



#### kohekohe with some emerging podocarps such as matai, totara and kahikatea in association with a rich assortment of broadleaf trees. Vast quantities of timber and firewood were taken from the area and there were extensive bush workings in Awarua Street providing logs for milling at a site which is now the Ngaio Tennis Club courts. After the area was logged, the land was progres-Ngaio Gorge, the bush is regenerating with tawa, mahoe, titoki karaka and rewarewa.

sively cleared for dairy farming. Sheep and cattle are still grazed on the higher slopes where some areas of bush are regenerating under a protective canopy of gorse. In other cut over areas, such as the

# Pre-European vegetation was generally a mixed broadleaf - podocarp forest. There were extensive stands of tawa and

#### Botany

Kaiwharawhara was a Te Atiawa Pa at the mouth of the Kaiwharawhara Stream. There were links to the Ohariu and Makara Pas via various tracks that passed near Otari. There was also a track to the north following the route of the present Bridle Track from Winchester Street to Khandallah. The Kaiwharawhara Pa area and bird snaring was done on the slopes of Mt Kaukau. (Kaukau is a corruption of kaka, the native parrot)

#### Early Maori

### **Bell's Track**

restoring the vegetation. Wellington and the South Island. A dedicated care group is railway station. From the top there are fantastic views over provided access between farms in Ohariu Valley and Ngaio and joins a farm track up to a saddle on the ridge. It originally This re-established route starts at the top of Awarua Street

#### Orleans Makererua Reserve (Pukatea Track)

looks atter the area. that are survivors from the original bush. A local care group fine specimens of native trees (pukatea, kahikatea and titoki) at the Orleans end. The reserve is notable for a number of (off Motueka Street). There is a gently sloped grassed area from Makererua Street (off Heke Street) to Orleans Street This small reserve has an interesting 10 minute track running

#### Skyline Walkway

ranges. The walkway is open to walkers and mountain bikers. Wellington city and harbour and the Tararua and Orongorongo views of the Kaikoura ranges, the Marlborough Sounds, hours at an easy pace. On a clear day there are spectacular Mt Kaukau and Crofton Downs. It is 4km long and takes two Part of this walkway runs north-south along the ridge between

#### Piwakawaka Track (Odell Reserve)

vantage point for Guy Fawkes night. spectacular views of the city, harbour and Ngaio itself. Great Bridle Track. The highest point, at the water tanks, provides convenient segment of a circular walk in association with the This track passes through regenerating bush and provides a Road near the entrance to the Harbour Lights subdivision. Access is from alongside 14 Punjab Street or from Old Porirua

#### Chartwell Reserve

beehives and through a horse paddock on the way. a wide track provides access to the Skyline Walkway, passing Starting from Chartwell Drive (just above John Witton Drive)

#### Korimako Track

with the landowners approval. Bell's Track. The track was completed by volunteers in 2016 round trip taking in the Crow's Nest, the Skyline Walkway and the end of Huntleigh Park Way. It makes readily accessible a access points are off Patna Street and via a paper road at of Bell's Track with the bottom of the Crow's Nest Track. Other This passes through mainly private land and links the bottom



Ngaio and Crofton Downs have a large number of zigzag walkways and steps between streets. These provide easier access for pedestrians to shops and transport. These are shown on the map as dotted lines linking streets. They complement the track system and provide interesting walks

#### Suburban Walkways

and shortcuts through the suburbs.

This sanctuary in nearby Wilton is devoted to indigenous New Zealand plants. It has a range of tracks through forest, gardens, open spaces and picnic areas. This is one of the finest showcases of native flora in the country and is a national treasure. Access points close to Ngaio and Crofton Downs are from Churchill Drive, John Witton Drive and the main entrance on Wilton Road. It is within walking distance of both suburbs.

#### Otari - Wilton's Bush

#### Vorthern Walkway

the top of Mt Kaukau. and Simla Crescent to Khandallah Park where it ascends to Awarua Street the walkway goes along Khandallah Road Street a short road walk leads to Cummings Park. From Street is part of the Northern Walkway. From Waikowhai The track in Trelissick Park from Hanover Street to Waikowhai

#### **Te Araroa Trail**

.nwojsebbvv from the Awarua Street Entrance to Cummings Park and on to Track into Ngaio. It proceeds along the Northern Walkway Mt Kaukau it follows the Skyline Walkway and then Bell's Te Araroa stretches 3,000km from Cape Reinga to Bluff. From

#### Huntleigh Park Reserve

care is needed in several areas that are quite steep. Track. Tracks are marked with small coloured posts. Some Park Way and from the Skyline Walkway via the Crow's Nest behind the Playcentre in Silverstream Road, from Huntleigh administered by the Girl Guides Association. Access is from This lesser known area is a WCC reserve. Adjoining bush is

#### Summings Park

exercise area. a children's playground and a designated off-the-lead dog shops. There is a stream, an old totara, sculpture, seating, This grassed and generally flat park is behind the Ngaio

#### Heke Street Reserve

runs to Heke Street emerging next to 41 Heke Street. and between 45 and 47 Thatcher Crescent. A side track and Ngaio. Access is from the end of Collingwood Street A pleasant track through this reserve links Crofton Downs

#### Crows Nest Track

the Skyline Walkway. through private land, then the Outer Greenbelt to join with This begins from the top of Huntleigh Park and passes

#### Silversky Track

track connects with Downing Street. there you can follow a track to the Skyline Walkway. A side ream Road up towards the Crofton Downs substation. From The Silversky Track is a walking and biking track from Silver-



Ngaio and Crofton Downs, two of Wellington's northern suburbs, have many accessible bush reserves and walking tracks running from the lower Ngaio Gorge to the Skyline walkway. There are short tracks for family forays or longer extended walks for fitness and magnificent views.

## **Local Walking Tracks**



#### **Trelissick Park**

for over 20 years, the park has regenerating bush and a volunteers in co-operation with the Wellington City Council network of walking tracks. Cared for by a dedicated group of from the lower Ngaio Gorge to Waikowhai Street with an extensive I he park covers a large area of rugged landscape extending

#### number of heritage trees.

Trelissick Crescent, Waikowhai Street and Hanover Street. Ngaio Gorge / Kaiwharawhara Road, Ngaio Gorge Road, There are five main entrances to Trelissick Park:

of a nineteenth century logging track. is carved out of solid rock. This is believed to be the remains seats. Not far from the Waikowhai Street entrance the track Wightwick's Field, a flat grassed area with a picnic table and between Ngaio and Crofton Downs) the track descends to From the Waikowhai Street entrance (near the railway overbridge

Wellington-Manawatu Railway Line was built in the 180s. remains of a rare old drystone wall constructed when the Downs emerges from a culvert. Adjacent to this are the A few metres further on, the Silverstream from Crofton

Wadestown. with tracks from Trelissick Crescent and Hanover Street, The track follows the Korimako Stream until it intersects

trees nearby especially two mature specimens of miro and and steep sides. At the junction there are several notable stream from a section known as The Gorge from its narrowness area's finest scenic features. This is the emergence of the of the track, a zigzag track provides access to one of the Just before the junction with the Wadestown-Trelissick section

Stream) continues to the two lower Ngaio Gorge Road exits. hand track near the river (now called the Kaiwharawhara to the steep slope. Downhill from the intersection, the left to Ngaio Gorge Road. Walking this track requires care due From the junction another track runs around the steep hillside

bank robbery getaway car was set alight. scare of the 1880s. In 2002 the site was damaged when a and used for storing explosives during the Russian invasion remains of an historic powder magazine built in 1879-80 A major point of interest towards the end of the track is the

Ngaio rocks are raised sedimentary sandstone (greywacke) and black mudstone (argillite). Subsidiary earthquake fault lines have allowed streams to erode valleys, such as the Ngaio Gorge, or have left their mark elsewhere on the land. A good example of this is the fault line that crosses the upper part of Bells Track to create a shallow valley behind The Crow's Nest and small notches in the southern spurs between the track and Mt Kaukau. A flat remnant of the original land surface or peneplain still remains on Mt Kaukau and has given its name to the extensive flat surface that originally existed over much of the Wellington area. More recently (10-20,000 years ago) freeze/thaw action during an Ice Age produced a water-logged mantle of mud and rock fragments that flowed down the hillsides. This debris (and the underlying bedrocks) can be seen in many Ngaio road cuttings.

#### **More Information**

http://wellington.govt.nz	Cummings Park Library, Ngaio
www.teararoa.org.nz	Onslow Historical Society 86 Khandallah Road
www.tracks.org.nz	Open 1- 4pm Sunday

#### Dog Exercise Areas

NGAIO<sup>®</sup>

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There are five off-the-leash dog exercise areas in Ngaio and Crofton Downs: the whole of Trelissick Park, Chelmsford Park off Lower Chelmsford Street, Cummings Park, Silverstream Road Reserve and Odell's Reserve.

#### Safety

Stout shoes or boots should be worn and a waterproof jacket and warm clothing carried in case of a change in the weather. Tell someone your plans. These precautions are essential if you plan to walk on the exposed skyline ridges. Adventure Smart has outdoor safety information www.adventuresmart.org.nz

#### How to Get There

Local train stations on the Johnsonville Line are Crofton Downs, Ngaio and Awarua Street. Several bus routes also connect Wellington CBD and Ngaio. Metlink has both train and bus timetables: www.metlink.org.nz phone 0800 801 700



#### www.ngaio.org.nz