

Maraekakaho - Kereru (Ngaruroro River)



Ngatarawa Winery and Vineyard

Ivan Hughes

HAWKE'S BAY

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Discover  **New Zealand**

MARAEKAKAHO - KERERU (NGARURORO RIVER)

Introduction

This is a long trail (200km) that traverses a wide variety of scenery from the flat pastoral and viticulture land of the Heretaunga Plains to the mountainous high country foothills of the Ruahine and Wakarara ranges. Although it can be driven in four to five hours it is suggested that to enjoy the scenery and the wonderful views from the many vantage points a more leisurely approach could be taken and the Trail broken up into smaller sections.

Care should be taken on the few gravel sections on Mangleton Road.

For outstanding panoramas Whakapirau Road and Salisbury Road are recommended circuits.

Vehicle fuel and food are available from Hastings. Some wineries also offer food.

Note: Distances shown in **red** are from the last progressive total.

Odometer readings may vary slightly between vehicles.

The Trail

Commence (0.0km) from outside Hastings i SITE, Russell Street, facing south. Turn right onto Eastbourne Street, cross railway and immediately left onto Railway Road and second right onto Southampton Street West. Pass on left Stortford Lodge Livestock Centre (sale yards) (2.0km) **(2.0)** and at lights left onto Maraekakaho Road.

On the right (5.6km) **(3.6)**, just before the roundabout, can be seen an old red woolshed. This was the site of an airfield (early 1920s) where one of the country's first aviation companies operated a service to the North Island's East Coast.



Early Airfield

E Vogtherr

In the late 1950s Rene Orchiston began collecting flaxes which she carefully catalogued and propagated on her Gisborne property. The 2011 plantings at State Highway 2 Expressway / Longlands Road roundabout bear witness to the Rene Orchiston Collection and is a combined initiative between Hastings District Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Landcare Research and New Zealand Transport Agency.



Flax Plantings

Ivan Hughes

At the roundabout (6.1km) **(0.5)** take the third exit, still on Maraekakaho Road pass...

Hastings Golf Club (7.9km) (1.8) on right. In 1898 the first course was laid out at Frimley.

The first tee was at the intersection of Maraekakaho and Omahu roads and the course took in what is now the site of the Regional Hospital. A lean-to shelter acted as clubhouse. The club moved first to Mangateretere and then to this site in 1912.

Opposite, on left, is the Hawke's Bay Car Club (1947).

On right at #1591 is the entrance to **Hastings Aerodrome**, base of Hawke's Bay and East Coast Aero Club (1928) and New Zealand Aerial Mapping Ltd since 1936.

Turn right onto Ngatarawa Road (8.6km) **(0.7)**. A short distance on the left is a lay-by which allows safe viewing of the buildings and the aerodrome activities...

Turn right onto Valentine Road (9.7km) **(1.1)**. On the right at #64 is the...

Martin House was designed by architect John Scott and now carries a Category 1 listing from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. The house, together with the Kamaka

Pottery, rated as architecturally important from the 1970s, is considered to be among Scott's best work. The owners of the property pioneered wood-fired anagama pottery in New Zealand. The owner, Mr Martin, may be contacted for architectural or pottery information.

Do a U turn and return to Ngatarawa Road (11.0km) (1.3).

Note; Valentine Road ends at #114 The Hawke's Bay Golf Club Incorporated. Formerly The Flaxmere Golf Club, this course opened in 1969 on 142 acres (57.5ha) of pumice land.

Turn right to...

Ngatarawa Winery and Vineyard (12.9km) (1.9)

at #305. Records show that during Jack Jefferd's time the property supported a large community: 10 looseboxes, a mile training track, a large homestead, three cottages and a whare, blacksmith shop and woolshed, many workers including two jockeys and ten stable hands. H M Glazebrook, from Washpool Station, bought Ngatarawa Farm during World War II and continued racing thoroughbreds until he died in 1955. For some years the farm was run as a pastoral farm until the late 1970s when the Glazebrook family recognised the land's grape growing potential. In 1981 a partnership with Alwyn Corban established Ngatarawa Wines. Today The Stables is the centrepiece of Ngatarawa. The large lily pond is a landscape feature. Note the false perspective of the pond which gives a notion of exaggerated length because the two ends are of unequal dimensions.

Ngatarawa is on the old Waimate Ngaruroro riverbed, where silt and gravel soils produce grapes noted for rich robust flavour. Here are wineries, art galleries, potteries and where thoroughbred horses were previously raised. There was an adjacent private racetrack.

Backtrack on Ngatarawa Road to the intersection with Maraekakaho Road (16.0km) (3.1) and turn right onto Maraekakaho Road passing through...

Bridge Pa Settlement with, on the right, an ornamental garden, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the Bridge Pa School. Bridge Pa is the centre of an active community around two marae, Korongata Marae and Mangaroa Marae and until 1931, the home of the Maori Agricultural College (MAC sports teams).



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Ivan Hughes

Leaving Bridge Pa, still on Maraekakaho Road, pass several interesting vineyards...



Bridge Pa Triangle

Ivan Hughes

Of the numerous wineries enclosed within the **Bridge Pa Triangle**, bounded approximately by Maraekakaho, State Highway 50 and Ngatarawa roads, Ngatarawa and Seleni are two of the earliest established. This area is becoming noted for the production of red wines.



Seleni Winery

Ivan Hughes

Ngatarawa Water Race closed down around 2000. Prior to 1866 the Ngaruroro River flowed from the southern end of Roy's Hill past Pakipaki to Havelock North. Extended drought ended 21 May 1867 when heavy rain fell flooding the entire plain. The Waitio Stream flowing past Fernhill, captured the Ngaruroro, diverting this river northwards to rejoin its old bed close to the sea. During periods of heavy rain the river still flowed along both beds until 1872 when the old channel silted up. The land to the north of Maraekakaho Road that had been swamp was drained. To provide water for stock, local graziers constructed the nearby Ngatarawa Water race in 1898. There were three water races, two fed by the Ngaruroro River, while the third was fed by the old Onganu Swamp adjacent to Valley Road.



Ngatarawa Winery and Vineyard

Ivan Hughes

Washpool Station at #2112 Maraekakaho Road was once part of the extensive Maraekakaho property, where until 1890, sheep were washed in a pool where men worked up to their waists scrubbing sheep clean ready for shearing. In 1912 H J Glazebrook purchased the station and in 1969 his grandson Garry, constructed the first local border dyke irrigation scheme fed by gravity from the Ngaruroro River. This elaborate system of floodways, considered revolutionary in their time, carries water from the Ngaruroro River via a massive holding lake to irrigate vast expanses of grazing land.

Pass State Highway 50 junction (23.0km) **(7.0)**



Hera Te Upokoiri
- Princess Sarah

Alexander Turnbull
Library

Still on Maraekakaho Road, pass on left - **view from road only.**

NZHPT

Princess Sarah's Grave, (23.8km) (0.8). With a mother who was niece to a principal chief, and a father who became principal chief of Ngati Apa, Hera Te Upokoiri was a woman of high rank, known to the European as 'Princess Sarah'. When the Ngatarawa Blocks passed through the Native Land Court in 1866, Hera's name was included in the Crown Grant for Ngatarawa 3, much of which is Washpool Station today. Similarly, when the Ohiti Block was Crown Granted in 1897, Hera gave evidence in support of her claim which revealed a sound grasp of her tribal history. She was awarded a considerable acreage in her own right but although she kept a whare there, she chose to make her permanent home at Ngatarawa. She was well respected and was principal mourner at the funeral of Airini Donnelly in 1909 and died at Ngatarawa in 1913. She was buried in a large vault on her property not far from her house.



Princess Sarah's Grave
- before restoration

Ivan Hughes



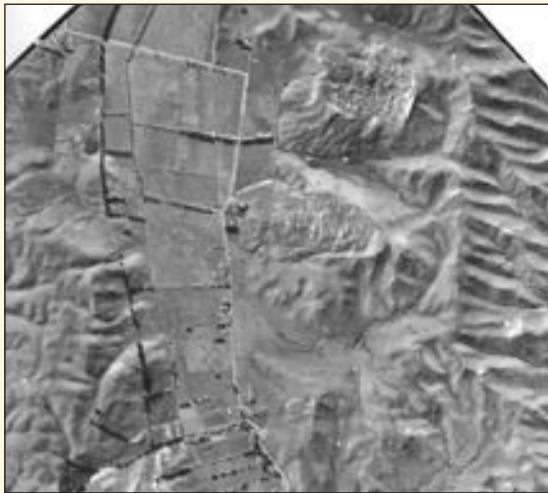
Trig 'A' Hawke's Bay

Ivan Hughes

Trig 'A' Hawke's Bay, the initial trig station for the Hawke's Bay Land District is in the middle of the next paddock – view from road only. This was the original point where all survey marks in Hawke's Bay were measured from or can be referenced back to.

Turn left into Valley Road (24.8km) **(1.0)**. **Caution: Watch for cyclists training.**

The Grand Canal (28.5km) (3.7) is a drain dug between 1859 and 1869 with the aid of horse drawn scoops as part of the Waikorure Drainage Scheme of Maraekakaho Station. The 1897 flood eroded drains and formed new channels. To contain the canal, the banks of the 2.75km drain were planted with walnut trees, grown from nuts shipped from Oban, Scotland and inter-planted with quince trees. These trees are still visible today. The drained land was sown with grass to become stud farms for Clydesdale horses, Shorthorn cattle, Lincoln, Leicester and Merino sheep.



Aerial photo showing evidence of 1855 Wairarapa Earthquake

NZ Aerial Mapping

After the very sharp right turn...

The hills to the left, known to Maori as Toreatua and Taurekareka, now show little evidence of the huge slips that occurred during the 1855 Wairarapa Earthquake.

Cross bridge, and veer right onto Raukawa Road (34.4km) **(5.9)** and at Heritage Trails signs (37.8km) **(3.4)** turn right onto Whakapirau Road. On right are wonderful views of Hawke's Bay and on the left the high peaks of the Ruahine Range which are covered with snow in winter.

At 46.6km **(8.8)** enjoy the view of the Kaweka Range in front and Ruahine Range left then later a first view of the Ngaruroro River. Descend to State Highway 50 and turn right (500m) to the...

War Memorial Monument on left (48.8km) **(2.2)**, which commemorates the 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars.



War Memorial Monument

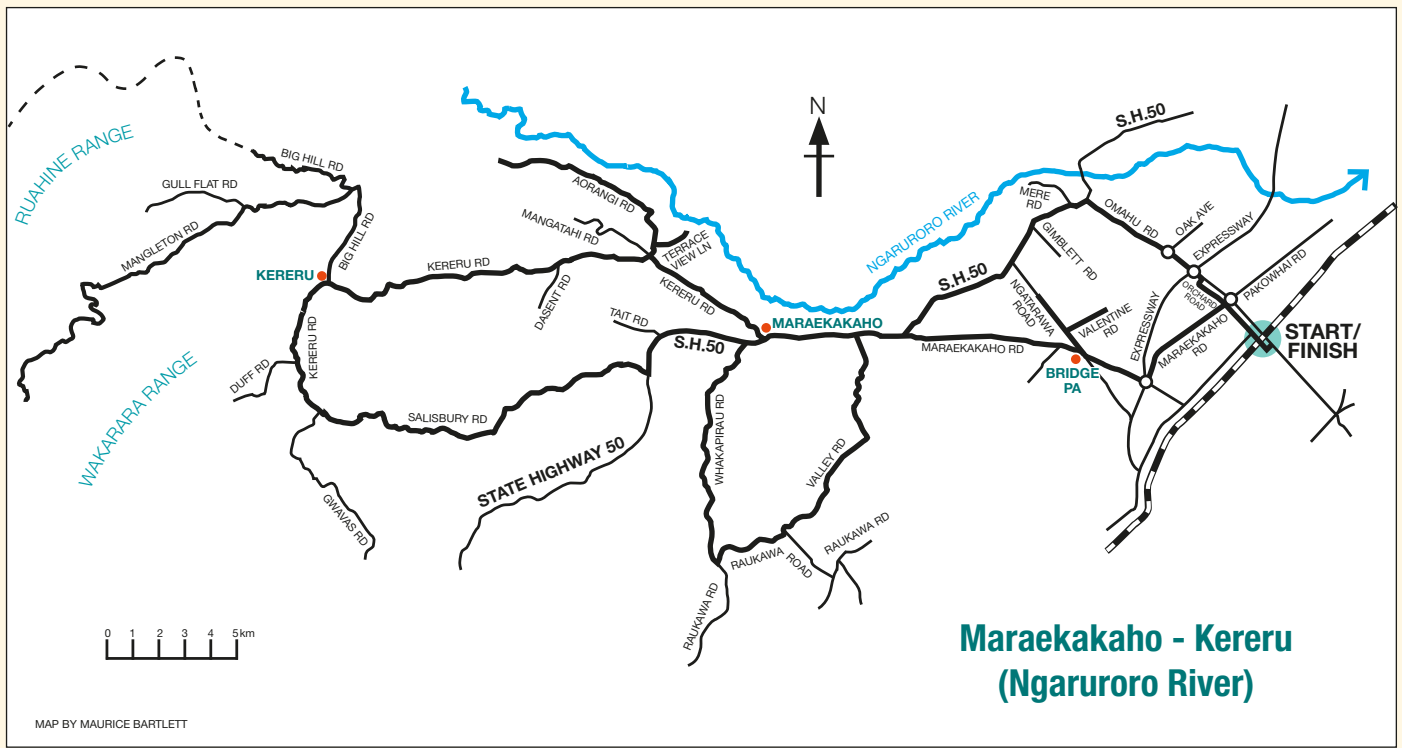
Ivan Hughes



Early Maraekakaho

A McPhee Collection

Turn left onto Kereru Road (49.0km) **(0.2)** and...



Maraekakaho Village was the centre of the 20,243ha Maraeakakaho Station of Donald Maclean (later Sir). Coming from the Isle of Tiree, Scottish Clan ancestry helped Maclean understand Maori protocols and language, leading to his appointment with the Native Land Department in 1843. Governor Sir George Grey ordered Maclean to Hawke's Bay in 1850 to purchase land for settlement. In 1853 Maclean became Chief Land Purchase Commissioner (Auckland) and was replaced in Hawke's Bay by George S Cooper

who purchased the Maraeakakaho Block for the Crown. In 1856, Maclean took up part of this land and following advice, added adjoining runs and drained swamps to develop an extensive property. In 1865 Maclean built a store, an 18 room accommodation house and entered the House of Representatives (1866). His son, Ronald Donald Douglas Maclean (later Sir), inherited the estate and with workers, mainly from the Isle of Tiree, built a school and a village hall (1877) which held a library of 3000 books.



Panorama towards Ruahine and Kaweka Ranges

In 1929 the land was subdivided into 60 farms and in 1931 the Hawke's Bay Earthquake damaged the property. The accommodation house was restored as a single-storey house. The Maraekakaho Store remained open until 1975 and then was called 'Jiggle and Bits' until 1999. Today Maree and John Simpson at #45 Kereru Road welcome visitors to their garden by appointment phone (06) 874 9636.

Turn right onto Aorangi Road, (54.4km) **(5.4)** the old coach route, cross the Mangatahi River, and climb to Riverview Vineyard to get a panoramic view over the Ngaruroro River and flats. In autumn view the rich colours of the grape vines. The road ends at Wairua Farm, (64.4km) **(10.0)**, - big dairy farms and also a large flock of sheep. Return on Aorangi Road (noting again views across vineyards and Ngaruroro River) to Terrace View Lane and Terrace View Vineyard, previously Kimblefield Estate Winery (1993), (74.8km) **(10.4)**. It was from here that wool bales were once taken north across the Ngaruroro River and Matapiro Station on wagons drawn by teams of bullocks and later by traction engines pulling up to four wagons.



Autumn colours
Mangatahi River
- Ivan Hughes



View towards Ngaruroro River
and Matapiro Station

Ivan Hughes

Mangatahi Road leads to the site of Hector W P Smith's Aorangi Station (10,816ha) (1859). When both Hector Smith and his wife died young, their children went to relatives in Scotland. In 1894 the children resumed control of Aorangi under the name Orlig Station. By 1900 this included men's quarters, a library, slaughterhouse, store rooms, manager's house, muster yard, woolshed, shearers' quarters, blacksmith and cadet cottage. Following government pressure in 1906 half the property was divided into twenty-two Government ballot farms.



Orlig Station Woolshed

Ivan Hughes

Backtracking to Kereru Road (75.9km) **(1.1)**...

Following Kereru Road pass Dasent Road on left with views of Te Mata Peak, Mt Kahuranaki, Mt Erin and the surrounding countryside, a picnic area and the 1907 Orlig woolshed and buildings on part of the original Orlig Station at #1278 (82.1km) **(6.2)**.

The Trail crosses Mangatahi Stream and Whanaukini Stream Bridge to...

Kereru Station at #2005 **(89.5) (7.4)** (2,847ha) is one of the largest surviving Hawke's Bay sheep runs. James Nelson Williams, son of Bishop William Williams, came from Poverty Bay in 1857 to lease part of the bracken covered Otarangi Block. With Merino sheep grazing the mountain tussock where packs of wild dogs roamed and pigs killed newly born lambs, shepherds had to live in the ranges with their flocks, while James lived on the banks of Poporangi Stream. In 1862 the Kereru Post Office was opened in the homestead. Three years later following floods, the house was moved to its present site under the name Kereru. The property had several owners until 1946 when Kereru Station became a charitable trust following purchase by Miss R Nelson and Mrs G Malden, granddaughters of the original owner.



Gated entrance to Ruahine Forest Park

Ivan Hughes

At the junction (89.7km) **(0.2)** turn right onto Big Hill Road. The Trail follows across the scenic Poporangi Stream Gorge to Mangleton Road (94.6km) **(4.9)**. Continue ahead on Big Hill Road for approximately 5km to Big Hill Station and a view of Big Hill ahead.

The road stops at gated entrance to Ruahine Forest Park (98.5km) **(3.9)**. Permission from Department of Conservation is required to travel the further 24km. Return along Big Hill Road and turn right onto Mangleton Road (104km) **(5.5)** cross the 'Hog's Back' and across the Ohara Stream by a picnic area at Gull Flat Road (109 km) **(5.0)**.



Crossing the 'Hog's Back'

Ivan Hughes

Here the Mangleton Valley, part of a rift valley between the Ruahine and Wakarara ranges reveals mountain rock and sandy siltstone overlaid with limestone from an ancient seaway. In the past, hot ash showers from the Volcanic Plateau burnt the forest and about 1856 Europeans burnt the scrub to form the vast Poporangi Station. In 1874 the property was leased to a private company. John (Jock) Anderson took over the company and by 1896, made the property a showplace, hosting the Governor General Lord Glasgow. Following Jock's death, much of the property reverted to scrub. In 1949-50 the Crown purchased Poporangi Station and most of the Ohara Depression for redevelopment. Part was planted with exotic forest and by 1975 the rest was subdivided into farms.

Continue on Mangleton Road pass Glendale #1020 where seal ends. Continue on to...

Masters Shelter signs at #1108, **(114km) (5.0)**. A public right of way passes through Golden Crown Station to Masters Shelter, Ruahine Forest Park, 1.2km distance. Masters Shelter was built in 1977 in memory of Lester Masters. It replaces the earlier Masters Hut which was built in 1952 at a time when the road-end was 14km away.



Entrance to Masters Shelter

Ivan Hughes

At this point you are driving between two ranges with the Wakarara Range on the left and the Ruahine Range on the right. Carry on to...

Sentry Box Scenic Reserve (120.2km) (6.2)

A limestone outcrop surrounded by bush and further along the road, tracks lead steeply up onto the Ruahine Range.



Sentry Box Scenic Reserve

Ivan Hughes

At #1808 is a turning point if required.

At #1846, (121.6km) **(1.4)**, a Department of Conservation sign reads '**Ruahine Forest Park - Sentry Box Track to Parks Peak Hut - 3 hours**'. The track starts at a stile on the forest edge, fifty metres up the fence line. Sentry Box Hut is 10mins from the stile. The original Ruahine Hut (built 1860s), Herrick Hut and Sentry Box Hut were built for shepherds and wild dog hunters. Other huts were built for rabbit cullers. Red deer were released in the northern Ruahine Range in 1883 for game hunting.



Track to Parks Peak Hut

Ivan Hughes



Road sign at Kereru
- Ivan Hughes



Track to Parks Peak Hut
- Ivan Hughes

The end of the road is reached at #2000 (123km) **(1.4)**. With no southern road exit, the Trail backtracks to Kereru Road (147 km) **(24.0)**. Veer right to pass Kereru Hall, School and Duff Road. Duff Road leads to Poporangi Road. From here the Trail climbs to a mountain view point and veers left onto Salisbury Road (152.7km) **(5.7)** where Kereru/Gwavas Road veers right. Salisbury Road follows a scenic ridge with outstanding vistas of the encircling country as far as Hawke Bay in the distance.



Kereru Hall

Ivan Hughes

Rejoining State Highway 50 (168.4km) **(15.7)** the Trail turns left to pass Tait Road where Stoney Creek Ranch, a Christian Camp is situated. Tait Road was once the site of Olgie House until 1979. Continue on State Highway 50 and re-pass Maraekakaho War Memorial monument to...



Historic Maraekakaho Woolshed

Ivan Hughes

NZHT

Maraekakaho Woolshed (174.8km) (6.4). In 1883 Douglas Maclean built the largest woolshed in Hawke's Bay for 5,000 sheep with 14 man boards (work areas) at each end of the building. In 1904 power shears were introduced. Until then, up to 80 men were employed on the property shearing 110,000 sheep annually. The wool was pressed into 1,700 wool bales, to be transported by bullock dray to Clive for shipping.

On left the Trail passes a...

Drovers' Memorial Hut 'Maraekakaho' (175.9km) (1.1), a tribute to W J Kirkley. It provided shelter for passing drovers.



Plaque on Drovers' Memorial Hut

Ivan Hughes

At (179.3km) **(3.4)** turn left to follow State Highway 50. Pass Gimblett Road (186.1km) **(6.8)** on right.

Gimblett Gravels Winegrowing District.

Viticulturally this area has a very short history. Until the 1980s this area was regarded as the poorest and least productive land in Hawke's Bay. Now 800ha is under intensive plantings in both red and white varieties. In this area of poor, stony soils it has been found that grapes ripen earlier and produce fruit of higher sugar levels.

This area caused a prolonged legal battle in the early 1990s between a road building company, the Hawke's Bay Regional Council and the Hastings District Council. The dispute was finally settled by the Planning Tribunal (now Environment Court) that ruled the area was over the Heretaunga Plains unconfined fresh water aquifer and was of national importance for the growing of grapes.



Gimblett Gravels

Ivan Hughes

Pass vineyards and on left...

Roy's Hill Reserve (187.2km) (1.1) This 11ha reserve was opened in 2012 on the site of the old rubbish dump that was established in 1954 by the Hastings Borough Council on a former gravel quarry. As the dump was lying over the unconfined aquifer it was closed to general dumping in 1988 but continued to accept clean hardfill, until 2000, which was used to form a stable cap and contour the area.

The landfill is named after nearby Roy's Hill which recognised John Roy, a Wellington Provincial Engineer, for his work in establishing a provincial road from Napier to Waipukurau in 1858.



Westerly view from Roy's Hill Reserve

Ivan Hughes

The site was jointly developed by the Hastings District Council, Landmarks Trust, Landcare Foundation, the local community and various sponsors. Since 2009 more than 6,000 native shrubs have been planted and this development is on going.



Easterly view from Roy's Hill Reserve

Ivan Hughes

This special and unique site offers impressive 360 degree views, taking in all the district's spectacular landmarks, including Te Mata Peak, Mt Kahuranaki, Mt Erin and the Ruahine and Kaweka Ranges.

Continue on State Highway 50 then turn right onto Omaha Road (188.5km) **(1.3)** at Fernhill heading back to Hastings. Pass on left, at the first roundabout, historic Oak Avenue (Ormond Road). Drive through industrial area. Pass through expressway roundabout and immediately on left is Stoneycroft Homestead (193.8km) **(5.3)** - digital archive home - (see also 'Hastings Urban Drive' Heritage Trail brochure).

Turn right onto Stoneycroft Street then left onto Orchard Road.

At the lights cross Maraekakaho Road onto Southampton Street West, turn left onto Railway Road, right onto Eastbourne Street, over railway and immediately left onto Russell Street and back to i SITE (197.5km) **(3.7)**.

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Based partially on previous:
Awarua Heritage Trail pamphlet – Ngaururoro River Section

Abbreviation:

NZHPT - New Zealand Historic Places Trust

Other Hawke's Bay Heritage Trails

available from:

i-Site Hastings
i-Site Napier
Deco Centre Napier

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