

WAITAHINGA TRAILS



MAIN DESTINATIONS

THE CHICKEN RUN

The Chicken Run is an easy walk through the Picnic Dell to two viewpoints overlooking the Wanganui and Taranaki backcountry. Allow about one hour walking time to return to here.

CROPPER'S CLEARING

Cropper's Clearing via the Okehu Ridge is a longer easy walk to a small sheltered clearing in the forest. The return trip takes about two hours.

RIMU WALK

The Rimu Walk and The Pines can be used to create loops without significantly altering the time taken.

THE PINES

HARRY'S RIDGE

Harry's Ridge and Tom's Ridge routes create a loop walk to the Waitahinga Dam. The duration of this tramp is approximately four hours and 30 minutes return.

TOM'S RIDGE

WAITAHINGA DAM

Please Note the Waitahinga Dam is approximately 270 metres below this point, so allow extra time for the return.

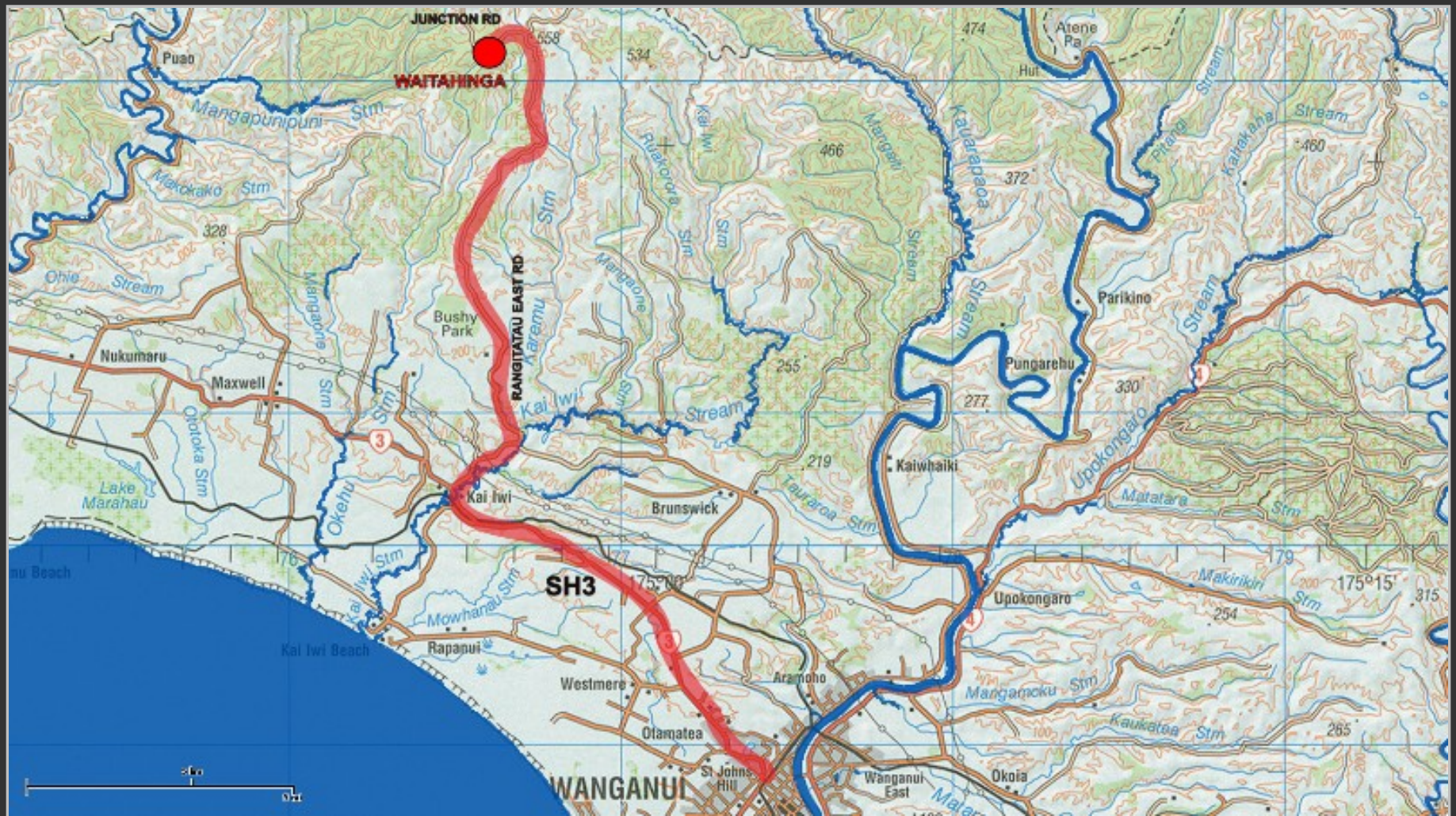


CLOSED TO TRAMPERS JUNE, JULY & AUGUST

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A Wanganui Tramping Club initiative



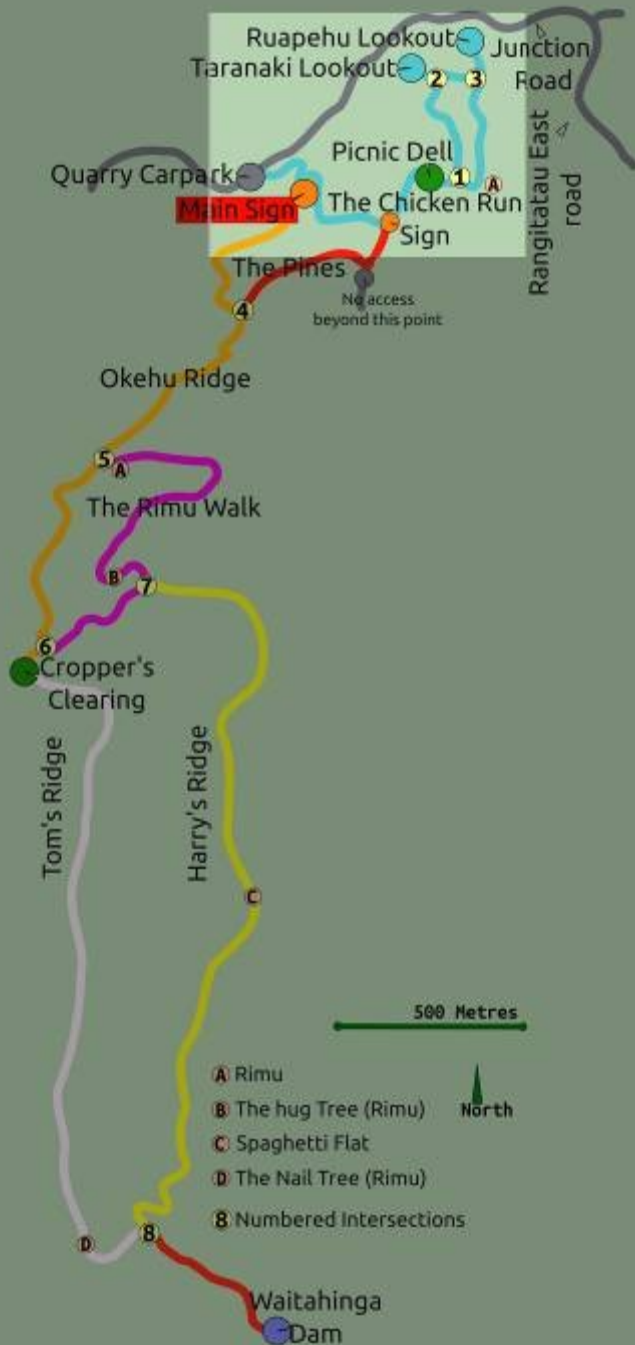
Location



The trails are on aprox 700h of land owned by the Wanganui District Council and was previously used as a water supply for the city. Part of the block is in pines and is not a feature of these trails. The rest of the land is in native forest.



The trails have been designed primarily as dictated by the landscape. This has eventuated into a useful range of opportunities, from having an easy picnic in the dell a few minutes from the car park, to the walk to the dam which is designed for those capable of four or more hours of walking.



PICNIC DELL



CHICKEN RUN



Half a kilometre from the car park is the easiest experience, the Picnic Dell, a sheltered clearing 200m off the quarry road.





The picnic dell







Beyond the picnic dell is the chicken run, an easy 30 minute loop walk.







This loop walk leads to two viewpoints over the Wanganui backcountry.



Mt Egmont viewpoint





*Mt Ruapehu
viewpoint*



Nowhere else can Wanganui people get such a comprehensive view of their hinterland.



Giant rimu on the chicken loop walk







This walk will be maintained with the less fit in mind and will also probably be improved in areas over the next year or so depending on the usage and feedback we receive.

Ruap
Taranaki

OKEHU RIDGE



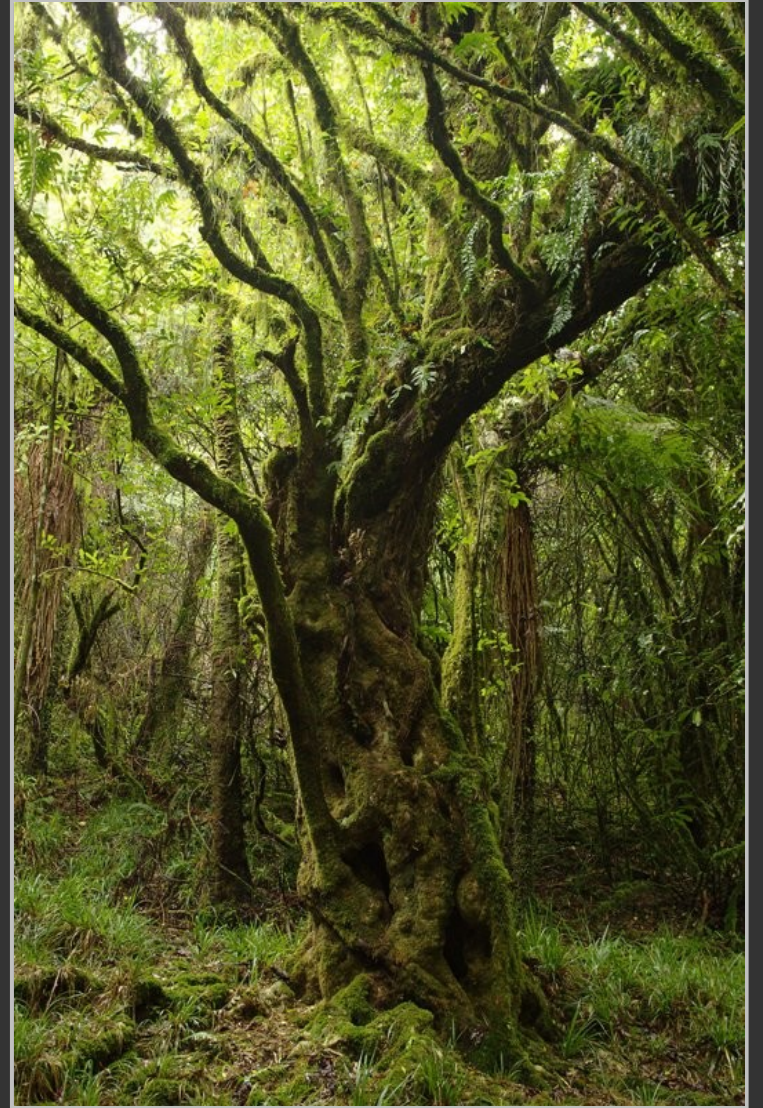
The main trail system starts with the Okehu ridge track which leads out to Croppers' Clearing about 45 minutes away.



This track meanders through a mix of original forest and very old regenerating forest.



It is routed past some gnarly old mahoe trees and a few magnificent rimu.







Croppers' Clearing



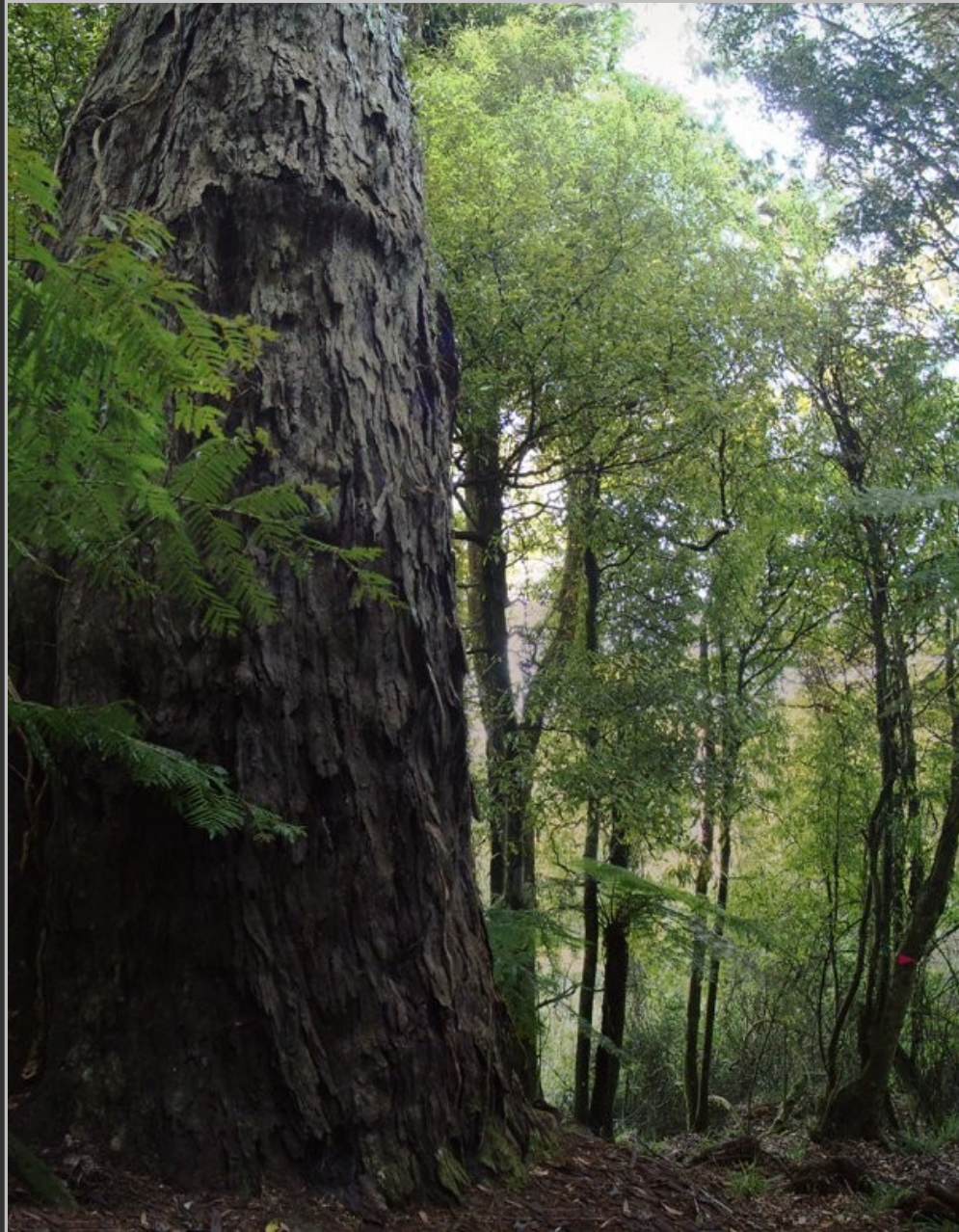


Cropper's Clearing got it's name from those who created the clearing!



The alternative route back from Croppers is the Rimu Trail which follows the eastern edge of the rolling plateau that slopes down from the Okehu Ridge.









OKEHU RIDGE



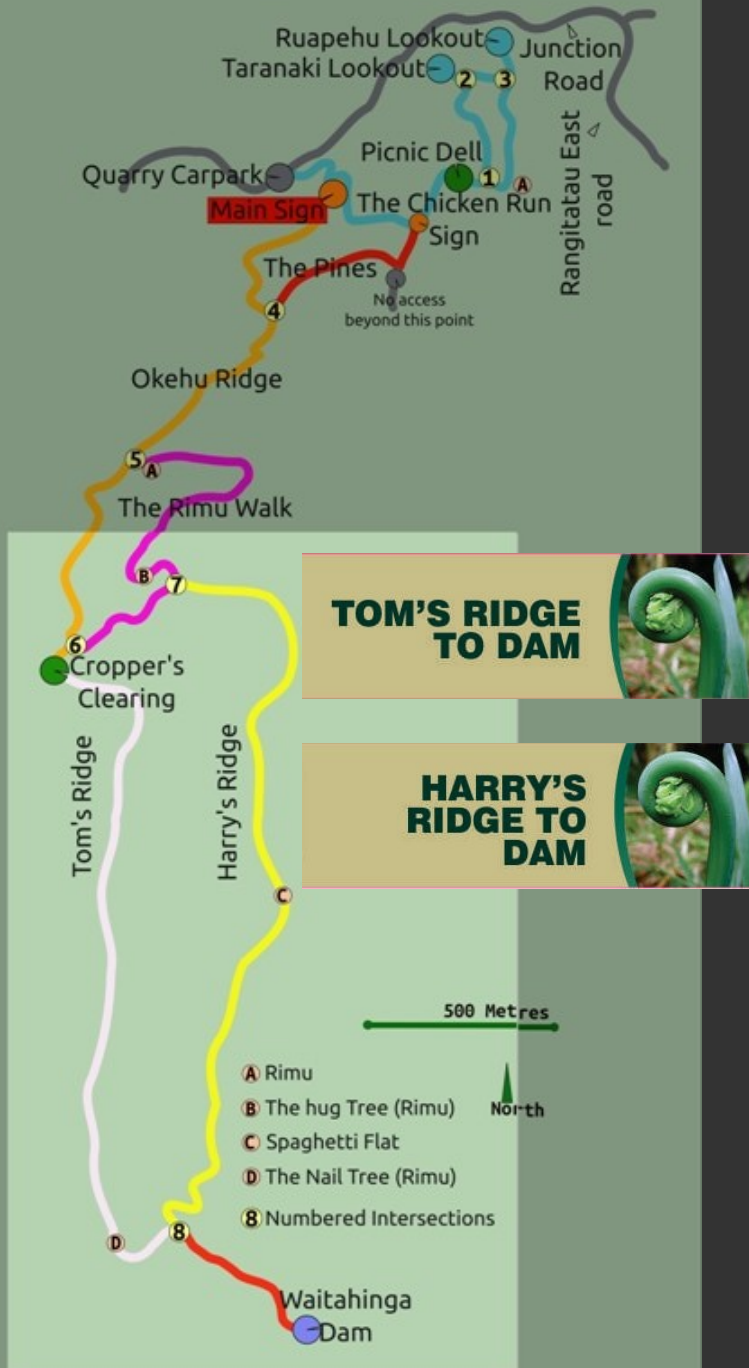
**CROPPER'S
CLEARING**



RIMU WALK



This loop walk is technically as simple as the Chicken Run, but due to its longer length it is intended for the slightly more fit walker and will be maintained with this in mind.



Tom's Ridge and Harry's Ridge loop walk



Leading down from the plateau that creates the previous loop are the parallel ridges running down to the dam about an hour away.



*We have named these ridges after inspirational Tramping Club leaders
Harry Stimpson and Tom Luff who both passed away in 2011.*



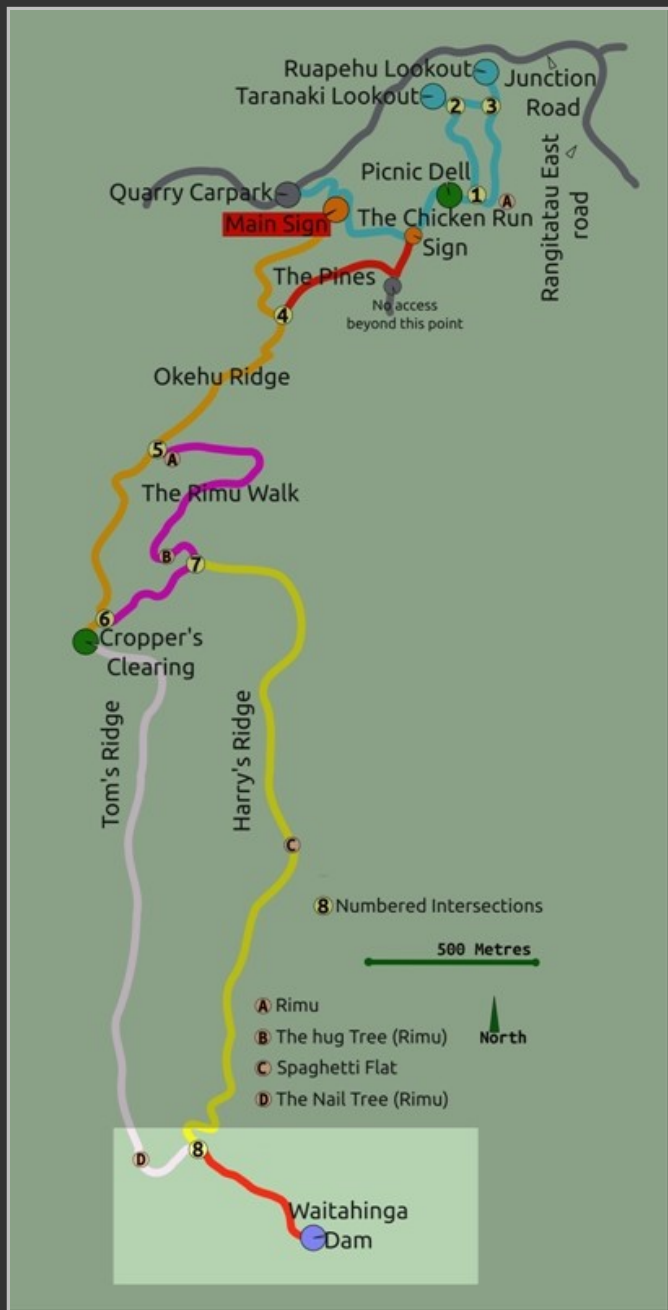




The Nail Tree



Once down from the ridges it is a pleasant 10 minute walk down the old service track to the dam.



Waitahinga dam









Waitahinga dam was once the source of Wanganui's water



There is the potential to create another entrance here as it is only 15 minutes walk from the dam to the Council house at the road (5km from Bushy Park).



*It used to take 6 to 7 hours to complete a trip to the dam and back.
The most time consuming obstacle was supplejack.*



The most famous area of supplejack is on Harry's ridge, and is now called Spaghetti Flat. With the path cut this is now just a few minutes walking.



Stump of a logged totara tree. This probably provided the raw materials for the 2-3 km fence line that started here.



It is impressive how well this fence has survived considering it was already in place when the Council purchased the block 110 years ago.



As this was not a boundary fence, presumably the owner at the time (Mr Moore, who also owned Bushy Park) was using it as a subdividing fence and grazing the bush with stock in some way.









Presumably areas now covered in mahoe were clear when the area was grazed and have since regenerated.



Waitahinga trails also provides great opportunities for photographers and those interested in wildlife and plants.















Grazed out forest floor on the Rimu Walk



A decade of better goat control near the pine forest







The project has been completed with great support from our Club members involving many working bees and other work days.



Croppers clearing now cleared of netting and the ground levelled



The last and most rewarding work required was putting the signage in place.



Carrying in the posts.



Digging in the posts and attaching the signs.





Signposts are numbered to match numbering on the brochure map.



The imaginative and distinctive sign work donated by Display Associates has superbly finished the Waitahinga Trails project giving the track a personality and brand of its own.



Wanganui Tramping Club embarked on this endeavour to celebrate 60 years of tramping and to commemorate two trampers special to many members of the club.

It was a great opportunity to bring Club members together in the spirit of cooperation that forms the basis of any strong club.



The End