

# RUAPEHU GREAT BIKE RIDES

Incorporating Ohakune, Raetihi & National Park

## EXPLORE THE CENTRAL PLATEAU OF THE RUAPEHU DISTRICT

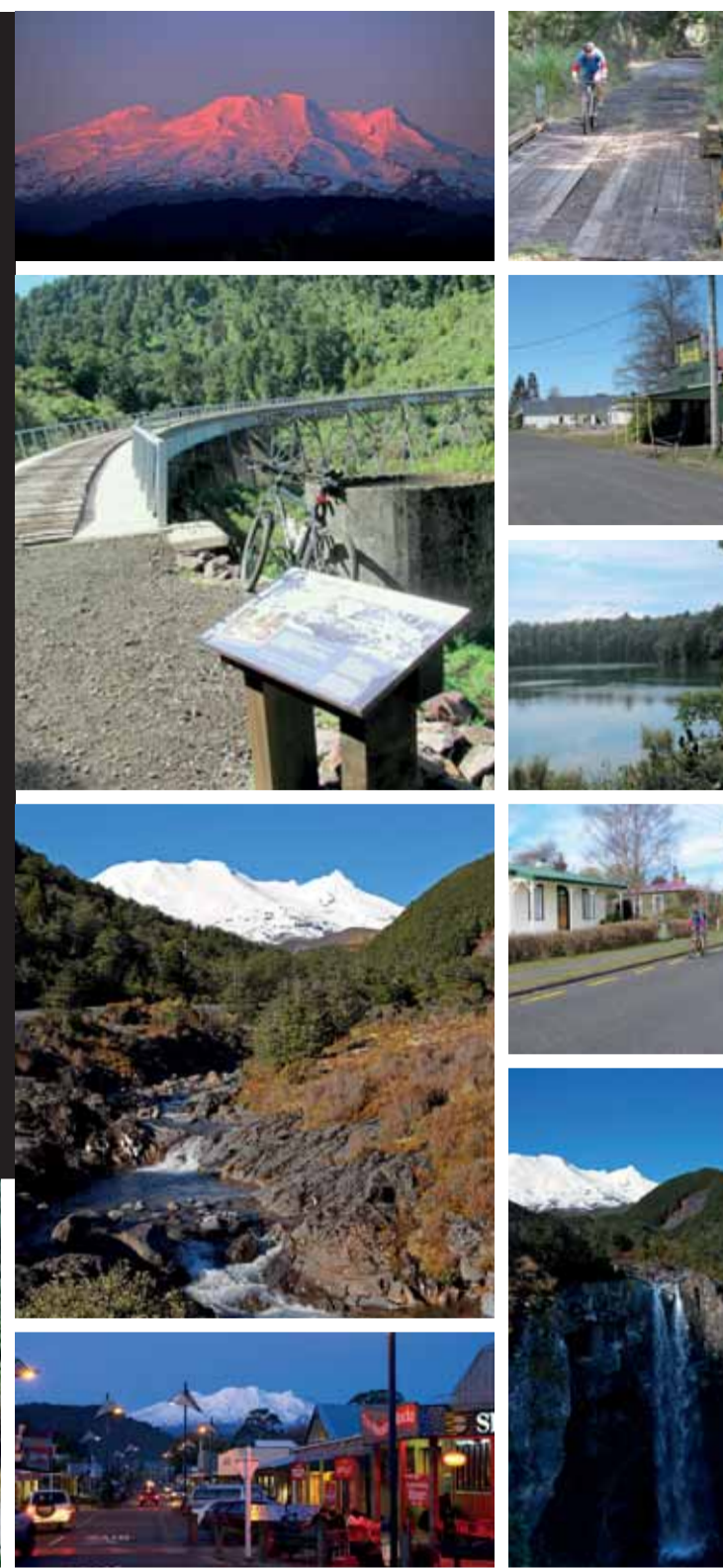
### 'Where Adventure Begins'

The opportunities for mountain biking in the Ruapehu Region abound and in this brochure we profile 14 trails that you can easily access. Whether you are a first timer or downhill demon, there are trails to suit. The descriptions for each of the trails have been carefully calculated by enthusiastic bikers. Take your pick based on the duration and your level of expertise.

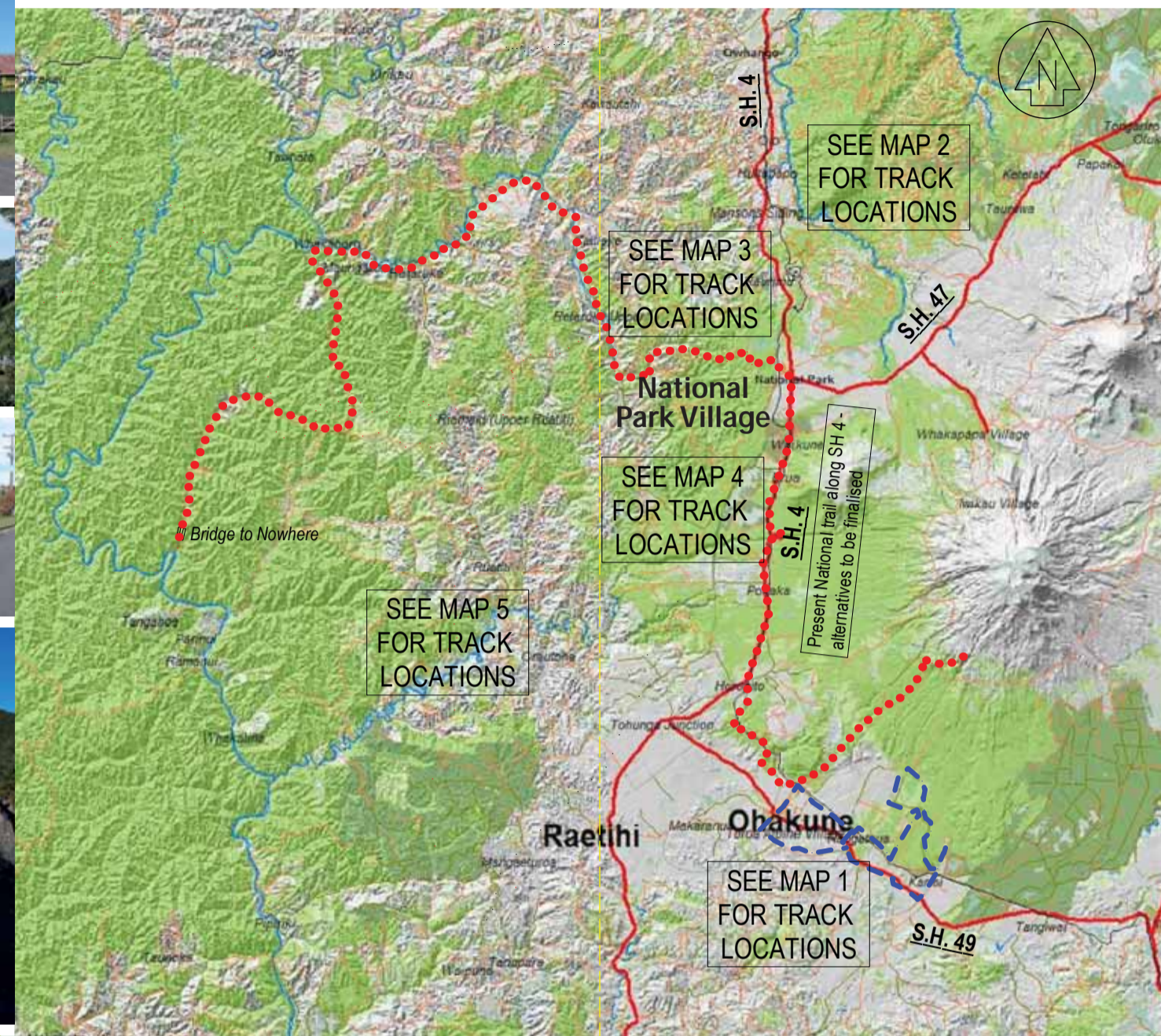
We know you will be exhilarated by the varied landscapes and topography these trails reveal. New Zealand's most spectacular and diverse eco-systems are located on these trails. Just one example is the Rangataua Forest which features red and silver beech trees atop the giant Rangataua lava flow which cascaded down the side of Mt Ruapehu over 5000 years ago.

The Old Coach Road, Fishers and Bridge to Nowhere Tracks form part of one of only seven trails in the NZ Cycleway project - a major initiative announced by the NZ Government. Another new initiative is the Ohakune Scenic Trail Loops.

Check out the details on the trails in the Ruapehu region and take on the challenge to try them all!



## LOCALITY PLAN



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Our thanks to: Department of Conservation, Visit Ruapehu, David Holland, Jesse Rogers, Darren Gamble, and many other loggers, advertisers and enthusiasts.

- TL = Turn Left
- TR = Turn Right
- CP = Carpark
- T = Toilet
- LHS = Left hand side
- RHS = Right hand side
- m = Meters
- 690 = 690 meters above sea level
- kms = kilometers
- 3.7 = 3.7 kms from start
- HP = High point
- SH = State Highway
- DOC = Department of Conservation
- Grades 1-6 = Based on NZ MTB Gradients
- Kennett = Classic NZ Mountain bike rides

- National Mountain to Sea
- Ohakune Scenic Trail Loops
- State Highway
- Public Roads
- Ruapehu Great Rides

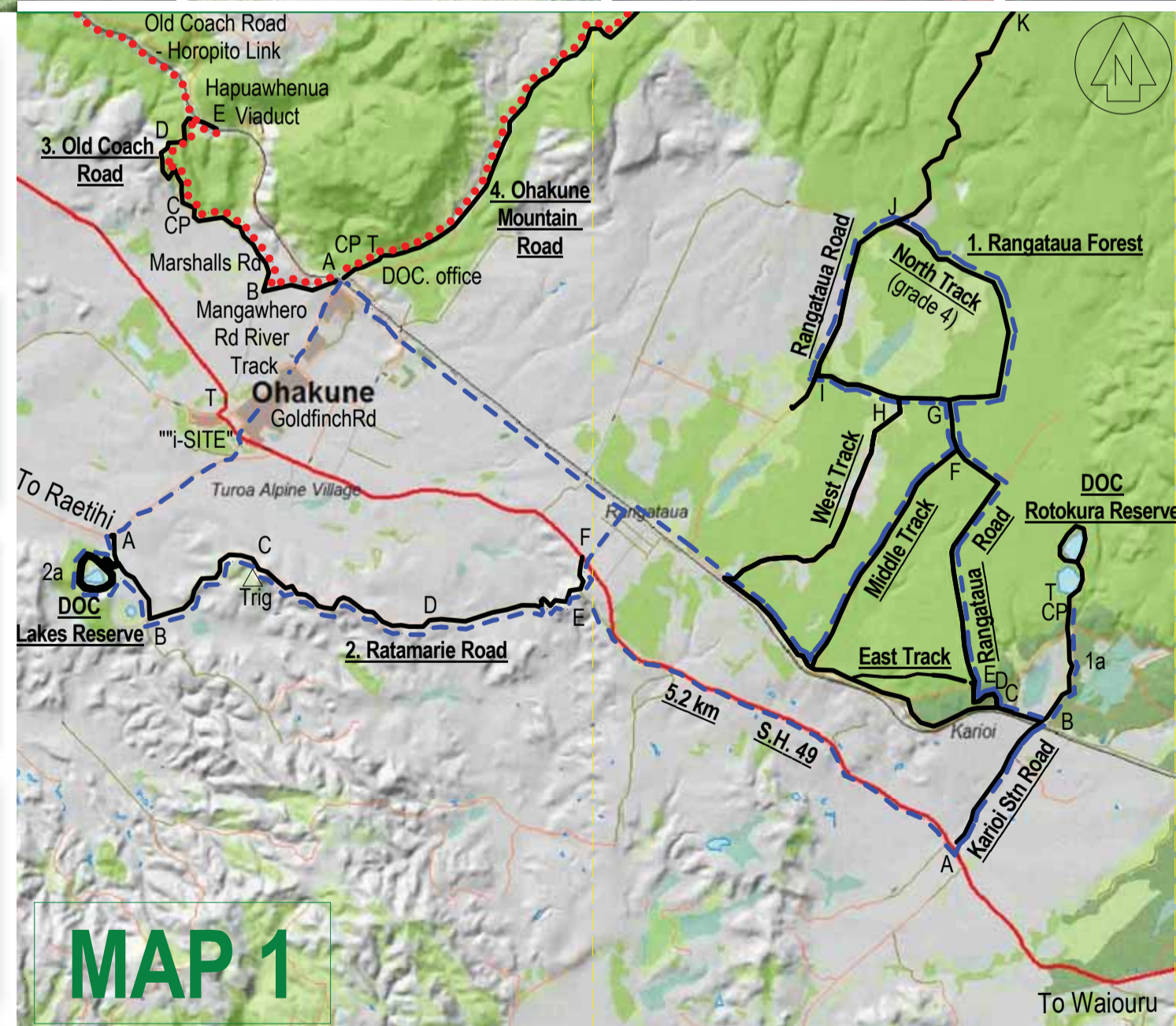
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# OHAKUNE



## MAP 1

### OHAKUNE SCENIC TRAIL LOOPS

Either a 50 km loop, (4-7 hours) including Rangataua Forest or 20 kms loop (2-4 hours). Unique trails providing a potpourri of different landscapes and topographies. Involves two DOC Eco Lake Reserves, unformed and metal Ratamarie Road through typical NZ pastoral and market garden farmland, through Rangataua Forest and back through the historic areas of Rangataua & Ohakune. Superb views of Mount Ruapehu abound. *Not suitable for children under 15, wear HiViz on SH's. Refer to individual trails for more detail.*

#### 1. RANGATAUA FOREST

Grade 3.

Ohakune to start 11km (via SH 49)

Rangataua Road is an old metal forest road of approx. 12 kms, (located via Karori Station Road off SH 49) that winds through the picturesque Rangataua Forest up the slope of Mt Ruapehu. The suggested route is shown on the Ohakune Scenic Trail Loop Map with a suggestion that one travels the 4.6 km North track from point J to G returning to Rangataua via Middle Track and the metal track alongside the railway. Both these tracks are single bike trails.

West and Middle track have other users and may be in poor condition when wet.

#### Rangataua Road

- A 0.0 / 618m Kariori Stn Rd / SH49
- B 1.9 / 640 Railway, TL
- C 2.3 / 638 TR onto Rangataua Rd
- D 3.7 / 696 (Track 400m long on RHS)
- E 3.8 / 704 (East Track on LHS)
- F 7.2 / 724 (Middle Track on LHS)
- G 7.9 / 732 (North track on RHS)
- H 8.5 / 722 (West Track on LHS)
- I 9.5 / 724 (Track on LHS)
- J 11.8 / 778 (North Track on RHS)
- K 15.4 / 979 End road

#### North Track

- J 0.0 / 778m Rangataua Rd
- L 1.0 / 774 TR onto single track, 100m before campsite
- G 4.6 / 732 Rangataua Rd
- East Track 1.1 kms long
- Middle Track 3.3 kms long
- West Track 3.5 kms long

#### 1A. ROTOKURA RESERVE

A very pleasant 1-2 hour walk around two crater lakes in DOC Eco Reserve only 1.3 kms from point B. A delightful lunch stop with picnic benches at first lake.

#### 2. RATAMARIE ROAD.

Grade 2.

Ohakune to start 2.0 kms,

Finish to Ohakune 5.0 kms (via SH 49)

A mix of partially formed "paper" road & metal road through typical NZ sheep & beef farms & market gardening, with magnificent views of Mt Ruapehu and Ohakune area.

After leaving Lakes Road enter the unformed Ratamarie Road where you go through a typical NZ farm (please close gates & respect stock) with great views before finishing on a steepish slope on the metal road.

- A 0.0 / 556
- 0.3 / (Lakes Reserve)
- B 1.1 / 582 TL onto Ratamarie Road
- C 3.0 / 638 HP (Trig 673, 5 min walk up hill)
- D 5.9 / 628 End metal road
- E 8.0 / 694 HP Road intersection TL
- F 8.4 / 673 SH 49 / Ratamarie Road

#### 2A LAKES RESERVE

Grade 1, 1.8 km

A very pleasant loop road around a lake through picturesque native bush. A DOC reserve.

#### 3. OLD COACH ROAD

Grade 2.

i-SITE to start 2.2 kms

A new nationally recognised track rich in history and beauty, finishing at the 1908 built Hapuwhenua Viaduct, with the extension to Horopito due for opening in April 2010 as part of the National "Mountain to Sea". The Old Coach Road is a cobblestone road built over 100 years ago to give Coach Transport for Rail passengers from Ohakune South Railhead to Raurimu North Railhead (a Heritage 1 site). All the history of this road and the viaduct is very well documented by numerous on-site signs.

- A 0.0 / 658 Old Station Rd / Mangawhero Tce
- B 1.0 / 633 TR onto Marshalls Rd
- C 2.4 / 586 End Marshalls Rd, CP
- D 4.8 / 688 Tunnel (via Old Coach Rd)
- E 5.9 / 676 Hapuwhenua Viaduct (via single track)

#### 4. OHAKUNE MOUNTAIN ROAD

A testing 16.1 kms (1000m vertical) climb uphill through various alpine landscapes from DOC office to end of road, (the start of the National "Mountain to Sea" trail) or a buzz downhill. All seal road, be prepared for differing weather conditions.

There are numerous walking tracks off this road, obtain information from DOC office

- 0.0 / 621 DOC office
- 1.4 / 62 Campsite
- 7.2 / 919 Blyths track
- 11.4 / 1155 Waitonga Falls
- 12.9 / 1297 Mangawhero Falls
- 15.0 / 1517 Silica Falls
- 16.1 / 1631 End road, CP

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# NATIONAL PARK

## 1. 42 TRAVERSE

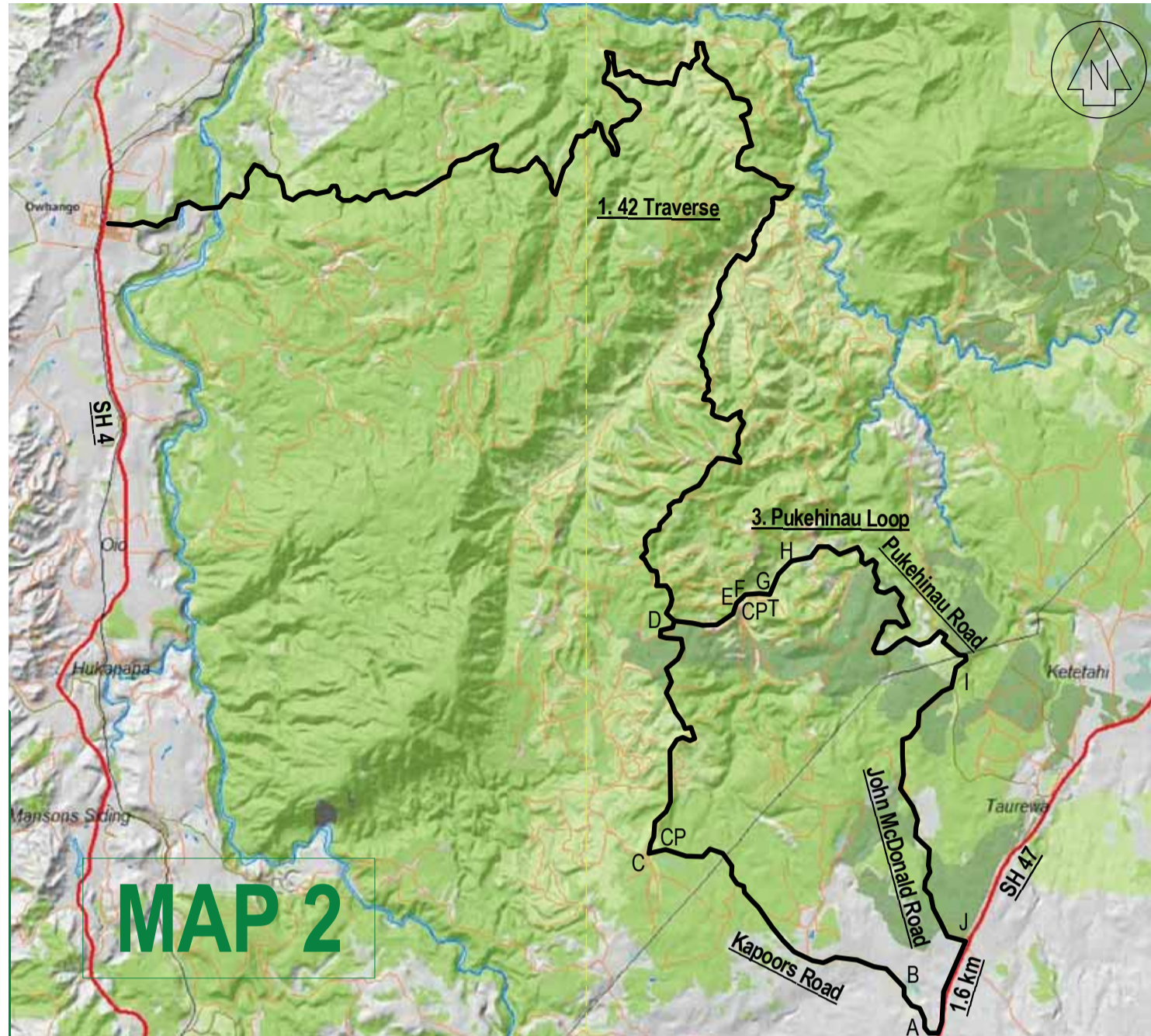
Grade 3

Enter via Kapoors Road (18 kms north of National Park), continue 6.4kms to carpark, DOC directional sign and start of track. The track should be well staked with dark green markers before and after most major intersections.

Considered one of the best mountain bike rides in North Island. It follows old logging tracks through some of the most remote land in NZ in State Forest 42 in the Tongariro Forest. There are challenging downhill & muscle testing uphill, through lush native forest with sweeping views of the central North Island mountains eg. Echo Point. Highlights include the stunning Canyon Valley, several river crossings & a pub at the end.

It is around 46 kilometres with overall descent of 520m and takes 4-6 hours. Be prepared and equipped for rapid changeable weather.

Obtain further route detail and description from other publications eg. Kennett.



MAP 2

## 2. TONGARIRO FOREST LOOP

Grade 5+, 4-7 hrs, 40 kms

For experienced riders who like a challenge. You will encounter every type of riding imaginable on this beauty.

Obtain further route detail and description from other publications eg. Kennett.

## 3. PUKEHINAU LOOP

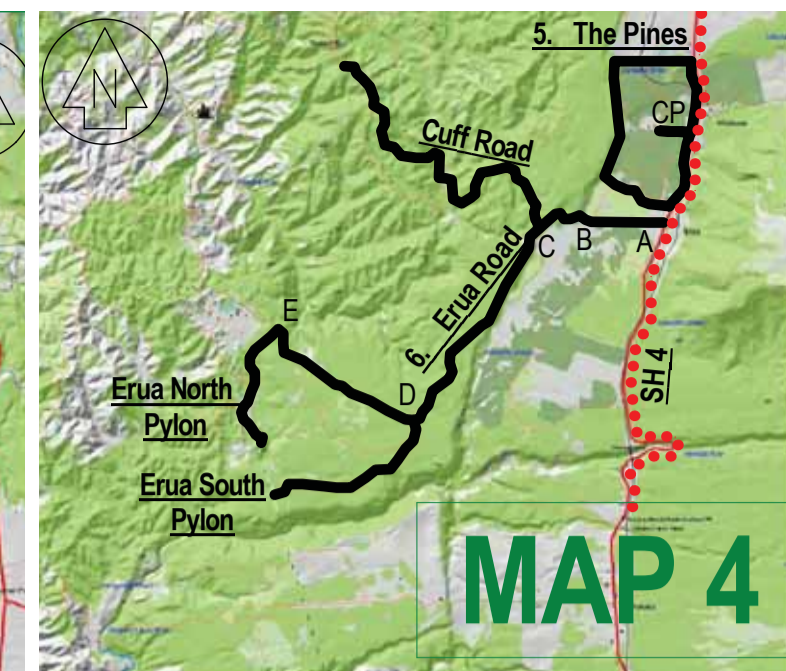
Grade 3

Incorporating 4.7 kms of 42 Traverse, two single tracks (approx 800m in poor condition) linking to Pukehinau Road. Can be done as a loop road or in part.

- |   |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
| A | 0.0 / 921  | Kapoors Road / SH 47                   |
| B | 1.5 / 888  | TL                                     |
| C | 6.3 / 795  | DOC sign, start 42 Traverse            |
| D | 11.0 / 747 | TR onto track (100m past track on LHS) |
| E | 12.2 / 637 | TL onto single track                   |
| F | 12.4 / 607 | Stream crossing                        |
| G | 13.5 / 622 | Pukehinau Road, CP                     |
| H | 14.9 / 619 | Okupata Caves                          |
| I | 20.6 / 767 | Pukehinau / John McDonald Road         |
| J | 25.8 / 923 | John McDonald Road / SH 47             |
| A | 27.4 / 921 | Kapoors Road / SH 47                   |



MAP 3



MAP 4

## 4. FISHERS

Grade 2

A real buzz track of 17 kms, 95% downhill with a 520m descent. Join metal roads and travel to Monument corner for usual pickup point. Now part of the National "Mountain to Sea" trail.

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| A | NW corner of National Park Village |
| B | HP                                 |
| C | End track / Metal road             |
| D | TR @ road intersection             |
| E | War Memorial & road intersection   |

## 5. THE PINES

Grade 2.

Opposite the Old Waikune Prison, 3km south of National Park Village, is a seal road that leads to the old mill site. This is the old forestry area. The prison used to mill this area. Park in Old Mill site. All tracks lead back to site. Recommend obtain a plan of tracks for best enjoyment. About 13 kms have recently been opened. For the family.

## 6. ERUA ROAD & SIDE TRAILS / CUFF ROAD

Erua and Cuff Road: Grade 2

Erua & Cuff Road are metal roads and go through some fascinating and beautiful eco and forest regions, with spectacular views. The two tracks are old construction tracks in mixed state, for the adventurous.

- |   |            |                                |
|---|------------|--------------------------------|
| A | 00 / 742   | SH 4 / Erua Road               |
| B | 1.4 / 723  | Bridge                         |
| C | 2.5 / 776  | Erua / Cuff Road (5.5 km long) |
| D | 7.1 / 752  | South Pylon Track LHS          |
| E | 10.3 / 671 | North Pylon track LHS          |

## 7. WHAKAPAPA ROAD

Grade 3

- |             |                                   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| A           | demanding uphill or Buzz downhill |
| 00 / 877    | SH 47 / SH 48                     |
| 6.1 / 11    | 26 The Chateau Hotel              |
| 12.9 / 1632 | End of "The Bruce Road"           |

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# RAETIHI

## 1. THE BRIDGE TO NOWHERE

Grade 4

An icon trail of approx. 38 kms from Ruatiti Road to the Whanganui River, part of which now forms part of the National "Mountain to Sea" bike trail, to be upgraded in 2010. The "Mangapurua Road" turnoff is 30.6 kms from SH 4 along the Ruatiti Road. (14 kms past Ruatiti Domain).

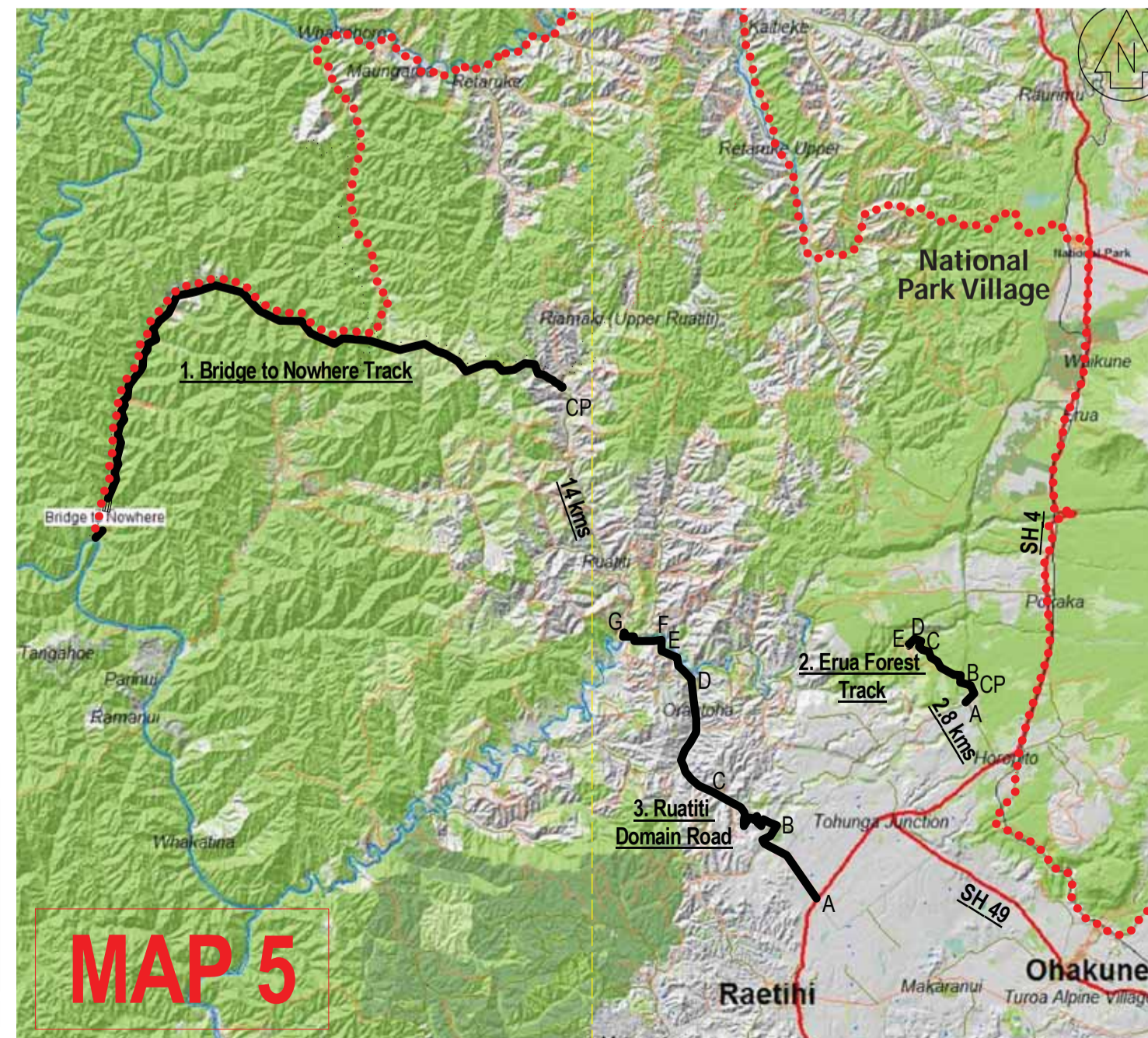
For the most part the track generally follows the Mangapurua Stream whose valley is rich in history - in 1917 the Government opened up the valley for returned WWI servicemen. About 15 holdings were developed. Due to economic and financial hardship settlers soon abandoned the area which was officially closed in May 1942, after three remaining families were ordered out. The present "Bridge to Nowhere" near the Whanganui River was started in 1935.

One can return by the same route or take a jetboat and/or canoe to Pipiriki (20 kms) or stopover at the river lodge (11kms).

Obtain further route detail and description from other publications eg. Kennett.

**Mangapurua / Bridge to Nowhere**  
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MAP 5

## 2. Erua Forest Trail

Grade 2

Located 2.8 kms along the Middle Road from SH 4. A very pleasant ride along an old construction road through native bush of the DOC Conservation Reserve. The track shown is to the first pylon, there are many other single tracks between pylons to explore.

- |   |           |                                      |
|---|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| A | 00 / 731  | Erua Forest entrance off Middle Road |
| B | 1.1 / 722 | Stream crossing                      |
| C | 3.8 / 650 | Stream Crossing                      |
| D | 4.2 / 643 | TL @ track intersection              |
| E | 4.5 / 677 | Pylon                                |

## 3. Ruatiti Domain Road

Grade 2

Starting from the SH 4, travel to edge of Plateau & then a 3.4 km steep descent before following the Maungani-a-te-Ao River to the Ruatiti Domain where there is a Camping ground, excellent swimming and trout fishing in a delightful riverside setting. Follow road signs to Ruatiti Domain.

- |   |            |                     |
|---|------------|---------------------|
| A | 00 / 552   | SH 4 / Ruatiti Road |
| B | 3.6 / 556  | Top of downhill     |
| C | 7.0 / 387  | Bottom of downhill  |
| D | 11.7 / 311 | TL (over bridge)    |
| E | 16.0 / 248 | TR (over bridge)    |
| F | 16.1 / 248 | TL (metal road)     |
| G | 16.7 / 251 | TL (Ruatiti Domain) |