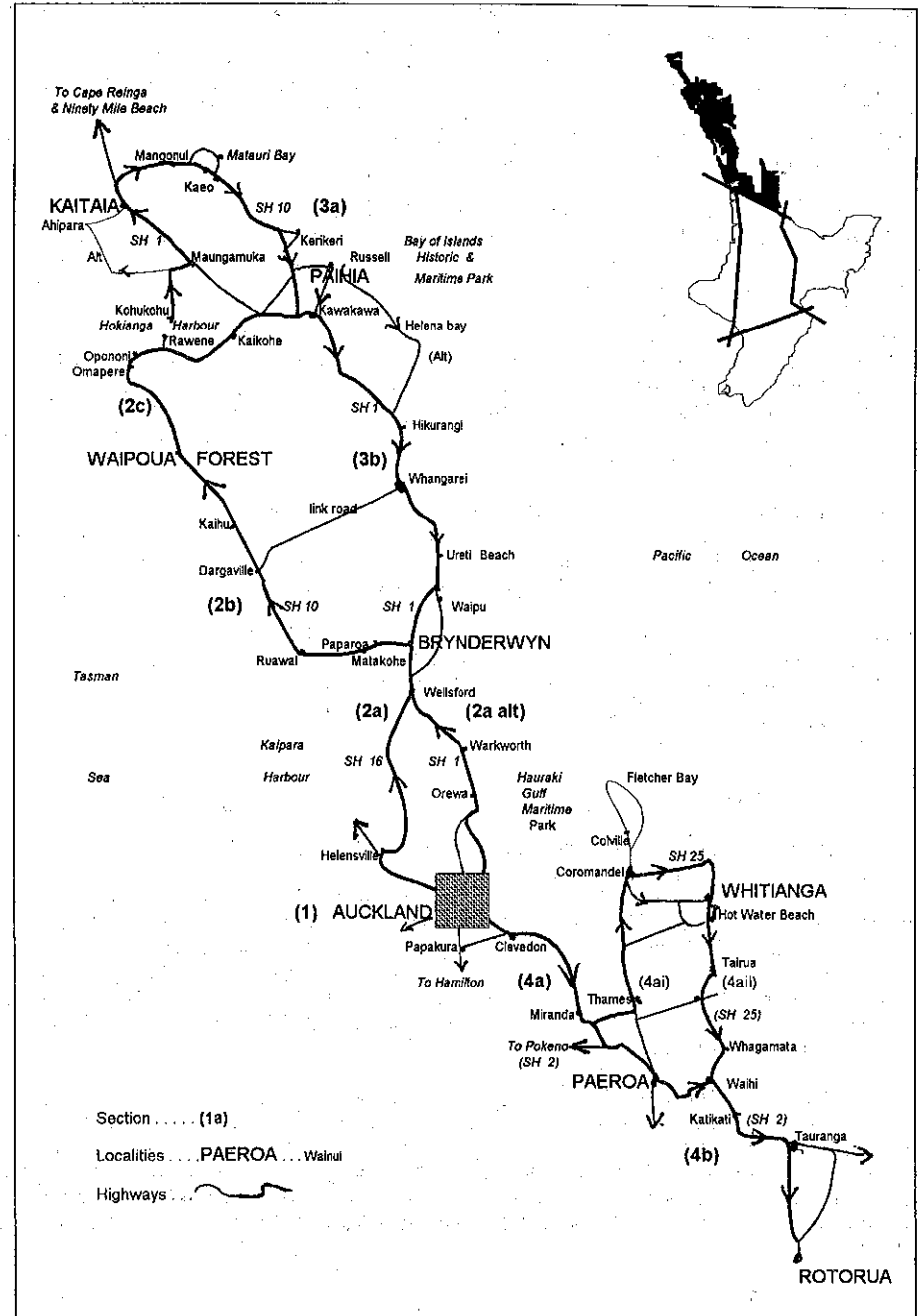
Recommended routes are i Northland. ii Coromandel. iii Rotorua - Taupo - National Park - Wanganui. iv East Cape-Lake Waikaremoana. v Waitomo Caves - Taranaki. Winter cycle touring is possible for the well equipped. Apart from Desert Road it is rare, even for alpine pass highways to close for more than a couple of days due to snow.

The North Island is generally more hilly than the South Island although it has less mountains. Indeed the title for this book was almost "Highways to Heaven"! It is recommended novices or unfit cyclists should save the North Island for the end if doing both islands, or start with short daily distances.

Those people with lots of cash or needing extra ballast have a choice of several general guide books. The popular ones are Lonely Planet's "NZ Travel Survival Kit" and Moon Publication's "NZ Handbook". Other cycle guides include; "NZ by Bike" a combined North and South Island general touring guide by Bruce Ringer & "Classic NZ Mountain Bike Rides" by the Kennet Brothers, specialising in off-road trips.

Helmets are compulsory. Suggestions from users for cost effective improvements will be appreciated. Things change, we'd be interested to know if they do. All routes described in the guide have been travelled by the author, although not all by bicycle. Yet. The author has tried to be humorous, so if something seems odd, that is probably it! Cyclists heading in the opposite direction to the guide will need to read back-to-front, or possibly ride backwards. Cycling is not permitted in national parks and on most motorways. A Pedallers' Paradise for the South Island is also available. Happy pedalling!

SPECIAL NOTE: This work of art and reference has been hand made by Dab Hand. The finger prints on the back cover are your proof of purchasing the genuine article. They have nothing to do with the wonderful, kindhearted & hard working salesperson having grubby fingers!



This chapter covers the area north of the North Island. Beginning at Auckland, it travels up the west coast to Northland and Kaitiā, returning to Auckland down the east coast. Also included is south-east of Auckland to Coromandel Peninsula, as far as Tauranga and Rotorua.

Auckland is the biggest city in New Zealand with almost 1 million inhabitants and has most of the amenities expected of a city this size. It has the world's largest Polynesian population, is New Zealand's most cosmopolitan and culturally diverse city, ie lots of foreign types. It is the country's main entry and exit point, the main gateway to a pedallers' paradise.

There are no national parks, but this is compensated for by having two maritime parks and many regional parks; scenic, marine and historic reserves; plus a number of state forests. Some of the better known beauty spots are: Cape Reinga, Ninety Mile Beach, Bay of Islands, Hokianga Harbour, Waipoua Kauri Forest, Ocean Beach and much of the Coromandel Peninsula.

The region has a very long coastline, Kaipara Harbour alone has over 3,000 km. Many of the areas call themselves "The something or other Coast". Crystal Coast, Kauri Coast, Hibiscus Coast, Kowhai Coast, Seabird Coast, etc. Not surprisingly there is some spectacular seascapes in amongst this lot. The coastline and the mild climate combine to provide an ideal environment for most kinds of seaborne activity. The area has a reputation for being the "Winterless North", and when the weather turns foul it becomes the "Summerless North"!

Worthy of comment here are the many Northland and Coromandel Hills. Too many novice or unfit cyclists have given up because they tried to do too much, too soon or under-estimated the steepness of the gradients. Limit the daily distance, especially at the beginning, even 30 km can be too much! Otherwise it may be best to save this chapter until the end of the journey.

In addition it is recommended all cyclists avoid using SH 1 north of Auckland, certainly to Warkworth but preferably Wellsford, Waipu or Paparoa. This is because of the hills, the narrow roads and the quality and quantity of drivers. Either go through Helensville or take a bus.

1. AUCKLAND.

Due to heavy traffic and size of Auckland, it is recommended when possible to take public transport. Shuttles operate frequently between the Airport and most central locations, some do not charge for bikes. If travelling to/from the south, suburban trains run between Auckland Central and Papakura. If travelling to/from the north through Helensville, trains run between Auckland Central and Waitakere. To go directly between Waitakere and Papakura change at Newmarket. Trains run Monday to Saturday until 6 or 7 pm. Off peak is the best time to travel. Currently there is no charge for accompanied bikes. Those who cycle all the way can expect to encounter heavy traffic. All routes have moderate rolling terrain for much of their length with occasional longer and steeper bits. Cyclists are prohibited on motorways except between the top of Bombay Hill and SH 1 and 2 intersection.

NORTH: Via HELENSVILLE on SH 16. Going from the visitor centre at Aotea Square, use Wakefield St, Symonds St, New North Road joining Great North Road at Avondale. After Henderson go through one biggest hill before Waitakere, becomes flatter before joining SH 16 at Kumeu. See Section 2a. Via NORTH SHORE on EAST COAST ROAD. The Harbour Bridge is prohibited to cyclists so take the ferry to Devonport from bottom of Queen St. Head north through Takapuna, join East Coast Road at Pupuke Golf Course and go all the way to Silverdale, where it joins SH 1. See Section 2a alternative.

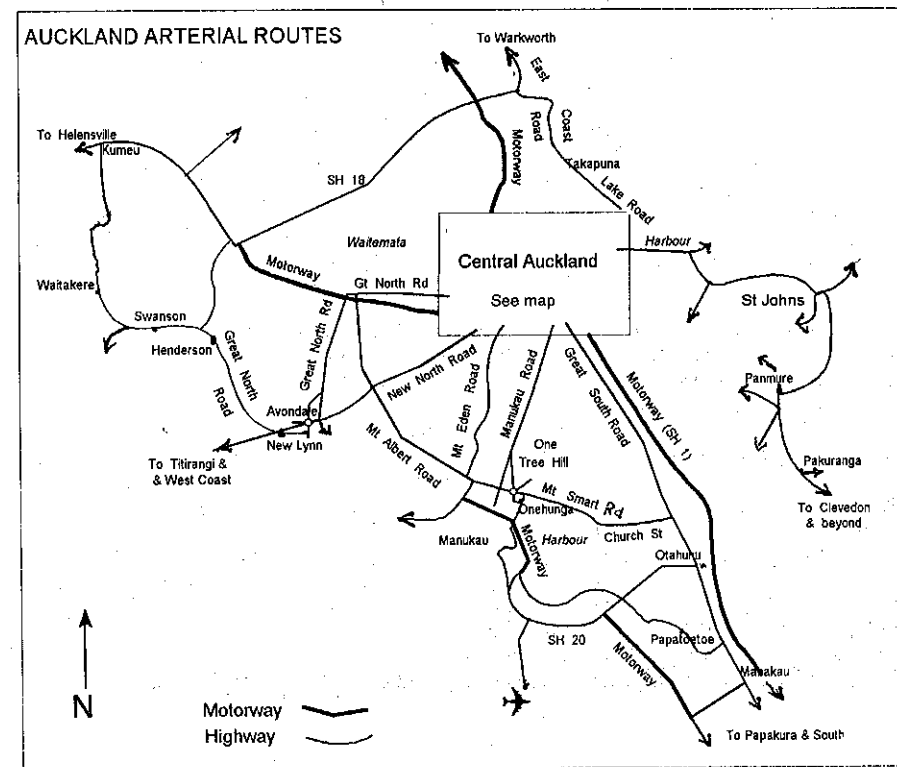
SOUTH: To COROMANDEL. Go east (right) along Quay St to Tamaki Drive and turn right onto Ngapipi Rd after crossing Hobson Bay causeway (Urban Route 6 until Panmure). Go through the suburbs of St Johns, Panmure and Pakuranga (last supermarket) using Panmure Bridge. Pass through the village of Whitford going to Clevedon. See Section 4 for onward travel.

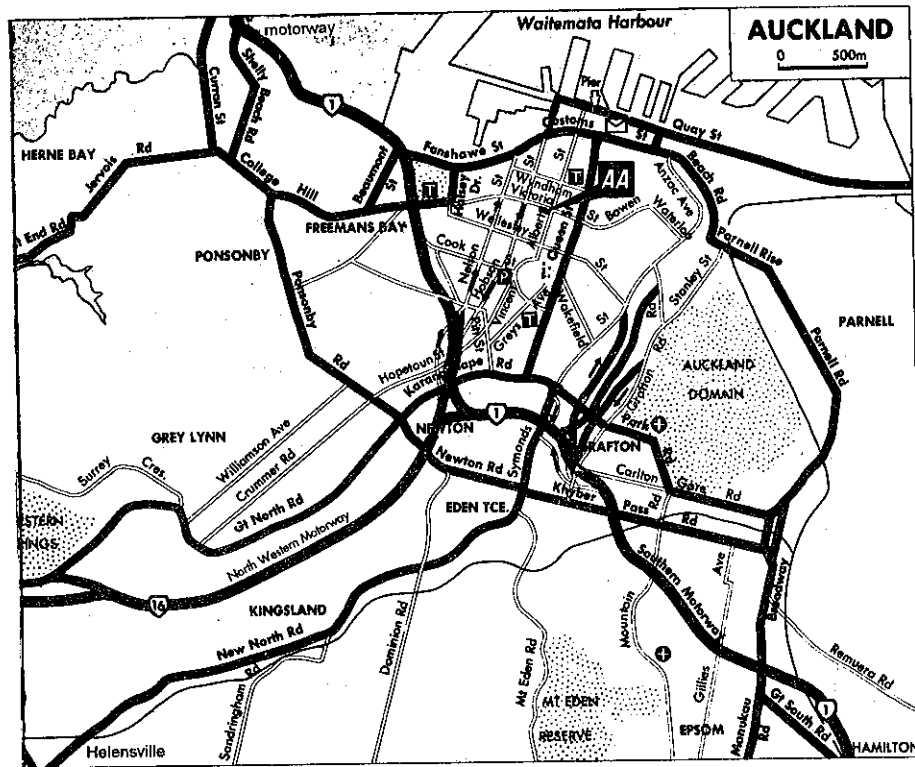
To HAMILTON. Going from the visitor centre at Aotea Square use Wakefield St, Symonds St, and Khyber Pass Rd to get to Newmarket, then go right and join Great South Road. It is suburbs most of the way to Papakura. See Chapter Two, Sections 1 or 2 for onward travel.

AIRPORT: To CITY. At the end of George Bolt Memorial Drive, go left (west) onto Kirkbride Rd. This becomes Wallace, then Church Road as it swings east, go left at Coronation Rd junction and down to Manukau Harbour. Take the cycle/foot path on the side of the motorway bridge. The old bridge nearby is also useable.

After crossing the harbour, go right under the motorway and join Onehunga Mall. Go through the shopping precinct, left onto Mt Smart Road, through Royal Oak roundabout, onto Mt Albert Road. After 1 mile go right at Three Kings Park onto Mt Eden Road, then Symonds St and left into Wakefield St. Queen St is at the bottom with Aotea Square and main information centre directly opposite.

Going SOUTH. At the end of George Bolt Memorial Drive, at the T junction traffic lights, go right (east) onto Kirkbride Road. This becomes Massey Road (Urban Route 14) staying on it until reaching Great South Road and go right. This is not the shortest route but is by far the simplest to describe. See Chapter One, Sections 4 for travel to Coromandel. See Chapter Two, Sections 1 or 2 for travel south.





SERVICES: Auckland: Altitude 5-190m, population: 999,998%. ☎ toll call prefix is 09.
 Visitor Information: (i) 1) 299 Queen St ☎ 366 6888. 2) QEII Square.
 3) Auckland Airport. 4) DoC/Regional Parks, Ferry Building, Quay St.
 Food: Many of all types of outlets all over the place.
 Accommodation: Motor camp 5 (All suburban); hostel (bkpr 15, YHA 2); motel multitudes; hotel many.
 Transport: Trains to/from Wellington, Rotorua & Tauranga. Buses to/from just about everywhere.
 Bicycle Shops: There are bicycle shops in most large suburbs of which below is a sample.
 City: *Adventure Cycles, Fort Lane ☎ 309 5566. *Cycle Xpress, 11 Beach Rd ☎ 379 0779.
 Newmarket: Pack 'n' Pedal, 436 Broadway ☎ 522 2161.
 Grafton: Penny Farthing, Cnr Symonds St & Khyber Pass Rd ☎ 309 1559.
 Takapuna: *Pack 'n' Pedal, 16 Anzac St ☎ 489 6907. *Pins Cycles, 34 Barrys Pt Rd ☎ 489 3980.
 Manukau: *Cycleworld, 45 Cavendish Rd ☎ 262 1043.
 New Lynn: Pack 'n' Pedal, 3119 Great North Road ☎ 818 6405.
 Henderson: West City Cycles, Edsel St ☎ 383 7693.
 Note: Many of these cycle shops also have long term rentals and buy back schemes.

ATTRACTIONS: Auckland is New Zealand's biggest city with a population of about 1 million. The central area of Auckland spreads across the narrow Tamaki Isthmus between Waitemata and Manukau Harbours. 14 extinct volcanic cones dot the area with over 60 eruption points in greater Auckland. At various times prior to 1840 most have had pa (fortified villages) on their summits.

With a third of New Zealand's population living there it has become the main centre for almost everything, especially industrial, commercial and sometimes cultural type activities. It is called the City of Sails and the America's Cup will be held here towards the end of the century.

The city has numerous parks, gardens and domains. Some of the better known ones are: Auckland Domain, Cornwall Park including One Tree Hill (nearly became No Tree Hill in 1995), Mt Eden and Mt Albert, with Mt Victoria & North Head on the North Shore. Many incorporate the distinctive volcanic cones and have panoramic views that make the usual steep climb worthwhile. There is also a large network of regional parks spread throughout the greater Auckland area and a comprehensive pamphlet available outlining them.

Some are ideal for exploring and tuning-up the body and bike for longer journeys. A coast to coast walk that link the two harbours and a 50 km cycle route around the isthmus have been developed. Both include some of the above features with maps available of the routes.

Rangitoto Island, probably Auckland's most recognisable landmark, is part of the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park and was the last volcano to become extinct 750 years ago. Regular ferry services around the gulf allow visits to this and other islands, such as Waiheke and Great Barrier.

Due to a large influx of migrants in recent years, the city has become culturally diverse. Here is the world's largest Polynesian population with increasing numbers from Asia. For shopping expeditions to overload the bike, try Victoria and Chinese Markets and the suburbs of Parnell, Newmarket, Ponsonby and Devonport. These places also have trendy cafés, bars and nightlife.

As expected there are plenty of manufactured activities for those whose internal and external organs are in need stimulation. The active type of entertainment includes all kinds of watery sports, jumping off various structures with and without various attachments to various parts of the anatomy, an inevitable red light district and avoiding crazy car drivers of which Auckland has a large share. The more sedate activities include Kelly Tartton's Antarctic Encounter & Underwater World, a Maritime Museum, Auckland Museum, MOTAT, Art Gallery, Zoo & various harbour cruises.

2. AUCKLAND - BRYNDERWYN - WAIPOUA - KAITAIA.

DISTANCES:	SH 16/12/10	SH 1
2a) AUCKLAND - BRYNDERWYN	147 km	112 km
2b) BRYNDERWYN - WAIPOUA	125 km	
2c) WAIPOUA - KAITAIA	123 km	
Total	395 km	

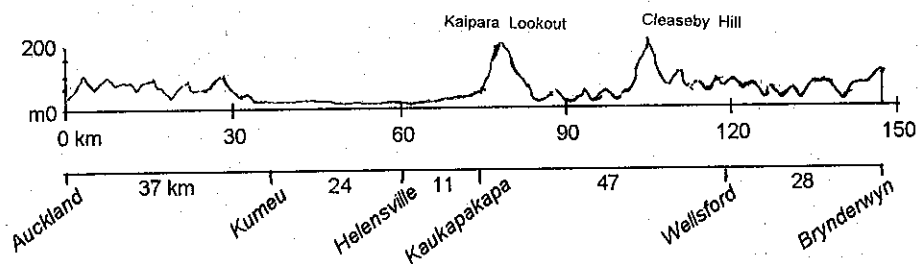
ROUTE: AUCKLAND - BRYNDERWYN on SH 16 or 1. BRYNDERWYN - HOKIANGA on SH 12. HOKIANGA - KAITAIA on SH 1.

ALTERNATIVE 2a) AUCKLAND - WELLSFORD. The busy, hilly & sometimes dangerous SH 1 or longer, quiet & hilly SH 16 via Helensville. Both routes meet at Wellsford.

2b) DARGAVILLE - KAIHU on SH 12 or Ocean Beach.
 2c) HOKIANGA HARBOUR - KAITAIA on SH 1 or via the quiet Broadwood route.
LINK ROAD 2b) i) DARGAVILLE - MAUNGATAPERE - WHANGAREI on SH 14.
 2c) i) HOKIANGA - KAIKOHE - KAWAKAWA on SH 12.

SIDE TRIP 2a) WAITAKERE RANGES MEMORIAL PARK & West Coast.
 2a alt) i) SILVERDALE - WHANGAPARAOA PENINSULA.
 ii) WARKWORTH - MAHURANGI & TAWHARANUI PENINSULAS.
 2c) KAITAIA - CAPE REINGA on SH 1.

2a. AUCKLAND - HELENSVILLE - BRYNDERWYN.



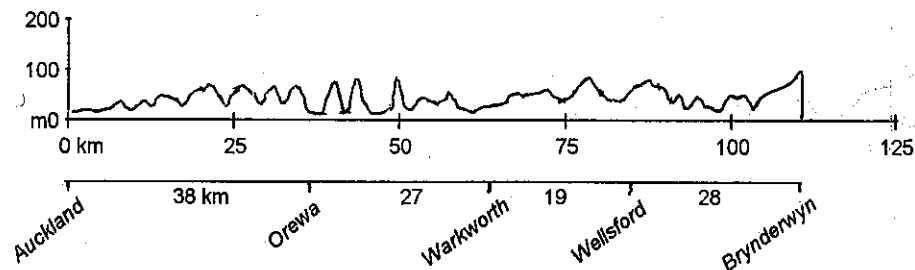
SERVICES: AUCKLAND: See Section 1. **WAITAKAERE:** Store. Train to/from Auckland.
KUMEU: Alt 30m, store, takeaways. **WAIMAUKU:** Tearooms/store.
PARAKAI: Store, motor camp, motel 2, hot springs. 2 km off SH 16, 1 km before...
HELENSVILLE: Alt 10m, pop 1400. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.
 Accom: Bkpr hostel; hotel. **KAUKAPAKAPA:** Alt 20m, pop 600. Store, hotel.
KAIPARA LOOKOUT: Alt 180m, picnic area.
WELLSFORD: Alt 80m, pop 1700. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.
 Accom: Motel 2; hotel. Transport: Buses to/from Auckland & Bay of Islands.
TE HANA: Alt 15m, store, takeaways. **KAIWAKA:** Alt 20m, pub, motel.
BRYNDERWYN: Alt 110m. Tearooms, motel.

GRADIENTS: If cycling between Auckland and Northland this is the recommended route for those who prefer quiet highways. Between Kaupapakapa and Wellsford there are no services. Leave Waitakere and head north on Waitakere Road to Kumeu. Fairly easy gradients between Kumeu and Helensville then undulates from Helensville to 1 km beyond Kaupapakapa. There starts a 2½ km climb to 210m, followed by a 4 km variable descent past Kaipara lookout. Thereafter undulates rolls along the eastern perimeter of the Kaipara Harbour with occasional longer and steeper hills, particularly around Gorit, a 5 km climb after Tauhoa to leave the harbour over Cleaseby Hill (210m) and down in 3 km, with a quite steep climb after Hoteo North. Gradients then ease to general rolling country for the rest of the way to Wellsford & Brynderwyn. Note: The last section of gravel around Glorit is scheduled to be sealed by mid-1996.

ATTRACTIONS: Out west on a side trip are the Waitakere Ranges and west coast, see options below. Like many of the towns around Auckland and farther north, Helensville was established last century to cater to the needs of the timber industry and has since become a rural service centre. In recent years many vineyards have been established throughout the region. Helensville is at the southern end of the inner Kaipara Harbour, nearby at Parakai are hot springs and further up the south arm is Shelly Beach. Kaipara is NZ's biggest harbour with a shoreline of over 3,000 km, although not very deep. Beyond Wellsford the Brynderwyn Hills have a few walking tracks and offer access to Waipu, Waipu Gorge, Waipu Cove & Waipu caves. Passes through mostly rolling farm country.

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP AUCKLAND - WAITAKERE RANGES MEMORIAL PARK & west coast beaches offer opportunities to explore remote rugged areas close to Auckland. They're also a good warm-up for longer journeys. Access through Henderson or Titirangi. Also farther north is access to Murawai Beach (motor camp, no cabins; motel) from Waimauku, on another side trip to another of Auckland's Regional Parks, and is popular amongst surfers and gannets. There is a comprehensive pamphlet available outlining all the Regional Parks. Up to date information is available from Auckland visitor centre or ARATAKI: i: Scenic Dr ☎ 09 817 7134. PIHA: motor camp (no cabins). KAREKARE: informal camping (toilets). KAREMATURA VALLEY: informal camping (toilets).

2a ALTERNATIVE. AUCKLAND - WARKWORTH - BRYNDERWYN.



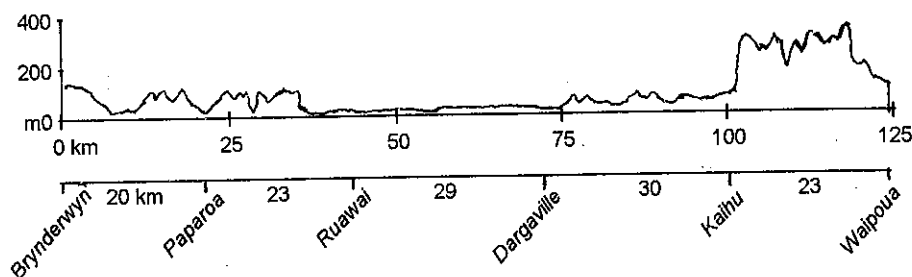
SERVICES: AUCKLAND: See Section 1.
SILVERDALE: Alt 20m, pop 450. Store, takeaways, motor camp (at Stillwater).
OREWA: Alt 5m, pop 5700. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: motor camp 3, bkpr hostel 2, motel 9.
WAIWERA: Pop 500, store, takeaways, tearooms, motor camp, motel, hotel 2.
WARKWORTH: Alt 20m, pop 2000. i: 1 Baxter St ☎ 09 425 9081.
 Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp, bkpr hostel, motel 3, hotel.
DOMES: Motor camp, tearooms. **SUNNYBROOK:** Scenic reserve, picnic area.
WELLSFORD: Alt 80m, pop 1700. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.
 Accom: Motel 2; hotel. Transport: Buses to/from Auckland & Bay of Islands.
TE HANA: Alt 15m, store, takeaways. **KAIWAKA:** Alt 20m, pub, motel.
BRYNDERWYN: Alt 110m, tearooms, motel.

GRADIENTS: Too many hills, too much, too fast traffic with too many bends on too narrow roads. It is recommended novice, unfit or sane cyclists avoid SH 1 between Auckland and Wellsford.

ATTRACTIONS: After leaving the suburbs of Auckland behind arrive at Silverdale, the gateway to Whangaparaoa Peninsula (see options below); then Orewa, Hatfield's Beach & Waiwera, all of the Hibiscus Coast and well developed holiday resorts popular with Aucklanders in the summer holidays. Waiwera has added attractions of thermal pools and nearby Wenderholm Regional Park, considered the most beautiful of all Auckland's regional parks. After the Hibiscus Coast comes the Kowhai Coast around Warkworth and access to Mahurangi & Tawharanui Peninsulas (see options below). Going north pass Dome Valley and Sunnybrook Scenic Reserves. After Wellsford is the Brynderwyn Hills.

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP i SILVERDALE - WHANGAPARAOA PENINSULA & Shakespear Regional Park. Lots of fine views and beaches in this farm park. A popular holiday destination for Aucklanders.
SIDE TRIP ii WARKWORTH - MAHURANGI & TAWHARANUI PENINSULAS. This area is known as the Kowhai Coast. It is a popular summer holiday destination. Mahurangi Peninsula has several pretty beaches for relaxing on. Snells Beach, Algies Beach and Martins Bay are some of the better known localities. A ferry departs from Sandspit for nearby Kawau Island with its elegant Mansion House, part of the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park. Further north and an extension of the same outstanding coastal scenery are Matakana, Omaha, Leigh and Pakiri with Tawharanui Regional Park & Goat Island Marine Reserve.

2b. BRYNDERWYN - DARGAVILLE - WAIPOUA FOREST.



SERVICES: BRYNDERWYN: Alt 110m. Tearooms, motel.
MAUNGATUROTO: Alt 60m, pop 900. Store, takeaways, pub.
PAPAROA: Alt 40m, pop 500. Store, takeaways, pub, bkpr hostel/guest house.
MATAKOHE: Alt 40m pop 250. Kauri museum, tearooms, store.
RUAWAI: Alt 5m, pop 600. Store, takeaways, bkpr hostel, hotel. **TOKATOKA:** hotel.
DARGAVILLE: Alt 5m, pop 5000. *i:* 65 Normanby St ☎ 09 439 8360. Food: All types of outlets.
 Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel 5; hotel 3. Transport: Shuttle from Bay of Islands to Auckland.
KAI IWI LAKES: 11 km off SH 12. Domain camping (toilet, water, table).
KAIHU: Alt 70m, pop 200. Store, pub, cyclists' farm hostel, motor camp.
WAIPOUA FOREST: Alt 100m. DoC motor camp (1½ km off SH 12).

GRADIENTS: Predominantly rolling country all the way from Brynderwyn with some longer, steeper bits. Ends with a quite steep 1 km descent. Flat for the last 9 km to Ruawai, continuing the same to Dargaville and 3 km beyond, then undulates and rolls to Kaihu with nothing too serious. That comes after Kaihu tavern. Starting with a steep 3 km climb and followed by many ups and downs, before a 4 km steep descent from Katui (345m) easing for the last 1½ km to Waipoua Forest HQ turn off.

ATTRACTIONS: Matakohe Kauri Museum is a definite must see, allow several hours to take it all in. It records the history of this remarkable conifer tree that once covered much of northern New Zealand. In effect it is another testament to man's greed that we can, in a few years, almost completely destroy forests that have been here for millions.

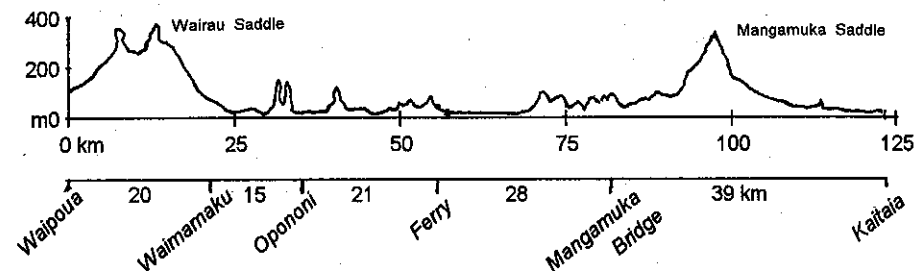
There are several side trips to the northern reaches of the Kaipara Harbour. Paparoa to Pah; Matakohe to Tinopai (Domain camping); and Dargaville to Pouto & North Head. Ruawai claims to be kumara (sweet potato) capital, and Tokatoka is watched over by the distinctive Tokatoka Hill. Dargaville, the principal town of the region has a wild west feel to it, the mast from Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior is on display at the museum.

The region between Kaipara and Hokianga is known as the Kauri Coast. At over 100 km in length, Ocean Beach is New Zealand's longest unbroken stretch of sand, see Options below. At the Kaihu saw mill see the giant logs of swamp kauri, some having lain there many thousands of years (in the swamp, not the saw mill). Around Kaihu are several interesting natural features: Taharoa Domain & Kai Iwi Lakes, clear and deep with no known in or out-let; Maunganui Bluff rising almost vertical from the sea for 460m; Trounson Kauri Park and Waipoua Forest, have the largest remnants of mature kauri forest.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE DARGAVILLE - KAIHU. Along Ocean Beach at low tide, several streams to cross, wash the bike with fresh water afterwards. Main access points are from BAYLYS BEACH (Store, motor camp), OMAMARI, KAI IWI LAKES Recreational Reserve (domain camping) and ARANGA BEACH (adjacent Maunganui Bluff).

LINK ROAD DARGAVILLE - MAUNGATAPERE - WHANGAREI on SH 14. Distance: 58 km. SH 14 undulates and rolls its way to Whangarei. **DARGAVILLE:** See above. **TANGITERORIA:** pub. **MAUNGATAPERE:** takeaways. **WHANGAREI:** See Section 2b.

2c. WAIPOUA FOREST - HOKIANGA HARBOUR - KAITAIA.



SERVICES: WAIPOUA FOREST: Alt 100m. DoC motor camp (1½ km off SH 12).
WAIMAMAKU: Alt 40m, pop 150. Store, pub, guest house.
OMAPERE: pop 400. *i:* Museum, SH 12 ☎ 09 405 8869. Store, tearooms, bkpr hostel, motel, hotel.
OPONONI: Alt 5m, pop 100. Food: Store, takeaways, tearooms, restaurant.
 Accom: Motor camp, hostel (bkpr 2, YHA 1), motel, hotel.
RAWENE: Alt 5m, pop 400. Store, takeaways, motor camp, hotel. Ferry to/from ...
KOHUKOHU: Alt 5m, pop 150. Store, hotel, bkpr hostel (near ferry).
MANGAMUKA BRIDGE: Alt 20m, pop 150. Dairy/takeaways, hotel.
MANGAMUKA: Recreation Res. Alt 80m, Informal camping (toilet, water, table).
FOREST LOOKOUT: picnic area. **MANGAMUKA SADDLE:** Alt 380m, picnic area.
RAETEA FOREST: Informal camping. **PAMAPURIA:** Alt 25m, orchard stall.
KAITAIA: Alt 15m, pop 5000. *i:* Jaycee Park, South Road, SH 1 ☎ 09 408 0879.
 Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp (no cabins); hostel (bkpr 1, YHA 1); motel 7; hotel 3.
 Transport: Several bus & shuttles to/from Cape Reinga, Bay of Islands & Auckland.
 Bicycle Shop: Cycle Sport n Heat Shop, 167 Commerce St ☎ 09 408 0812.

GRADIENTS: After Forest HQ two more substantial hills follow, the first having a 7 km gradual climb and the last has a 6 km variable steep descent from Waiiau Saddle (387m) to Waimamaku. After Waimamaku are 7 km of easy gradients, then two steep hills before arriving at Omapere on the Hokianga, from where SH 12 undulates alongside the harbour to Opononi. After Opononi head cross country with one quite steep hill to climb. Leave SH 12 to go to Rawene, arriving back at the harbour to take the ferry to Kohukohu.

The first 11 km from the ferry are flat, passing through Kohukohu, then rolls most of the way to Mangamuka Bridge & SH 1. Mostly easy gradients from there to Mangamuka Scenic Reserve, when SH 1 climbs for 5 km, steep and winding in places to Mangamuka Saddle (380m). Down again in similar fashion for 4 km before levelling out at Raetea Reserve and easing to a steady gentle descent with hills gradually falling back. Becomes almost flat to Kaitaia, except for a tiny hill at Pampurua.

Note: The last section of gravel between Park HQ & Waimamaku is scheduled for sealing by mid-1996.

ATTRACTIONS: Waipoua Forest covers 9000ha and has the largest and oldest known kauri within its boundaries; Tane Mahuta (god of the forest) & Te Matua Ngahere (Lord of the forest), are thought to be up to 2,000 year old. The Four Sisters are amongst several other stands of mature kauri found throughout the park, as well as large areas of regenerating growth comprising of mixed bush.

Going north, Hokianga Harbour is in a picturesque setting with huge sand dunes at the mouth of the harbour and quaint villages like Omapere, Opononi, Rawene & Kohukohu dotting the shoreline. Rich in historic and scenic features, it has the oldest Maori & second oldest European settlements. In recent years it has become popular with arty types and a thriving craft industry(?) exists. Legend has it the famous Maori navigator Kupe returned to Hawaiki from here and is the ancestral home of the Ngapuhi tribe. Opo the dolphin became famous at Opononi, see archive film in the museum. Going north pass through Mangamuka Scenic Reserve. Kaitaia is the gateway to Cape Reinga & Ninety Mile Beach, (see options below) and is a small bustling town that services the surrounding communities.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE ii KOHUKOHU - BROADWOOD - KAITAIA. Distance 76 km. 9 km longer than SH 1 through Mangamuka. Quieter than SH 1 and rolling without the long climb and descent of the Mangamuka Saddle. Mostly flat from Ahipara to Kaitaia. Pass through bush and farm country. Ahipara is at the bottom end of Ninety Mile Beach. BROADWOOD: store. HEREKINO: pub. AHIPARA: dairy, takeaways, motor camp, motel.

LINK ROAD i OPONONI - KAIKOHE - KAWAKAWA on SH 12/1. Distance 67 km. Some long, gradual climbs and descents with occasional steeper bits. Kaikohe is the largest settlement of this area. Pass near to Ngawha thermal pools, and Lake Omarepe, Northland's biggest, formed in the crater of an extinct volcano. At Waimate North is NZ's first mission station and second house. OPONONI: See above. WAIMA: Tearooms, takeaways. TAHEKE: Store, pub. KAIKOHE: Alt 200m, pop 4000. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motel; hotel 2. NGAWHA: 3 km off SH 12, hot springs, camping, hotel. OHAEAWAI: store, takeaways, hotel. MOEREWA: Store, takeaways, tearooms, hotel. KAWAKAWA: See Section 3b.

LINK ROAD ii MANGAMUKA BRIDGE - KAWAKAWA on SH 1. Distance 62 km. Steep hills in places. Access to Omahuta & Puketiki Forests from several places. MANGAMUKA BRIDGE: See above. FOREST POOLS: 2 km off SH 1, DoC camping (toilet, water). OKAIHAU: Alt 150m, pop 300. Store, takeaways, hotel. OHAEAWAI: Alt 150m, pop 450. Store, takeaways, hotel. MOEREWA: Store, takeaways, tearooms, hotel. KAWAKAWA: See Section 3b.

SIDE TRIP i KAITAIA - CAPE REINGA. Distance 115 km (one way) on SH 1. Where the Tasman Sea and Pacific Ocean meet but not the most northerly point in NZ, the nearby North Cape has that honour. Tradition has it that the souls of the dead gather here for a final rest before making the long journey home to the land of their ancestors. HOUHORA: Motel. PUKENUI: Store, takeaways, motor camp, bkpr hostel/motel. NGATAKI: Bkpr hostel at Henderson Bay (5 km off SH 1) & DoC camping (toilet, water, table, cold shower, mosquitoes) at Rawara, a few km N. TE KAO: Store. WAITAKI LANDING: Dairy/tearooms/motor camp. TE PAKI RESERVE: DoC camping (toilet, water, table, cold shower, mosquitoes) at Spirit's & Tapotupotu Bays. As with all trips to remote locations, obtain up-to-date information before proceeding. Travel along Ninety Mile Beach (actually only 56 miles long) is possible at low tide. Wash the bike off with fresh water afterwards.

3. KAITAIA - PAIHIA - BRYNDERWYN - AUCKLAND.

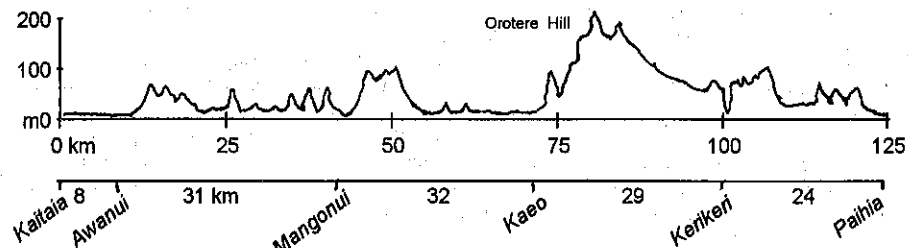
DISTANCES:	SH 10/1/16	SH 1
3a) KAITAIA - PAIHIA*	124 km	
3b) PAIHIA - BRYNDERWYN**	126 km	
3c) BRYNDERWYN - AUCKLAND***	147 km	112 km
Total	397 km	

*Includes 5 km to visit Kerikeri. **Includes 3 km to visit Waipu. ***See Section 2a.

ROUTE: KAITAIA - PAIHIA on SH 10. PAIHIA - WELLSFORD on SH 1. WELLSFORD - AUCKLAND on SH 1 or 16.

ALTERNATIVE 3a) WHANGAROA - KERIKERI on SH 10 or hilly gravel Matauri Bay road.
 3b) i RUSSELL - WHAKAPARA. on SH 1 or a sometimes rough gravel road via Whangaruru.
 ii WAIPU - WELLSFORD on SH 1 or through scenic Mangawhai. **SIDE TRIP 3a) i To KARIKARI PENINSULA** (Doubtless Bay). ii To PUKETI FOREST
LINK ROAD 3b) i KAWAKAWA - MANGAMUKA BRIDGE on SH 1. See Section 2c.
 ii KAWAKAWA - KAIKOHE - OPONONI on SH 12. See Section 2c.
 iii WHANGAREI - DARGAVILLE on SH 14, see Section 2b.

3a. KAITAIA - MANGONUI - PAIHIA.



SERVICES: KAITAIA: See Section 2c. **AWANUI:** Store, takeaways, pub, motel. **TAIPA:** Alt 5m, pop 300. Dairy, takeaways, pub, motor camp (no cabins), motel 3. **CABLE BAY:** Store/tearooms, motel. **COOPER'S BEACH:** Tearooms, takeaways, store, motor camp, motel 3. **MANGONUI:** 1 km off SH 12, pop 550. Store, tearooms, restaurant, motel 3, hotel. **KAHOE:** Bkpr hostel. **TOTARA NORTH:** 4 km off SH 10. Store, bkpr hostel. **WHANGAROA:** 6 km off SH 10, pop 260. Store, restaurant, bkpr hostel; motel 2; hotel. **KAEO:** Alt 15m, pop 400. Store, tearooms, takeaways, pub. **OROTERE HILL:** Alt 200m, picnic area. **WAIPAPA:** Alt 80, pop 200, dairy, tearooms. **KERIKERI:** Altitude 50m, pop 2000. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 2; hostel (YHA); motel 8; hotel. Bicycle Shop: Keri Cycles, Cobham Rd, ☎ 09 407 7040. **PUKETONA:** Alt 50m, tearooms/takeaways, motel. **HARURU FALLS:** Dairy, motor camp/hotel, motel 2. **WAITANGI:** Motor camp, hotel. **PAIHIA:** Altitude 5m, population 2000. i: Marsden Road ☎ 09 402 7547. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor Camp; bkpr hostel 5; motel lots; hotel 6. Transport: Ferry to/from Russell. Bus to/from Auckland, Cape Reinga & West Coast. **OPUA:** Alt 5m, pop 100. Car ferry to/from Russell, steam train to Kawakawa. **RUSSELL:** Alt 5m, pop 1000. i: DoC, The Stand ☎ 09 403 7685. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp 2; bkpr hostel 2; motel 6; hotel 2.

GRADIENTS: Flat for the first 10 km from Kaitaia as SH 10 heads across Awanui Plains, then alternates between sometimes steep, rolling country and gentle undulations. Becomes increasingly hilly through Doubtless Bay to Mangonui. After Mangonui is a short respite then back into the hills again, ending with a long gradual descent to Whangaroa Harbour. Then mostly flat, broken by an occasional short hill as SH 10 skirts the harbour's southern perimeter. Flattish passing through Kaero, before one small hill and a long 3-4 km variable climb up Orotere Hill (200m). Then rolls and undulates, with a final, long gradual descent to Waipapa. (The detour from Waipapa to Kerikeri and back to SH 10 is easy except for a short steep drop in and climb out of Kerikeri Basin.) After Waipapa SH 10 undulates, with steep rolls, for 5 km to Kerikeri's southern entrance, then easy gradients until a long steep descent through Puketona Scenic Reserve. Flat for the last 2 km to Puketona, then mostly rolling to Paihia.

ATTRACTIONS: Karikari Peninsula, Taipa, Cable Bay, Cooper's Beach and Mangonui are all popular summer holiday resorts on Doubtless Bay, also called the Crystal Coast. Totara North & Whangaroa are on the picturesque Whangaroa Harbour with St Paul's Rock (a volcanic plug) watching over things and looking ready for a third encounter. In 1809 the sailing ship *Boyd* was attacked and plundered with most her crew becoming a gourmet meal of the local tribe. Nearby is Matauri Bay and Cavalli Islands, with the sunken wreck of the Rainbow Warrior being used for diving expeditions. Catch a glimpse of a rare buffalo with an aqua-lung. Puketiki Forest and Waimate North lie inland.

The climate and soil combine to make Kerikeri an important horticultural region, kiwifruit and citrus fruits are specialities. Kerikeri Basin has Kemp House and Stone Store are New Zealand's oldest wooden and stone buildings respectively. The adjacent Rewa's Village is a reconstructed pre-European Maori village and nearby are Rainbow Falls. Pass Haruru Falls on the way to Paihia.

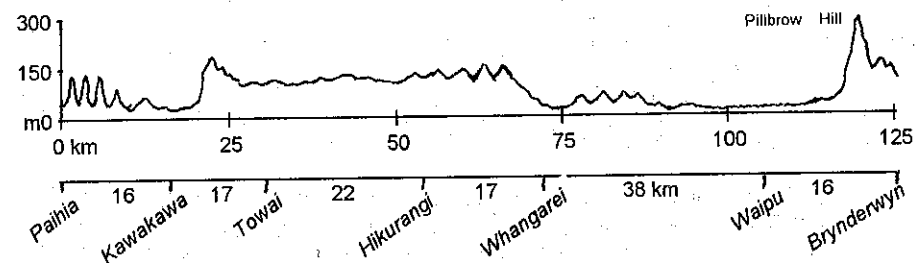
Paihia, Russell, Waitangi, Kerikeri and Opuia are the main localities of the Bay of Islands Maritime & Historic Park. In spite of the boom in tourism the area remains a beautiful place to visit. An important part of New Zealand history occurred here on 6th Feb 1840 when the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in what is now the Waitangi National Reserve. Okiato or Old Russell became the first capital but later moved to Auckland. Amongst the attractions are, once more, plenty of aquatic type activities, i.e. sea kayaking, game fishing, diving, dolphin swimming and cream & sail boat cruises. Also there are a few nature walks, a shipwreck museum and a steam train to Kawakawa that takes bikes.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE WHANGAROA HARBOUR - KERIKERI. About 30 km longer than SH 10. Hilly, partly gravel, often steep, narrow and winding road, reaching 200m in places, passing near to TAURANGA BAY (motor camp, motel) and MATAURI BAY (motor camp, hotel). Rejoins SH 10 about 9 km SE of Kaero.

SIDE TRIP i To KARIKARI PENINSULA on the outer arm of Doubtless Bay. Yet more in a long line of idyllic beauty spots. KARIKARI BAY (Motor camp). MATAI BAY (DoC camping; toilet, water, table). RANGIPUTA (Motel 2). WHATUWHIWHI (motor camp). TOKORAU (bkpr hostel).

SIDE TRIP ii To PUKETI FOREST (DoC hut & camping; toilet, water). Tramping tracks, abundant native flora & fauna including stands of mature kauri. Can be reach from several directions on mostly gravel roads. A place to escape the beach culture for a while.

3b. PAIHIA - WHANGAREI - BRYNDERWYN.



SERVICES: PAIHIA: See above.

KAWAKAWA: Alt 20m, pop 1700. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Motel, hotel. Bicycle Shop: Turton's Sports & Cycles, Gillies St ☎ 09 404 0681.

TOWAI: Alt 115m, tearooms, pub. **HUKERENUI:** Alt 110m, pub.

WHAKAPARA: Dairy/takeaways. **HIKURANGI:** Alt 100m, pop 1300. Store, takeaways, hotel.

PIANO HILL: Orchard stall. **KAMO:** Dairy, takeaways, motor camp, hotel.

WHANGAREI: Alt 10m, pop 45,000. ☎: Tarewa Park, Otaika Rd ☎ 09 438 1079.

Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 4; hostel (bkpr 1, YHA 1); motel many, hotel 3.

Transport: Bus & shuttle to/from Kaitiaki, Bay of Islands & Auckland.

Bicycle Shop: *Breakaway Bikes, 29 Vine St ☎ 09 438 2521. *Motocat Cyclery, 70 James St ☎ 09 438 1168. *Rudsy's Cyclery, 12 Maunu Rd ☎ 09 438 6459.

RUAKAKA: 1 km off SH 1, pop 1000. Store, takeaways, restaurant, pub. Motor camp 2; motel 3.

URETITI BEACH: Alt 5m, DoC camping (toilet, water, table, cold shower).

WAIPU: 1½ km off SH 1, alt 20m, pop 600. Store, dairy/tearooms, pub, motor camp, bkpr hostel (at beach 4 km along Waipu Cove Road), motel. **PILBROW HILL:** Alt 300m, picnic area.

BRYNDERWYN: Alt 110m, tearooms, motel.

GRADIENTS: Several quite long, steep hills between Paihia and Kawakawa, then flat on joining SH 1 for 7 km until a 3 km long variable climb to 180m and a rolling 5 km descent. Then predominantly undulating through Towai and Hukerenui, becoming gentle around Whakapara. Rolls begin again at Hikurangi with increasing frequency and height towards Whangarei, ending with long gradual descent into the city.

Moderate rolls out of town for several kms, becoming gentle as Ruakaka & Bream Bay nears, then flat to Waipu. After Waipu a gentle climb starts, becoming steeper and twisting for 5 km after Waipu Gorge Road until the top of Pillbrow Hill (300m). Down steep, winding in places for 180m in 2½ km to Piroa Stream, then eases to rolling down, arriving at SH 10/1 junction at Brynderwyn.

ATTRACTIONS: Near Kawakawa are Waiomo limestone caves and Ruapekapeka pa, the site of the last battle between Hone Heke's Maoris & British troops in 1846, the victory being less than honourable. Nearby Waimate North has the first inland mission house and second oldest building in New Zealand, which has been restored to its original condition. Russell Road through Whangaruru is a usually quieter route to take, see option below.

Whangarei is the biggest city north of Auckland. It is a base from which to explore the Poor Knight's Maritime Reserve, one of the world's best diving locations. Whangarei Falls is a popular beauty spot. Ocean going yachts often use Whangarei as a stopping point. Marsden Point has a oil refinery.

Going south, Bream Bay is between Bream Head and Bream Tail (yes it is true) is a popular holiday area and has several scenic gems, especially around Waipu. Overlooked by the Brynderwyn Hills and adjacent to the Hen & Chicken Islands. Nearby are Uretiti Beach, Waipu Cove, Waipu Caves, and Mangawhai Heads. There are plenty of opportunities for fishing and relaxing type activities.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE i RUSSELL - WHANGARURU - WHAKAPARA. Distance: 65 km.

This route is 16 km longer, on a scenic, more interesting but often hilly, narrow, winding and sometimes gravel track. It goes from Russell to Whakapara on Russell Road, passing several tiny communities and holiday resorts. Elevation gain/loss is sometimes 200m. Becomes flatter approaching Whakapara.

RUSSELL: See Section 3a above. **NGAIOTONGA:** Scenic Res picnic area.

OAKURA BAY: dairy/motor camp; bkpr hostel. **WHAKAPARA:** See above.

There are several side trips to get to even farther away from it all type places, each with their own special character. i.e. To Cape Brett, to Bland Bay & Whangaruru North Head, to Mimiwhangata Coastal Park.

Or continue south to Whangarei on a complicated network of back roads close to the east coast via WHANANAKI: shop/motor camp, DoC camping (toilet, water). TUTUKAKA: hotel, motel. and NGUNGURU: food.

ALTERNATIVE ii WAIPU - MANGAWHAI - WELLSFORD. Distance: 47 km.

This route is 10 km longer, has less traffic, is prettier, preferable, and more interesting. Avoids SH 1 and the Brynderwyn hills but has a few of its own although with lots of fine views.

WAIPU: Alt 20m, pop 600. Store, dairy/tearooms, pub, motor camp, bkpr hostel (at beach 4 km along Waipu Cove Road), motel.

WAIPU COVE: Dairy/takeaways, motor camp (no cabins), motel 2.

LANGS BEACH: picnic area. **MANGAWHAI HEADS:** dairy, motor camp 2, motel 2.

MANGAWHAI: Alt 10m, pop 400. Store, motor camp 2. **TE HANA:** Rejoin SH 1. See section 2b.

3c. BRYNDERWYN - WELLSFORD - AUCKLAND: See Section 2.

4. AUCKLAND - PAEROA - COROMANDEL - ROTORUA.

DISTANCES:

4a) AUCKLAND - PAEROA	137 km*
4b) PAEROA - ROTORUA	145 km
Total	282 km

* 6 km less if going to Thames (for Coromandel Peninsula):

COROMANDEL PENINSULA	SH 25
4a i THAMES - WHITIANGA	101 km
4a ii WHITIANGA - WAIHI	108 km
Total	209 km

ROUTE: AUCKLAND - NGATEA on various highways. NGATEA - TAURANGA on SH 2. TAURANGA - ROTORUA on Tauranga Direct Road.

ALTERNATIVE 4a) i COROMANDEL - WHITIANGA on 309 Road or SH 25.
ii WHITIANGA - WHENUAKITE on SH 25 or via Hahei and Hot Water Beach.
4b) TAURANGA - ROTORUA on Tauranga Direct Rd or SH 33.

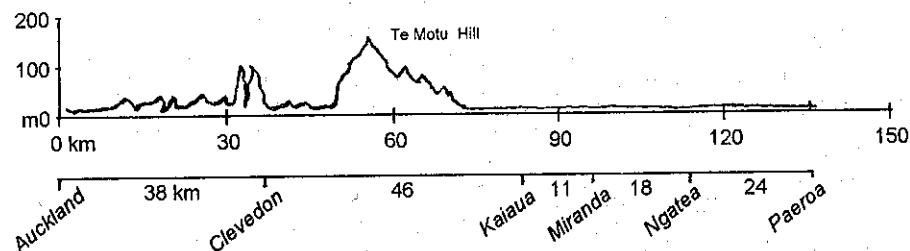
SIDE TRIP 4a) KAUAERANGA FOREST PARK (off SH 25) on a partly gravel track.

4a i) COROMANDEL - COLVILLE - FLETCHER BAY - PORT CHARLES.

LINK ROAD: 4a) i KOPU - HIKUAI on SH 25a. ii KOPU - PAEROA on SH 26.

4a) TAPU - COROGLLEN on a gravel road.

4a. AUCKLAND - MIRANDA - PAEROA.



SERVICES: AUCKLAND: See this chapter, section 1. **WHITFORD:** dairy, restaurant. **CLEVEDON:** Alt 15m, pop 700. Tearooms, takeaways, dairy, restaurant, pub. **KAWAKAWA BAY:** Pop 400. Dairy, motel. **ORERE PT:** 2 km off highway, motor camp. **WAHARAU:** Regional Park, picnic area (toilets, table, water). **KAIWAUA:** Alt 5m, pop 500. Store, tearooms, takeaways, dairy, motor camp, hotel. **MIRANDA:** Wildlife trust; motor camp/hot springs (no cabins). **WAITAKARURU:** Alt 5m, pop 200. Store, pub. From here go to either Paeroa... **NGATEA:** Alt 5m, pop 900. Store, tearooms, restaurant, motel, hotel. **PAEROA:** Alt 5m, pop 3800. i: Belmont Rd ☎ 07 862 8636. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Bkpr hostel; motel 3; hotel. Transport: Bus & shuttle to/from Auckland, Coromandel Peninsula & Tauranga. Bicycle Shop: Bike Shop Paeroa, Belmont Rd ☎ 07 862 7061. or to Thames... **PIPIROA:** tearooms. **KOPU:** Tearooms, pub, restaurant, motel. **THAMES:** See Section 4a.

GRADIENTS: Join Clevedon Road at Papakura station and go on a mostly easy road to Clevedon continuing similar on to Kawakawa Bay. Immediately on departing Kawakawa Bay, a 3 km climb begins, gentle at first, becoming steep and winding to 170m, then down for 1 km through Te Motu Scenic Reserve. On emerging from the bush the highway rolls, tracking down before joining the Firth of Thames at Matingarahi. Mostly flat from there, at Waitakaruru go left to either Paeroa or Thames. Note: To Coromandel Peninsula go to next section 4a. To Tauranga and beyond via SH 2 go to section 4b. To Rotorua and beyond through Paeroa, and Tirau, go to Chapter Five, Section 4.

ATTRACTIONS: Leave the city behind passing through the small settlements of Whitford, Clevedon and Kawakawa Bay. Travel alongside the Firth of Thames for many miles, passing Tapapakanga & Waharau Regional Parks, Miranda hot springs & bird sanctuary. Kauaeranga Forest Park, near to Thames offers plenty of tramping possibilities such as Billy Goat track to the Pinnacles. Plenty of native forest and historical sites in the rugged Coromandel Forest Park. Several DoC camp sites (toilet, table, water) and huts. The flat Hauraki Plains, once mostly swamp is now fertile farming country. Paeroa, at one time a shipping port, is now many km inland.

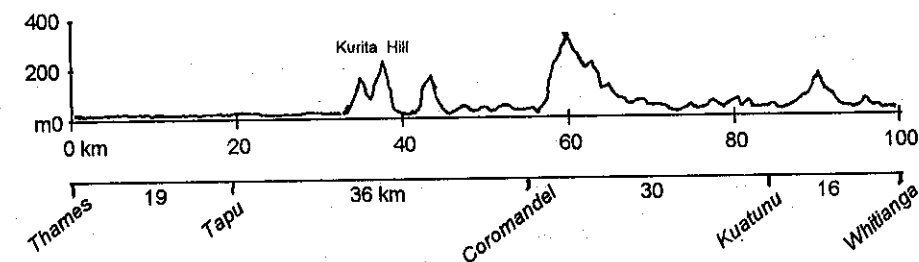
OPTIONS: LINK ROAD i KOPU - HIKUAI on SH 25a. Distance: 29 km.

Starts gentle gradients for 4 km then rolls uphill for 4 km with a last 6 km variable climb to 420m (picnic area). 4 km down, some steep, then 3 long roller coaster type hills before moderating to a gradual down to SH 25/25a junction at Hikuai. Left to Coromandel, right to Whangamata.

LINK ROAD ii KOPU - PAEROA on SH 26. Distance 26 km. SH 26 from Kopu to Paeroa gently rolls and undulates as it travels along the foothills of the Coromandel Range.

KOPU: See above. PURIRI: pub. HIKUTAIA: Store, pub. PAEROA: See above.

4a Side Trip i THAMES - COROMANDEL - WHITIANGA.



SERVICES: THAMES: Pop 6500. i: 405 Queen St ☎ 07 868 7284. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel 5; hotel 4. Transport: Bus & shuttle to/from Auckland, Tauranga & Coromandel Peninsula. Bicycle Shop: Price & Richards, 430 Pollen St ☎ 07 868 6157. **TARARU:** Pub, motel. **TE PURU:** Pop 500. Dairy, motor camp; motel/restaurant. **WAIOMU:** Motor camp; motel 2; hotel. **RAUMAHANGA BAY:** motel. **TAPU:** Alt 5m, pop 400. Store/tearooms, motor camp, hotel. **KURITA HILL:** Alt 205m. picnic area. **COROMANDEL:** Alt 10m, pop 1000. i: 70 Kapanga Rd ☎ 07 866 8598. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp 2; bkpr hostel 2; motel 3; hotel. **TE RERENGA:** picnic area. **WHANGAPOUA:** 5 km off SH 25, motor camp, store. **MATARANGI:** dairy. **KUAOTUNU:** Store, takeaways, motor camp 2. **WHITIANGA:** Alt 5m, pop 2300. i: 66 Albert St ☎ 07 866 5555. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp 5; bkpr hostel 2; motel 14; hotel 2. Transport: Ferry to/from Ferry Landing (Hahei & Hot Water Beaches). Shuttle from Thames to Whangamata. Bicycle Shop: Whitianga Mowers & Cycles, 15 Coghill St ☎ 07 866 5435.

GRADIENTS: Mostly flat for 34 km from Thames as SH 25 heads along the coast. Then a steep 180m climb in 2 km, 1 km quite steep down, and up 115m in 1½ km to Kerita Hill (206m). A steady quite steep 3 km descent then flat to skirt round Manaia Harbour before climbing again for 1 mile, beginning with a short very steep section, easing near the top at 160m. Down again variable steep for 3 km before returning to gentle gradients for the last stretch into Coromandel township. After leaving Coromandel, SH 25 climbs steep and winding for 3½ km to 340m then descends quite steep for 3 km. After there rolls down for a while then mostly rolling and undulating with an occasional bigger hill to Kuaotunu. Between Matarangi & Kuaotunu Bays try the bluff road instead of SH 25. After Kuaotunu SH 25 heads inland, going gentle uphill at first but becoming steeper for 2½ km before reaching 140m. Down variable steep for 4 km then undulates to Wharekai, followed by one smallish hill and flat for the last 3 km into Whitianga. Several sections of SH 25 are not sealed.

ATTRACTIONS: Thames is the gateway to Coromandel Peninsula, but apart from a side trip the Kuaeranga Valley and a few relics from the gold mining era, it has little to offer, especially considering the attractions beyond. It is hard to believe at one time the population was bigger than Auckland. Travel many miles along the coast, see the converted tram holiday homes, particularly around Tapu. While the west of the peninsula is pretty, the north and east coasts have the spectacular scenery. Rich in native flora, the peninsula is an important habitat for the pohutukawa, New Zealand's Christmas tree. Tramping opportunities are possible from several access points into Coromandel Forest Park. All around the peninsula opportunities are available for a multitude of activities. The main points of interest on the remote northern arm of the peninsula are Colville, Fletcher Bay, Port Charles and Mt Moehau. The 309 Road is a shorter alternative to SH 25 from Coromandel to Whitianga and has several points of interest on it. See Options below. After crossing over the dividing range, Whangapoua Harbour marks the start of a seemingly endless stream of stunning scenery.

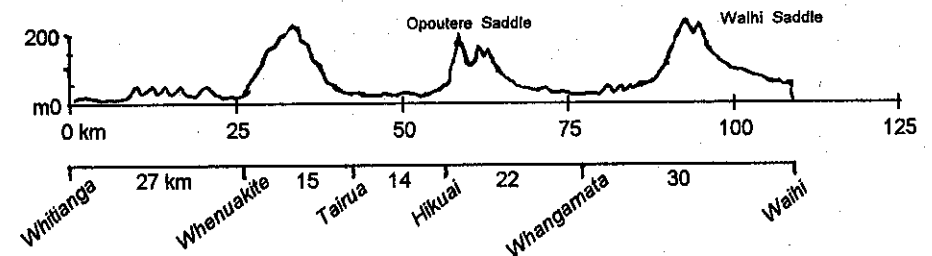
OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE COROMANDEL - WHITIANGA on 309 Road. Distance: 33 km. Rolls uphill for 8 km to 300m followed by varying degrees of downhill for 5 km, then rolling down to rejoin SH 25. A mostly flat 7 km to Whitianga. Travel on a typical gravel Coromandel road, narrow, winding and corrugated. 309 Road has quite a few points of interest along the way. In quick succession pass the access track to the imposing 520m Castle Rock; Chiltern Scenic Reserve; Waiau Falls and Kauri Grove including a set of siamese twins. Around the saddle is Mohutere Scenic Reserve, farther down is Honey Cottage, where they have some interesting facts about manuka honey.

SIDE TRIP COROMANDEL - COLVILLE - FLETCHER BAY - PORT CHARLES.

All tracks are gravel after Colville. Some flat bits to Fantail Bay then mostly hilly, winding, narrow, with corrugations and occasional fast car. Otherwise brilliant cycling! A circuit can be made by taking a difficult mountain bike track between Fletcher & Stony Bays that climbs 500m in too few km! Alternatively a boat goes between Fletcher Bay & Great Barrier Island. Remote. Lots of tiny bays and inlets to explore. Colville general store is itself a tourist attraction and the last place to get supplies if heading north. Amongst other things they have muesli that is as interesting as muesli can get. Mt Moehau at 890m is Coromandel's highest mountain and it is at the narrowest point on the peninsula. A walking track goes to the top from Stony Bay and Te Hope Stream. **SHELLY BEACH:** Motor camp, motel. **PAPA AROHA BAY:** Motor camp/shop, motel. **AMODEO BAY:** Motor camp, motel. **COLVILLE:** store, tearooms, bkpr farm hostel, motel. **FANTAIL BAY:** DoC camping (toilet, water). **FLETCHER BAY:** DoC camping (toilet, water). **STONY BAY:** DoC camping (toilet, water). **PORT CHARLES:** DoC camping (toilet, water); bkpr hostel.

LINK ROAD: TAPU - COROGLLEN. 29 km on a gravel road, a lot of it up and a lot of it down. The main attraction is the Square Kauri, about 8 km from Tapu.

4a Side Trip ii. WHITIANGA - TAIRUA - WHANGAMATA - WAIHI.



SERVICES: WHITIANGA: See above. **COROGLLEN:** Store, pub. **WHENUAKITE:** Orchard stall. **TAIRUA:** Alt 5m, pop 1200. Food: All types of outlet except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp, bkpr hostel, motel 2, hotel. **HIKUAI:** DoC camping (toilet, table, water) 4 km off SH 25 at Broken Hills. **PAUANUI:** 12 km off SH 25. Store, motel 2, hotel. **SH 25/25a JUNCT:** Alt 40m, picnic area. **OPOUTERE SADDLE:** Alt 200m, picnic area. **OPOUTERE:** 4 km off SH 25. Motor camp (no cabins), YHA hostel. **WHANGAMATA:** Alt 10m, pop 2000. i: Port Rd ☎ 07 865 8340. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp 2; bkpr hostel 2; motel 3; hotel. Bicycle Shop: *Whangamata Cycles, Port Rd ☎ 07 865 8096. **WHIRITOA:** Alt 10m, dairy/takeaways. **WAIHI:** See next section.

GRADIENTS: Flat at first then becomes rolling shortly after 309 Road turn off through Coroglen and for most of the way to Whenuakite. After Whenuakite are easy gradients to Whenuakite Stream, when begins a long winding and sometimes steep ascent to 220m, abating as the top nears. Variably downhill at first, SH 25 becomes steep and winding as it passes the Twin Kauris, eventually gradients diminish to a gentle decline into Tairua. The highway heads inland after Tairua, gently undulating as it skirts alongside the harbour to Hikuaui. At SH 25/25a junction the road climbs quite steeply to Oputere Saddle (200m), a shortish but steep descent and climb, then rolls before a variable 3 km downhill, levelling out at Oputere turn off. Rolls and undulates from there with no serious hills and becoming flat as Whangamata nears. Rolling from Whangamata to beyond Whiritoa until a 4 km quite steep climb to cross Whiritoa/Waihi Saddle (236m). There are 4 km of hairpin bends around the top. The road descends for 1½ km, climbs for 1 km then swoops down variably again for another 5 km. Levels out to almost flat for the last few km to Waihi.

ATTRACTIONS: Both navigators extraordinaire, Kupe & Capt Cook visited Mercury Bay, making them amongst the first tourists here, but did they go to the information centre first? Cook came in 1769 to watch the transit of Mercury (hence Mercury Bay). At the same time he declared New Zealand a British Colony. After Whitianga, going through Coroglen is less interesting than the alternative through Hahei and Hot Water Beaches, see options below. After Mercury Bay & Whitianga the stunning scenery continues going most of the way to Whangamata. Cook's Beach & Flaxmere Bay; Hahei Beach & Cathedral Cove; Hot Water Beach & the hot pools at low tide; Twin Kauris, Tairua & Paku Hill; Hikuaui & Broken Hills; Oputere & Wharekawa Harbour; Whangamata & Wentworth Valley. These are some of the notable places en route. Marine reserves, scenic reserves, historic reserves, wildlife reserves, so much abundant natural beauty. So much lush bush, even in heavy rain it is appealing. Help! Is this sounding like a travelogue? Well, next comes . . . Waihi and the big hole they have dug. Paradise endth here? Note: Coromandel Peninsula becomes very crowded during summer holidays.

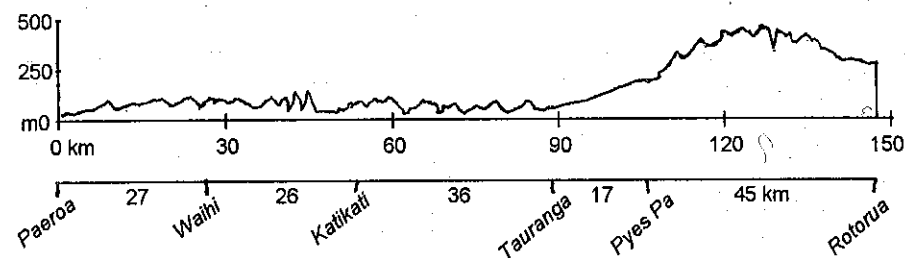
OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE WHITIANGA - HAHEI & HOT WATER BEACHES - WHENUAKITE. Distance 30 km, includes going in/out of Hahei and Hot Water Beaches. Take the small ferry from Whitianga to Ferry Landing, the road rolls and undulates as it travels past tiny bays & inlets. Rejoin SH 25 at Whenuakite. This area has the highest concentration of outstanding natural features on the Peninsula, having amongst others, Cook's Beach, Flaxmere Bay, Hahei Beach, Cathedral Cove, Hot Water Beach. Very busy in summer.

FLAXMILL BAY: Motel 3, cabins. **COOKS BEACH:** Store, motor camp (no cabins), motel.

HAHEI: Store, motor camp, bkpr hostel/motel. **HOT WATER BEACH:** Motor camp (limited cabins).

WHENUAKITE: See above.

4b. PAEROA - WAIHI - TAURANGA - ROTORUA.



SERVICES: PAEROA: See Section 4a above.

KARANGAHAKE: W of Karangahake Gorge, tearooms, picnic area.

WAIKINO: E of Karangahake Gorge, i: Railway Station, pub, picnic area.

WAIHI: Alt 50m, pop 3600. i: Seddon St ☎ 07 863 6715. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel. Bicycle Shop: Waihi Sports & Cycles, Seddon St ☎ 07 863 8418.

ANTHENREE GORGE: Tearooms, picnic area.

KATIKATI: Alt 30m, pop 2000. Food: Store, tearooms, takeaways, dairy, pub.

Accom: Motor camp (3½ km S on SH 2, 3½ km E at Sapphire Springs); motel.

WHAKAMARAMA: Store. **TE PUNA:** Tearooms, pub.

TAURANGA: Alt 5m, pop 45,000. i: The Strand ☎ 07 578 8103. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp 3; hostel (bkpr 2, YHA 1); motel many; hotel 4.

Transport: Train to/from Auckland. Bus & shuttle to/from just about everywhere.

Bicycle Shop: *Pins Cycles, Cnr Elizabeth & Durham St ☎ 07 571 8548. *Black's Cycles, 586 Cameron Rd ☎ 07 578 6907. *Koop's Cycles, Cnr Seventeenth Ave & Cameron Rd ☎ 07 578 5406. *Tauranga

Cycle Centre, 112 Devonport Rd ☎ 07 578 7657. Not a complete list.

MT MAUNGANUI: Alt 5m, pop 15,000. i: Salisbury Ave ☎ 07 575 5099. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp 4; bkpr hostel 2; motel 8; hotel 1.

ROTORUA: See Chapter Five, Section 1.

GRADIENTS: Flat leaving Paeroa then a moderate hill before Mackaytown. A gentle climb through Karangahake Gorge, if the traffic becomes too much take the tunnel & walkway to Waikino, about 6 km. Rolls a little from Waikino to Waihi then alternating stretches of rolls and undulations, some quite long, most of the way to Tauranga. Around Anthenree Gorge the hills are longer and bends more acute.

Note: SH 2 between Waihi & Tauranga has a reputation for heavy and sometimes dangerous traffic. The first 17 km on leaving Tauranga is a predominantly gradual climb to Pyes Pa, from there becomes rolling and undulating, mostly uphill for another 16 km to 500m. This incorporates 6 km of gravel around the top at Ngawero. A steep 1 km descent into Mangarewa Scenic Reserve and a 1½ km steep to quite steep climb out. Rolls, then another short steep descent and ascent. Rolls and undulates down to Lake Rotorua then mostly gentle terrain to Rotorua.

ATTRACTIONS: After Paeroa and the bottle, pass through Karangahake Gorge, the southern border of the Coromandel Ranges. Plenty of relics from the gold mining period litter this scenic gorge. See the amazing hole Waihi has dug for itself, with tours by arrangement. On the way to Tauranga are several beach holiday resorts, all a few km off the highway along side roads to the harbour. SH 2 passes through Anthenree Gorge and Katikati, nearby are hot springs.

Tauranga is a bustling city and port with nearby Mt Maunganui a popular holiday resort especially with drunken louts at New Year. On the way to the volcanic plateau pass Gate Pa, an historic site from the land wars of last century. Go through several scenic reserves including the spectacular Mangorewa Ecological Area before descending to Lake Rotorua & city.

OPTIONS: LINK ROAD TAURANGA - ROTORUA on SH 2/33. Distance 86 km. This is 24 km longer than Tauranga Direct Road but the highest point is 200m lower.

Rolls and undulates with nothing too serious, from Tauranga to Te Puke and Paengaroa. Head inland from there, climbs gently at first, becoming variable uphill. 2 km after entering the pine plantation SH 33 descends for 1 km before resuming up again for 4 km. It then rolls and meanders along for a while before a final 2½ km variable climb to what is the stiff upper lip of the central volcanic plateau at Paretero Pass (300m). A 1 km descent to Okere Falls then mostly easy gradients from there to Rotorua except a small hill at Okawa Bay.

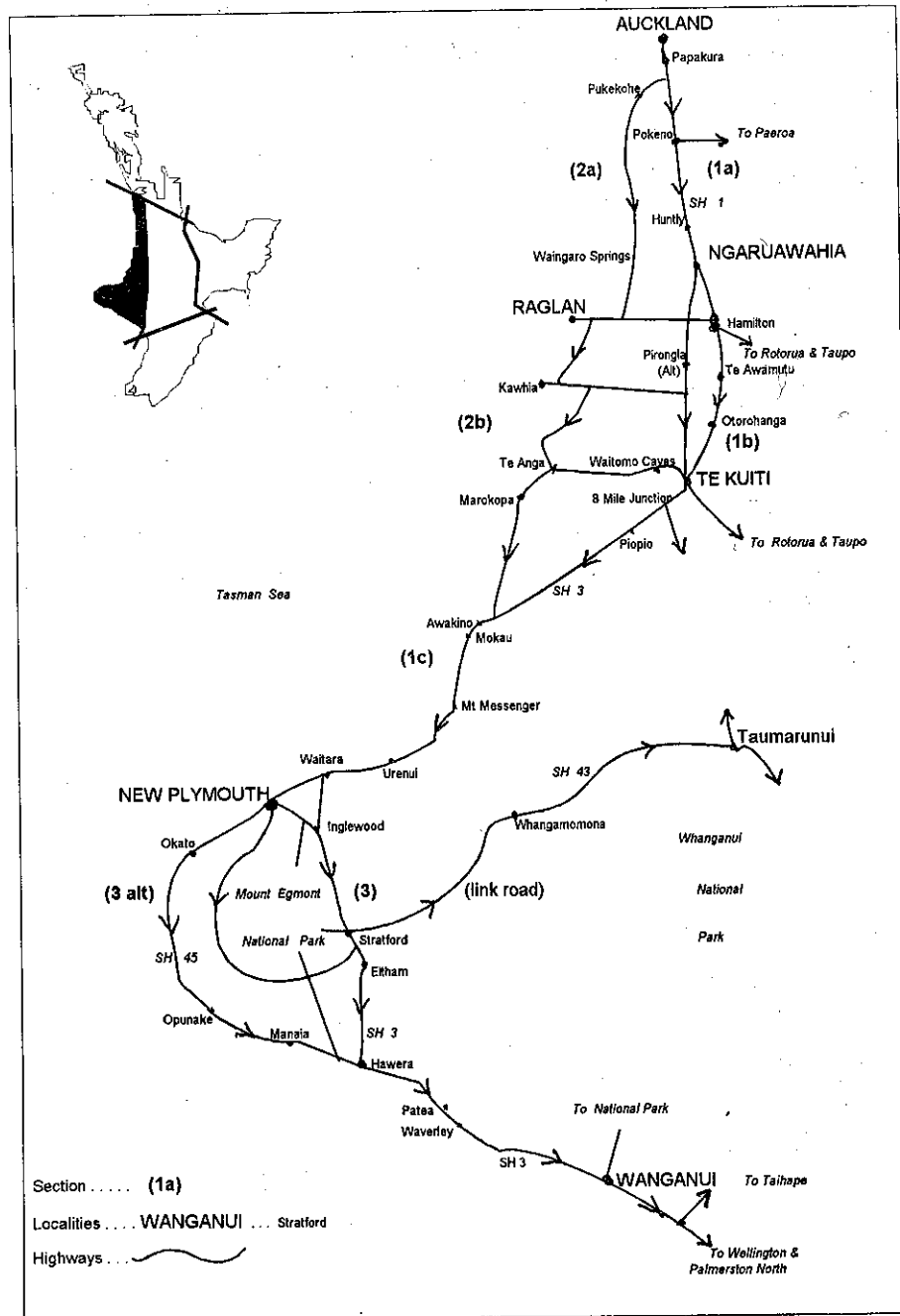
TAURANGA: See above. **PAPAMOA:** Alt 10m pop 400. Store, motor camp 2, motel.

TE PUKE: Pop 5200. i: Jellico St, ☎ 07 573 9172. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel. Bicycle Shop: *Attrills Cycles, 124 Jellico St ☎ 07 573 7019.

RANGIURU: Alt 10m, picnic area. **PAENGAROA:** Store, motel. See Chapter Four, Section 2 for direct travel to Eastland. **OTARAMARAE:** picnic area. **OKERE FALLS:** Motor camp, picnic area.

MOUREA: Store, tearooms, pub. **OWHATA:** Motor camp; motel/tearooms.

ROTORUA: See Chapter Five, Section 1.



This chapter covers the area west of the North Island between Auckland in the north and Wanganui to the south. Much of the Waikato, Taranaki and Wanganui provinces are in this region, including their principal cities of Hamilton, New Plymouth and Wanganui.

Hamilton is the largest inland city in New Zealand and sits astride of the longest river with an economy firmly based on the dairy industry. New Plymouth is over-shadowed by Mount Egmont/Taranaki and has an economy based on farming and energy production. Wanganui is at the mouth of the second longest river, the Whanganui, is the chief city of the Wanganui District and has an economy based on, guess? Yes farming!

All three provinces are of historical and cultural significance. Kawhia is the ancestral home of the Tainui people. Ngaruawahia is the HQ of the Waikato tribes and residence of Maori monarchy. The land wars started at Waitara in 1860 and officially ended in 1881 at Pirongia, 9 years longer than actual hostilities. Before roads and rail Wanganui was an important link with the interior.

There are two national parks in the region, Mount Egmont/Taranaki & Whanganui River, but no less spectacular and better known than both is Waitomo Caves. In addition there are many other natural features tucked away in odd corners. Such places as; Kawhia & Raglan Harbours, the karst landscape around Waitomo, sea-scapes of the North Taranaki Blight and papa (mudstone) landscape between Stratford and Taumarunui.

1. AUCKLAND - NGARUAWAHIA - TE KUITI - NEW PLYMOUTH.

DISTANCES:	SH 3/1
1a) AUCKLAND - NGARUAWAHIA	110 km
1b) NGARUAWAHIA - TE KUITI	96 km
1c) TE KUITI - NEW PLYMOUTH	163 km
Total	369 km

ROUTE: AUCKLAND - HAMILTON on SH 1. HAMILTON - NEW PLYMOUTH on SH 3.
ALTERNATIVE AUCKLAND - RAGLAN - KAWHIA - AWAKINO (and on to New Plymouth) on various, often hilly highways, some gravel. See Section 2.

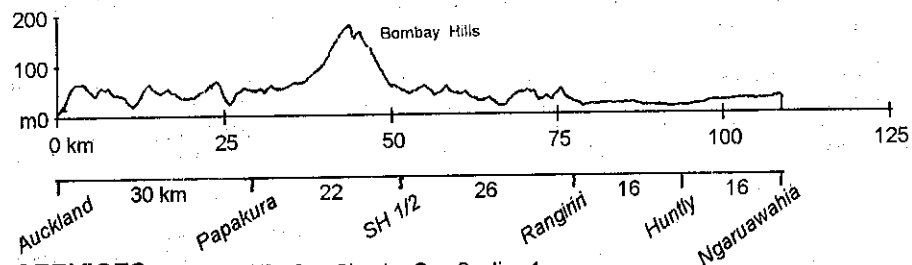
- 1a) RANGIRIRI - NGARUAWAHIA - HAMILTON.
- 1b) NGARUAWAHIA - PIRONGIA - OTOROHANGA - WAITOMO CAVES.

SIDE TRIPS 1b) Several roads go to the west coast and link with Section 2. See Section 2.

LINK ROAD 1a) POKENO - NGATEA on SH 2.

- 1b) i) HAMILTON - TE AROHA on SH 26.
- ii) HAMILTON - TIRAU - TAUPU/ROTORUA on SH 1/5, see Chapter Five, Section 3c/4a.
- iii) TE KUITI - WAITOMO CAVES - TE ANGA.

1a. AUCKLAND - BOMBAY HILLS - NGARUAWAHIA.



SERVICES: AUCKLAND: See Chapter One Section 1.

PAPAKURA: Alt 40m, pop 24,000. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motel 8.

Transport: Train to/from Auckland, Tauranga, Rotorua & Wellington. Bus & shuttles to/from most places S of Auckland. Bicycle Shop: *Broadway Cycle & Mowers, 29 Broadway ☎ 09 298 7772. *Papakura Cycles, 273 Great South Road ☎ 09 298 4512.

DRURY: Alt 20m, dairy, motel. **RAMARAMA:** Alt 45m, dairy, motor camp, motel.

BOMBAY: Alt 180m, ☎ SH 1/Mill Road ☎ 09 236 0670, (toilets, shower), takeaways.

POKENO: Alt 60m, takeaways. **MERCER:** (off SH 1) Alt 15m, tearooms.

MEREMERE: (off SH 1) Store. **TE KAUPHATA:** (off SH 1) Store, pub.

RANGIRIRI: Alt 15m, picnic area. **OHINEWAI:** Orchard stall.

HUNTLY: Alt 15m, pop 6000. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Domain motor camp; motel; hotel.

Bicycle Shop: Pauls Pedals, 56 Main St ☎ 07 828 8114. **TAUPIRI:** Dairy, pub.

NGARUAWAHIA: Alt 25m, pop 4500. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motel.

Transport: Train to/from Auckland & Wellington. Bus & shuttles to/from New Plymouth, Auckland & Wellington. Bicycle Shop: Cycle, Sports & Mowers, 29 Jesmond Rd ☎ 07 824 8299.

GRADIENTS: At Papakura join Great South Road to going south. Rolls all the way out of Auckland with a long gradual stepped 3½ km climb up the Bombay Hills (185m), at the top join the motorway. A long sweeping roll, then 3 km steep descent to SH 1/2 junction, where the motorway ends just before Pokeno and gradients return to rolling country. At Rangiriri gradients flatten out even more as SH 1 joins and runs parallel to the broad Waikato River, going all the way to Ngaruawahia.
Note: Major road works in progress around Pokeno near SH 1 & 2 intersection.

ATTRACTIONS: Apart from orchards & vineyards around Te Kauwhata and a historic land war site at Rangiriri, there is little of general interest until after Huntly, unless coal and thermal (nuclear free of course) power stations are of interest. SH 1 runs parallel to the Waikato, NZ's longest river, for much of the way between Te Kauwhata and Hamilton.

Turangawaewae Marae at Ngaruawahia is an important Maori cultural centre, being the HQ of the Waikato tribes and official residence of the Maori Queen. An annual regatta using traditional canoes is held here every March, the only day it is open to non-Maori.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE RANGIRIRI - NGARUAWAHIA - HAMILTON. Distance: 51 km.

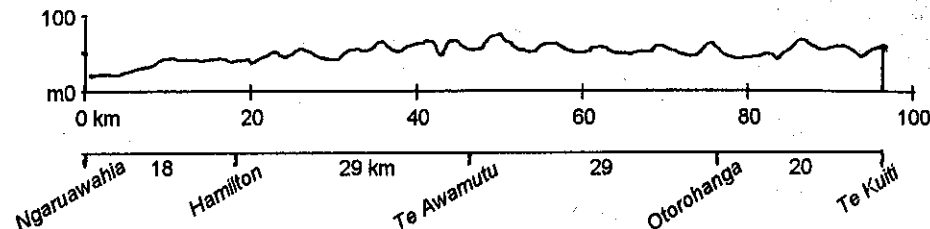
On the opposite bank of the Waikato River to SH 1. Both roads swap sides at Ngaruawahia. Less busy than SH 1 but similar flat terrain and 2 km longer.

LINK ROAD POKENO - NGATEA on SH 2. Distance 48 km. Can be busy and the traffic fast.

Rolling to Mangatarata then flat. **POKENO:** See above. **MANGATAWHIRI:** Store, tearooms.

MARAMARUA: Store, tearooms, hotel. **NGATEA:** See Chapter Five (Central), Section 4, or Chapter One (North), Section 4, for onward travel.

1b. NGARUAWAHIA - HAMILTON - TE KUITI (Waitomo Caves).



SERVICES: NGARUAWAHIA: See previous section.

HAMILTON: Alt 45m, pop 105,000. ☎ Anglesea St ☎ 07 839 3580. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp 2; hostel (bkpr 2, YHA 1); motel many; hotel 5.

Transport: Train to/from Auckland, Tauranga, Rotorua & Wellington. Bus & shuttles to/from most places S of Auckland. Bicycle Shop: *Pins, Victoria St N ☎ 07 838 0575. *Collingwoods, 467 Anglesea St ☎ 07 838 2971. Not a complete list.

OHAUPO: Motel.

TE AWAMUTU: Alt 60m, pop 8300. ☎ Rose Gardens, Gorst Ave ☎ 07 871 3259.

Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel 3. Bicycle Shop: Davies Cycles, Cnr Sloan & Brady St ☎ 07 871 4816. **KIHIKIHI:** Alt 70m, Store, takeaways, pub, motel.

OTOROHANGA: Alt 40m, pop 3000. ☎ 87 Maniapoto St ☎ 07 873 8951.

Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp (no cabins); motel; hotel.

Bicycle Shop: Cycle Otorohanga, Maniapoto St ☎ 07 873 8357.

HANGATIKI: Alt 40m, motel, hotel. Turn off SH 3 here, go 8 km to . . .

WAITOMO CAVES: Alt 75m, pop 300. ☎ Main Rd ☎ 07 878 7640. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; hostel (bkpr 1, YHA 1); hotel.

TE KUITI: Alt 60m, pop 4900. ☎ Rora St ☎ 07 878 8077. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp; domain camping 2 (toilets, water, table); motel; hotel.

Transport: Train to/from Auckland & Wellington. Bus & shuttle to/from New Plymouth, Auckland & Wgtn.

GRADIENTS: SH 1 continues parallel to the Waikato River for the rest of the way to Hamilton. At Hamilton join SH 3 going south. Rolling hills begin immediately and continue for much of the way to Te Kuiti, occasionally interspersed with undulations.

ATTRACTIONS: Hamilton is the principal city of the Waikato Province and somewhat of a cow cocky town. The climate and fertile soils help make it an important dairy & cattle producing region. National Field Days are held annually in winter at nearby Mystery Creek. This is one of the world's biggest agricultural fairs, where anything remotely farming is found, including animal beauty contests. Continuing south, Te Awamutu claims to be "Rose Town", guess why? In the museum is Uenuku, a special carving said to have been brought from Hawaiki on the Tainui Canoe several hundred years ago. Otorohanga has a kiwi house where various native birds reside. Set in limestone country, 8 km off SH 3 from Hangatiki is the world famous Waitomo Caves with the attendant glow-worms. There are various subterranean activities, including pot-holing and black water rafting. Have a ride on the giant fossilised snail in the museum! Te Kuiti is the gateway to the King Country, another rural town and shearing capital of the world. The statue is of a sheep and does not resemble the Prime Minister in any way. Te Kooti, a noted rebel of the land wars era, lived here for many years and gave the local tribe their beautiful Te Tokanganui a Noho Marae. Note: Several roads go to the west coast, see Section 2b Options.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE NGARUAWAHIA - PIRONGIA - OTOROHANGA - WAITOMO.

Distance 87 km. Less busy than SH 1/3 but similar terrain. This route can be joined from either Ngaruawahia or Hamilton. **WHATAWHATA:** Pub. **PIRONGIA:** Store, takeaways. The nearby Alexander Redoubt is the site of the formal end of the land wars in 1881. Also Pirongia State Forest has tramping opportunities up and around Mt Pirongia.

LINK ROAD i HAMILTON - MORRINSVILLE - TE AROHA on SH 26. Distance: 54 km. Predominately flat. Pass through pastoral country, Morrinsville claims to have lots of cows and car yards. See Chapter Five for Te Aroha.

MORRINSVILLE: Pop 5500. *i*: Thames St ☎ 07 889 5575. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Domain motor camp (no cabins); motel; hotel. Bicycle Shop: Cycle & Outdoors, 292 Thames St ☎ 07 889 6210. **TATUANUI:** Dairy. **WAITOA:** store, takeaways. **WAIHOU RIVER:** picnic area.

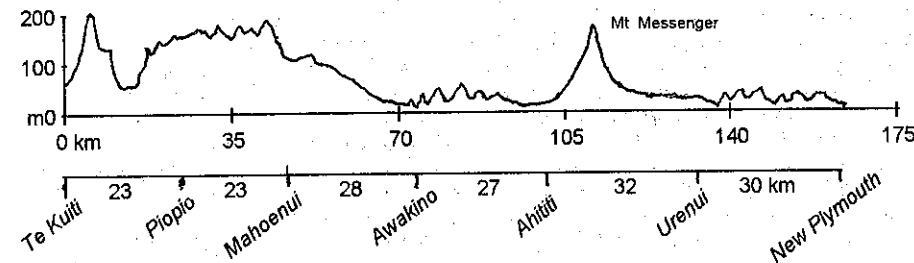
TE AROHA: See Chapter Five, Section 4.

LINK ROAD ii HAMILTON - TIRAU - TAUPO/ROTORUA on SH 1/5. See Chapter Five (Central), Section 3c/4a for details.

LINK ROAD iii WAITOMO CAVES - TE ANGA. Distance 42 km. Apart from Waitomo Caves there are other interesting karst features along this road. The scenic reserves of Tawarau, Mangapohue Natural Bridge, Piripiri and Marokopa Falls all have their own special character.

Starts with a long variable steep climb from Waitomo then mostly rolls and undulates in the middle, ending with a quite steep descent at Te Anga. At Te Anga go left (south) to Awakino, right (north) to Kawhia, see Section 2.

1c. TE KUITI - AWAKINO - NEW PLYMOUTH.



SERVICES: TE KUITI: See above. **PIOPIO:** Alt 150m, pop 600. Store, takeaways, hotel. **MOHOENUI:** store. **AWAKINO GORGE:** picnic area. **AWAKINO:** Dairy/tearooms, hotel; motel. **MOKAU:** Alt 30m, pop 200. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp 2 (one 3 km N adjacent beach & SH 3); bkpr hostel; motel. **MOHAKATINO RIVER:** Alt 10m, picnic area. **TONGAPORUTU:** Alt 20m, picnic area. **AHITITI:** Alt 35m, dairy. **MT MESSENGER:** Alt 190m, picnic area. **URUTI:** Alt 20m, dairy, pub. **WAIITI BEACH:** Store, motor camp, (7km off SH 3). **URENUI:** Alt 20m. Store, takeaways, pub. Motor camp (no cabins); motel. **ONAERO:** Motor camp/shop/tearooms (no cabins); motel. **WAITARA:** Alt 40m, pop 6500. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; motel; hotel. **BELL BLOCK:** Alt 50m. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motel; hotel. **NEW PLYMOUTH:** Alt 10m, pop 66,000. *i*: Cnr Lizardet & Leach Sts ☎ 06 759 6080. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 3; hostel (bkpr 2, YHA 1); motel lots; hotel 10. Transport: Several bus & shuttles to/from Auckland & Wellington. Bicycle Shop: *Mitchell Cycles, 467 Devon St E, Strandon ☎ 06 758 8313. *Cycle Inn, 133 Devon St E ☎ 06 758 7418. Not a complete list

GRADIENTS: Immediately on leaving Te Kuiti a steep 2 km climb begins up the lookout hill to 200m, eventually levelling off and descending in two steep leaps. Then easy gradients all the way to Piopio, apart from one 2½ km quite steep climb before the SH 3/4 junction. Beyond Piopio the highway climbs gradually for 4 km, then enters rolling country around Mahoenui, some quite long and steep. After going through Awakino Tunnel enter the steep-sided gorge with gradients mostly gentle and winding downstream.

Join the coast at Awakino and turn south, rolling through Mokau to Tongaporutu River, then gentle, almost flat uphill for 5½ km to Ahititi from where an ascent on Mt Messenger (190m) begins. The highway climbs for 5 km, sometimes steep, narrow with sharp bends and passing through a tunnel near the top. Down in similar fashion for 3 km levelling out at 50m, becoming an almost flat descent for 15 km to Mangamaio Stream. Starts to rock n roll again from there for most of the way to New Plymouth.

ATTRACTIONS: Although SH 3 passes through several scenic reserves, overall the route is pleasant but not spectacular with rural country most of the way to New Plymouth. Awakino Gorge & Whitecliffs Walkway are probably the most notable. The latter is an area of spectacular sea cliffs, some km off SH 3 between Mokau & Waitara. The Mt Messenger area has a number of walking tracks. Motunui Methanol plant processes gas from the offshore field. Along the North Taranaki Bight are several beach resorts; at Waititi, Urenui, Onaero & Waitara.

Waitara's claim to fame is for being the start of conflict in the land wars in 1860. Though battles were often fierce, casualties were usually light. New Zealand's estimated total population at the time was just over 100,000, it seems odd today so few people fought over so much land. New Plymouth is the biggest city of the Taranaki Province, having a prosperous air to it, the wealth based on the fertile volcanic soil and offshore gas and oil fields. Distinctive natural features include the Sugar Loaf Islands and Mt Egmont, the Mt Fuji of the southern hemisphere looming to the south.

2. AUCKLAND - RAGLAN - KAWHIA - NEW PLYMOUTH.

DISTANCES:

2a) AUCKLAND - RAGLAN	158 km
2b) RAGLAN - AWAKINO	181 km
Total	339 km

Note: Includes travel in/out of Raglan, Kawhia & Marokopa but not Keritehere & Waikawau.

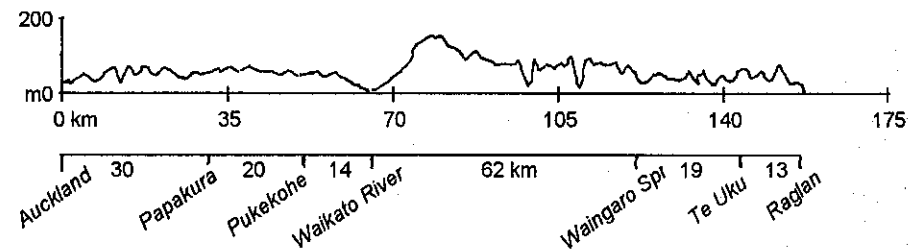
ROUTE: AUCKLAND - AWAKINO on various, sometimes gravel roads

SIDE TRIP 2a) i To WAIUKU. **ii** To PORT WAIKATO.

LINK ROAD 2b) i RAGLAN - HAMILTON on SH 23.

ii KAWHIA - TIHIROA on SH31. **iii** TE ANGA - WAITOMO CAVES.

2a. AUCKLAND - PUKEKOHE - WAIKATO RIVER - RAGLAN.



SERVICES: AUCKLAND: See Chapter One, Section 1 for details. **DRURY:** Leave SH 1.

PUKEKOHE: Alt 50m, pop 10,000. *i*: Roulston St 09 238 4081. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motel 3; hotel 2. Bicycle Shop: Counties Mowers & Cycles, 135 King St ☎ 09 238 7695.

TUAKAU: Alt 20m, pop 500. Store, takeaways, pub. **PUKEKAWA:** Alt 180m, store.

WAIKATO RIVER: picnic area (toilets, water, table). **NAIKE:** picnic area.

WAIKATO SPRINGS: Alt 40m, pop 150. Motor camp (also shop, motel); hotel. **TE UKU:** Store.

RAGLAN: Alt 10m, pop 1,500. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel. Bus to/from Hamilton.

GRADIENTS: Rolling hills on departing Auckland, leave Great South Road at Drury, going to Pukekohe and bypass Bombay Hills. Undulates through Pukekohe and descends gradually to the Waikato River. After the river is a long quite steep 8 km climb to Pukekawa. Then alternates between rolling and undulating through Glen Murray to Raglan with an occasional longer/steeper descent/ascent such as at Apatia Stream. Gravel between Waingaro Springs & Te Uku (SH 23). At SH 23 go rolling right to Raglan.

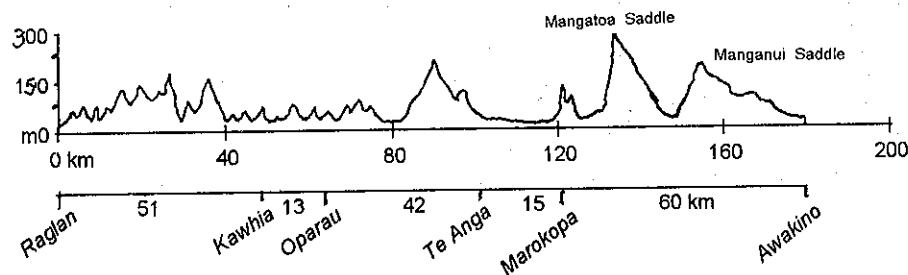
ATTRACTIONS: Pass through the small town of Pukekohe, the potato capital. Really? Cross the Waikato River going through rural country on a quiet highway. At Waingaro are thermal hot springs. Raglan is a small pleasant village located on Raglan Harbour, nearby Manu Bay is well known for surfing. A short detour from Waingaro goes to Glen Afton where Bob Price, the world famous eccentric bar manager at the Citizens & Sports Club will shout the reader a lemonade if you bring this book.

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP i To WAIUKU and Awhitu Peninsula. The Sunset Coast on the South Manukau Harbour. There are plenty of black sand beaches from which to view the sunsets. These rich iron sands are mined to feed the Glenbrook Steel Mill. Old steam train rides go from Glenbrook and old boat rides leave from Waiuku.

WAIUKU: Pop 4400. i: 2 Queen St ☎ 09 235 8924. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel. AWHITU REGIONAL PARK: camping (toilet, table, water). CLARK'S BEACH: Motor camp. ORUA BAY: Motor camp. BIG BAY: Motor camp (also shop & tearooms).

SIDE TRIP ii TUAKAU - PORT WAIKATO: Motor camp (no cabins). 25 km. Where the Waikato River reaches the end of its long journey at the Tasman Sea.

2b. RAGLAN - KAWHIA - AWAKINO - NEW PLYMOUTH.



SERVICES: RAGLAN: See Section 2a. **BRIDAL VEIL FALLS:** picnic area.

KAWHIA: Pop 400. Food: Store, take aways, tearooms, pub. Accom: Motor camp 3; motel; hotel.

OPARAU: Alt 40m, store. **TE ANGRA:** Alt 25m, pop 100, hotel.

MAROKOPA: Alt 5m, pop 150. Domain motor camp (no cabins) adjacent beach.

KERITEHERE: 1½ km off highway. Alt 15m, picnic area (toilets, water) adjacent beach.

MANGATOA: Scenic Res, DoC camping (toilets, water) adjacent highway.

WAIKAWAU: 4½ km off highway, Alt 15m, informal camping (toilets, water) near beach tunnel.

AWAKINO: See Section 1c for travel on to New Plymouth.

GRADIENTS: Go east from Raglan on SH 23, then right (south) on Te Mata Rd towards Kawhia. Heading south the highway continues its rolling with some long ups and down. Gravel starts again at Bridal Veil Falls, going all the way to SH 31. At SH 31 go right (west) to Kawhia or left (east) to continue heading south. After Oparau go right (south) to Te Angra along Harbour Rd. The highway skirts round Kawhia Harbour rolling and undulating with some steep and occasional long climb to across low hills.

The last 5 km to Kinohaku are flat before departing Kawhia Harbour with 6½ km climb to 245m and rolling down to Te Angra in 10 km. Almost flat as the road crosses mud flats of the lower Marokopa River to Marokopa Settlement.

On leaving Marokopa, immediately begins a steep & winding 1½ km uphill to 120m, then rolling down to Keritehere where the gravel starts again, going to within 5 km of SH 3. 12 km of gentle gradients then up again, becoming steep and tortuous for 3 km, before reaching Mangatōa Saddle (300m). After the saddle a long gradual 8 km variable descent along the Mangatōa River to Waikawau. An easy 1½ km after Waikawau before heading skywards again for 2½ km to Manganui Saddle (200m) going through Whareorino State Forest. Rolls around the top for 3 km then follows the Manganui River downstream with just one river bluff to cross in the last 20 km to SH 3. Go right (west) for 2 km to Awakino. See section 1c for details to New Plymouth.

ATTRACTIONS: After Raglan pass the picturesque Bridal Veil Falls and a couple of scenic reserves on the way south to Kawhia, a quaint village in a beautiful harbour setting. Near to the town at Karewa Beach is reputedly the final resting place of the Tainui canoe after its long voyage from Hawaiki. Along a 4 km gravel road is Te Puia Ocean Beach, backed by high sand dunes so typical of the west coast beaches. At low tide are hot (or warm really) springs.

Beyond Kawhia, at Te Angra is a link road to Waitomo Caves, see options below. Heading south come to Marokopa, a small holiday settlement. At Waikawau a tunnel has been cut through to the beach. Prior to the road this was the only access to the outside world and was used to load wool on and supplies off waiting ships. Continuing south pass through Raurimu, Mangatōa and Manganui Gorge Scenic Reserves and Whareorino State Forest, comprising of native bush and splendid views.

OPTIONS: LINK ROAD i RAGLAN - HAMILTON on SH 23. Distance: 48 km. Mostly rolling with a couple of bigish hills to cross such as Karemu Saddle: 95m, picnic area.

LINK ROAD ii KAWHIA - TIHIROA on SH 31. One big hill to cross passing through Te Kariki & Parkinson's Scenic Reserves with Mt Pirongia looming to the north. Join SH 3 at Otorohanga (going south) or SH 1 at Hamilton or Ngaruawahia (going north). See Section 1.

LINK ROAD iii TE ANGRA - WAITOMO CAVES - TE KUITI. Distance: 42 km. Starts with a long quite steep ascent past Marokopa Falls then rolls and undulates with a long sometimes steep descent to Waitomo Caves. Apart from Waitomo Caves there are other interesting karst features along this road. On the way pass Marokopa Falls, Piripiri, Mangapohue Natural Bridge and Tawarau Scenic Reserves, all have their own special characteristics. Joins SH 3 at Hangatiki.

3. NEW PLYMOUTH - HAWERA - WANGANUI.

DISTANCES:	SH 3	SH 45	SH 43
3) NEW PLYMOUTH - WANGANUI	160 km		
alt NEW PLYMOUTH - HAWERA		106 km	
link STRATFORD - TAUMARUNUI			153 km

ROUTE: NEW PLYMOUTH - WANGANUI on SH 3.

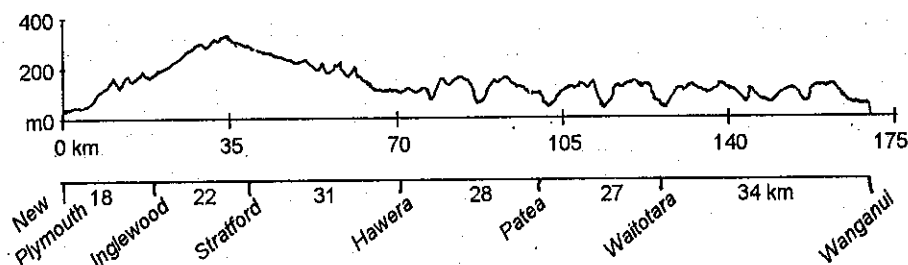
ALTERNATIVE 3) NEW PLYMOUTH - HAWERA on the busier and shorter SH 3 via Stratford or SH 45 through Ounake.

LINK ROAD STRATFORD - WHANGAMOMONA - TAUMARUNUI on partly gravel SH 43.

SIDE TRIP 3) i To MT TARANAKI/EGMONT NATIONAL PARK.

ii Several side trips go to a number of minor attractions between Hawera and Wanganui.

3. NEW PLYMOUTH - STRATFORD - HAWERA - WANGANUI.



SERVICES: NEW PLYMOUTH: See above.

EGMONT VILLAGE: Alt 200m. Store, restaurant, motor camp; motel 2; hotel, Bkpr hostel.

INGLEWOOD: Alt 200m, pop 3000. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel. **NORFOLK:** Alt 250m, picnic area.

TARIKI: Alt 300m, pub. **MIDHURST:** Alt 330m, dairy, pub.

STRATFORD: Alt 310m, pop 6000. *i:* Miranda & Broadway ☎ 06 765 6708. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel. Bicycle Shop: Gory's Cycles, 182 Broadway ☎ 06 765 5075.

NGAERE: Alt 250m, motel. **ELTHAM:** Alt 210m, pop 2500. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motel; hotel 2. **NORMANBY:** Alt 115m, store, hotel.

HAWERA: Alt 100m, pop 8500. *i:* 55 High St ☎ 06 278 8599. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp; farm hostel (at Ohangai); motel 4; hotel 3.

MANAWAPOU RIVER: picnic area.

MANUTAHU: Alt 100m, hotel. **KAKARAMEA:** Alt 65m, hotel.

PATEA: Alt 65m, pop 1800. *i:* Library, Egmont St. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Motor camp; hotel. **WHENUAKURA:** Alt 20m, picnic area

WAVERLEY: Alt 85m, pop 1000. Food: Store, takeaways. Accom: Hotel 2; Beach domain camping (no cabins, 9 km off SH 2). **WAITOTARA:** Alt 20m, pop 400. Dairy. Motor camp (3 km E on SH 2);

Beach domain camping (toilets, water) at Wainui (8 km off SH 2); hotel.

OTOTOKA STREAM: W. Birch Pool picnic area (toilet, table, water).

OKAHU STREAM: Alt: 60m, picnic area. **KAI-IWI:** Alt 30m; Beach motor camp (7 km).

WANGANUI: See Chapter Three, Section 1a (going S & E), or Chapter Five, Section 2c (going N).

GRADIENTS: Mostly variable uphill from New Plymouth to Inglewood with the occasional moderate descent to cross streams. Climbs for most of 16 km from Inglewood until just before Midhurst, then almost flat to Stratford. Gentle down for 11 km to Eltham and also 6 km from Normanby to Hawera. Between Eltham and Normanby SH 3 roller coasters, including a lengthy quite steep descent. After Hawera it alternates between undulating and rolling country all the way to Wanganui with occasional longer, steeper hills to cross deepish river channels, such as Tangahoe, Manawapou, Patea, Waitotara and Ototoka.

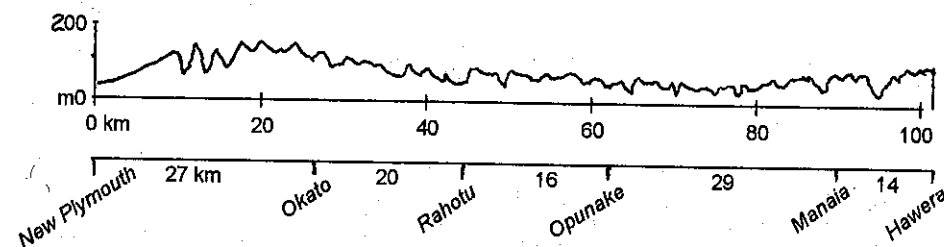
ATTRACTIONS: Mt Egmont (or Taranaki) is the only national park to the west of the North Island. It dominates the Taranaki Province and is sometimes called Mt Fuji of the southern hemisphere, especially by Japanese. There are several tramping tracks within the park, notably round the mountain and to the top, but beware of bad weather.

Stratford is a gateway to the mountain and another rural service centre. It has a pioneer village complex comprising historic buildings from throughout Taranaki. Near the visitor centre is an interesting memorial of photographs of those from the district who fell during the two world wars. Stratford is at one end of the SH 43 heritage trail with Taumarunui at the other.

Hawera is the principal town of South Taranaki. See the exceedingly rare Wendy Statue in King Edward Park. Surrounded by fairies, little woodland creatures, gnomes and gnacyclists it is one of only two in the world. Near to Hawera are the Tawhiti Museum, Turuturu-Mokai; a well preserved pa with an interesting history and scene of a gruesome encounter during the land wars. After Patea SH 3 continues to travel through farming country of little general interest. Access to several South Taranaki beaches is possible, each a few km off SH 3. Patea is a pleasant little town with ruins of a freezing works down by the river. Not quite as romantic as a medieval castle but never mind. A replica of Turi and his Aotea canoe, from which the local tribe are descendants is next to the library. Things must get a little cold up there in winter and a bit damp in rain! Farther south, a few km off SH 2 is Bushy Park, a reserve owned by Royal Forest & Bird Society and open to visitors.

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP i MOUNT EGMONT NATIONAL PARK: The northern access is through Egmont Village (200m) to the Camphouse Visitor Centre (950m). Stratford (310m) is the eastern access to point passing the exclusive Mountain House (860m) and going to the Lookout at 1130m. **SIDE TRIP ii** Several side trips go a few km off SH 2 to LAKE ROTORANGI, the longest man made lake in NZ and not very wide. **WAVERLEY to WAVERLEY BEACH.** **WAITOTARA to WAINUI BEACH.** **BUSHY PARK** is a bird sanctuary. **KAI IWI** or **WANGANUI** to **KAI IWI BEACH.**

3a ALTERNATIVE: NEW PLYMOUTH - OPUNAKE - HAWERA.



SERVICES: NEW PLYMOUTH: See above.

OAKURA: Alt 50m, pop 500. Food: Store, takeaways, restaurant. Accom: Motor camp (no cabins); bkpr hostel (4 km S); motel; hotel. **TATARAIMAKA:** 4 km off SH 45. Domain camping, (water, toilet).

OKATO: Alt 100m, store, tearooms, takeaways. **WAREA:** Alt 65m, store.

PUNGAREHU: Alt 80m, dairy. **RAHOTU:** Alt 50m, store, takeaways, pub.

OPUNAKE: Alt 30m, pop 1800. *i:* Library, Tasman St. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Motor camp (no cabins); motel/bkpr hostel; hotel.

Bicycle Shop: Collins Sports Centre, Tasman St, ☎ 06 761 8778. **OEO:** hotel.

KAUPOKONUI: Alt 60m. Domain camping (no cabins) at Kaupokonui Beach.

MANAIA: Alt 70m, pop 1100. Dairy, takeaways, hotel 2.

TOKAORA: Domain camping (no cabins) off SH 45 at Ohawe Beach.

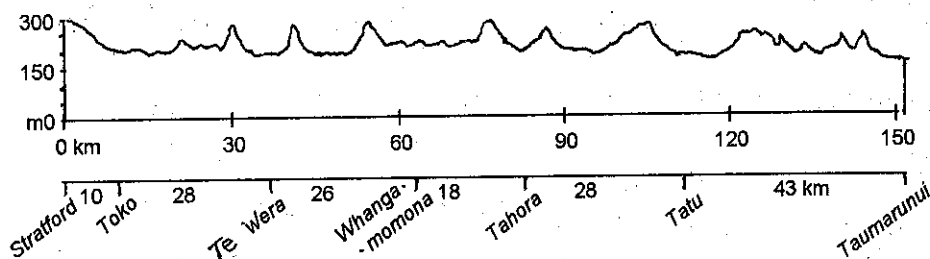
HAWERA: See Section 3 above.

GRADIENTS: Between New Plymouth & Hawera a multitude of streams drain off Mt Egmont, requiring frequent dips for SH 45 to cross the channels. Particularly the first 15 km to Oakura has some long, steep roller coaster hills. Continues with alternating stretches of steep, moderate and gentle rolls all the way to Hawera. No high passes to cross.

ATTRACTIONS: Mostly farming country and small communities with Mt Egmont/Taranaki ever watchful. Apart from at Oakura (a well known surfing beach) and Opunake, SH 45 rarely touches the coast although there are several side roads to it such as Tataraimaka, Cape Egmont (from Pungarehu), Kaupokonui Beach and Ohawe. At Oaonui is the Maui production station and visitor centre.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE Inner round the mountain road. Climbs on the inner mountain ring road from New Plymouth to PUKEITI: Alt 380m, tearooms. This is Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust, who have a festival every November. The highway then rolls mostly between 250 - 270m before a climb to Dawson Falls turn off (400m) on the south side of Mt Egmont National Park. Climbs 5 km to DAWSON FALLS VILLAGE: Alt 900m. *i*: DoC. Park huts; bkpr hostel; hotel.
SIDE TRIP MANAIA or HAWERA - TE NGUTU O TE MANU: domain camping (toilet, water, table). Originally a pa site that saw action during the land wars. The park-like setting has an interesting ambience due to being completely isolated from the surrounding countryside by encircling bush. It is possible to continue inland to Dawson Falls and Mt Egmont through OKAIAWA: Store, pub. KAPUNI: Dairy. & KAPONGA: Alt 270m, store, takeaways.

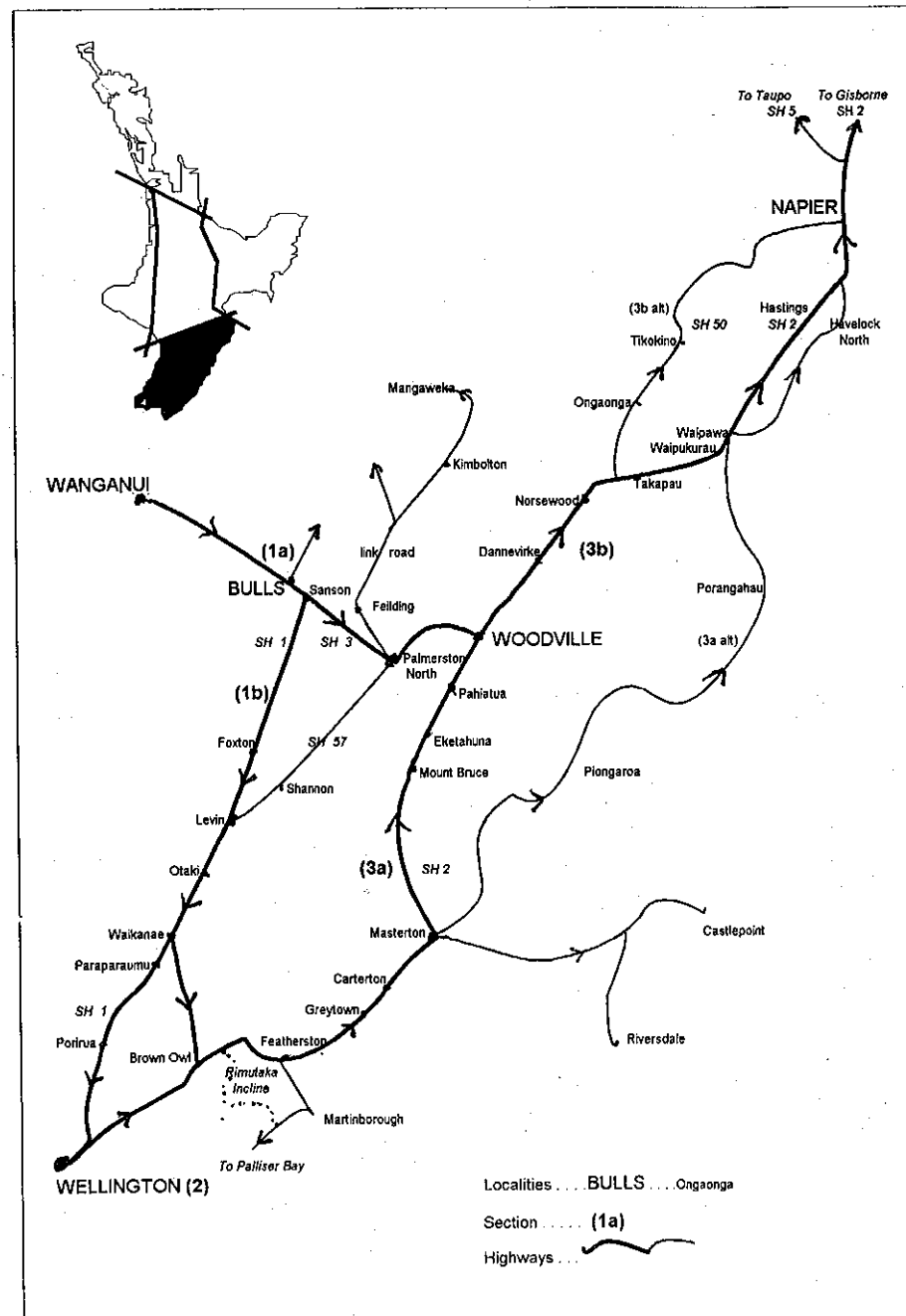
3a LINK ROAD: STRATFORD - WHANGAMOMONA - TAUMARUNUI.



SERVICES: STRATFORD: See Section 3 above. **TOKO:** Pub.
DOUGLAS: Alt 195m, Domain camping picnic area (toilet, table).
STRATHMORE SADDLE: Alt 275m, picnic area. **TE WERA:** Alt 170m, motor camp.
POHOKURA SADDLE: Alt 270m, picnic area. **WHANGAMOMONA SADDLE:** Alt 270m, picnic area.
WHANGAMOMONA: Alt 225m, pop 200. Domain camping; hotel.
TAHORA: Alt 190m, farm motor camp (at Tangarakau, 6km off SH 43).
TANGARAKAU GORGE: picnic area. **OTUNUI:** picnic area. **OHINEPA:** DoC camping (toilets, water).
TAUMARUNUI: Alt 170m, pop 6500. *i*: Railway Station ☎ 07 895 7494. Food: All types of outlets.
 Accom: Motor camp (3 km S); motel 3; hotel 3. Transport: Train, bus & shuttle to/from Auck & Wgtn.
 Bicycle Shop: Paramount Cycle, Hakiha St ☎ 07 895 8846.

GRADIENTS: A route for cyclists who love going up and down, no less than six saddles, numerous hills, a couple of bluffs and an odd tunnel. Over the saddles the elevation gain/loss is up to 100m sometimes in too few km. Good views though and almost deserted highway. There is about 30 km of gravel remaining between Tahora Saddle and Tatu.

ATTRACTIONS: SH 43 goes 153 km from Stratford to Taumarunui and is the original heritage highway. There is a useful pamphlet providing a route description. Apart from the small settlements of Toko, Douglas and Whangamomona there is little habitation. Passes through classic kiwi back country with plenty of panoramic views from many of the saddles including glimpses of Mounts Egmont & Ruapehu. See the huge rhododendron at Te Wera. Go through several scenic reserves and pass near the northern perimeter of Whanganui National Park, see Chapter Five (Central), Section 3b. Join the Whanganui River near to Taumarunui.



This chapter covers the area south of a line between Wanganui and Napier. The routes include Wanganui to Palmerston North and Wellington, Wellington region, and Wellington to Napier.

Scenically this region is the least interesting part of the North Island, being the only chapter with no national or maritime parks. The main scenic attractions are the Rimutaka, Tararua and Ruahine Ranges that run the length of the region and are the backbone of the lower North Island. There is also a variety of coastal landscape, from the rugged, remote "totally get away from it all" places, to the fully developed holiday resorts.

Both the Manawatu and Wairarapa economies are heavily based on agriculture with Hawke Bay leaning to horticulture. Dannevirke and Norsewood have strong Scandinavian links which is reflected in their names. Nearby is a ridge with the world's longest place name and not much else. Mt Bruce National Wildlife Sanctuary has breeding programmes for many endangered native birds and open to the public. Cape Kidnappers has the world's only mainland gannet colony, so they say.

Palmerston North, Hastings and Napier are large provincial cities with agriculture and horticulture as their main economies. Wellington is the world's most southerly capital city, nestling within the protective arms of the harbour of the same name. It is one of the most beautiful settings for a capital and has a reputation as the windy city. Its economy relies heavily on the waffle industry. It is recommended cycling between Paraparumu and city centre be avoided due to the endless suburbs, heavy traffic and hilly nature of the route.

1. WANGANUI - BULLS - WOODVILLE & WELLINGTON.

DISTANCE:	SH 3	SH 1
1a) WANGANUI - BULLS - WOODVILLE	100 km	
1b) BULLS - SANSON - WELLINGTON		148 km.

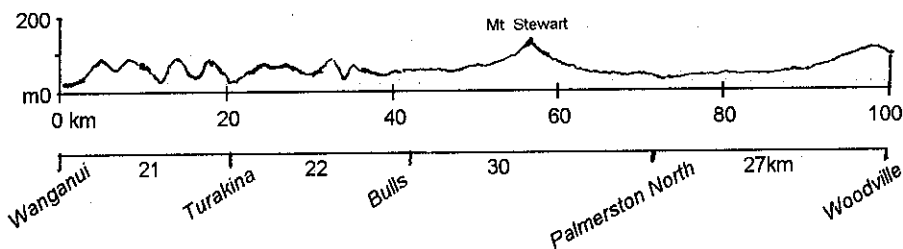
ROUTE: WANGANUI - BULLS - WOODVILLE on SH 3. BULLS - WELLINGTON on SH 1.

LINK ROAD 1a) i LEVIN - PALMERSTON NORTH on SH 57 and ii PALMERSTON NORTH - MANGAWEKA. These can be combined to provide an alternative to SH 1.

1b) WAIKANAE - AKATARAWA SADDLE - UPPER HUTT. This can be used as an alternative to SH 1 to go into Wellington

SIDE TRIPS 1b) To several beach resorts off SH 1 between Bulls & Wellington.

1a. WANGANUI - BULLS - PALMERSTON NORTH - WOODVILLE.



SERVICES: WANGANUI: Alt 10m, pop 40,000. i: 101 Guyton St ☎ 06 345 3286.

Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 2; hostel (bkpr 2); motel many; hotel 5.

Transport: Bus & shuttle to/from Auckland, New Plymouth, Wellington & Napier.

Bicycle Shop: *Wanganui Cycle Centre, 199 Victoria Ave ☎ 06 345 5715.

*Jeffson Multi-sports & Cycles, 7 Victoria Ave ☎ 06 345 5762. **WHANGAEHU:** picnic area.

TURAKINA: Alt 35m. Dairy, takeaways, pub. Domain camping (water, coin shower, toilets) at Koitiata Beach 8½ km SW off SH 3. **DUDDINGS LAKE:** motor camp (small shop, no cabins).

BULLS: Alt 50m, pop 2000. i: 104 Bridge St ☎ 06 322 0055.

Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; motel; hotel.

Transport: Bus & shuttles to/from most places south of Auckland.

SANSON: Alt 50m, pop 500. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Bkpr hostel; motel 2; hotel. **MT STEWART:** Alt 135m, picnic area.

PALMERSTON NORTH: Alt 30m, pop 72,000. i: The Square ☎ 06 358 5003.

Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel 3; motel lots; hotel 5.

Transport: Trains, bus & shuttles to/from Wellington, Auckland & Napier.

Bicycle Shop: *John Deans Cyclery Workshop, Main St ☎ 06 359 1329. *Pedal Pushers Cyclery, 303 Church St ☎ 06 356 7987. *Bike Biz, 284 Rangitikei St ☎ 06 358 3301. Not a complete list.

ASHURST: Store, takeaways, pub, Domain camping, Sept - May (toilet, water, tables).

MANAWATU GORGE: Several rest areas. **WOODVILLE:** See section 3a.

GRADIENTS: Predominantly undulating from Wanganui with occasional longer, steeper rolls all the way through to Bulls. Go right (south) at Sanson to go to Wellington or straight on to Palmerston North. Mostly gentle undulations except, one hill of note at Mt Stewart, all the way to Palmerston North, continues almost flat to Ashurst. A gentle climb as the road wends its way through the narrow Manawatu Gorge to Woodville.

ATTRACTIONS: Wanganui is a city of 40,000 straddling Whanganui River and a gateway to Whanganui National Park. Durie Hill Tower has splendid views over the city and on clear days Mt Ruapehu can be seen. Putiki Church is regarded as one of the most finest Maori churches. A group held a land protest in Moutua Gardens during 1995, and somebody stole a statue! There's a couple of small beach resorts several km from SH 3, Turakina to Koitiata and Bulls to Tangimoana. Bulls has an interesting name and is on a major road junction. Pass Mt Stewart on the way to Palmerston North. Palmerston North is the biggest city of the Manawatu District and sits adjacent to the Manawatu River. It is a bustling university town, claiming to be NZ's "knowledge city". They have a science centre, Massey University and lots of sheep and cows in the fields. The scenic gem of the district is the Manawatu Gorge.

OPTIONS: LINK ROAD i LEVIN - PALMERSTON NORTH on SH 57. Distance 50 km.

Gentle gradients most of the way from Palmerston North to Levin. Not much of interest, the area was founded on cultivating flax and forestry, now predominantly farming.

PALMERSTON NORTH: See above. **TOKOMARU:** Pop 600, store, takeaways.

SHANNON: Alt 20m, pop 1700. Store, tearooms, takeaways, hotel. **LEVIN:** See Section 1b.

LINK ROAD ii PALMERSTON NORTH - FEILDING - MANGAWEKA.

Distances: Palmerston North - Cheltenham 27 km. Cheltenham - Mangaweka via Vinegar Hill is 52 km, via Kimbolton is 60 km. These routes avoid the traffic of SH 1.

Almost flat from Palmerston North to Feilding, then gentle climb to Cheltenham. After Cheltenham are some long steep hills in places particularly when nearing the Rangitikei River, although they are often accompanied by stunning views. Gravel between Dress Circle & Mangaweka on the Kimbolton route. These routes can connect with Palmerston North - Levin to make an alternative to SH 1 to Wellington.

PALMERSTON NORTH: See above.

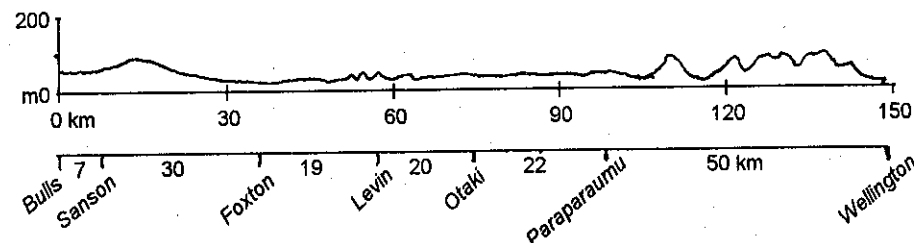
FEILDING: Alt 100m, pop 11,000. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; motel 3; hotel.

Bicycle Shop: Telfer Cycles, 61 Kimbolton Rd ☎ 06 323 4433.

CHELTHENHAM: Alt 190m, Store, hotel. **REWA:** Tearooms.

VINEGAR HILL: Domain camping (toilet, water). Adjacent Rangitikei River. SH 54 is all sealed. Or from Cheltenham continue north up Kiwitea Valley passing. . .
KIMBOLTON: Alt 440m, pop 200. Store, pub, Domain camping (toilet, table, water), at London Ford.
PEMBERTON: picnic area. **DRESS CIRCLE:** picnic area.
MANGAWEKA: See Chapter Five (Central), Section 2c for onward travel.

1b. BULLS - LEVIN - WELLINGTON.



SERVICES: BULLS & SANSON: See 1a above. **ORUA DOWNS:** picnic area.
FOXTON: Alt 20m, pop 2800. *i:* Main St ☎ 363 8940. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Beach motor camp; motel 2 (one at the beach); hotel 2. Bicycle Shop: Dustins Cycles, Hall St ☎ 06 363 7401. **MANAWATU RIVER:** picnic area.
LEVIN: Alt 20m, pop 17,000. *i:* Regent Court, Oxford St ☎ 06 368 7148. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 2 (one at Waitarere Beach); motel 8. Bicycle Shop: *Chainey's, 241 Oxford St ☎ 06 368 4102. *Southend Cycles, 155 Oxford St ☎ 06 368 5459. **OHAU:** Store.
MANAKAU: motor camp, hotel. **OTAKI:** Alt 30m, pop 4500. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Beach motor camp; bkpr hostel 2; motel 2; hotel. **TE HORO:** Alt 20m.
WAIKANAE: Pop 5000. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp, motel 4, hotel.
PARAPARAUMU: Alt 30m, pop 3000. Food: Store, tearooms, takeaways, pub. Accom: Motor camp (2 km N); bkpr hostel (at the beach); motel 6 (4 at the beach). Transport: Terminus for suburban trains to/from Wellington. Bicycle Shop: John Deans Cyclery, Coastlands Shopping Centre ☎ 04 298 5024.
PAEKAKARIKI: Store, tearooms, takeaways, pub, motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel.
WELLINGTON: See Section 2.

GRADIENTS: Mostly gentle undulations with an occasional rolling stretch but nothing too serious all the way from Bulls to Paraparaumu and Paekakariki. After Paekakariki becomes steeper rolling, some quite long and steep, passing through dormitory suburbs on the way into Wellington.
 Note: Consider taking the suburban train from Paraparaumu into Wellington or approach the city over the Akatarawa Saddle and down Hutt Valley, see Options below.

ATTRACTIONS: Bulls and Sanson are at major road junctions, nearby is Ohakea Airbase with its museum. Passes through mostly farming country on the way to Wellington. There are several beach resorts each one a few km to the west along the Kapiti-Manawatu coast. At the Waitarere Beach is the remains of the Hydrabad ship wreck. Levin is the main centre of the Horowhenua, nearby Lake Papaitonga Scenic & Historical Reserve was a scene of a victory by the great Maori chief Te Rauparaha over a local tribe where much slaughter took place.
 At Otaki, the beautiful Rangiatea Church was built in 1850, incorporating huge totara pillars taken from the forest that once covered the region. It was said to be one of the finest Maori churches in New Zealand - until an arsonist burnt it down in October 1995. Nearby is Otaki Gorge Scenic Reserve, in the foothills of the Tararua Ranges that run all the way from Palmerston North to Wellington. Several tramping tracks are located in the forest park. This stretch of coastline is called Kapiti Coast, named after the Island off Paraparaumu Beach, which is a bird and marine sanctuary, with limited access.

OPTIONS: LINK ROAD WAIKANAE - AKATARAWA ROAD - UPPER HUTT. Distance: 36 km. This route is an alternative to SH 1 if cycling all the way into Wellington. Although the upper reaches are very narrow with sharp bends in places it should be less stressful than going through the northern suburbs. Hopefully! The nearest motor camp to Wellington is at Lower Hutt. Undulates and rolls predominately uphill for 6 km then climbs quite steep for 6 km to Akatarawa Saddle (440m). Then a steady gradual descent for 4½ km easing to rolling for 6 km. Two more variable steep hills of 2 & 1 km respectively before levelling out for the final 5 km to SH 2. Go right past Upper & Lower Hutt all the way to the Wellington.
WAIKANAE: See above. **CLOUSTONVILLE PARK:** Domain camping (toilets, water).
BIRCHVILLE: picnic area (toilet, water, table). **BROWN OWL:** Dairy, takeaways.

SIDE TRIPS To several beach resorts between Bulls & Wellington. Namely TANGIMOANA, HIMATANGI, FOXTON, WAITARERE, HOKIO, WAIKAWA, OTAKI, TE HORO, WAIKANAE, PARAPARAUMU & RAUMATI BEACHES. Many have food and accommodation available. Some are fully developed, some with only basic facilities. Most are usually busy during summer school holidays.

2. WELLINGTON.

ATTRACTIONS: Wellington is the world's most southern capital city, set in one of the more picturesque locations. To get an eyeful of it, the Cable Car top station has panoramic views of the city and Port Nicolson. It also provides access to the Botanic Gardens and Carter Observatory. Mount Victoria offers more spectacular views from a different angle.

The title of capital city moved to Wellington in 1864 after brief stints at Russell and Auckland, and has remain so ever since. There are plenty of historic attractions to go and have nose round, such as Parliament Building, St Paul's Church; Katherine Mansfield birthplace; and the odd wooden shack. The original Waitangi Treaty document (or one of them) is housed in the National Archives. Additionally there are several art galleries & museums, including an interesting Maritime Museum (if you're interested in maritime).

As expected in a city the size of Wellington, there is plenty of night life with an array of clubs, pubs, cafés and restaurants. The widely acclaimed New Zealand International Festival of the Arts is held here biennially in March with performers participating from throughout the world, hence "International".

It is a hilly city and has a reputation for being windy. This may be more due to the parliamentary activities but could also refer to the weather. The city has a number of walks in, around and through it. It is possible to go on trips from Wellington; to Makara Beach to the west, and to Pencarrow Head through Petone and Eastbourne, on the eastern side of Wellington Harbour.

A cycle/walking track is being developed along the Hutt River between the Estuary Bridge, at the eastern end of the Esplanade & Brown Owl, 25 km away, with several access points en route. It is scheduled for completion by mid 1996 with some already useable. Some parts are gravel. Hopes are to eventually link it with the Rimutaka Incline. A track traversing the length of the Wellington region coastline is in the development stage with a long term aim to join with the Hutt River Trail.

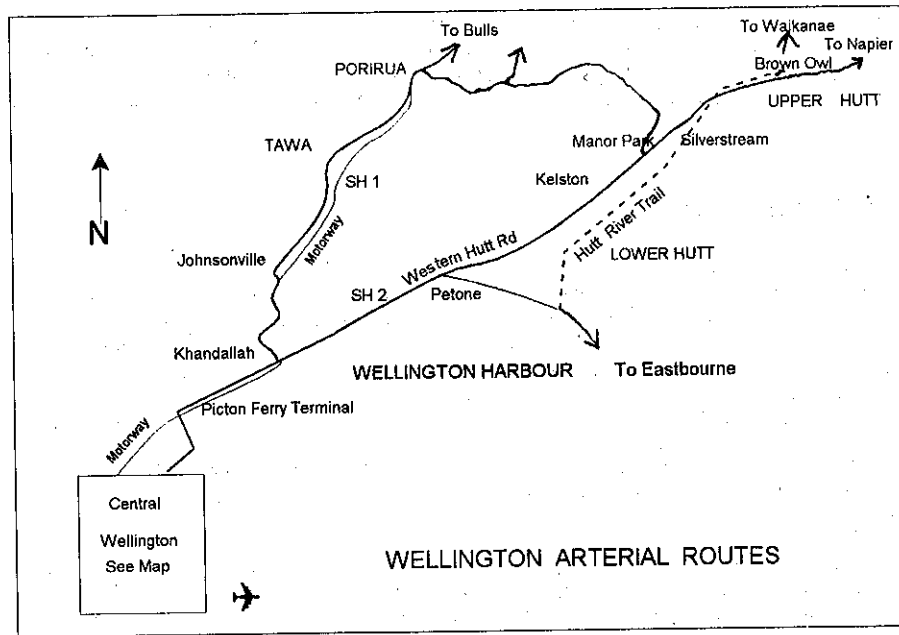
SERVICES: WELLINGTON: Altitude 5m, population: 330,000.
i: Civic Square, 101 Wakefield St ☎ 04 801 4000. Food: Many of all types of outlets. Accommodation: Motor camp none; hostel (bkpr 6, YHA 1); motel multitudes; hotel many. Transport: Trains to/from Auckland, Napier & Masterton. Bus & shuttles to/from almost everywhere south of Auckland.
 Bicycle Shops: Central: *Sam's Bike Shop, 91 Dixon St ☎ 04 801 8401. *Bicycle Unlimited, 65 Courtenay Pl ☎ 04 385 1233. *Penny Farthing, 89-95 Courtenay Pl ☎ 04 385 2279. *Cycle Services, 174 Cuba St ☎ 04 384 4979. *John Dean's Cyclery, 35 Lower Cuba St ☎ 04 499 8988.
 Not a complete list of bicycle shops.

PORIRUA: Food: All types of food outlets. Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel.
 Bicycle Shop: Porirua Cycle Centre, 81 Kenepuru Dr ☎ 04 237 4085.

LOWER HUTT: Food: The Pavilion, 25 Laings Rd ☎ 04 370 6699.

Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; motel 11; hotel 6. Bicycle Shop: *Penny Farthing, 109 Queens Drive ☎ 04 570 0383.

UPPER HUTT: Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp (no cabins); motel 4; hotel 2. Bicycle Shop: *Upper Hutt Bicycles, 159 Main St ☎ 04 528 8209. *Cycle Centre, 83 Main St ☎ 04 528 0880.
 Not a complete list of suburbs, ie Johnsonville, Tawa & Plimmerton.

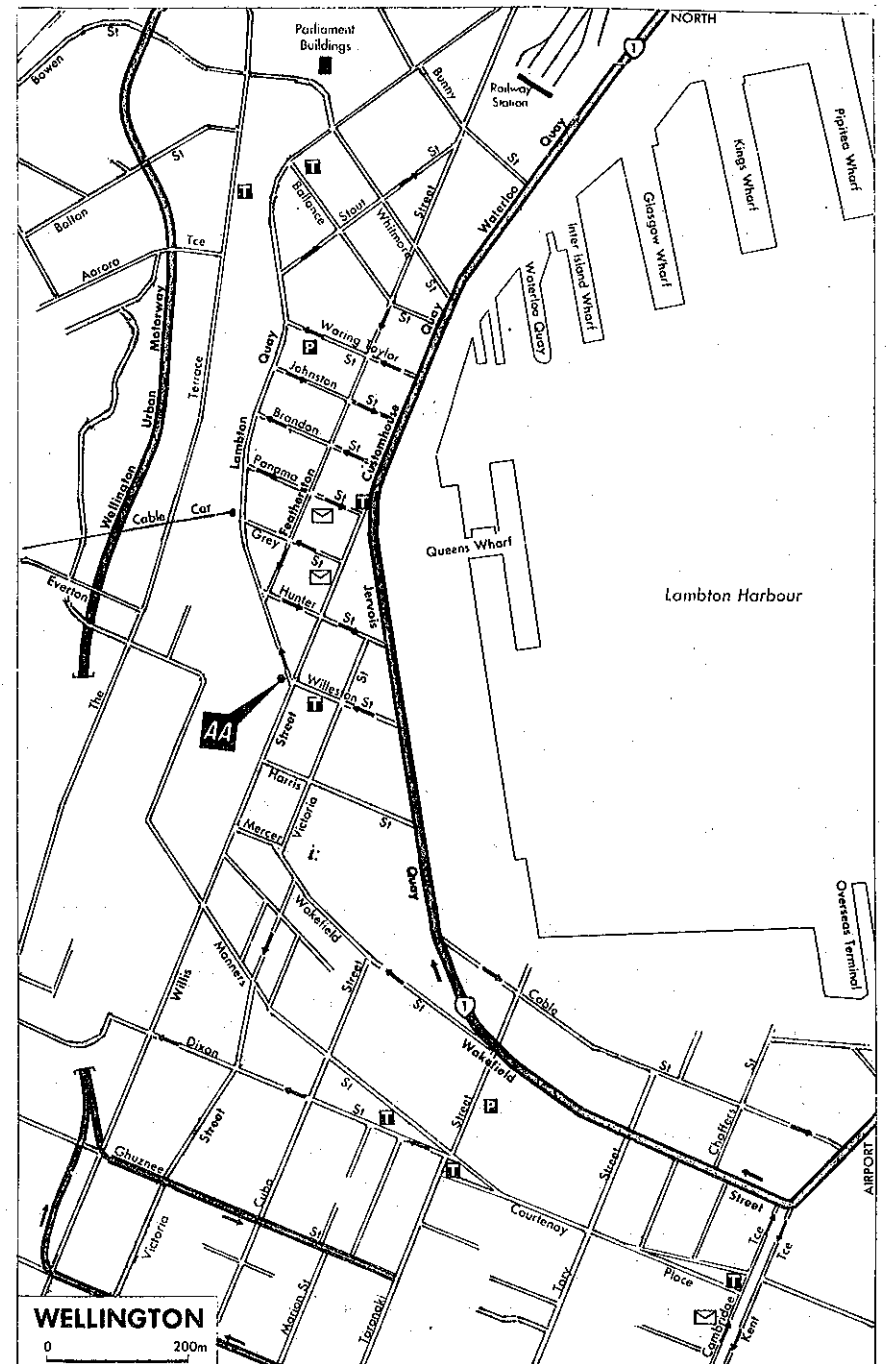


Due to the hills, heavy traffic and size of Wellington, it is recommended to take a suburban train whenever possible. If travelling to/from Bulls, they run between Paraparaumu and Wellington. If travelling to/from Napier, they go between Upper Hutt and Wellington. The fare for bikes is up to \$4. Off-peak is the best time to travel.

Those who cycle all the way can expect to encounter heavy traffic, especially through the northern suburbs. Cyclists are prohibited on the motorway between Porirua and Johnsonville.

NORTH from Bulls. The terrain between Paraparaumu and Wellington is flat at each end, with the middle bit between Pukerua Bay and SH 1/2 intersection being mostly moderate rolling, with occasional longer, steeper sections, like through Ngauranga Gorge to Wellington Harbour. It is recommended to avoid using this route, some claim it is the most dangerous stretch of highway in New Zealand.

EAST to Napier Flat along the harbour, then gentle climb through the Hutt Valley on Western Hutt Road. This is a much kinder route. There is also a cycle trail along the Hutt River, see Attractions above. Between the Picton Ferry Terminal and downtown, it is probably best to go along Aotea, then Waterloo Quays and after Wellington Railway Station, Customhouse and Jervis Quays.



3. WELLINGTON - WOODVILLE - NAPIER.

DISTANCES:	SH 2
3a) WELLINGTON - WOODVILLE	181 km*
3b) WOODVILLE - NAPIER	152 km
Total	333 km

Add 8 km if using Rimutaka Incline.

ROUTE: WELLINGTON - NAPIER on SH 2.

ALTERNATIVE 3a) i KAITOKE - FEATHERSTON on SH 2 or Rimutaka Incline.

ii MASTERTON - WAIPUKURAU on SH 2 or SH 52 through Pongaroa.

3b) i TAKAPAU - HASTINGS/NAPIER on SH 2 or SH 50 through Tikokino.

ii WAIPAWA - CLIVE on SH 2 or through Havelock North.

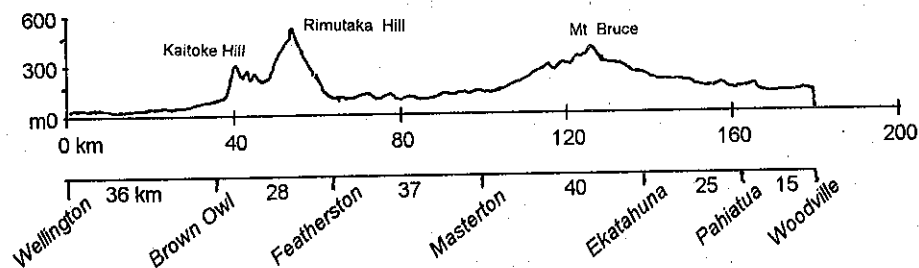
LINK ROAD 3a) WOODVILLE - PALMERSTON NORTH on SH 3. See Section 1a.

SIDE TRIP 3a) i FEATHERSTON - MARTINBOROUGH and CAPE PALLISER.

ii MASTERTON - MT HOLDSWORTH.

iii MASTERTON - CASTLEPOINT & RIVERSDALE BEACHES.

3a. WELLINGTON - MASTERTON - WOODVILLE.



SERVICES: WELLINGTON: See previous section. **BROWN OWL:** Alt 60m, dairy, takeaways.

KAITOKE: Alt 220m, DoC camping (water, toilet, table) in regional park; YHA hostel.

RIMUTAKA HILL: Alt 555m, tearooms, toilets. **ABBOTT'S CREEK:** picnic area.

FEATHERSTON: Alt 40m, pop 2500. i: The Courthouse, Fitzherbert St ☎ 06 308 8051.

Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motel; hotel. **TAUHERENIKAU:** Pub.

GREYTOWN: Alt 50m, pop 1800. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Domain motor camp (no cabins); motel; hotel 2.

CARTERTON: Alt 70m, pop 6500. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel; hotel. Bicycle Shop: Kemp Goodwin, 52-58 High St ☎ 06 379 8294.

MASTERTON: Alt 120m, pop 18,000. i: Queen Elizabeth Park, 5 Dixon St ☎ 06 378 7373.

Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel 6; hotel 2.

Transport: Train to/from Wgtn. Buses to/from Wgtn Palmerston North & Napier.

Bicycle Shop: *Lambert Cycles, 437 Queen St ☎ 06 378 8844. *Happy Valley Cycling Centre, 8 Church St ☎ 06 377 1726. *A & D Cycles, 288 Queen St ☎ 06 377 3366.

MT BRUCE: Alt 300m, tearooms, bird sanctuary, picnic area.

EKETAHUNA: Alt 230m, pop 600. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Domain motor camp; hotel. **HAMUA:** Alt 210m, picnic area.

PAHIATUA: Alt 110m, pop 2000. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp (no cabins); bkpr hostel; motel 2; hotel. Bicycle Shop: Pahiatua Cycle Centre, Main St ☎ 06 376 7519.

WOODVILLE: Alt 95m, pop 1800. i: 7 Vogel St ☎ 06 376 5742. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel. Transport: Train to/from Napier & Wellington. Bus & shuttles to/from Wellington, Wanganui & Napier.

GRADIENTS: Gentle uphill gradients through Hutt Valley on SH 2. A short steep climb after Brown Owl is followed by rolling terrain to Mangaroa River. Then goes up for 3 km, some steep and twisting to Kaitoke Hill (275m), followed by a steep 1 km descent past the Rimutaka Incline turn off (right), see alternative in options below. Then becomes rolling, sometimes quite steep. After Kaitoke SH 2 starts its long, winding, moderate 6½ km climb to the Rimutaka Hill (555m). Descends variably for 7½ km, sometimes quite steep and twisting, becomes a gradual down for the last 3½ km into Featherston.

Flat to undulating through to Masterton then a gradual climb up the Opaki Plain. Becomes rolling hills for 5 km to Ruamahanga River, then a moderate 2 km ascent of Mt Bruce (365m), followed by a similar 2 km descent before levelling out. Undulating to flat for most of the way to Woodville.

ATTRACTIONS: Rimutaka Incline is a cycle/tramping trail going from Kaitoke to Featherston, see alternative below. Nearby is the Kaitoke Regional Park with walking and rafting possibilities. Over Rimutaka Hill enter the Wairarapa and rural farming country. The towns of Featherston, Greytown, Carterton and Masterton straddle SH 2, all service the surrounding communities and becoming important for horticulture. Featherston has a fell railway museum with stuff left over from the Rimutaka Incline. A side trip goes to Martinborough and remote Cape Palliser, see Options below.

Adjacent SH 2, between Masterton and Eketahuna is Mt Bruce, a DoC National Wildlife Centre with breeding programmes for several endangered native birds and is open to the public. Eketahuna is most notable for being a place on the way to somewhere else, while Pahiatua is known for its broad main street. Many of these towns were established to clear the dense 70 Mile Bush that stretched from Manawatu to Hawke Bay. To the west, the rugged Tararua Ranges end at the impressive Manawatu Gorge. A number of tramping tracks are accessible from several points, such as Mt Holdsworth. Woodville is at the eastern end of Manawatu Gorge.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE i KAITOKE - RIMUTAKA INCLINE - FEATHERSTON.

Distance: 28 km. This is about 8 km longer than SH 2, avoids all the traffic over Rimutaka Hill and the zenith is 200m lower. Signposted to the right at the bottom of the downhill side of Kaitoke Hill. It follows the route of an old railway track, it includes tunnels, bridges, cuttings, embankments and washouts. More suitable for mountain and cross bikes.

Travels on a mostly well formed gravel surface up through the Pakuratahi Forest to the summit (350m). Pass through the 580m long Summit Tunnel (torch recommended) and emerge on the Wairarapa side entering Rimutaka Forest Park. This side goes through more open country, is steeper with an incline of 1:15 (or is that decline?). Care is needed in tunnels and exposed Siberia Washout area, especially in bad weather. A train was blown off the tracks here in 1880!

Informal camping (toilet, water) at Ladle Bend, Summit (also shelter), and Cross Creek. At the Cross Creek end of the track go left onto Western Lake Road, it is 10 km to Featherston.

ALTERNATIVE ii MASTERTON - PONGAROA - WAIPUKURAU on SH 52. Distance: 197 km.

Near Pongaroa is the world's longest place name. Get your lips around this one!

Taumatawhakatangihangaakoauauotamatea(turipukakapimaungahoronuku)pokaiwhenuakitanatahu. Which means "the place where Tamatea, (the man with the big knees, who slid climbed and swallowed mountains) who travelled over the land, played his flute to his loved one". Or so they say! Some gravel and long steep hills to traverse. **MASTERTON:** See above. **PONGAROA:** Store, dairy, pub.

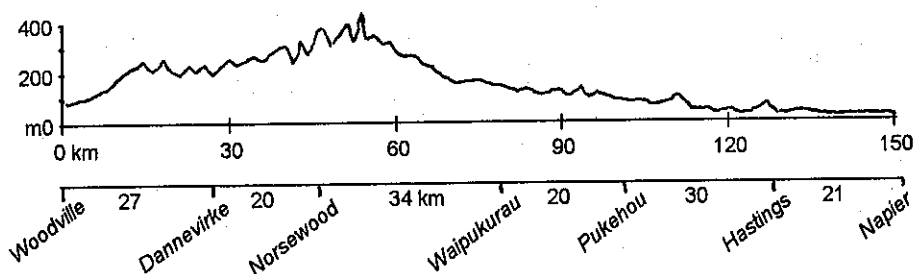
HERBERTVILLE: 12 km off SH 52. Motor camp (no cabins); pub. **PORANGAHAU:** Dairy, hotel. **WANSTEAD:** pub. **WAIPUKURAU:** See below.

SIDE TRIP i FEATHERSTON - MARTINBOROUGH. 18 km SE of Featherston. New Zealand's first sheep station was established at Martinborough. The town's streets are laid out in the form of a Union Jack, it is now becoming famous for its wines. Farther south is the large but shallow Lake Wairarapa, which is an important wetlands and waterfowl area. At the bottom end of the North Island is the remote Cape Palliser, with its seal colony. Care is needed after rain.
MARTINBOROUGH: Pop 1500. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Domain camping (no cabins); motel; hotel. **PIRINOA:** Store. **LAKE FERRY:** Motor camp; hotel.

SIDE TRIP ii MT HOLDSWORTH is one of the main access points to the Tararua Ranges, with several walks and longer tramps in the area. DoC camping (toilets, water, tables) and Field Centre.

SIDE TRIP iii MASTERTON - CASTLEPOINT & RIVERSDALE BEACHES. 69 km & 56 km respectively. These are holiday resorts on the remote and rugged Wairarapa Coast. **TINUI:** hotel. **CASTLEPOINT:** Store, motor camp, motel, hotel. **RIVERSDALE:** Store, motor camp (no cabins),

3b. WOODVILLE - HASTINGS - NAPIER.



SERVICES: WOODVILLE: See previous section.

DANNEVIRKE: Alt 200m, pop 6000. *i:* 156 High St ☎ 06 374 8983. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel 3.

NORSEWOOD: Alt 380m, pop 350. Store, tearooms, domain camping (toilets, water) 4 km N of town; hotel. **TAKAPAU:** 2 km off SH 2. Alt 240m, store, takeaways, hotel.

WAIPIKURAU: Alt 140m, pop 4500. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel 2. **WAIPAWA:** Alt 140m, pop 1800. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp (no cabins); motel.

Bicycle Shop: Booker Cycles, 57 Ruataniwha St ☎ 06 858 9377.

OTANE: 1 km off SH 2. Alt 100m, pub. **PUKEHOU:** Alt 80m, store.

HASTINGS: Alt 20m, pop 37,000. *i:* Russell St ☎ 06 878 0510. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 2; bkpr hostel 3; motel 13; hotel 5. Bicycle Shop: *Hastings Cycles, Heretaunga St E ☎ 06 878 7296. *The Hub, 1021 Heretaunga St W ☎ 06 876 9363.

CLIVE: Alt 5m, Dairy, takeaways, pub, motor camp (no cabins); motel.

NAPIER: Alt 5m, pop 51,000. *i:* Marine Pde ☎ 06 834 4161. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp 2; hostel (bkpr 3, YHA 1); motel lots; hotel many.

Transport: One train to/from Wellington. Bus & shuttles to/from & Wellington, Rotorua & Gisborne.

Bicycle shop: *Napier Cycleworld, 104 Carlyle St ☎ 06 835 9528. *Bike Torque, Shackleton St ☎ 06 843 8736. *Pedal Power, Ocean Blvd Mall ☎ 06 834 0774. Not a complete list.

GRADIENTS: SH 2 alternates between flat to rolling all the way to Dannevirke. Undulates at first after Dannevirke, then becomes roller coaster uphill with a few stiff dips and climbs to cross rivers. Continues in a similar vein, passing through Norsewood, with the last steep climb being out of the Manawatu River. Rolls and undulates down from there, the terrain easing to become almost flat as the highway turns east and joins Makaretu River. Only an occasional minor hill to Waipawa, then alternates between undulations and rolling hills but nothing too extreme with a final climb just before Pakipaki. Flat around Napier and Hastings.

ATTRACTIONS: To the west, the Ruahine Range takes over from where the Tararua left off, being separated only by the narrow Manawatu Gorge. The Manawatu River is unusual in that it starts on the eastern slopes of the Ruahine Mountains, then turns west to go through the gorge. Like many parts of the North Island, European settlement of the region started by cutting down the native forest and turned to farming as the bush disappeared. Dannevirke and Norsewood will be of interest to cycling Viking, being founded last century by Scandinavian migrants. Norsewood is famous for high quality woollen garments.

Southern Hawke Bay has the twin centres of Hastings & Napier and is an important horticultural area with wine tours and seasonal orchard work. In 1931 Hawke Bay, particularly Napier, was devastated by an earthquake. It was rebuilt using the architectural style of the time, commonly called art-deco and today gives the city a special character. They even have an earthquake museum. Nearby at Cape Kidnappers is reputedly the world's only mainland gannet colony.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE i TAKAPAU - TIKOKINO - NAPIER on SH 50. Distance: 84 km.

9 km shorter than SH 2 through Hastings. Undulates and rolls for the first leg with a flattish bit round Waipawa River before a variable steep climb along Mangaonuku Stream. Rolls around the top (365m), then a variable descent with a minor hill before Maraekakaho, where SH 50 joins Ngaruroro River. Mostly flat to undulating from there to Napier. Less traffic than SH 2.

ONGAONGA: Alt 200m, store, pub. **TIKOKINO:** Alt 235m, store, pub. **FERNHILL:** Alt 20m All types of food outlets. **NAPIER:** See above.

ALTERNATIVE ii WAIPAWA - HAVELOCK NORTH - NAPIER. At Waipawa go right (east), on Pourere Road, joining River Road and Tukituki River to Patangata (pub), then Middle Road as it travels to the east of the Kaokaoroa Hills for much of the way to HAVELOCK NORTH: Pop 8800. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; motel; hotel. Bicycle Shop: Village Court Cycles, Te Mata Road ☎ 06 877 8477. This route bypasses central Hastings rejoining SH 2 near Clive.

Nearby is the distinctive Te Mata Peak with spectacular views from the top, where hang-gliders hang out. To the east are a couple of seaside resorts, Waimarama (tearooms, motor camp) & Ocean Beach.

This chapter covers most of the eastern areas of the North Island between Napier and Rotorua and Tauranga. The route goes along SH 2 from Napier to Tauranga and Rotorua, plus round East Cape from Gisborne to Opotiki, and Rotorua to Wairoa

The remote Te Urewera is the largest and most easterly of the North Island national parks and the only one in this chapter. Its main features include Lake Waikaremoana, Panekiri Bluff, backed by rugged mountains and dense virgin forest. The track round the lake is a DoC Great Walk. Supplementing Te Urewera are Raukumara, Waioeka and Whirinaki Forest Parks, all comprising of similar steep mountains and native bush. Mt Hikurangi is the North Island's highest non-volcanic mountain.

The route around East Cape is also a scenic highlight, particularly the northern part between Opotiki and Hick's Bay. It has been described as one of the world's finest coastal cycle routes. This is especially true in summer when the pohutukawa blooms. The entire region has long stretches of beautiful coastal scenery including bays, headlands and fine sandy beaches. East Cape has the added attraction of being historically important regarding the arrival of Polynesians and Europeans. Gisborne and Whakatane are the principal towns, both reliant on horticulture.

1. NAPIER - WAIROA - GISBORNE.

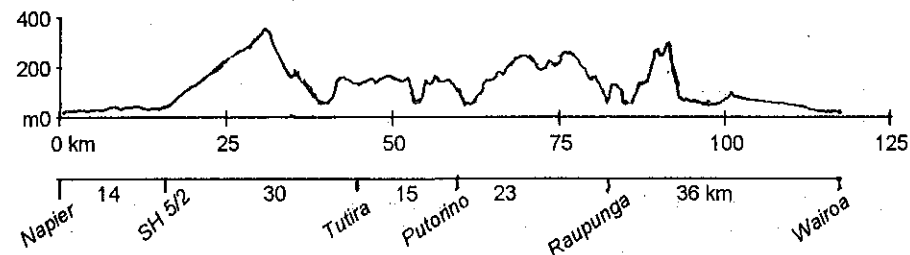
DISTANCES:

	SH 2
1a) NAPIER - WAIROA	118 km
1b) WAIROA - GISBORNE	99 km*
Total	217 km

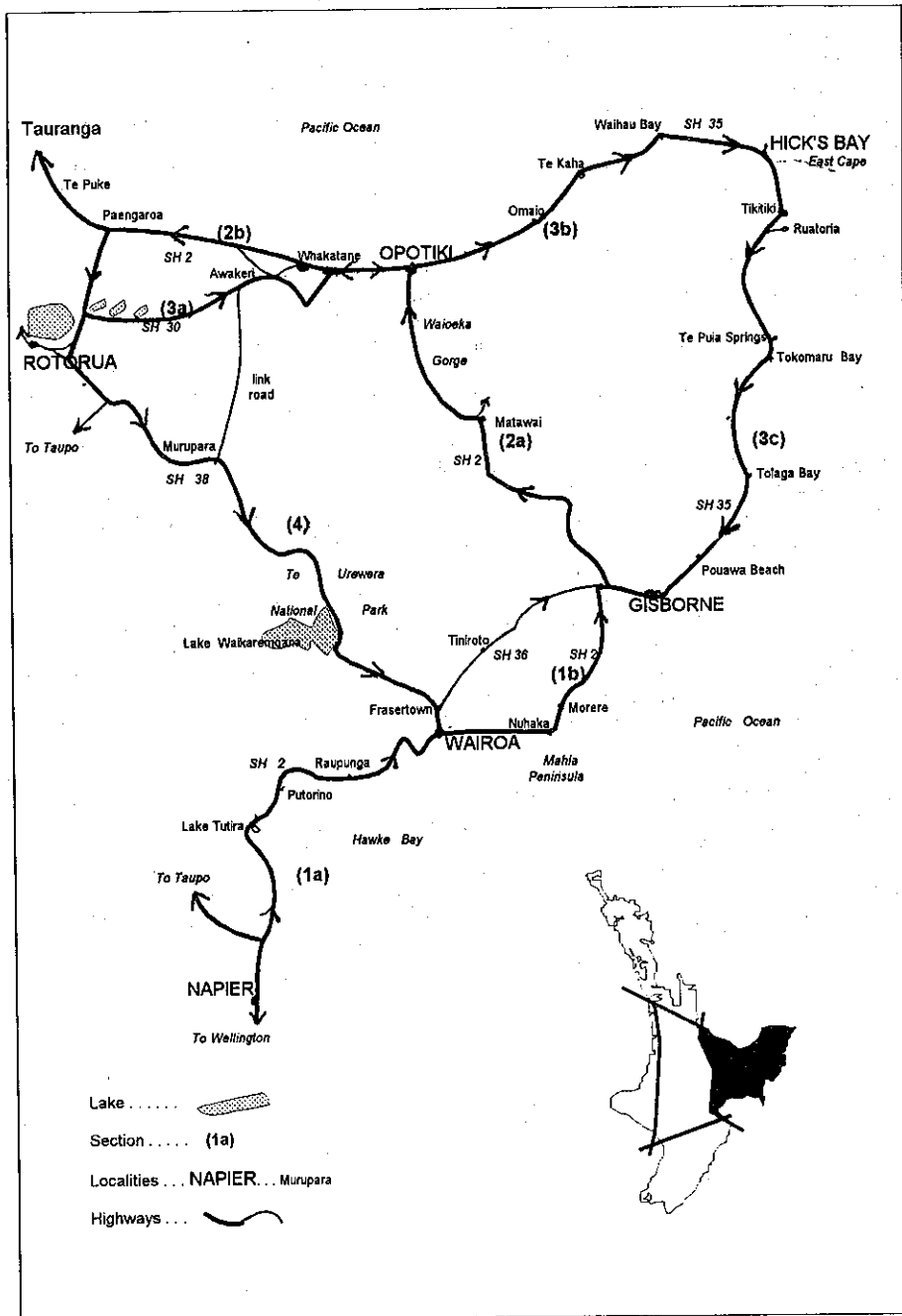
* Add 3 km if going on SH 36, the inland route.

ROUTE: NAPIER - GISBORNE on SH 2.
ALTERNATIVE 1b) WAIROA - GISBORNE. The busier SH 2 or more challenging SH 36.
SIDE TRIP 1b) NUHAKA - MAHIA PENINSULA.
LINK ROAD 1b) WAIROA - LAKE WAIKAREMOANA - ROTORUA on SH 38/5. See Section 4.

1a. NAPIER - LAKE TUTIRA - WAIROA.



SERVICES: NAPIER: Alt 5m, pop 51,000. *i:* 100 Marine Pde ☎ 06 834 4161.
 Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 2; hostel (bkpkr 3, YHA 1); motel lots; hotel many.
 Transport: Train to/from Wellington. Bus & shuttles to/from Wellington, Gisborne & Taupo.
 Bicycle shop: *Napier Cycleworld, 104 Carlyle St ☎ 06 835 9528. *Bike Torque, Shackleton St ☎ 06 843 8736. *Pedal Power, Ocean Blvd Mall ☎ 06 834 0774. Not a complete list.
TANGOIO: Alt 75m, picnic area. **WHITE PINE:** Alt 280m, picnic area.



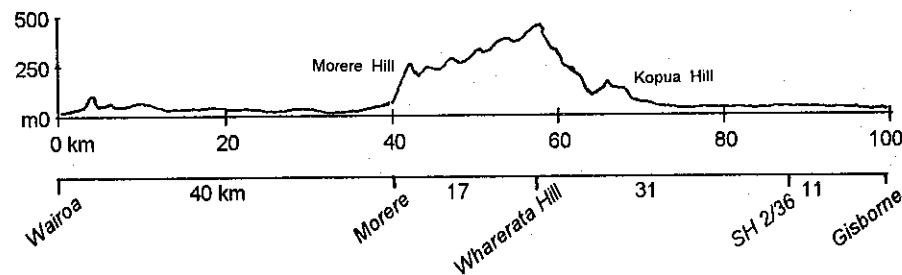
GLENVIEW: Bkpr hostel, 2km off SH 2. **DEVIL'S ELBOW:** Alt 160m, picnic area.
LAKE TUTIRA: Alt 160m, DoC camping (toilets, water, table, shelter) adj SH 2, store.
PUTORINO: Alt 85m, pop 300, pub. **MOHAKA RIVER:** Alt 40m, picnic area.
RAUPUNGA: Alt 100m, pop 300. Store/takeaways. **TAUMATATAUA HILL:** picnic area.
WAIHUA BEACH: picnic area. **WAIROA:** See next section.

GRADIENTS: SH 2 starts flat, running parallel to the coastline for 19 km then becomes hilly, some steep, narrow and twisting for much of the way to Lake Tutira. The first 15 km are uphill as the highway heads inland, passing Tangoio then White Pine Scenic Reserves, before levelling out at 340m. Descends 200m in 3 km, climbs for a short distance to go through the hairpin bends of Devil's Elbow, then down again quite steep for 1 km. Becomes almost flat to Waikoau River, then heads skywards out of the gorge for 130m in 1½ km before levelling out for a gentle down to Lake Tutira.

After Lake Tutira SH 2 rolls and undulates, except for three more gorges; Matahorua, Waikari and Mohaka. All have considerable elevation loss/gain in short distances, like steep. After Mohaka Gorge SH 2 climbs to Raupunga, descends back to the river, then climbs in two leaps and a bound to the top of Taumatataua Hill (250m). A steep roll, then descends 180m in 2 km. Surprisingly after all the hills, gradients suddenly become quite tame for most of the last 25 km into Wairoa.

ATTRACTIONS: Pass Tangoio & White Pine Scenic Reserves and aptly named Devil's Elbow. Lake Tutira has a wildlife refuge and is one of the highlights of the journey to Wairoa. Pass under and marvel at the Mohaka Viaduct, a piece of modern engineering. At 100m above the river it is the highest in New Zealand, it will make an excellent cycle trail when the railway line eventually closes! Wairoa is the first sizeable town since Napier and last until Gisborne. Wairoa sits astride of the Wairoa River. This is not to be confused with Wairoa River at Dargaville; Wairoa River at Clevedon; Wairoa River and Pa near Tauranga; Wairua River near Whangarei or Wairau River at Blenheim. Nor is it to be mistaken with Wairau Lagoon, Wairau Valley, Wairau Pa, Wairau Bar (& grill), Wairau Arm (& Leg) or Wairau Incident! And wainotone may ask?

1b. WAIROA - MORERE - GISBORNE.



SERVICES: WAIROA: Altitude 5m, pop 5500. *i:* Cnr SH 2/Queen St ☎ 06 838 7440. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel 3. Transport: Bus & shuttle to/from Waikaremoana, Napier & Gisborne. **NUHAKA:** Alt 20m, pop 300. store.
MORERE: Alt 40m, pop 100. Store, tearooms, pub, motor camp, bkpr hostel (not winter).
WHARERATA HILL: Alt 488m, picnic area (table). **MANUTUKE:** Store.
GISBORNE: Alt 5m, pop 30,000. *i:* 209 Grey St ☎ 06 868 6139. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 2; hostel (bkpr 2; YHA 1); motel 15; hotel 3. Transport: Bus & shuttle to/from Opotiki, Napier & Hicks Bay. Bicycle Shop: *Frank Allen Cycles, 101 Wainui Rd ☎ 06 867 3677. *A B Pro Cycle Centre, 14 Peel St ☎ 06 867 6314. *Petherick Cycles, Cnr Gladstone/Roebuck Rd ☎ 06 867 4571.

GRADIENTS: A short hill soon after leaving Wairoa then mostly flat to Nuhaka as SH 2 runs parallel to the eastern end of Hawke Bay. Heads inland from there with a gentle uphill for the 8 km to Morere village, then immediately climbs quite steep for 4 km to Morere Hill (280m). A short descent is followed by a rolling, stepped climb for 12½ km to Whararata Hill (488m). After the summit go down variably steep for 8 km, followed by a moderate 3 km climb over Kopua Hill (120m), before resuming a fairly steep descent for 4½ km. Mostly flat from the bottom for the rest of the journey to Gisborne.

ATTRACTIONS: After Wairoa, pass Whakaki Lagoon, a notable feeding ground for migratory birds, on the way to Nuhaka, from where a side trip goes to Opoutama Beach and Mahia Peninsula. Morere has hot springs and is a pleasant spot before the ascent of Morere & Whararata Hills. Spectacular views over Poverty Bay and beyond Gisborne from Whararata look-out. Gisborne is the biggest city in the Poverty Bay region, in recent years a reputable wine and fruit growing industry has developed. It is here in Oct 1769 that Captain Cook made the first known landing in New Zealand of a European. The Cook Memorial on Kaiti Beach records the event. At nearby Matawhero in 1868 Te Kooti murdered many local Maori & European in what was called the Poverty Bay Massacre, the church being the only building he spared, is still standing. Gisborne is the gateway to East Cape and claims to be the first city in the world to see the sun, if it isn't cloudy.

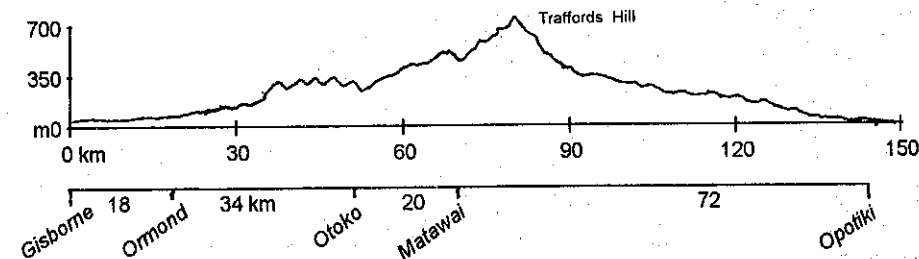
OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE WAIROA - GISBORNE on SH 36. Distance: 102 km. This route is 3 km longer than SH 2, is much hillier but has little traffic. The highway alternates between flattish stretches and long steep ascents and descents. The route has some interesting sights, from and to, such places as Te Reinga Falls, Doneraile Park and Gentle Annie Hill. **WAIROA:** see above. **FRASERTOWN:** Alt 15, pop 500. Store, pub, bkpr hostel. **MARUMARU:** pub. **TINIROTO:** Alt 260m, pop 200, pub. **DONERAILLE PARK:** Alt 240m, domain camping (toilet, water, table) on steep side road. **WAERENGAOKURI:** store. **GENTLE ANNIE:** Alt 304m, picnic area, (table).

2. GISBORNE - OPOTIKI - ROTORUA.

DISTANCES:	SH 2/33/30
2a) GISBORNE - MATAWAI - OPOTIKI	144 km
2b) OPOTIKI - PAENGAROA - ROTORUA	152 km
Total	296 km

ROUTE: GISBORNE - PAENGAROA on SH 2. PAENGAROA - ROTORUA on SH 33/30.
OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE 2b) KUTARERE - MATATA. SH 2 through Taneatua or the shorter, coast road through Ohope & Whakatane.
LINK ROAD 2b) I PAENGAROA - TAURANGA on SH 2.

2a. GISBORNE - MATAWAI - OPOTIKI.



SERVICES: GISBORNE: See Section 1b. **WAERENGAHIKA:** pub.

ORMOND: Store, pub. **TE KARAKA:** Off SH 2. Alt 45m, store, takeaways, pub.

OTOKO: Alt 180m, picnic area. **RAKAUROA:** Alt 460m, picnic area.

MATAWAI: Alt 540m, pop 200. Store, tearooms, hotel. **OPATO BRIDGE:** Alt 350m, picnic area.

MANGANUKU: 200m, DoC camping (toilet, water) adj SH 2. **WAIRATA:** Alt 150m, picnic area.

OPOTIKI: Alt 5m, pop 6000. *i:* Cnr St John/Elliot Sts ☎ 07 315 8484. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel 2; hotel 2.

Bicycle Shop: Hickey's Opotiki Sports Depot, 122 Church St ☎ 07 315 6238.

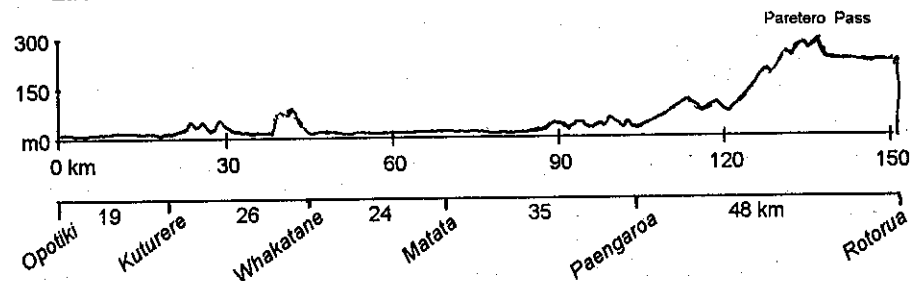
GRADIENTS: Flat to begin with then follows Waipaoa River inland gently rising for many km. After Te Karaka gradients become rolling uphill, passing Otoko & Rakauroa on the way to Matawai. Another climb after Matawai before gradients ease around Trafford's Hill (725m). Descends sometimes quite steeply before entering Waioeka Gorge, with the highway twisting and turning its way down through the narrow bush clad hills on a mostly gradual fairly steep descent. Becomes flat as Opotiki nears.

ATTRACTIONS: Pass small settlements on the way to the interior. Otoko Walkway, adjacent to SH 2 is a short scenic track using the bed of an old railway line. Matawai is a quaint village from where a side road goes to Motu. The old coach road links with SH 35 at Opape on the coast, east of Opotiki. Being mostly unsealed through remote bush, it is popular with experienced mountain bikers. Avoid when the annual National Car Rally is in the area.

Magnificent scenery through Waioeka Gorge from Opato Bridge for much of the way to Opotiki. This is the largest scenic reserve in New Zealand with rugged terrain and splendid native flora and fauna. During the land wars Te Kooti used the area as a base to raid nearby settlements.

Opotiki is now a small rural town was one of the first areas to be settled. St Stephen's Church was built in 1865 by Rev Carl Sylvus Volkner, who came to an unpleasant end at the hands of Hauhau rebels, is buried in the church grounds. A local excursion goes to Hukutaia Domain where one of NZ's oldest trees, a puriri, is located. At one time it was used as a burial site.

2b. OPOTIKI - WHAKATANE - PAENGAROA - ROTORUA.



SERVICES: OPOTIKI: See Section 2a to Gisborne, 3a to Rotorua direct, or 3b to East Cape.

WAIOTAHU BEACH: Alt 5m. Picnic area, store, tearooms, motor camp.

KUTARERE: Store. Leave SH 2 for the shorter route to Whakatane.

OHOPE: Alt 5m, pop 2000. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: Motor camp 2; motel 6; hotel.

WHAKATANE: Alt 5m, pop 13,000. *i:* Boon St ☎ 07 308 6058. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel 5; hotel 5. Bicycle Shop: *Whakatane Cycle Centre, Boon St ☎ 07 308 8663. *New Port Cycles, 44 King St ☎ 07 308 7855. **THORNTON:** Dairy, beach motor camp.

MATATA: Alt 10m. Dairy, tearooms, pub, motor camp/shop.

PIKOWAI BEACH: Domain camping (shelter, toilets, water, coin showers).

MANIATUTU: shop. **PAENGAROA:** Alt 30m, store, motel. **OTARAMARAE:** picnic area.

OKERE FALLS: Motor camp, picnic area. **MOUREA:** Store, tearooms, pub.

ROTORUA: See Chapter Five Section 1.

GRADIENTS: Flat leaving Opotiki, go right just after Kutarere for a short cut to Whakatane through Ohope. This road rolls a bit at first then becomes flat as it skirts around Ohiwa Harbour to Ohope Beach. Travel parallel to the beach, then take an abrupt steep climb away from Ohope. On reaching the top it rolls before a moderate quite steep descent to Whakatane.

Flat on leaving Whakatane until the end of Kohioawa Beach, then rolls and undulates to Paengaroa. Go left to Rotorua. Climbs gently at first, becoming variable uphill. 2 km after entering the pine plantation SH 33 descends for 1 km before resuming up again for 4 km. It then rolls and meanders along for a while before a final 2½ km variable climb to what is the stiff upper lip of the central volcanic plateau. A 1 km descent to Okere Falls then mostly easy gradients from there to Rotorua except a small hill at Okawa Bay.

ATTRACTIONS: Ohope Beach is a popular holiday resort. Offshore the smouldering volcanic White Island dominates the scene from most parts of the Bay of Plenty. Whakatane has a pleasant air to it, seasonal dolphin swimming goes from here as well as other fishy related sports. The Bay of Plenty and Rotorua areas are of importance to the Arawa Tribe, being settled by descendants of the Arawa canoe of the great fleet, whose final resting place is considered to be at Maketu.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE: KUTARERE - AWAKERI - MATATA. Distance 58 km. Avoids the "big" city of Whakatane but is 8 km longer. Mostly flat except for rolling hills between Kutarere and Tamatea. **KUTARERE:** See above. **TANEATUA:** Store. **AWAKERI:** Dairy, takeaways, motor camp. **EDGE CUMBE:** Store, dairy, takeaways, pub.

LINK ROAD I PAENGAROA - TAURANGA. Distance: 36 km. Rolls and undulates.

Te Puke is one of the main kiwifruit fruit growing regions. At the western end of Bay of Plenty is Tauranga, a bustling port and city with nearby Mount Maunganui a popular kiwi holiday resort, especially with drunken louts at New Year!

PAENGAROA: Alt 30m, store, motel. **RANGIURU:** picnic area.

TEPUKE: Pop 5200. *i:* Jellico St, ☎ 07 573 9172. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel. Bicycle Shop: *Attrills Cycles, 124 Jellico St ☎ 07 573 7019.

PAPAMO: Alt 10m pop 400. Store, motor camp 2; motel.

MT MAUNGANUI: Alt 5m, pop 15,000. *i:* Salisbury Ave ☎ 07 575 5099.

Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 4; 2 bkpr hostel; motel 8; hotel 1.

TAURANGA: See Chapter One, Section 4b for onward travel.

3. ROTORUA - OPOTIKI - EAST CAPE - GISBORNE.

DISTANCES:

3a) ROTORUA - OPOTIKI	130 km
3b) OPOTIKI - HICKS BAY	148 km
3b) HICKS BAY - GISBORNE	182 km
Total	460 km

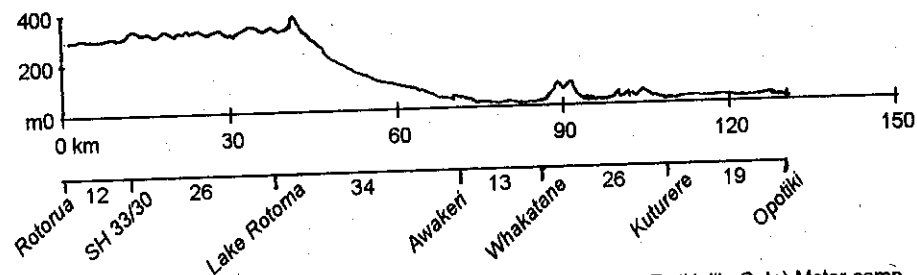
ROUTE: ROTORUA - OPOTIKI on SH 30. OPOTIKI - GISBORNE on SH 35.

ALTERNATIVE 3a) AWAKERI - KUTARERE on SH 2 through Whakatane.

SIDE TRIP 3b) To East Cape.

LINK ROAD 3a) TE TEK (SH 30) - MURUPARA (SH 38) on Galatea Road.

3a. ROTORUA - WHAKATANE - OPOTIKI.



SERVICES: ROTORUA: See Chapter Five, Section 1. **TIKITERE:** (Hell's Gate) Motor camp. **LAKE ROTOITI:** Alt 280m, picnic area at Hauparu Bay. Store, takeaways, at Gisborne Pt. Pub & camping at Hinehopu. **LAKE ROTOEHU:** Alt 295m, picnic area. **LAKE ROTOMA:** Alt 315m, dairy/tearooms/pub/camping, picnic area. **KAWARAU:** 7 km off SH 30. Alt 30m, pop 8000. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motel; hotel 2. Bicycle Shop: Spokes Cycles Centre, Onslow St ☎ 07 323 8418. **TE TEKOKO:** Alt 25m, store, pub. **AWAKERI:** Motor camp/hot springs. Dairy, tearooms. **WHAKATANE:** Alt 5m, pop 13,000. i: Boon St ☎ 07 308 6058. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel 5; hotel 5. Bicycle Shop: *Whakatane Cycle Centre, Boon St ☎ 07 308 8663. *New Port Cycles, 44 King St ☎ 07 308 7855. **OHOPE:** Alt 5m, pop 2000. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. **KUTARERE:** Store. Accom: Motor camp 2; motel 6; hotel. **WAIOTAHU BEACH:** Alt 5m. Picnic area, store, tearooms, motor camp. **OPOTIKI:** See Section 3b for East Cape, Section 2a for Gisborne direct.

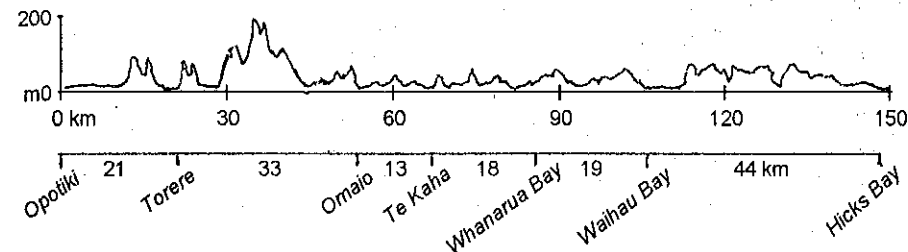
GRADIENTS: Steep hills around Hell's Gate, rolls and undulates past Lakes Rotoiti, Rotoehu and Rotoma, short steep climb to 370m then descends through native forest to leave the volcanic plateau. Quite steep and winding at first becomes a gradual descent, flatter as SH 30 passes Kawarau. Flat with hills falling away and becoming coastal plains nearer to Whakatane.

ATTRACTIONS: On the way to Whakatane travel past Lakes Rotoiti, Rotoehu and Rotoma, all craters of extinct volcanoes and an indication of the area's violent past. Some thermal activity still remains, such as Hell's Gate. The lakes and bush make this a scenic route to take. After Kawarau with its giant pulp and paper mill, join the plains. Nearby is the distinctive volcanic cone of Mt Edgecumbe. Awakeri is a pleasant spot with the added attraction of hot springs, a short distance from Whakatane.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE AWAKERI - KUTARERE on SH 2. Distance 36 km. Bypasses Whakatane & Ohope Beach but about the same distance. Goes through TANEATUA (Store) and Whakatere Gorge (picnic area), mostly rolling to KUTARERE (Store).

LINK ROAD TE TEKOKO (SH 30) - MURUPARA (SH 38) on Galatea Road. Distance 64 km. Gives access to/from Whakatane and Te Urewera National Park. Climbs in leaps and bounds through pine plantations, native bush, past hydro lakes and swift flowing rivers. Almost deserted but sealed road. **LAKE ANIWHENUA:** Alt 150m, domain camping (toilet, water, table). **KOPURIKI:** Store, tearooms. **MURUPARA:** See Section 4.

3b. OPOTIKI - TE KAHA - HICKS BAY.

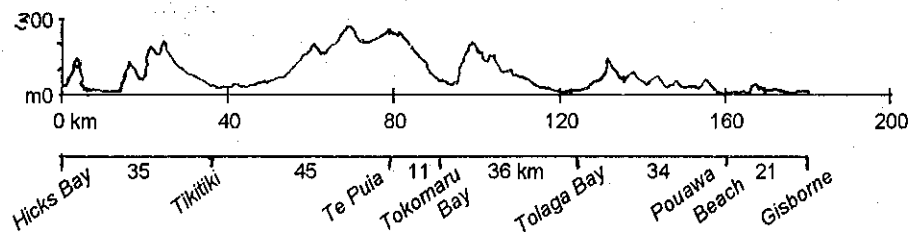


SERVICES: OPOTIKI: Alt 5m, pop 6000. i: Cnr St John/Elliot Sts ☎ 07 315 8484. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel 2; hotel 2. Bicycle Shop: Hickey's Opotiki Sports Depot, 122 Church St ☎ 07 315 6238. **TIROHANGA:** Alt 10m, dairy, motor camp. **OPAPE:** Alt 10m, motor camp (no cabins). **TORERE:** Alt 5m, takeaways, picnic area. **RAINUI HILL:** Alt 210m, picnic area. **OMAIO:** Alt 10m, pop 200. Store/tearooms. Domain camping (toilets, water, table). **TE KAHA:** Alt 20m, pop 300. Store, motor camp, hotel (bkpr accom). **MARAETAI BAY:** picnic area. **WHANARUA BAY:** motor camp/shop, takeaways. **RAUKOKORE:** picnic area adj SH 35. **WAIHAU BAY:** Store/tearooms/takeaways, hotel (also cabins). **ORUAITI BEACH:** Motor camp. **HICKS BAY:** Store, takeaways, bkpr hostel, motel. Shuttle to/from Opotiki & Gisborne.

GRADIENTS: The first 12 km out of Opotiki are flat. Then 16 km of roller coaster road before a sometimes steep climb from Hawaii River to Maraenui Lookout and another to Rainui Hill (210m), followed by variable rolling down as SH 35 turns inland to cross the Motu River. Easy gradients to return to the coast, then alternates between gentle undulations to traverse bays and rolling over headlands as the highway hugs the coast all the way to Waihou Bay. After Waihou Bay is a flat 5 km stretch along Whangaparaoa Bay before a 1 km quite steep climb away from the coast. The last 38 km to Hicks Bay are inland with long sweeping rolls being interspersed by gentle undulations.

ATTRACTIONS: The almost deserted highway passes picturesque bays, sheer headlands, quaint churches, tiny historic settlements, and sandy beaches. Apart from the last 40 km to Hicks Bay, SH 35 is never far from the coast and is considered by some to be one of the finest coastal cycling routes in the world. This is especially so during early summer when the pohutukawa blooms. While seemingly not lacking in numbers, the tree is endangered because there are so few young ones. The coastal area is important to Maori culture, it is thought habitation in these parts began during the Toi period of about 11th century, which pre-dates the great migration fleet by 200 years. The Tainui, Arawa and other canoes are said to have made their first landfall at Whangaparaoa (Cape Runaway) from Hawaiki in about 1350 AD. This is the first place in New Zealand kumara were grown. Rejoin the coast at Hicks Bay, yet another tiny settlement in an idyllic setting. Go to East Cape from here.

3c. HICKS BAY - TOKOMARU BAY - GISBORNE.



SERVICES: HICKS BAY: See Section 3b.**TE ARAROA:** Alt 10m, pop 350. Store, takeaways, motor camp, hotel.**TIKITIKI:** Alt 50m, pop 140. Dairy/takeaways, hotel (also camping).**RUATORIA:** Alt 60m, pop 1000. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.Accom: Motor camp; motel; hotel. **TAKAPAU HILL:** Alt 280m picnic area.**TE PUIA SPRINGS:** Alt 240m, pop 350. *i:* Main Road, ☎ 06 864 6853. Store, hotel, motel.**TOKOMARU BAY:** Alt 5m, pop 300. Store, tearooms, pub, motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel.**ANAURA BAY:** Alt 5m. DoC camping (toilets, water, table), about 7km off SH 35.**TOLAGA BAY:** Alt 5m, pop 550. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel. **POUAWA BEACH:** picnic area.**TURIHAUA BEACH:** Informal camping (toilet, tables). **TATAPOURI:** pub.**MAKORORI BEACH:** Picnic areas (toilet, table, shelter). **OKITU:** Dairy**WAINUI:** Pop 500. Store, takeaways, restaurant, motel 2. **GISBORNE:** see Section 1b.

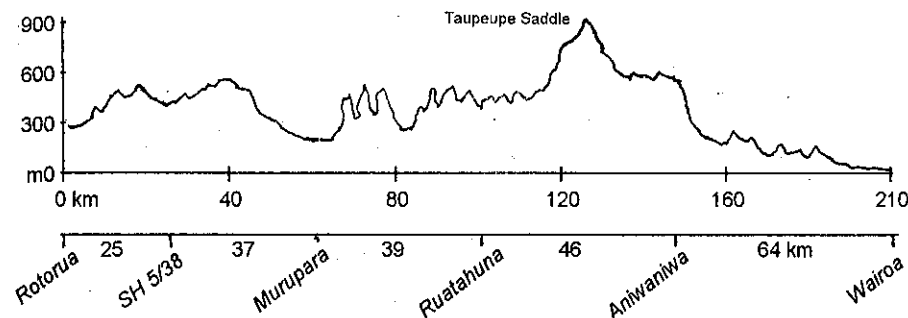
GRADIENTS: Climbs variably steep for 2km on leaving Hick's Bay and similar descent to go over Pukeamaru Hill (140m). Then flat for 6 km to Araroa, before going up again. This is the first of three bigish hills that climb to 115m, 205m & 220m respectively, all in too few kilometres and ending with a long variable descent to Tikitiki. After Tikitiki, apart from a moderate river bluff, the gradients are easy for the 19 km to Ruatoria turn off. Rolls and undulates for 8 km, before a gradual 5½ km climb up Kopuora Valley. Becomes steeper before a short descent and up again variable for another 3 km to Takapau Hill at 280m. Down, some steep for 1½ km, then rolls up 7 km to Te Puia.

A last roll on leaving Te Puia, then a long 9 km descent to Tokomaru Bay, the decline easing near the bottom. A 200m climb out of Tokomaru Bay in 3 km goes to Parau Saddle, followed by a short roll and a 1 km steep descent. The next 28 km to Tolaga Bay have no serious hills with the last part being mostly flat. Continues similar leaving Tolaga Bay, but 3½ km after the wharf turn-off, SH 35 ascends for 3 km, becoming more acute towards the summit (120m). Long rolling hills follow to cross the watersheds of several rivers, before descending to rejoin the coast at Pouawa Beach. The 19 km to Gisborne are mostly flat along several beaches broken only by the occasional hill to traverse small headlands. The last 5 km from Wainui are inland.

ATTRACTIONS: Heading south from Hicks Bay, the highway covers a more distance inland than the previous stretch from Opotiki and so is less scenic as a consequence. Spectacular views from Pukeamaru Hill on the way from Hicks Bay. Leave SH 35 at Te Araroa to go to East Cape. In the school grounds is Te Waha o Rerekohu, one of oldest pohutukawa trees. It is believed to be over 600 years old. St Mary's at Tikitiki with its beautifully carved interior, is considered one of the finest of Maori churches. In Ruatoria it's party time with molotov cocktails and the Rastafarians. A few years ago they had the place buzzing with some notorious behaviour.

A short but steep detour goes to Waipiro Bay, now almost deserted but once an important regional town until the highway went through. The Kerridge cinema chain had its origins here. Mt Hikurangi which becomes visible to the west and is the highest non-volcanic peak in the North Island at 1750m. Te Puia has a pleasant atmosphere with hot springs at the hotel.

Tokomaru Bay is yet another backwater settlement whose cluster of empty shops indicate the decline suffered since the freezing works closed, whose ruins are nearby at Waima Bay. After Anaura Bay comes Tolaga Bay, at 660m the wharf was the longest in the southern hemisphere and serviced the coastal shipping. Guess who the nearby Cook's Cove is named after? Pass several picturesque surfing beaches before arriving at Gisborne. Folks are getting organised for the millennium. See Section 1b for Gisborne.

4. ROTORUA - LAKE WAIKAREMOANA - WAIROA.**ROUTE:** ROTORUA - WAIROA on SH 38. Distance: 211 km**SERVICES: ROTORUA:** See Chapter Five, Section 1. **KAINGAROA FOREST:** 545m, picnic area.**MURUPARA:** Alt 185m, pop 3000. Store, takeaways, motor camp, motel, hotel.**TE WHAITI:** picnic area. **MIMIHA BRIDGE:** Alt 350m, informal camping, adj SH 38.**RUATAHUNA:** Alt 425m, store, pub. **TAUPEUPE SADDLE:** Alt 919m, picnic area (shelter).**HOPURUAHINE:** DoC camping (toilets, water, table) short way off SH 38.**MOKAU LANDING:** Alt 590m, DoC camping (toilets, water, table).**ANIWANIWA:** Alt 590m. *i:* DoC Visitor Centre ☎ 06 837 3803. DoC camping (toilets, water, table).**WAIKAREMOANA:** Alt 590m. Store, motor camp/motel/bunkhouse.**ROSIE BAY:** DoC camping (toilet, water, table). **KOKAKO:** Alt 300m, pop 200. Store, motor camp.**FRASERTOWN:** Alt 15, pop 500. Store, pub, bkpr hostel. **WAIROA:** See this chapter section 1.

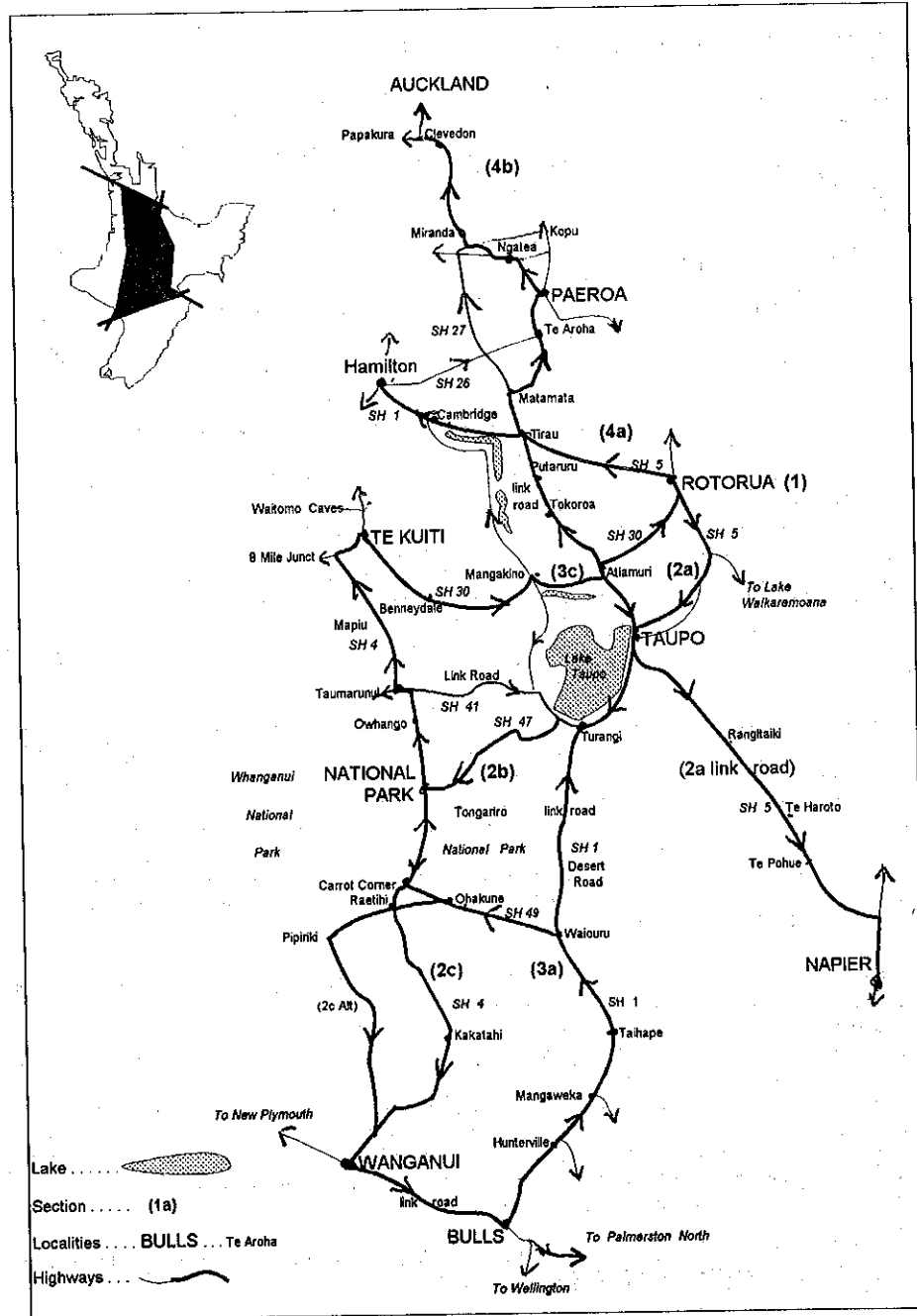
GRADIENTS: Rolls and undulates up out of Rotorua to SH 5/38 junction. Then becomes gentle rolling as the road passes through the Kaingaroa forest. A long gradual 20 km descent begins gentle but becoming steeper, then levelling out shortly before Murupara. Cross the broad Whirinaki Valley before heading back into the hills, this time with a vengeance. Apart from flattish sections around Te Whaiti and Ruatahuna, it is a tortuous mostly gravel road for much of the way to Lake Waikaremoana. After Ruatahuna there is a 9 km climb to Taupeupe Saddle (919m) then a descent for 12 km to Hopuruahine Landing. SH 38 then rolls alongside Lake Waikaremoana to the spillway, descending quite steeply for 8½ km to Piripaua power station (150m) before levelling out. Alternating between rolls and undulations, 12 km before Frasertown the hills gradually fall away for the last time and gradients ease. The last few km into Wairoa are almost flat.

ATTRACTIONS: After passing through the vast Kaingaroa forest plantation pass the small settlement of Murupara, a logging town on the Rangitaiki River. On a side road is Minginui in the Whirinaki Forest Park. After several tiny settlements, arrive at the rugged Te Urewera National Park. The jewel of park is Lake Waikaremoana (Sea of Rippling Water), up to 250m deep it was formed about 2,000 years ago when a giant slip blocked Taheke River. The distinctive Panekiri Bluff is a prominent landmark. There are numerous walks in and around the park with the lake circuit being a DoC Great Walk of several days and popular option. There is sea kayaking? on the lake and the usual watery activities. This is the home of the Tuhoe Tribe or "children of the mist", who for a long time lived completely cut off from the outside world. After leaving the park pass through an impressive gorge and enter pastoral country for the last part to Wairoa.

OPTIONS: SIDE TRIP TE WHAITI - MINGINUI: Store, takeaways, pub. A forestry settlement 15 km up a side road set deep in the Whirinaki Forest Park.

CHAPTER FIVE:

CENTRAL.



This chapter covers most of the central area of the North Island. Starting at Rotorua it goes south through Taupo to National Park and Wanganui. Return to Rotorua, from Bulls, this time passing National Park and Te Kuiti. After Rotorua resume the northward journey through Tirau, Paeroa and Miranda to Auckland.

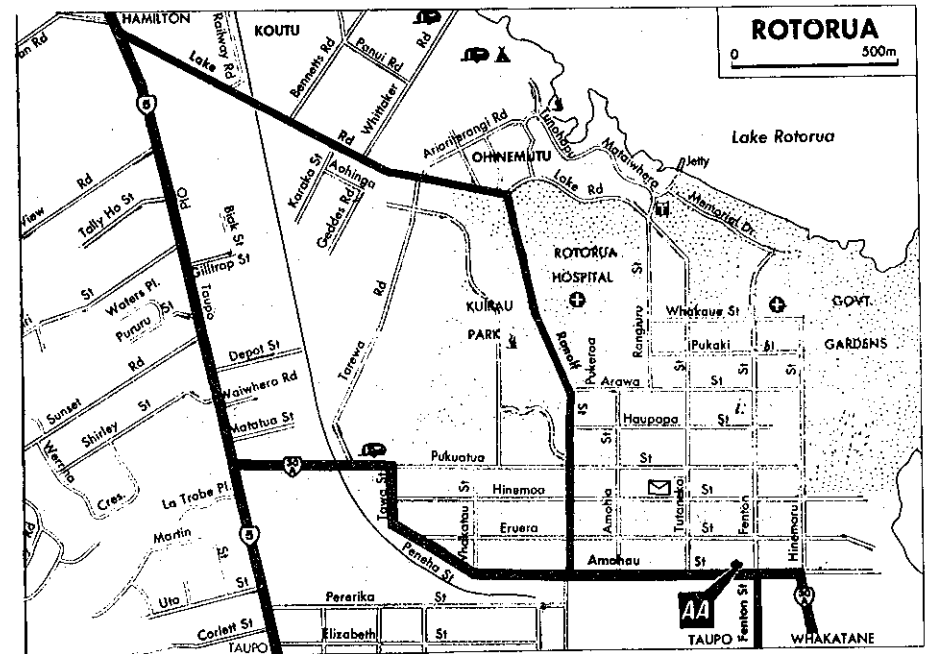
Rotorua is one of New Zealand's main tourist centres and although the pong may be over-powering at times, it is an interesting area to visit. All the thermal activity highlights just how thin the Earth's crust is hereabouts. In addition to the thermal activity, it is important in both scenic and cultural terms.

Tourists have been coming to enjoy Rotorua for over a century and a popular way to travel was on what they called the "Grand Tourist Route". This went between Rotorua and Wanganui passing through Taupo, Turangi, National Park, Raetihi, Pipiriki and down the Whanganui Valley. It incorporates a large variety of landscapes in relatively short distances and is a viable proposition for today's cyclist.

Tongariro and Whanganui River are the chapter's two national parks, representing half of the North Island's total. In addition there are numerous other reserves and forest parks scattered liberally around the region. Although not a national park, Lake Taupo is of great significance being the country's largest lake and source of the longest river, the Waikato. It is the centre of the Taupo Volcanic Zone and is responsible for shaping much of the central North Island landscape. It is also said to have the world's best trout fishing.

There are few large population centres with Rotorua, Wanganui, Taupo and Tokoroa being the biggest. The rest comprise of mostly small rural communities.

1. ROTORUA.



There are no suburban trains in Rotorua but the city is small compared to Auckland and Wellington. Mostly gentle to flat gradients within the city.

SOUTH: Enter/exit along Fenton St passing Whakarewarewa Thermal Area.

WEST & NORTH: Depart the visitor centre along Arawa St, Ranolf St, Lake Rd and Fairy Springs Rd.

EAST: Exit from the visitor centre along Fenton St, Amohau St and Te Ngae Road (SH 30).

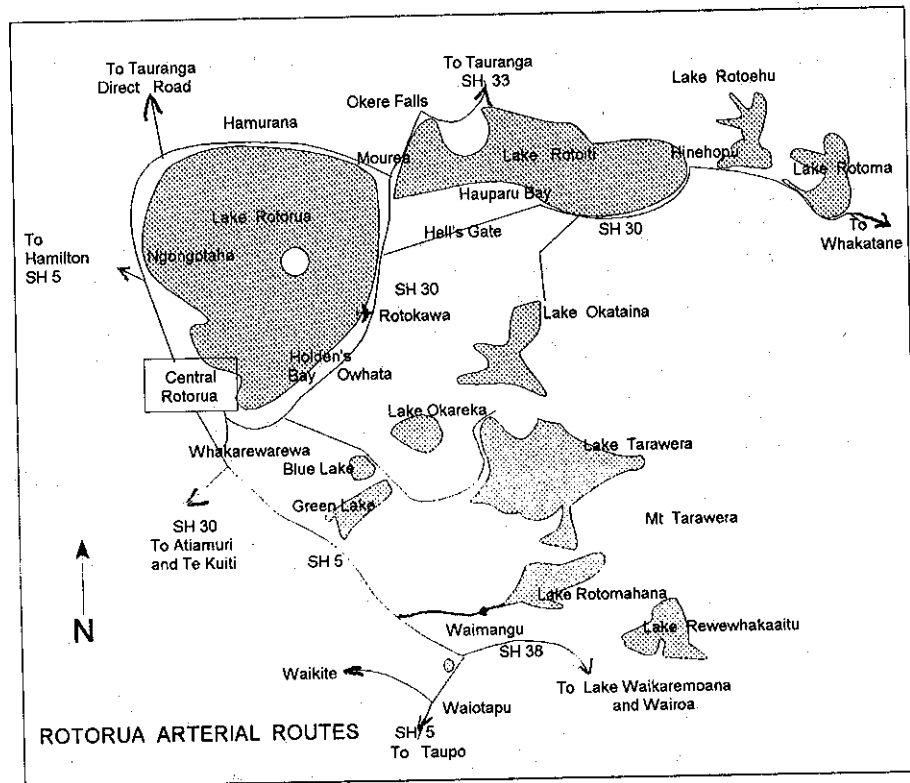
BYPASS the city centre going north - south. Continue straight ahead from Fairy Springs Road onto Old Taupo Road, emerging near Whakarewarewa Thermal Area.

SERVICES: ROTORUA: Alt 280m, pop 52,000. α : 67 Fenton St α 07 348 5179.

Food: All types of outlets. **Accom:** Motor camp 4; hostel (bkpr 5, YHA 1); motel heaps; hotel many. There are also motor camps in the following locations: Ngongaotaha 4; Holden's Bay 2; Hannah's Bay; Blue Lake; Mourea; Okere Falls; Lake Rotoma; Tikitere and Waikite. At Lake Tarawera are 2 DoC camp sites (toilet, water) and Lake Rerewhakaaitu has informal camping.

Transport: Train to/from Auckland. Bus & shuttle to/from most places south of Auckland.

Bicycle Shop: *Pins Cycles, 169 Tutanekei St α 07 347 1151. *Rotorua Cycle Centre, 40 Hinemoa St α 07 348 6588. *Selwyn Cycles, 4 Kokako St α 07 346 2123. Not a complete list.



ATTRACTIONS: Well, without wanting to offend the local promotion body (but probably will), the place stinks! It is a haven for those who ate too many baked beans! Yet in spite of the smell and the hype, Rotorua is a fascinating region to visit. Tourists have been coming from all over the world for more than a century to check out the natural wonders, take the waters and observe Maori culture. Minor thermal activity like bubbling mud, steaming vents, fumaroles and funny smells are a normal everyday occurrence as seen in Government Gardens, and are free. Also located here are the Polynesian Pools and Rotorua's most recognisable landmark, the imposing Bath House, now an art gallery & museum.

This is one of the best locations for an insight into Maori culture, with a choice of concerts and/or hangi (feast) available. The Arawa Tribe's Ohinemutu Village is an important historic complex, including St Faith's, considered to be one of the best four three Maori churches and Tamatatekapua meeting house. At Whakarewarewa (Whaka) is the Maori Institute of Arts and Crafts, along with a forest park and thermal area which includes Pohutu Geyser.

Apart from Whaka, other thermal areas are: Waimangu & Lake Rotomahana, (near the site of the Pink and White Terraces destroyed in the 1886 Mt Tarawera eruption); Waioatapu and Lady Knox Geyser; and Hell's Gate at Tikitere. These are the more spectacular ones, each with its own character. All have an admission fee and are located east of Rotorua.

Also to the east are many of the region's lakes, each a result of volcanic activity. Beyond Lake Rotorua, all adjacent to SH 30 on the way to East Cape and in close proximity to each other are Lakes Rotohia, Rotoehu and Rotoma. The twin Blue & Green Lakes, with the nearby Lakes Okataina and Okareka, are on the way to Lake Tarawera and Te Wairoa Buried Village. Visits to these may be combined with a trip up Mt Tarawera and to the relatively young Lake Rotomahana. There are many tracks for walking and mountain biking, particularly in the Whakarewarewa forest and Lake Tarawera areas.

Some manufactured attractions include: visits to the Agrodome (not a place for hooligans but where sheep and related activities have become an art form); Fairy, Rainbow and Paradise Valley trout springs; Mt Ngongaotaha and Gondola; a couple of mazes and golf.

2. ROTORUA - TAUPO - NATIONAL PARK - WANGANUI.

DISTANCES:	Various	SH 5	River Rd
2a) ROTORUA - WAIOTAPU - TAUPO	80 km		
link TAUPO - NAPIER		143 km	
2b) TAUPO - TURANGI - NATIONAL PARK	101 km		
2c) NATIONAL PARK - RAETIHI - WANGANUI	123 km*		136 km
Total	304 km		

ROUTE: ROTORUA - TAUPO on SH 5. TAUPO - TURANGI on SH 1. TURANGI - NATIONAL PARK on SH 47. NATIONAL PARK - WANGANUI on SH 4.

ALTERNATIVE 2a) i REPOROA - TAUPO on SH 5 or less busy Broadlands Road.

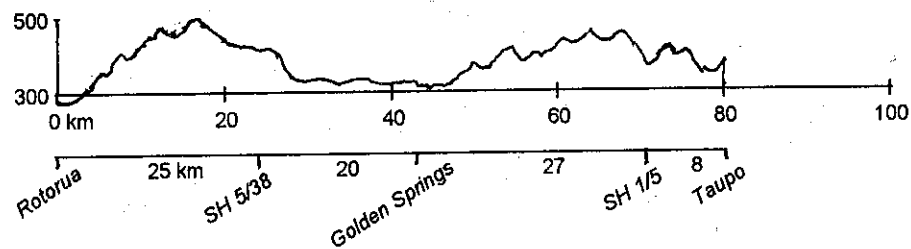
ii ROTORUA - TAUPO on SH 30/1, see Section 3c.

2c) RAETIHI - WANGANUI on SH 4 or more difficult but interesting, partly gravel River Road.

LINK ROAD 2b) i TURANGI - WAIOURU on SH 1, see Section 3a Options

ii TURANGI - TAUMARUNUI on SH 41. See Section 3b.

2a. ROTORUA - TAUPO.



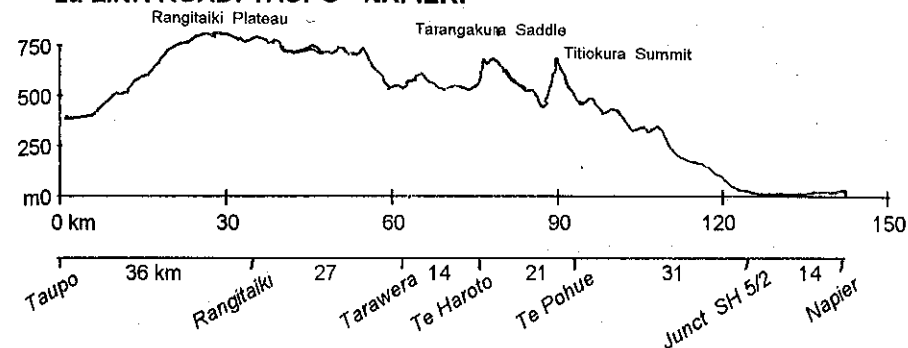
SERVICES: ROTORUA: See previous section. LAKE NGAHEWA: picnic area. WAIOTAPU: Alt 380m, motor camp, hotel. PAREKARANGI: Alt 310m, store. GOLDEN SPRINGS: Motor camp, store. WAIKATO RIVER: Alt 300m, picnic area. WAIRAKEI: Alt 370m, dairy, motor camp (no cabins), hotel, picnic area. TAUPO: Alt 360m, pop 18,000. i: Tongariro St ☎ 07 378 9000. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 4; hostel (bkpr 4, YHA 1); motel; hotel. Transport: Bus & shuttle to/from Auckland, Napier & Wellington. Bicycle Shop: *Corner Shop Cycle & Sports, Horomatangi St ☎ 07 378 7381. *Cycle World, 126 Ruapehu St ☎ 07 378 6117.

GRADIENTS: SH 5 rolls and undulates mostly, but not always, uphill out of Rotorua. At SH 5/38 junction, go right (south). A gentle descent becomes quite steep in places for 5 km and passing Waiotapu. After levelling out easy gradients for much of the way to Waikato River. Long sweeping rolls develop as SH 5 meanders through part of the vast Kaingaroa forest, becoming more pronounced around Wairakei, with a final quite steep descent to cross Waikato River and short up into Taupo.

ATTRACTIONS: Pass Waimangu, Waiotapu and Wairakei thermal areas on the way to Taupo as well as the Kaingaroa forest plantation. Wairakei area has Craters of the Moon, Huka Falls & Aratiatia Rapids, all close to each other and easily accessible from Taupo. A number of other attractions here are: jet boating, helicopter flights, horse treks, vintage river boat rides, rafting, a prawn farm etc. Farther afield is Orakei Korako Hidden Valley, another thermal area and some claim as the best. Taupo is a pleasant town and a less smelly and commercialised alternative to Rotorua. Other attractions and activities around Taupo are bungy jumping, tandem sky-diving, A.C. (Armed Constabulary) Baths, white-water rafting, kayaking, several walks and lake cruises. Taupo is New Zealand's biggest lake, a huge active volcano (See Section 2b) and source of the longest river, the Waikato. It travels over 400 km to reach the Tasman Sea south of Auckland and from which much of the North Island's hydro power comes. Oh yes, mustn't forget the trout fishing - after all, it's said to be the best in the world!

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE i REPOROA - BROADLANDS - TAUPO. Distance 48 km. Avoids most of the rolling hills on SH 5, is 2 km longer, has less traffic and scenically there is little difference. Turn off SH 5 onto Settlers Road, which after REPOROA: (Alt 290m, store) becomes Broadlands Road.

2a LINK ROAD: TAUPO - NAPIER.

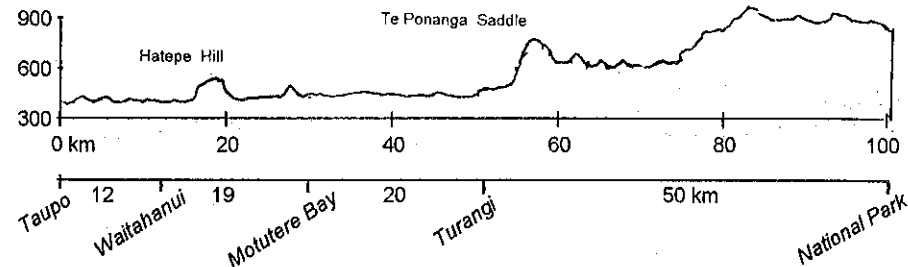


SERVICES: TAUPO: See above. OPEPE RESERVE: Alt 730m, picnic area. RANGITAIKI: Alt 680m, motel/motor camp (also shop, tearooms), pub. FALLS LOOKOUT: Alt 700m, picnic area. TARAWERA: Alt 500m, pub/tearooms/motor camp (no kitchen or cabins). TE HAROTO: Alt 700m, tearooms. TE POHUE: Alt 480m, hotel. ESKDALE: Motor camp, (no cabins). NAPIER: See Chapter Three, (South) Section 3b.

GRADIENTS: Three major saddles and numerous smaller hills must be crossed before arriving at Hawke Bay. Elevation gain/loss is many metres in (too?) few kilometres. A variable climb from Lake Taupo goes to the Kaingaroa Plateau (765m), then mostly easy terrain until after Rangitaiki. Between the Falls Lookout and Te Pohue, SH 5 becomes hilly with some long steep descents and ascents, particularly down from the falls lookout, up to Tarangakuma Saddle (710m) down to Mohaka River (315m) up to Titiokura Summit (720m) and down again to Te Pohue (460m). After Dillons Hill is a long variable descent going all the way to Eskdale where the highway levels out. Flat on joining SH 2 for the rest of the way into Napier.

ATTRACTIONS: After leaving Lake Taupo behind comes Opepe Reserve, adjacent to SH 5, it is a pleasant spot, completely out of keeping with the bloody encounter that took place here last century. Comes complete with a cemetery of the victims. Go from the high pumice plains of the central plateau to the low coastal plains around Napier. In between traverse high saddles and deep narrow river gorges. Pass waterfalls, hot springs and small settlements; native bush and pine plantations; historic and scenic reserves; conservation areas, big logging trucks and some fascinating woolly sheep with curly bits on the end. Orchards and vineyards start to appear as Napier nears.

2b. TAUPO - TURANGI - NATIONAL PARK.

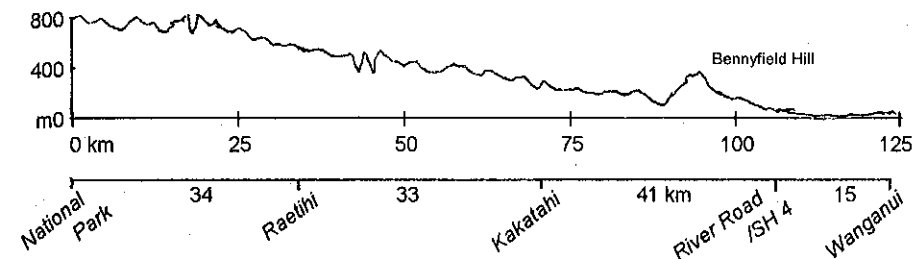


SERVICES: TAUPO: See above. **WAITAHANUI:** Alt 360m, dairy, motor camp, motel 2.
HATEPE: Dairy. **MOTUTERE BAY:** Store/motor camp (no cabins).
TE RANGIITA: Alt 360m. Dairy, motor camp; motel 2.
MOTUOAPA: Dairy, tearooms, domain motor camp (no cabins); motel.
TURANGI: Alt 380m, pop 4000. i: Ngawaka Place ☎ 07 386 8999. Food: All types of outlets.
 Accom: Motor camp 2; bkpr hostel 2; motel 6; hotel 2. **TE PONANGA SADDLE:** picnic area.
LAKE ROTOAIRA: Alt 560m, picnic area. **JUNCT SH 47/47a:** Alt 660m, hotel.
WHAKAPAPA VILLAGE: 6 km up SH 48. i: Park HQ ☎ 07 892 3729. Store, motor camp, motel, hotel.
MANGAHUIA: Alt 880m, DoC camping (toilet, water, table), adj SH 47.
NATIONAL PARK: Alt 820m, pop 300. Food: Store, dairy. Accom: Bkpr hostel 2; motels 3; hotel.
 Transport: Train, bus & shuttle to/from Auck & Wgtn.

GRADIENTS: Mostly undulates alongside Lake Taupo to Turangi, apart from a variable steep 150m climb and steep descent at Hatepe Hill (510m), with another smaller hill at Ohoumahanga Pt. The entire route is blessed with picnic areas at regular intervals.
 Flat for the first 4 km on leaving Turangi then a steep climb of 360m in 6 km to Te Ponanga Saddle (740m), followed by a shorter but equally steep descent to Lake Rotoaira. After several more rolls of ever decreasing gradients to Raewaehu Canal, SH 47 settles down to gentle terrain until the junction with Rangipo Rd, (SH 47a). Note: The steep hill over Te Ponanga Saddle can be avoided by taking SH 1 from Turangi and going right onto the mostly rolling Rangipo Road.
 A mostly (but not all) variable climb goes through the high country to the meridian point of SH 47 at Mangatepopo Road (910m), then mostly gentle rolls and undulations passing Whakapapa turn off, before going left onto SH 4 at National Park Village.

ATTRACTIONS: Taupo is the heart shaped lake in the heart of the North Island and although seemingly tranquil, sometimes beats with passion. Does that sound corny? Well how about this then? Ponder as you pedal past pretty picture postcard pviews that you're actually on the lip of a huge active volcano. In about 185AD an eruption occurred that completely devastated the surrounding area in a 80 km radius. The force of the blast was so great it reached speeds of more than 700 kph and temperatures over 800°C. The effects are still visible today. Scientists now estimate 150 km³ of material was ejected and in some places lies over 100m deep. This is 150 times bigger than the Mt St Helens eruption a decade ago. They have also found there has been two earlier eruptions in the last ¼ million years that were between 2 and 10 times bigger than the last. Phew!
 Anyway, today small settlements dot the lake shore waiting to be obliterated by the next monster. In the meantime they mostly cater for visiting holiday makers and fishermen. Turangi and Tokaanu have noted hot springs and a trout hatchery.
 The panoramic view over Lake Taupo from Te Ponanga Saddle is worth the effort, perhaps. Tongariro comprises of several volcanic mountains and was the first of New Zealand's many national parks, formed in 1887 after being gifted to the nation by Ngati Tuwharetoa Tribe. Popular activities are skiing in winter and tramping in summer. Apart from distant Turangi, main bases for activities are Whakapapa, National Park and Ohakune. They are located on the west and south of the mountains and provide a wide range of services for park users. Grand Château at Whakapapa is a hotel with a refined air quite uncommon in New Zealand, the nearby golf course is the highest in the country.
 Apart from the short walks around Whakapapa village, the most frequented track is the Tongariro Crossing. It goes between Mangatepopo Road and Ketetahi Springs and is alleged to be "the finest one day walk in New Zealand". The multi-day Northern Circuit (a DoC Great Walk) and the Round the Mountain Track are for the more adventurous. As for any mountain environment, care needs to be taken regarding weather conditions and to use appropriate equipment. Here also requires an eye open for other unusual activity. Mt Ruapehu became quite active during late 1995, the trail up to crater lake may be closed if eruptions continue.

2c. NATIONAL PARK - RAETIHI - WANGANUI.



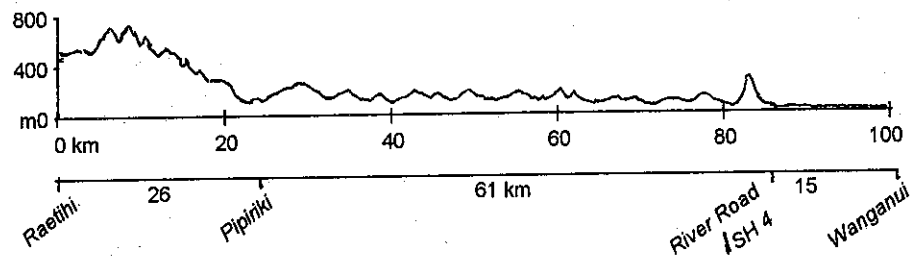
SERVICES: NATIONAL PARK: See previous section. **MAKATOTE VIADUCT:** Picnic areas.
RAETIHI: Alt 520m, pop 1400. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.
 Accom: Motor camp; motel/hotel. **RAUKAWA FALLS:** picnic area.
KAKATAHI: Alt 200m, store/tearooms, bkpr hostel (3 km S). **RIVER ROAD:** picnic area
WANGANUI: Alt 10m, pop 40,000. i: 101 Guyton St ☎ 06 345 3286.
 Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp 2; hostel (bkpr 2); motel many; hotel 5.
 Transport: Bus & shuttle to/from Auckland, New Plymouth, Wellington & Napier.
 Bicycle Shop: *Wanganui Cycle Centre, 199 Victoria Ave ☎ 06 345 5715. *Jeffson Multi-sports & Cycles, 7 Victoria Ave ☎ 06 345 5762.

GRADIENTS: SH 4 rolls and undulates, more down than up from National Park to Carrot Corner, apart from a steep 80m descent in 1½ km and 60m ascent in 1 km to cross Makatote Stream at the viaduct. Mostly down after Carrot Corner to and beyond Raetihi before a steep 1 km descent to cross Mangawhero River. Climbs for 2 km, with a steep 2 km descent to cross Ararawa River, followed by a 1 km climb. 10 km before Kakatahi is a variable 4 km descent, becomes rolling downhill and easing to gentle gradients. On leaving Mangawhero Valley, a sometimes steep and winding climb over Bennyfield Hill (280m) is required, followed by a similar descent before gradually easing. Mostly flat for the last part into Wanganui, travelling alongside Whanganui River.

ATTRACTIONS: Raetihi is at one end of the Whanganui River Road and near to Tongariro National Park. Between Raetihi and Wanganui on SH 4 is Mangawhero Valley. Apart from a few views and the beautiful Raukawa Falls, near the one and only tiny settlement of Kakatahi, there is little in the way of attractions or vehicles. Try Whanganui River Road, see alternative below.
 Wanganui is a city of 40,000 straddling Whanganui River and a gateway to Whanganui National Park. Durie Hill Tower has splendid views over the city and on clear days Mt Ruapehu can be seen. Putiki Church is regarded as one of the finest Maori churches. A group held a land protest in Moutua Gardens during 1995, and somebody stole a statue!

OPTIONS: LINK ROAD WANGANUI - BULLS Distance: 43 km
WANGANUI: See above. **WHANGAEHU:** picnic area.
TURAKINA: Alt 35m. Dairy, takeaways, pub. Domain camping (water, coin shower, toilets) at Koitiata Beach 8½ km SW off SH 3. **DUDDINGS LAKE:** motor camp (small shop, no cabins).
BULLS: See Section 3a if heading N. See Chapter Three (South) Section 1a if going S or E.
 Mostly rolling and undulating except for the odd steeper descent and climb to cross river channels. There's a couple of small beach resorts several km from SH 3: Turakina to Koitiata and Bulls to Tangimoana. Bulls has an interesting name and is on a major road junction.

2c ALTERNATIVE: RAETIHI - PIPIRIKI - WANGANUI.



SERVICES: RAETIHI: See above. PIPIRIKI: Alt 70, Informal camping (shelter, toilet, water). RIVER VIEW: Alt 200m, picnic area, informal camping. HIRUHARAMA: (Jerusalem) Alt 50m, convent. OTUMAIRE: DoC camping (toilet, water). ARAMOANA SADDLE: Alt 230m, picnic area. SH 4/RIVER ROAD JUNCT: Alt 20m, picnic area. WANGANUI: See above.

GRADIENTS: Generally rolls downhill from Raetihi except for a moderate climb, before a fairly long and sometimes steep descent to Pipiriki. After Pipiriki climb to River View then rolls and undulates alongside the river. To leave the valley climb 200m in 2½ km on another highway to heaven, to go over Aramoana Saddle. Descends by a similar amount to join SH 4, then almost flat to Wanganui.

ATTRACTIONS: After Pipiriki travel alongside the often spectacular Whanganui River for many km on a normally quiet but gravel highway with about half unsealed. 13 km longer than SH 4 and considerably longer in time. Last century before the development of roads and rail, Whanganui River was an important link to the interior of the North Island and had considerable traffic on it. Many of the localities were named after famous overseas places, such as: Atene (Athens), Ranana (London), Koriniti (Corinth) and Hiruharama (Jerusalem). Jerusalem has a historic 100 year old convent. Interpretation displays are at points of interest along the valley and an informative leaflet is also available. A couple of walkways line the route. The River Road travels along only the lower reaches of Whanganui River National Park. The bulk and more spectacular parts are upstream inaccessible by road. It is possible to canoe down river from Taumarunui to Pipiriki or Wanganui, see Section 3b.

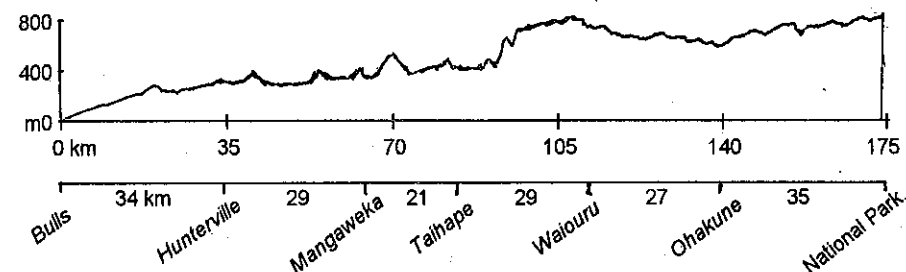
3. BULLS - NATIONAL PARK - TE KUITI - ROTORUA.

DISTANCES:

3a) BULLS - WAIOURU - NATIONAL PARK	175 km	
3b) NATIONAL PARK - TAUMARUNUI - TE KUITI	125 km	
3c) TE KUITI - ATIAMURI - ROTORUA	146 km	
link TAUPO - ATIAMURI - TIRAU - HAMILTON		153 km
Total	446 km	

ROUTE: BULLS - WAIOURU on SH 1. WAIOURU - CARROT CORNER on SH 49. CARROT CORNER - TE KUITI on SH 4. TE KUITI - ROTORUA on SH 30.
LINK ROAD 3a) i PALMERSTON NORTH - MANGAWEKA. See Chapter Three (South), Section 1a, Options. Also use this as an alternative to SH 1 for part of the way to Wellington.
 ii WAIOURU - TURANGI on SH 1 (Desert Rd).
 3b) TAUMARUNUI - TURANGI on SH 41.
 3c) i WHAKAMARU - TURANGI on SH 32. West of Lake Taupo.
 ii MANGAKINO - CAMBRIDGE on various (sealed) back roads. This can also be part of an alternative to SH 1 between Taupo and Hamilton.

3a. BULLS - WAIOURU - NATIONAL PARK.



SERVICES: BULLS: Alt 50m, pop 2000. i: 104 Bridge St ☎ 06 322 0055. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; motel; hotel. Transport: Bus & shuttles to/from most places south of Auckland. MARTON: 3 km W of SH 1, pop 5000. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; motel 2; hotel. BRUCE PARK: picnic area. HUNTERVILLE: Alt 280m, pop 600. Dairy, tearooms, motel, hotel. VINEGAR HILL: Alt 310m, domain camping (toilets, water) down by river. MAKOHINE VIADUCT: Alt 280m, picnic area. OHINGAITI: Alt 280m, tearooms, hotel. MANGAWEKA HILL: picnic area. MANGAWEKA: Alt 350m, pop 500. i: DoC ☎ 06 382 5824. Store, tearooms. Domain camp (down by river); bkpr hostel; motel; hotel. MANUI: Alt 500m, picnic area. UTIKU: Alt 375m, hotel. TAIHAPE: Alt 440m, pop 2200. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp (3 km N); motel 3; hotel. HIHITAHU: picnic area. IRIRINGI: picnic area. WAIOURU: Alt 810m, pop 3000. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp/motel. TANGIWAU: picnic area. OHAKUNE: Alt 590m, pop 1500. i: 54 Clyde St ☎ 06 385 8427. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motor camp; hostel (bkpr 1, YHA 1); motel 6; hotel 3. MAKATOTE VIADUCT: picnic areas. NATIONAL PARK: Alt 820m, pop 300. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Bkpr hostel 2; motels 3; hotel. Transport: Train, bus & shuttle to/from Auckland & Wellington.

GRADIENTS: Almost flat uphill for much of the way from Bulls to Hunterville, except for an odd descent, such as at Porewa, with hills slowly closing in. Between Hunterville and Taihape are several hills to cross as the highway passes through papa country of steep river cliffs. Vinegar, Mangaweka and Manui Hills are the more notable hills, some having, long, steep gradients of several km, both up and down. These are separated by rolling and undulating country as SH 1 passes through Ohingaiti, Mangaweka and Utiku.

The first 5 km out of Taihape are generally rolling, more up than down, then starts a long variable steep 6 km climb to Turangarere, only broken by a short stretch of downhill part way. After gradients ease, ascend gently alongside Hautapu River, before entering rolling country as SH 1 passes through low hills and ending flat to undulating into Waiouru.

After leaving SH 1 at Waiouru, SH 49 becomes a stepped downhill until Tangiwa Stream, then predominantly rolling country before giving way to a gradual undulating descent into Ohakune. Flat leaving Ohakune, then a mostly variable ascent to Carrot Corner, go right off SH 49. SH 4 rolls and undulates, more up than down, apart from a steep 60m descent in 1 km and 80m ascent in 1½ km to cross Makatote Stream at the viaduct, for most of the way to National Park.

ATTRACTIONS: Boring flat fertile farming country around Bulls. After-Hunterville enter classique papa (mudstone) country of Rangitaiki River. Mangaweka is an historic village with low flying tearooms and surrounded by spectacular, steep and deep river cliffs. Gumboot Taihape claims to be the quintessential rural town. Waiouru is an army base surrounded by high country tussockland in an often bleak and windswept setting and a brooding volcano nearby.

There is a military museum with a memorial that is the world's biggest greenstone structure - and subject to investigations regarding illegal mining. At Tangiwai there is a memorial to New Zealand's worst rail disaster where 151 people died on Christmas Eve 1953. Pass through carrot country, as is evident at Ohakune. Ohakune and National Park are two of the villages catering to the needs of users of Tongariro National Park. See Section 2b.

OPTIONS: LINK ROAD i WAIOURU - SUMMIT 21 km. SUMMIT - TURANGI 42 km.

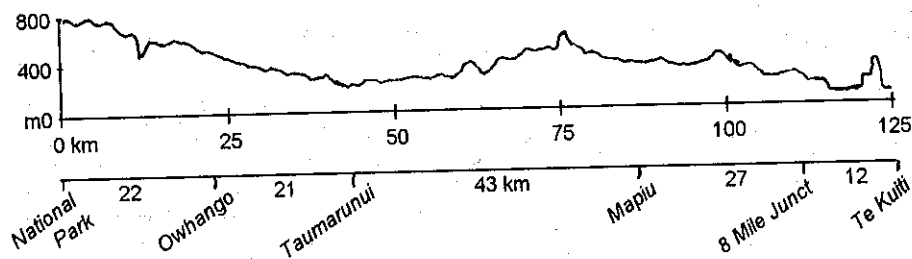
WAIOURU: See above. SUMMIT: picnic area. OTURERE STREAM: picnic area.

MANGATOWAI STREAM: picnic area. TURANGI: See Section 2b.

Gentle gradients on leaving Waiouru, then a short descent followed by a moderate quite steep climb, easing to towards the top to reach the highest stretch of sealed highway in New Zealand at 1075m. After the summit SH 1 becomes a short, steep roller coaster descent to Outerere Stream, then the Desert Road descent begins in earnest. It drops in a series of steps, often steep and long with hair-pin bends and substantial climbs to cross several streams. 14 km from Turangi, shortly before Puketara Stream, starts a long gradual mostly easy descent to Turangi.

SH 1 between Turangi and Waiouru is called the Desert Road as it runs east of Tongariro National Park. It is called that to confuse people, because although things are pretty bleak, it isn't really a desert. Wild horses and military men are sometimes seen around these parts, but who put those power lines there? The main access points to Tongariro National Park are from west and south of the mountain. Interesting layering in the road cuttings from volcanic activity.

3b. NATIONAL PARK - TAUMARUNUI - TE KUITI



SERVICES: NATIONAL PARK: Alt 820m, pop 300. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Bkpr hostel 2; motels 3; hotel. Transport: Train, bus & shuttle to/from Auckland & Wellington.

OWHANGO: Alt 440m, pop 250. Tearooms, dairy, bkpr hostel/motor camp.

PIRIAKA: Store. **MANUNUI:** Alt 180m, motel/restaurant.

TAUMARUNUI: Alt 170m, pop 6500. i: Railway Station ☎ 07 895 7494.

Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp (3 km S); motel 3; hotel 3.

Bicycle Shop: Paramount Cycle, Hakiaha St ☎ 07 895 8846.

OKAHUKURA: Alt 200m, picnic area. **ONGARUE:** 2 km off SH 4. Store.

TE KUITI: Alt 60m, pop 4900. i: Rora St ☎ 07 878 8077. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp; domain camping 2 (toilets, water, donation payment); motel; hotel.

Transport: Train to/from Auckland & Wellington. Bus & shuttle to/from New Plymouth, Auck & Wgtn.

WAITOMO CAVES: 20 km north. See Chapter Two (West), Section 1b.

GRADIENTS: On leaving National Park SH 4 starts with gentle gradients but soon becomes rolling with a 2 km long steep and winding drop at Raurimu and a variable up again before levelling out to undulate and roll. After Oio (yes Oio) Overbridge is a 10 km gradual descent passing through Owhango (yes Owhango) on the way. Long sweeping rolls take over before Piriaka, ending with a quite steep 2 km drop. The last 10 km to Taumarunui is mostly gentle down to flat.

A gentle ascent on leaving Taumarunui for several km then becomes rolling around Okahukura, with one particular stiff winding 5 km climb, the middle part being through a narrow gorge. A short 1 km steep descent to cross Ahura River, then undulations before a final 2½ km, some steep climb, to Hiwi Saddle (600m). Starts steep down then becomes a steady gradual descent to Mapiu. After Mapiu becomes rolling with 1 km climb to Kopaki turn off and a variable steep 4 km descent. Apart from a 3 km rolling stretch, the last 12 km of SH 4 to 8 Mile Junction is mostly flat. Go right onto SH 3, with a flattish 12 km into Te Kuiti, apart from a moderate descent, two steep steps up and a final sheepish swoop down into town - not all that flat really.

ATTRACTIONS: Splendid views, in fine weather, of Tongariro National Park, the first of New Zealand's many national parks. See Section 2b. Enjoy the plunge past the Raurimu spiral a wonder of not so modern engineering. Taumarunui is just another country town, and the main departure point for travelling on Whanganui River National Park. Go by kayak or canoe, jetboat or inflatable doll, independent or guided, several hours or multi-day.

There are plenty of narrow gorges, waterfalls, side streams, caves, native bush and historical sites to explore. See abundant birdlife, possums, super-sonic bats and possibly an underwater goat with snorkels and flippers.

Expect to take up to a week to do the 145 km to Pipiriki, which has most of the spectacular scenery. There are other in-out options and an information leaflet is available that describes some of them. The main tramping tracks are Matemateaonga and Mangapurua, they run generally east to west and both have one end in the river. The latter has the Bridge to Nowhere, on a 40 minute walk from the river end. As with some of the other DoC Great Walks, the rules and fee structure must have been dreamed up by clueless marketing men and bureaucrats with an eye to the main chance and keeping their jobs. Who else would call a journey by river a "Great Walk" and make compliance so unnecessarily complicated? Seek up to date information and pay before departure, or else!

Between Taumarunui and Te Kuiti is classic King Country and not much else. Te Kuiti is another rural town and thinks it's the shearing capital of the world. The statue is of a sheep and does not resemble the Prime Minister in any way. Te Kooti, a noted rebel of the land wars period lived here for many years and gave the local tribe their beautiful Te Tokanganui a Noho Marae.

For information on Waitomo Caves and north, see Chapter Two, Section 1b.

OPTIONS: LINK ROAD i TAUMARUNUI - TURANGI on SH 41. Distance: 66 km.

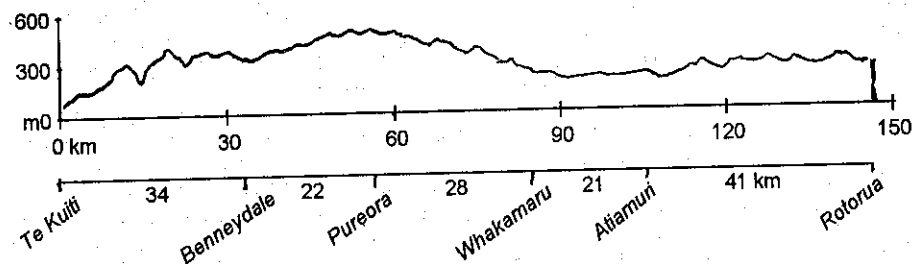
Easy gradients to Pungapunga then climbs most of the 15 km, becoming steep in places, to Waituhi Saddle (870m). The lookout affords spectacular views of Tongariro, King Country and Mt Egmont. Heads downhill in variable steps after the saddle for most of the 14 km to Kuratau Junct (470m). Then two long quite steep rolls before resuming a steep down, this time to negotiate Waihi Bluff. Then mostly gentle undulations from the bottom of the bluff to Turangi. There are thermal pools at Tokaanu.

TAUMARUNUI: See Section 3b for details. **WAITUHI SADDLE:** Alt 870m, picnic area.

TOKAANU: Takeaways, dairy, motor camp, motel, hotel. **TURANGI:** See Section 2b.

For Taumarunui - Stratford on SH 43, see Chapter Two (West), Section 3 link.

3c. TE KUITI - ATIAMURI - ROTORUA



SERVICES: TE KUITI: See above for details. **MANGAOKEWA:** Domain camping (water, toilet). **BENNEYDALE:** Alt 310m, store, tearooms, takeaways, pub. **PUREORA:** Alt 560m. DoC camping (toilets, water, table, shelter). **POUAKANI:** picnic area. **MANGAKINO:** 3 km off SH 30, alt 220m, pop 700. Store, tearooms, domain camping (toilet, water), hotel. **WHAKAMARU:** Alt 240m, Store, tearooms. **ATIAMURI:** Alt 260m, tearooms, picnic area (toilets, water, shelter). **ROTORUA:** See section 1.

GRADIENTS: Gentle gradients around Mokau River, between Mangapehi and Benneydale, and at Pukeora, otherwise rolls and undulates, sometimes long and quite steep, more up than down. After Pukeora SH 30 rolls and undulates, more down than up to Whakamaru, then easy gradients to Atiamuri. At Atiamuri go left on SH 1, then right onto SH 30 to Rotorua. Continues with more of the same terrain going for much of the way to Rotorua.

ATTRACTIONS: A few km out of Te Kuiti is a local beauty spot of Mangaokewa Scenic Reserve. Pass through limestone country on the way to Pareora. Pureora State Forest has several tramps and a fascinating buried forest. The blast from the Taupo eruption of 185 AD flattened the existing forest in seconds, covering it under a thick layer of ash and pumice. So instant and complete was the effect that the fallen trees and even vegetation were preserved. The remains of this ancient forest can be seen a few km off SH 30 near forest HQ. Farther east in the Kinleith forest plantation and down a short track is 'Pouakani', the largest known living totara tree and dates from the Taupo eruption. There is some dramatic scenery around Atiamuri.

OPTIONS: LINK ROAD i WHAKAMARU - TURANGI on SH 32. Distance: 90 km. On the west side of Lake Taupo. It can also be an extension of Link Road ii below. Very hilly in places with some long steep stretches, particularly after Tihoi. At Kuratau Junction go left, with two long rolling hills before descending the steep Waihi Bluff, then gentle undulations from the bottom to Turangi. **WHAKAMARU:** See above. **KAKAHO:** DoC camping (water, toilet) 3 km off SH 32. **TIHOI:** Store. **TOKAANU:** Takeaways, dairy, motor camp, 3 motel, hotel, thermal pools. **TURANGI:** See Section 2b.

LINK ROAD ii MANGAKINO - CAMBRIDGE. Distance: 78 km. 106 km if using it as an alternative to SH 1 between Atiamuri and Cambridge. 16 km longer than SH 1 plus any detours. It can also be an extension of Link Road i above.

Runs south and west of Waikato River and the hydro lakes of Maraetai, Waipapa, Arapuni and Karapiro. A less busy alternative to SH 1. Mostly rolling country. A few quite steep and longish parts between Maratai and Waipapa, from Waipapa up through Mangawhio Gorge, around Wai-iti Stream and Horahora. Actually quite a lot!

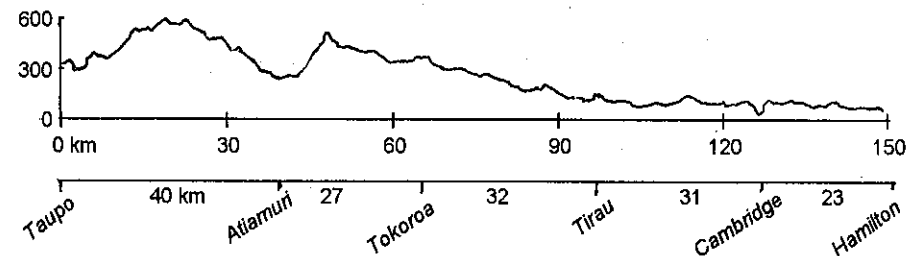
MANGAKINO: See above. **LAKE WAIPAPA:** picnic area (toilet, water, table).

LAKE ARAPUNI: informal camping (toilet, water, table) on west side of lake at Bulmer or Arapuni landings, 2 - 3 km off highway. **ARAPUNI:** 4 km off highway, across Waikato River, dairy.

LAKE KARAPIRO: domain motor camp (no cabins), tearooms across Waikato River.

CAMBRIDGE See next section.

3c LINK ROAD iii: TAUPO - ATIAMURI - TIRAU - HAMILTON.



SERVICES: TAUPO: See Section 2a.

ATIAMURI: Alt 260m, tearooms, picnic area (toilet, water, table, shelter).

TOKOROA: Alt 380m, pop 18,000. i: Leith Place ☎ 07 886 8872. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp; motel 4; hotel. Bicycle Shop: Paterson's Cycles, Mannering St ☎ 07 886 9299.

PUTARURU: Alt 160m, pop 4300. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: Motel; hotel.

TIRAU: Alt 115m, pop 600. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket. Accom: motor camp, bkpr hostel, hotel. **PIARERE:** Alt 90m, tearooms.

LAKE KARAPIRO: picnic area. Tearooms, domain motor camp (no cabins) across river.

CAMBRIDGE: Alt 40m, pop 8500. Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Domain motor camp; bkpr hostel; motel 4; hotel 3. Bicycle Shop: Four Seasons Mowers & Cycles, 57 Duke St ☎ 07 827 6763.

TAMAHERE: Alt 30m. Store, pub, motel. **HAMILTON:** See Chapter Two (West), Section 1b.

GRADIENTS: After a short dip leaving Taupo, SH 1 climbs quite steep for 1 km, then rolls to the SH 5/1 junction. Go left onto SH 1, and starts a long variable and rolling uphill. Then alternates between rolling and undulating, sometimes quite long and quite steep, more down than up, but nothing extra special. Continues in this non-descript way until after Atiamuri when SH 1 climbs 5 km to cross Maungaiti Hill (530m), then goes down variably for 1½ km before return to the previous terrain. This time it rolls and undulates down most of the way to Tirau. Tirau is a cross roads town, to Auckland (north) and Rotorua (east) see Section 4a. Undulates and rolls all the way from Tirau to Hamilton.

ATTRACTIONS: Several km off SH 1 between Taupo and Atiamuri is Orakei Korako and the Hidden Valley, a thermal area some consider one of the best in New Zealand. Around Atiamuri is the Kinleith plantation forest, Ohakuri hydro power scheme and Pohaturua Recreational Reserve, with some dramatic scenery thrown in. Next is Kinleith Mill, 8km south of timber town Tokoroa, that processes logs from the surrounding forests. Putaruru has a timber museum and Tirau is a cross roads town. Lake Karapiro is another of the many man made lakes built to feed power stations found along the Waikato River. It's also the North Island's main rowing centre with regattas held regularly. Cambridge is a horse breeding and dairy farming area. Hamilton is cow cocky town. See Chapter 2 (West), Section 1a.

4. ROTORUA - PAEROA - AUCKLAND.

DISTANCES:

4a) ROTORUA - TIRAU - PAEROA	136 km
4b) PAEROA - MIRANDA - AUCKLAND	137 km
Total	273 km

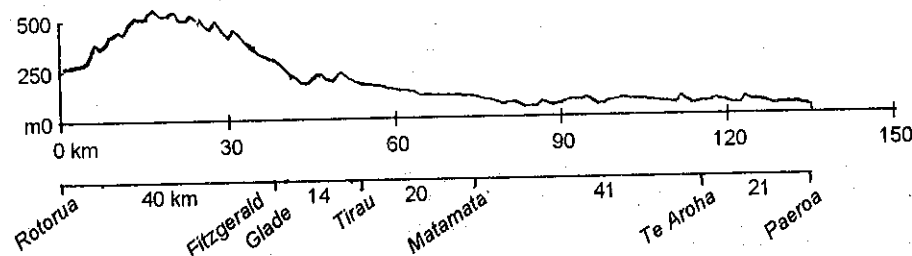
ROUTE: ROTORUA - TIRAU on SH 5. TIRAU - AUCKLAND on several highways.

ALTERNATIVE 4a) I TAPAPA - MATAMATA via OKOROIRE.

ii MATAMATA - MIRANDA. The shorter, SH 27 or the longer, more interesting route through Te

- Aroha and Paeroa. Save 17 km if going direct on SH 27 between Matamata & Miranda.
LINK ROAD 4a) i TIRAU - TAUPO or HAMILTON on SH 1. See Section 3c Options.
 ii TE AROHA - MORRINSVILLE - HAMILTON on SH 26. See Chapter Two, Section 1a.
 4b) i PAEROA - KOPU on SH 26. See Chapter One (Central), Section 4a.
 ii NGATEA - POKENO on SH 2. See Chapter Two (West), Section 1a.

4a. ROTORUA - TIRAU - PAEROA.



SERVICES: ROTORUA: See Section 1.

NGONGOTAHA: Store, tearooms, takeaways, dairy, motor camp, hotel.

FITZGERALD GLADE: Tearooms/dairy. **TAPAPA:** Store.

TIRAU: Alt 115m, pop 500. Food: All types of outlets except supermarket.

Accom: motor camp, bkpr hostel, hotel.

MATAMATA: Alt 60m, pop 5800. *i:* 45 Broadway ☎ 07 888 7260. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camp (no cabins); motel 3; hotel 2. Bicycle Shop: *McKnight's Cycle Centre, Arawa St ☎ 07 888 8917.

OKAUIA: motor camp, motel, hot springs. **WAIRERE FALLS:** picnic area.

TE AROHA: Alt 30m, pop 3500. *i:* 102 Whitaker St ☎ 07 884 8052.

Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Motor camp; hostel (YHA 1, bkpr 1); motel; hotel.

Bicycle Shop: Wallis Cycles, Whitaker St ☎ 07 884 9510.

PAEROA: Alt 15m, pop 3800. *i:* Belmont Rd ☎ 07 862 8636. Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Bkpr hostel; motel 3; hotel. Transport: Bus & shuttle to/from Auckland, Tauranga & Coromandel Peninsula. Bicycle Shop: Bike Shop Paeroa, Belmont Rd ☎ 07 862 7061.

GRADIENTS: SH 5 is mostly flat within Rotorua then after Ngongotaha turn off, a rolling climb begins, soon becoming a long, gradual, stepped ascent of the Mamaku Plateau. Rolls and undulates up around 500m for some distance before eventually making its way down past Fitzgerald Glade to Tapapa at the bottom. Rolls and undulates for the last 9 km to Tirau. Mostly flat to Matamata and gentle rolling from there to Te Aroha and continues similar through to Paeroa.

ATTRACTIONS: After Rotorua cross the Mamaku Plateau, passing the pleasant Fitzgerald Glade on the way down the far side and enter the rich fertile farming country of the Waikato. Tirau is a cross roads town, nearby are the Okoroire hot springs. Matamata has historic Firth Tower and is another cow town. On the way to Te Aroha are Okauia & Opal Hot Springs, beyond there a short way off Old Te Aroha Rd, Wairere Falls entertain with 150m drop. At one time Te Aroha was a serious rival to Rotorua as New Zealand's première thermal resort but got left behind and with it a charm lacking in many other towns. In the Domain are thermal pools and the world's only hot soda geyser. Mt Te Aroha (Mountain of Love) is the highest point on the Kaimai-Mamaku Range and has spectacular views across the Hauraki Plains. On clear days distant mountains of Moehau, Egmont & Tongariro are visible. Te Aroha is also said to have one of the best cycle shops. Paeroa once a port town before the swamp was drained, is famous for Lemon and Paeroa (L&P), New Zealand's very own soft drink, although Paeroa mineral water is no longer used. See the bottle at the end of town. The spectacular Karangahake Gorge and walkway is on the way to Waihi.

OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE i TAPAPA - MATAMATA via OKOROIRE: hotel/motor camp (no cabins), hot springs. Avoids Tirau and can be used to miss Matamata as well.

ALTERNATIVE ii MATAMATA - MIRANDA on SH 27. Distance: 86 km

Save 17 km on this direct but busier and less interesting route to Auckland, missing out Te Aroha and Paeroa. It has a few steep rolling hills between Pateonga and Mangatarata (SH 2) otherwise mostly flat. On joining SH 2 go left for 3 km, then right onto SH 25. This goes to Waitakaruru, go left to Miranda.

MATAMATA: See Services above. **WAHAROA:** Store, takeaways, tearooms, motor camp.

TATUANUI: Dairy/takeaways.

MORRINSVILLE: 8 km off SH 27. Alt 15m, pop 5500. *i:* Thames St ☎ 07 889 5575.

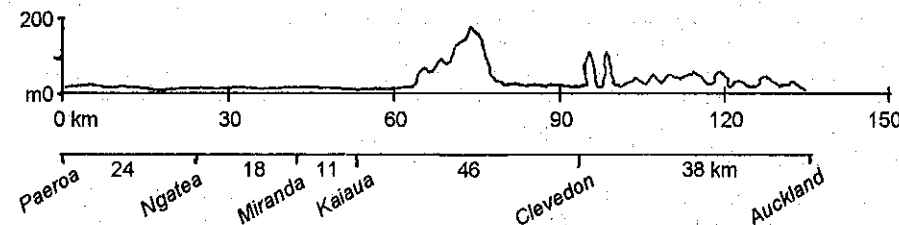
Food: All types of outlets. Accom: Domain motor camp (no cabins); motel; hotel.

Bicycle Shop: Cycle & Outdoors, 292 Thames St ☎ 07 889 6210.

MANGATARATA: (SH2/27) picnic area. **WAITAKARURU:** See next section for onward travel.

LINK ROAD i TAUPO - TIRAU - HAMILTON on SH 1. See Section 3c Options.

4b. PAEROA - MIRANDA - AUCKLAND.



SERVICES: PAEROA: See above. **NGATEA:** Alt 5m, pop 900. Store, tearooms, motel, hotel.

WAITAKARURU: Alt 5m, pop 200. Store, tearooms, pub.

MIRANDA: Alt 5m. Motor camp/hot springs (no cabins). Wildlife Trust.

KAIWAUA: Pop 500. Store, tearooms, takeaways, dairy, motor camp, hotel.

WAHARAU: picnic area (toilets, water). **ORERE PT:** Beach motor camp, 2 km N off highway.

KAWAKAWA BAY: Pop 400. Dairy, motel.

CLEVEDON: Alt 15m, pop 700. Tearooms, takeaways, dairy, restaurant, hotel.

WHITFORD: Alt 10m, pop 400. Dairy, restaurant. **AUCKLAND:** See Chapter One, Section 1.

GRADIENTS: Mostly flat from Paeroa for much of the way through Ngatea and Miranda to Matingarahi. After Ngatea turn right off SH 2 and go north along Pipiroa or Canal Road, then left on SH 25 to Waitakaruru. Go right off SH 25 towards Miranda.

After Matingarahi the highway becomes rolling uphill passing Orere Pt turn off. It reaches a climax with a sometimes quite steep and winding 1 km climb through Te Motu Scenic Reserve to the saddle at 170m. Comes down with a mostly steep and winding descent for the 3 km to Kawakawa Bay. Flat to undulating to Clevedon. If taking a suburban train into Auckland, then at Clevedon go to Papakura on mostly easy gradients. If continuing to Auckland there are a couple of steep hills before Whitford and then rolling into Auckland. See Chapter One (North), Section 1.

ATTRACTIONS: After Paeroa ride along the west coast of the Firth of Thames. The route has little traffic, beautiful views, a couple of regional parks, scenic reserves and several quaint settlements. In addition Miranda has hot springs and a wildlife trust where birds (and bird watchers) congregate. This is a preferred route in and out of Auckland.

IMPORTANT: While preferring not to put off potential pedallers in paradise it is important to point out possible pitfalls cyclists could encounter at various times of the year.

Traffic: Every country has its bad drivers and New Zealand is no exception. Only in the last few years have serious attempts been made to right some very bad habits. It will probably take a long time to rectify. Drunk driving, travelling too fast and too close to the vehicle in front are the worst aspects. If encountering dangerous drivers, try to get their registration number and report it with relevant details, such as time and location, at the next police station. They can trace the vehicle and speak to the owner. It is better they act before someone is hurt.

Try to be seen at all times. Cycling too close to the left may leave little room to manoeuvre especially on narrow, winding country roads. In cities cycling too close to parked cars invites having a door open as you pass. Consider other road users, do not hold up traffic without good reason. Think of other cyclists who follow in your tyre tracks.

Wind: The wind can blow strong and hard. If it is so strong you have to pedal downhill to keep up the momentum, then it is time to turn round and go back or stop at the next location. You're on holiday and this is supposed to be fun! Apart from the frustration of going nowhere fast it can be dangerous. There is less control of the bike and is often hard to hear traffic approaching from behind.

Sandflies: Apart from car drivers, New Zealand has no dangerous animals such as bears or big pussy cats, but sandflies certainly compensate for it. Do not under-estimate them!

Magpies: In spring during nesting season magpies use cyclists as target practice for dive bombing runs and have been known to draw blood! A suggestion is to draw two eyes on the back of the helmet, or your head. The theory is they only attack from behind. They're so unpopular, even Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society want them declared a pest.

Keas: You won't find any Norwegian Blues pining for the fiords (for Monty Python addicts) but there is a mischievous native mountain parrot with a large sharp beak and curious nature. It's not into dive bombing but does steal things. It prefers to rip the walls of expensive tents to get at tasty comestibles and gold bullion, rather than open the door. Found in all National Parks with mountains, and fiords!

Sun: Skin cancer is a problem in NZ, due to the strength of the sun's ultra-violet rays penetrating the shrinking ozone layer. In summer use sun block on all exposed skin, forgetting to do so one day may cause severe sunburn, even when cloudy.

Water: New Zealand was known as the only third world country where water is safe to drink. While tap water is no problem, care must be taken in the wilderness. It is recommended to boil drinking water for 3 minutes because of the possible presence of giardia, a nasty bug that causes diarrhoea and stomach upsets. Even if giardia isn't present but sheep are, still think twice about drinking from that cool sparkling crystal clear stream.

Bike Stands: The type found outside shops & libraries etc, where you put the front wheel. If using one with a fully laden bike then make sure the weight is balanced. Wheels have poor lateral strength and could be banana shaped on your return!

Cardphones: These are expensive and can seriously damage your budget. Only use in emergencies.

Weather Forecasts: Usually accurate regarding the type of weather, but often on the wrong day!

Summer School Holidays: During this time many popular locations fill up. What are normally small communities most of the year, swell to many thousands and finding even a tent space might be difficult.

INDEX

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 8 Mile Junction 69 | Karangahake Gorge 24 | Opononi 15-17 | Te Pohue 63 |
| Ahiti 30 | Katiki 24, 25 | Opotiki 49-56 | Te Puia Springs 56 |
| Anaura Bay 56 | Kaukapakapa 12 | Oputere 23 | Te Puke 25, 53 |
| Aniwaniwa 57 | Kawakawa 11, 16-21 | Opua 17, 18 | Te Urewera 49, 54, 57 |
| Atiamuri 66, 70 | Kawhia 27, 30-33 | Opunake 33, 35 | Te Wera 36 |
| Auckland 8-22 | Kerikeri 16-18 | Orewa 13 | Te Whaiti 57 |
| Awakino 30-33 | Kihikihi 29 | Ormond 52 | Thames 20 22 |
| Awanui 17 | Kohukohu 15, 16 | Olaki 40, 41 | Tikiti 56 |
| Bay of Islands 8, 12-15 | Kokako 57, 60 | Otoko 52 | Tokomaru Bay 55, 56 |
| Bay of Plenty 53 | Kopu 20, 21, 72 | Otorohanga 27, 29 | Tokoroa 59, 71 |
| Benneydale 70 | Kuotunu 21, 22 | Owhango 68 | Tolaga Bay 56 |
| Brown Owl 41, 44, 45 | Lake Taupo 63, 64, 66 | Owhata 25 | Tongariro 64, 65, 68 |
| Brynderwyn 11-14, 16 | Lake Waikaremoana 57 | Paekakariki 40 | Torere 55 |
| Bulls 4, 38-42, 59, 65-67 | Levin 38-40 | Paeroa 20, 21 71-73 | Totara North 17 |
| Cable Bay 17 | Lower Hutt 41, 42 | Pahiatua 45 | Tuakau 31, 32 |
| Cape Brett 19 | Makorori 56 | Paihia 16-19 | Turakina 39, 65 |
| Cape Palliser 44-46 | Mania 22, 35, 36 | Palmerston North 38-40 | Turangi 61, 63, 64 |
| Cape Reinga 11, 15-17 | Mangakino 66, 69, 70 | Paparoa 8, 14 | Tutira 49, 50 |
| Carterton 44, 45 | Mangamuka 15-17 | Patea 34, 35 | Upper Hutt 38, 41 42 |
| Clevedon 20, 50, 73 | Mangaweka 38-40, 66 | Piopia 30 | Uretiti Beach 19 |
| Clive 44, 46, 47 | Mangawhai 16, 19 | Pipiriki 59, 66, 69 | Uruti 30 |
| Cooks Beach 24 | Manonui 17 | Pokeno 27, 28, 72 | Waihau Bay 55 |
| Cooper's Beach 17 | Manunui 68 | Porirua 42 | Waihi 20, 23-25 |
| Coromandel 20-23, 25 | Manutahi 34 | Pouawa Beach 56 | Waiinu Beach 35 |
| Dannevirke 38, 46, 47 | Mapiu 69 | Poverty Bay 51 | Waikanae 38, 40, 41 |
| Dargaville 11, 14, 17, 50 | Marokopa 30-33 | Pukehou 46 | Waimamaku 15 |
| Desert Road 6, 68 | Martinborough 44-46 | Pukekawa 31, 32 | Waimate North 16, 18 |
| Devil's Elbow 50 | Masterton 42, 44-46 | Pukekohe 31, 32 | Waingaro Springs 31 |
| Douglas 36 | Matakohe 14 | Puketona 17 | Wainui 50, 56 |
| Drury 28, 31, 32 | Matamata 71-73 | Pungarehu 35 | Waiotapu 61, 62 |
| Egmont Village 34, 35 | Matarangi 21, 22 | Pureora 70 | Waiouru 61, 66-68 |
| Eketahuna 44, 45 | Matata 51-53 | Putaruru 71 | Waipawa 44, 46, 47 |
| Eltham 34 | Matawai 51, 52 | Putorino 50 | Waipoua Forest 14, 15 |
| Eskdale 63 | Maungaturoto 14 | Raetihi 65, 66 | Waipu 16, 19 |
| Featherston 44-46 | Midhurst 34 | Raglan 27, 31-33 | Waipukurau 44-46 |
| Firth of Thames 21, 73 | Minginui 57 | Rahotu 35 | Wairakei 62 |
| Foxton 40, 41 | Miranda 20, 34, 59, 71 | Rangitiki 57, 63 | Wairoa 49-51, 57, 61 |
| Frasertown 51, 57 | Moehau 22, 72 | Raupunga 50 | Waitahuna 64 |
| Gisborne 3, 46, 49-56 | Mohaka 50, 63 | Raurimu 33, 68, 69 | Waitakeru 8, 11, 12 |
| Golden Springs 62 | Mokau 30, 31, 57, 70 | Rawene 15 | Waitara 27, 30, 31 |
| Greytown 44, 45 | Morere 50, 51 | Rimutaka Incline 42, 44 | Waitarere 40, 41 |
| Hahai 20, 21 | Morrinsville 29, 72, 73 | Rotorua 57, 59-62 | Waitomo Caves 27-31 |
| Hamilton 27-31, 33 | Motuopa 64 | Ruakaka 18, 19 | Waitotara 34, 35 |
| Hastings 38, 44, 46 | Motutere Bay 64 | Ruapehu 62, 64, 65 | Waiwera 13 |
| Hatepe 64 | Mourea 25, 52, 60 | Ruatahuna 57 | Wanganui 33, 39, 65 |
| Hauraki Gulf 11, 13 | Mt Bruce 38, 44, 45 | Ruatoria 56 | Warkworth 11, 13 |
| Hauraki Plains 21, 72 | Mt Egmont 31, 34-36 | Ruawai 14 | Waverley 34, 35 |
| Havelock North 44, 47 | Murupara 53, 54, 57 | Russell 16-19 | Wellington 38-46 |
| Hawera 33-36 | Napier 44-47, 49 | Sanson 38-40 | Wellisford 11-13, 16 |
| Hawke Bay 38, 45, 47 | National Park 63-69 | Silverdale 11, 13 | Whakamaru 68, 70 |
| Helensville 11, 12 | New Plymouth 30-36 | Stratford 27, 33-36, 69 | Whakapapa 64 |
| Henderson 10, 12 | Ngaruawahia 27-29, 33 | Tahora 36 | Whakatane 49, 51-54 |
| Hicks Bay 50, 53, 55 | Ninety Mile Beach 15 | Taihape 67 | Whanarau Bay 55 |
| Hikurangi 18, 19, 49 | Normanby 14, 34 | Taipa 17 | Whangamata 21, 23 |
| Hokianga Harbour 8, 11 | Norsewood 46, 47 | Tairua 23 | Whangamomona 33, 36 |
| Hot Water Beach 20, 23 | Nuhaka 49-51 | Tapu 20-22 | Whanganui River 59, 69 |
| Hunterville 67 | Oakura 19, 35 | Tarawera 60, 61, 63 | Whangapoua 21, 22 |
| Huntly 28 | Ohakune 64, 67, 68 | Taumarunui 66, 68, 69 | Whangarei 17-19 |
| Inglewood 34 | Ohinepa 36 | Taupo 59-64, 70-73 | Whangaroa 16-18 |
| Kaeo 17, 18 | Ohingaiti 67 | Tauranga 24, 25, 49-51 | Whangaruru 16, 19 |
| Kahoe 17 | Ohope 51-54 | Te Anga 27, 30-3 | Wharerata 50, 51 |
| Kaiaua 20, 73 | Okato 35 | Te Araroa 56 | Whitford 20, 21, 73 |
| Kaihu 11, 14 | Okere Falls 25, 52, 53 | Te Aroha 27, 29, 72, 73 | Whitianga 20-24 |
| Kaikohu 11, 16, 17 | Okitu 56 | Te Awamutu 29 | Woodville 38, 39, 44-46 |
| Kaipara Harbour 8, 12 | Omaio 55 | Te Haroto 63 | |
| Kaitiaki 11, 15-18 | Omapere 15, 16 | Te Kaha 55 | |
| Kaitoke 44, 45 | Opape 52, 55 | Te Kauwhata 28 | |
| Kakatahi 65 | Opepe Reserve 63 | Te Kuiti 27-30, 68-70 | |

UPDATE: November 1997

The following changes and errors have been found since going to print. Visit <http://www.voyager.co.nz/~dabhand/updates.html> for the latest on updates and corrections.

PROFILES: The elevation scale on the profiles vary from graph to graph, which may be confusing for some users. Suggestions to maintain the same scale throughout but not take up half a page in doing so would be gratefully accepted.

PAGE 29: AUCKLAND - TE KUITI (Waitomo Caves): Services - TE KUITI: add bkpr hostel.

PAGE 32: AUCKLAND - RAGLAN: Attractions - Bob Price the world famous bar manager is no longer at Glen Afton so don't go, it's a boring place anyway. Currently he is the world famous (and as eccentric as ever) owner and proprietor of Hazelmere Dairy in Te Awamutu (page 29). He is now busy plotting the downfall of the supermarket as we know it. Show him this book and if he's in a good mood, doesn't faint or need to suddenly go out on urgently business, may shout you a glass of water - if you're lucky!

PAGE 36: NEW PLYMOUTH - WANGANUI: Options: Link Road: Stratford - Taumarunui: Services: TAHORA: farm motor camp at Tangarakau seems to have closed but nearby at the top of Tahora Saddle there is a new cafe with a camp ground (no kitchen) and stunning views. Sealing of SH 43 between Tahora and Tatu might be finished sometime during the next millenium.

PAGE 41: WELLINGTON - Attractions - The new Museum of NZ (MONZ) on the waterfront is due to open early 1998.

PAGE 45: WELLINGTON - WOODVILLE: Options - Alternative: On SH 52 - PONGAROA: add bkpr hostel.

PAGE 46: WOODVILLE - NAPIER: Services - NORSEWOOD: add Beahive bkpr cabin, seasonal perhaps.

PAGE 55: OPOTIKI - TE KAHA - HICKS BAY: Services - Whanarua Bay: add bkpr hostel.

DAB HAND PUBLISHING

PEDALLERS' PARADISE

THE ULTIMATE CYCLE TOURING GUIDE TO
NEW ZEALAND

NORTH ISLAND EDITION

Includes

Regional Maps



Route Planners

with

Highway Profiles



Locality Services

with

information centres

food outlets

accommodation



Gradient Descriptions



Attractions



Alternative Routes and Side Trips

ISBN 0 - 473 - 03335 - 6



9 780473 033354