

WHAREROA FARM RESERVE – FUN ON THE FARM!

1. “Mackays Crossing”: The land was cleared for farming by the Mackay family then later used as a training ground for the US Marines. Can you see where school kids have planted trees as you walk up the hill?
2. Coastal Lookout. You get some awesome views from here! Can you spot Kapiti or Mana Island, and the towns on the Kapiti Coast? Did you know up until 1859 Maori lived here and grew crops and flax, and paddled waka through the wetlands below?
3. Bush classroom: How many signs can you find in the kohekohe forest? Are there any weta in their motels? How many fungi can you spot?
4. Kiwi Caravan: This caravan used to be high up on Kapiti Island. Rangers lived in it monitoring Little Spotted Kiwi. The awesome mural was painted in 2018. Go inside for a rest.
5. The Dell: If you sit quietly you can hear the birds. Can you imagine all the surrounding hills covered with dense kohekohe / podocarp forest? On the track to the Lookout, can you spot the largest Totara tree in Whareroa? Most of these giant trees were cut down for fence posts and buildings but a few remain. Can you spot the Kiwi Guardian post? Head back past the caravan and up the hill.
6. Matai tree: Will one day become a forest giant! Stop and touch its bark. Peep into the forest to see the regeneration of totara, kahikatea, matai, rimu, kohekohe and tawa. Follow the bush edge path, then up to picnic table. How many different trees you can identify?
7. Cairn: Go on an adventure across the stream and up the track to the cairn built by the Whareroa Guardians. You’ll get some great views of the Ramaroa Wetland and you might even see lizards basking on the rocks?
8. US Marines’ Reservoir: Look down on the water reservoir used for Camp Mackay. Whareroa is also home to lots of sheep and cattle. How many can you count in one go? Please don’t get too close though!
9. A US Marines World War II camp was right here in 1942/3. Can you imagine thousands of soldiers living here? What are the odd concrete pillars?

Health and Safety:

This is a working farm – no dogs or fires. Take care near waterways.

Distance and Time: 3.5km - 3 hrs

