

Old Tararua Dunny

This dunny started life in the Tararua Forest, at the original Waitewaiwai Hut, on the bank of the Otaki River.

That hut was built by the Hutt Valley Tramping Club in 1950. The hut, and dunny, served trampers for over 40 years.



The original Waitewaiwai hut



Waitewaiwai hut now

The current Waitewaewae Hut was built in 1991. It is a hard slog to get to it, much of the route follows the stream bed. It was built to replace the original hut, located 2 km upstream. The new hut is located on the site of Whareiti bivvy - the first hut in the area, which was built in 1936.

When the hut was replaced the dunny was helicoptered out to the Waikawa Reserve, North Manakau. It again did sterling duty until the bottom boards rotted and it was shipped to Whareroa Farm yard where it lingered for a couple of years.

After a while the Whareroa Guardians asked DOC if the Dunny could be added to the collection of quirky structures around the Hub.

The concept was a quiet resting place, looking up the valley past native forest.

The dunny was scrubbed up by volunteers who also built the foundation to DOC's engineer's specs.

It was moved to its present location by farm manager Drew. A new seat and deck were built and a coat of paint applied. The Old Dunny was officially opened in August 2020.

Unfortunately we found that swallows thought it was a good site for nesting –their droppings made it unusable for humans, so after the babies had flown away the plastic swallow screen was attached. Please keep the door closed or the swallows will return.

In 2021/22 the Guardians' restoration project will be planting the wetland just beyond the dunny. Climb the stile and walk over to Matai Bush and see the tall trees and huge variety of native plants from tiny ferns to huge kahikatea. The forest floor is now a mass of seedlings - look for the baby nikau.



Old Dunny abandoned at Whareroa



Interior



Loading it on to the tractor



Job done. The deck was then built and Richard put in a new seat. Richard and Bill check out the view

