

# Whanganui

## Walkways & Cycling Guide



[WhanganuiNZ.com](http://WhanganuiNZ.com)

# Directory

Whanganui is filled with numerous places to walk and cycle within the city and surrounds. We hope to provide you with options within this brochure so you can select the best way for you to enjoy our wonderful landscape, history and environment. Many of our pathways are shared by walkers and cyclists alike and we ask that you show the usual courtesies to all users.

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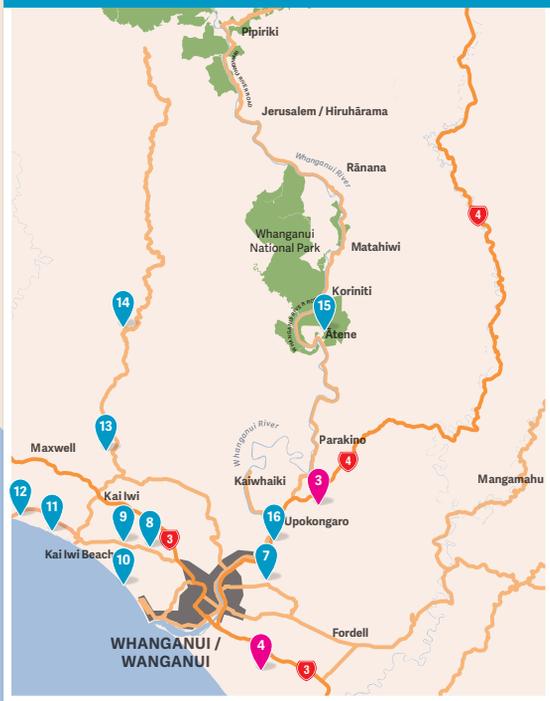
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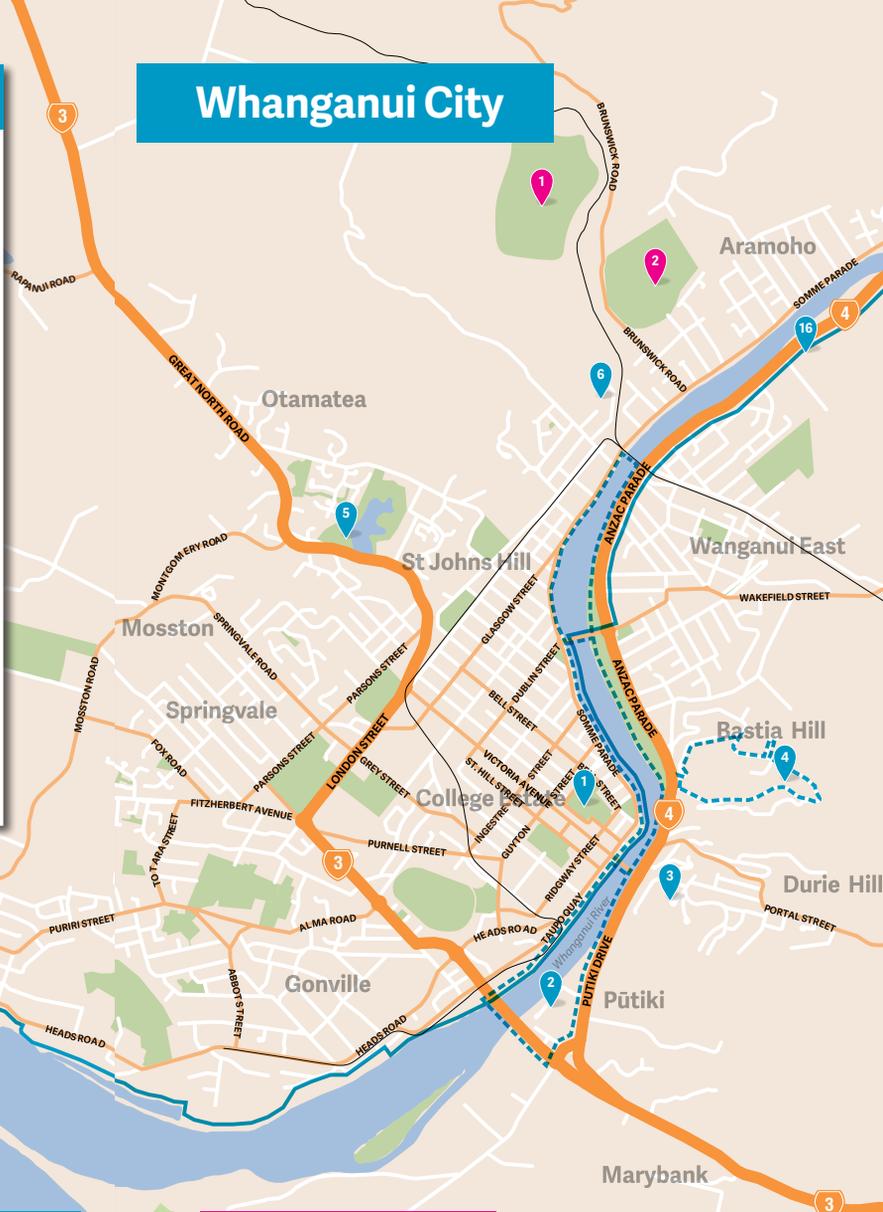
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**\*Shared by pedestrians, hikers  
and cyclists**

## Whanganui Region



## Whanganui City



### Walkways & Cycleways

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### Cycling Parks

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2. Hylton Park
3. Lismore Forest
4. Araheke Mountain Bike Park

## Bike Hire and Accessories

### Velo Ronny's Bicycle Store

Velo Ronny's is Wanganui's Professional Bicycle Store.  
49 Wilson Street Ph 06 348 4261

We have everything from Mountain, Road, Town/Path, Track and Kids bikes to accessories, clothing, wheels, tyres and so much more. Our specialist services include a full Shimano certified workshop and mechanics, professional bike fit and Trek's ProjectOne custom bike programme.

We offer bikes for hire, nutrition and riding advice, winter spin classes, and shop rides every week. At Velo Ronny's we truly offer the total cycling experience.

#### Opening hours

Monday to Friday

8.00 am – 5.00 pm

Saturday 9.30 am – 1.00 pm

Sunday Closed



### Riverland Bike Hire

A selection of bikes can be hired from Riverland Family Park, i-SITE and Top 10 Holiday Park.  
Anzac Parade Ph 027 931 6188

Arrangements can also be made to have bikes dropped off and picked up from your accommodation.



## Safety & Courtesy

- ▶ Many of our pathways and cycle ways are suitable for prams and wheelchairs, although some do contain obstacles and slopes that people with wheelchairs will need assistance with.
- ▶ Please be aware of other people at all times on our shared pathways. If you are a cyclist, alert pedestrians to your presence, slow down and give them a wide berth – just the same as cyclists would like to be treated by motorists.
- ▶ Tell someone of your plans, where you are going and when you expect to return. Check that there is mobile phone coverage where you wish to go.
- ▶ Always carry a mobile phone and personal identification in case of emergencies.
- ▶ Bright clothing and lights will enhance your visibility and safety.
- ▶ Remember to check the weather forecast and dress appropriately for warmth at cooler times. Take waterproof clothing if the forecast suggests and carry water at all times.
- ▶ Cyclists should check tyres and brakes, carry a pump and spare tube and lock.
- ▶ Cycle helmets are compulsory on road ways in New Zealand.
- ▶ In New Zealand, the emergency number is **111**

*Help us keep our cycle ways and walk ways safe and enjoyable for every user.*

visit  
**Whanganui**



**SITE**

31 Taupō Quay, Whanganui  
06 349 0508 or 0800 926 426

# Walking & Hiking Tracks



## Inner City Heritage Walk

Start from the Whanganui i-SITE

Self-guided or guided, these two options are a fantastic way to learn more about Whanganui's heritage and imagine the hustle of the river trading in the early 1900's. Bookings for the Guided Tours can be made at the Whanganui i-SITE and are able to accommodate groups. Allow 90 minutes or more.

Self-guided tours are available with directions in the Whanganui Heritage brochure and allow approximately 1 hour unless you wish to stop and enjoy the shopping, cafés and restaurants on route.

Points of interest along these walks may include:

- ▶ 'Mable' – the No. 12 Tram
- ▶ Watt Fountain
- ▶ Waimarie Paddle Steamer & Hatricks Wharf
- ▶ Royal Wanganui Opera House
- ▶ Waimarie Centre
- ▶ The Bell Tower at Cooks Gardens
- ▶ MV Wairua
- ▶ Queen's Park
- ▶ Moutoa Gardens / Pākaitore
- ▶ Whanganui Regional Museum
- ▶ Wanganui Repertory Theatre
- ▶ Wanganui War Memorial Centre
- ▶ Rutland Building

## Westmere Walkway

Entrance from Kelvin Street or Brunswick Road.

A rural walkway over privately owned farmland and the Matipo Park Reserve, this walk is a Rotary Club of Wanganui project and exists through the generosity of the land owners and the efforts of club members.

Various walks provide great views, valleys and the peace and quiet of rural Whanganui. You should expect to experience livestock, uneven ground, mud and manure, no toilets and unfenced water. Please prepare your clothing and footwear appropriately and carry your own water.

White marker poles detail the route and stiles are provided to climb over fences.

- ▶ 'Restawhile Lookout' – 40 minutes return.
- ▶ Top Flats and Jeanie Lynas Reid Reserve – 2 hours return.
- ▶ Matipo Park Lower Route – 1 hour return.
- ▶ Matipo Park via Top Flats – 2 hours return.

Entry onto the walkway is on the condition that you enter at your own risk.

For more details collect the Westmere Walkway brochure from the Whanganui i-SITE.



## Round the Bridges Whanganui

Anzac Parade, Somme Parade, Pūtiki Drive and Taupō Quay.

A popular route for much of the Whanganui community, an annual charity Fun Run in May and a '3 Bridges Marathon' in December each year. You can opt to do a circuit of one of the city bridges or all four.

The routes take you along the relatively flat boardwalks of the river, footpaths and park tracks as you take in the beauty of the Whanganui River, majestic trees, public art and surrounding town suburbs.

In 1969 the original cast-iron and hardwood deck town bridge was demolished and replaced with the existing City Bridge. Work began in January and the 'new' bridge was officially opened on the 12th of December in 1970.

The 310 metre long Dublin Street Bridge was opened in November 1914 and took two and a half years to build. One thousand tonnes of steel, 30 tonnes of rivets and 1800 yards of concrete were used in its construction. Concrete cylinders are embedded at least 9 metres below the riverbed to support the bridge.

Kōwhai Park is the most visited and unique children's park located on Anzac Parade. Many parents now bring their children to play where they once played as children themselves.

The Railway Bridge was opened in 1877 linking Whanganui to both New Plymouth and Wellington by 1886.

- ▶ Cobham (SH3) & Whanganui City Bridge Circuit – 3.6 km
- ▶ Whanganui City & Dublin St Bridge Circuit – 4.2 km
- ▶ Dublin St & Railway Bridge Circuit – 3.3 km
- ▶ Cobham, Whanganui & Dublin St Bridge – 10.5 km

For more details about Marathon and Fun Run events, see:

[www.wanganuiharrierclub.co.nz](http://www.wanganuiharrierclub.co.nz)

[www.sportwanganui.co.nz](http://www.sportwanganui.co.nz)

Bridge information sourced from:

<https://www.ipenz.org.nz/ipenz/publications/engineering-NZ/volume32-1977/NZ-Engineering-1977-09.pdf>



## Durie Hill Tower Walk

Either walk from the Whanganui i-SITE across the City Bridge or park on Pūtiki Drive near the entrance and traffic lights. Approximately 20 minutes.

One of Whanganui's iconic features and unique in the Southern Hemisphere is the Durie Hill Elevator. Located just 100 metres away is the Memorial Tower and both provide the best panoramic views of the city, Whanganui River – Te Awa o Whanganui and the harbour. On a fine day you can see Mt Taranaki (Egmont), Mt Ruapehu and the northern-most tip of the South Island.

The entrance to the 213m tunnel is opposite the City Bridge and marked by a carved gateway. Enter the elevator to ride up to the Memorial Tower. If you're keen climb the 176 spiral staircase steps to the top of the Memorial Tower otherwise use the Durie Hill Elevator Viewing Platform.

Complete the circuit by coming down the 193 steps back to the City Bridge. These steps are a popular exercise route and have been a venue for the NZ Masters Games Stair Climb event.

### Elevator Hours:

Weekdays 8.00am to 6.00pm

Weekends & Public Holidays 10.00am to 5.00pm

\$2.00 per adult and \$1.00 per child one way.

## Bastia Hill Water Tower

Begin at either the base of Georgetti or Wairere Roads off Anzac Parade. Approximately 1 ¼ hours.

A hill walk up Georgetti Road is the easiest start, passing the old brick works, now home to artisan furniture maker Greg Betts' studio. The original brick works were closed in 1959 and left abandoned until Mr Betts brought the property in 1986. The studio is open by appointment only.

Greg Betts' studio is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday 10am to 3pm. Bastia Hill Water Tower was erected in 1923 to improve pressure to the town's water supply. Bastia Hill was named by an early settler, Mr Augustine Georgetti who originally came from the town of Bastia on the island of Corsica.

Return down Wairere Road for remarkable panoramic views of the central town area, Queen's Park (once the site of Rutland Stockade, the largest in NZ at the time) and Moutoa Gardens / Pākaitore.



## Gordon Park Scenic Reserve

No. 3 Line and Kaimatara Rd corner. 10 minutes from Whanganui.

A small reserve with a boardwalk through lowland forest of mataī, tōtara, tītoki, tawa, kōwhai and kahikatea trees and many native birds. From the car park this short walk is wheelchair and buggy accessible and a great walk for children.

## Virginia Lake / Rotokawau

Great North Road, SH3.

A range of short walks are available at Virginia Lake / Rotokawau from the popular 2km track around the lake to a 6km circuit around the lower track and above the Deer Park and surrounding reserves. The upper track is more demanding and can be uneven underfoot in places.

The walk around the lake takes you past public art given to the city by generous past and present citizens, the Band Rotunda, twin bridges and wisteria pergolas.

For more details collect the Virginia Lake brochure from the Whanganui i-SITE.

## Bason Botanic Gardens

Rapanui Road, off SH3 North, 11km from the centre of Whanganui.

The Bason Botanic Gardens are rated a 'Garden of Regional Significance' by the NZ Gardens Trust. There are a variety of walking trails around the lake and through the various planted areas as well. There is a 'Bason Red Kiwi' Orienteering Course for enthusiasts to follow and a Frisbee 3 Hole Golf Course as well. Garden areas include the:

- ▶ Exotic Conifer Arboretum
- ▶ Dress Circle, Homestead and English Garden
- ▶ Blanche Bason Conservatory Complex of Orchid, Begonia and Tropical Houses
- ▶ Millennium Hill (Mediterranean plantings)
- ▶ Native Bush (Forest) and Wetlands
- ▶ Woodlands
- ▶ Sculptural artworks
- ▶ Japanese Tea House and Garden

Free gas BBQs are available and it is a great picnic spot. For more information collect the brochure from the Whanganui i-SITE or see [www.basonbotanicgardens.org.nz](http://www.basonbotanicgardens.org.nz)

### Open Hours:

Daily from 8.00am until dusk.

### Conservatory Hours:

Daily from 9.00am to 4.30pm.



## Westmere Lake Wildlife Reserve

Rapanui Road, 0.7km from SH3 North.

An easy 1.7km loop with the map signposted. Allow 30 minutes. A designated wildlife refuge which provides a rare opportunity to see wild fowl and native birds in their natural environment.

## Bushy Park Homestead and Sanctuary

Rangitautau East Road, off SH3 North, 25km from Whanganui.

A 100 hectare predator-free native bird sanctuary set amongst virgin lowland forest. Well maintained 3.4km of walking tracks with a wide variety and multitude of birds to escort you – kereru, bellbirds, the North Island Robin, saddlebacks, hihi and others. Look for 'Ratanui', the large northern rata tree estimated to be over 500 years old, 43 metres high and a girth of more than 11 metres.

**Summer Hours (December to April): \$10.00 Entry**

Monday to Friday 10.00am to 3.00pm.

Weekends & Public Holidays 10.00am to 5.00pm

**Winter Hours (May to November): \$10.00 Entry**

Weekends 11.00am to 4.00pm

Under 15 years free. Please pay at the Homestead when open or the donations box at the track entrance.

For more information enquire at the Whanganui i-SITE or see:

[www.bushyparksanctuary.org.nz](http://www.bushyparksanctuary.org.nz)

## Waitahinga Trails

20km from SH3, 1.1km along Junction Road off Rangitautau East Road.

A collection of walks have been established at the no longer used Whanganui Water Catchment Reserve by the Whanganui Tramping Club to mark the club's 60th anniversary. The walks vary for different fitness levels with picnic spots and look outs.

Most of the walking trails are under native forest canopy with a combination of original forest and very old regeneration. Peaceful, beautiful and the emerald Waitahinga Dam makes for a worthwhile destination.

- ▶ *The Picnic Dell – 10 minutes from the car park.*
- ▶ *The Chicken Run – 1 hour return easy walk.*
- ▶ *Cropper's Clearing – 90 minute return easy walk.*
- ▶ *Waitahinga Dam – 4 to 5 hours return with steep climbs.*

**Closed in July and August or by permit only.**

For more details collect the brochure from the Whanganui i-SITE.



31 Taupō Quay, Whanganui  
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## Kai Iwi Beach to Castlecliff

14km west of Whanganui at the end of Rapanui Road.

12km easy walk taking approximately 2 to 3 hours. A beautiful, black sand beach walk at low tide from Kai Iwi Beach to Castlecliff Beach.

## Kai Iwi Beach to Okehu Stream

From the same starting point as the above walk but 2 hours in the other direction and again only to be done at low tide.

Check [www.metservice.com/marine-surf/tides/wanganui](http://www.metservice.com/marine-surf/tides/wanganui) for current tides.

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## Ototoka Beach

20 km North of Whanganui, turn down Maxwell Station Road. This will lead to Ototoka Beach Road (unsealed). 5 minutes from the car park.

Park on the cliff tops, pass by a small waterfall on the path to the beach and your reward will be a pristine iron sand beach to explore. Great for fossil hunting with cliffs showing shells over 1.5 million years old.

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## Ātene Skyline Track & Viewpoint Walk

Whanganui River Road, just past Ātene. Parking is on the side of the road.

It is advised to begin at the upriver end of the track.

The Viewpoint Walk is a 2 hour return uphill walk to a lookout point. From here you can see views of the cut-off meander of the old Whanganui River Bed. Return the same way.

For the more serious walker or hiker the Ātene Skyline Track is a 6 to 8 hour round trip with steep climbs through Whanganui National Park. A campsite midway provides shelter, water and a toilet. The highest point of the track is at 572m.

For more details collect the Department of Conservation brochure from the Whanganui i-SITE.





## Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail Ngā Ara Tūhono

The Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail is the most diverse in NZ. With a range of sections in Ruapehu, the final stages travel down the Whanganui River Road, through the natural and cultural heritage of the Māori and early Europeans. Carry on into the city along boardwalks and past art on the riverbank to where the river meets the Tasman Sea.

The Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail is one of the longest and the most diverse cycle trail in New Zealand with something to suit riders of all abilities, from the most daring and adventurous to more relaxed sections with amazing scenery.

To complete the full Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail begin at the mountains of the Central Volcanic Plateau and ride to the Whanganui River. Travel by jet boat from the Mangapurua Landing to Pipiriki, and follow the trail down the historic

Whanganui River Road before traversing all the way to the Tasman Sea through the boardwalks and paths of urban Whanganui.

The full trail takes approximately 5 days so have some fun and do it over a couple of weekends as you take the time to enjoy mountain views, historic railway viaducts, a visit to the Bridge to Nowhere, canoeing the Whanganui River and the richness of natural and cultural heritage along the Whanganui River Road.

Engage with locals, absorb the serenity and history as you cycle alongside the Whanganui River through the small settlements of the Whanganui River Road. A range of accommodation options are available.

For extensive information and help in planning your ride, visit [www.mountaintosea.co.nz](http://www.mountaintosea.co.nz)



# Whanganui River Road



Travelling the scenic Whanganui River Road from the city to Pipiriki takes a leisurely 2 to 4 hours depending on your choice of stops and photo opportunities. This is an authentic journey back in time. Local iwi heritage, remnants of early European settlement and historic landmarks feature amongst the stunning views.

Look out for St Mary's Church at Upokongaro famous for its unusual 3-sided spire. Stop at the Aramoana Summit at 230 metres above sea level to look down the river and out to Mount Ruapehu. Don't miss the amazing Oyster Cliffs on the side of the road where layers of fossilised oysters lined sea beds and can now be seen. Travel through the historic and beautiful marae and villages of Ātene, Koriniti and Matahiwi – please ask for permission before visiting a marae as these are treasured places.

Kawana Flour Mill is tucked away off the road but worth the stop with a small restored building and museum.

Ranana is the next community as you travel through to Hiruharama (Jerusalem), previously home to two historically famous figures, Mother Mary Joseph (Suzanne Aubert), and acclaimed New Zealand poet James K. Baxter. Halfway to Pipiriki there's a great photo opportunity of the Omorehu Waterfall and then before you know it you'll be at Pipiriki – our gateway to Whanganui National Park and the famous 'Bridge to Nowhere'.

[Pick up a detailed Whanganui River Road Guide and map to plan your tour of this unique part of the country.](#)



# Mountain Biking



Mountain biking is popular in Whanganui and the local club has ensured access to local forest and other mountain bike areas within the district with the generosity of the forest operators. The Whanganui Mountain Bike Club maintains and develops riding areas for the community, visitors and members and tremendous effort goes into these trails for your enjoyment.

[www.wanganuimountainbikeclub.co.nz](http://www.wanganuimountainbikeclub.co.nz)

## Araheke Mountain Bike Park

Head 3km south on SH3 and turn right onto Kaitoke Rd. It is another 3km to Lake Wiritoa Reserve carpark opposite the entrance to the park.

### Grade 2

Ideal for families and young children, a grand circuit of 9.5km covers trails in two separate areas connected by a short section of road and track behind Scoutlands camp ground. All trails are signposted and numbered to form a continuous loop. Easy short loops are identified by white road marker poles.

### Wiritoa

3.4km of mainly easy intermediate trails in young pine forest, featuring a seasonal river and farm and lake views.

### Pauri

Beyond Scoutlands and lying alongside both Lakes Wiritoa and Pauri, this area of young pines has 5km of mainly easy trails. A couple of hill climbs reward the biker with wonderful views.

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## Lismore Forest

Sundays only.

20km north of Whanganui, from SH4 turn right into the Old Parapara Road and onto Mangaone Road. Park at the picnic area.

Grade 3-5

Lismore Forest is an operational forest. Numerous trails have been developed. Best ridden when dry.

*Detailed information and updates on access for all rides and tracks can be accessed on*

[www.wanganuimountainbikeclub.co.nz](http://www.wanganuimountainbikeclub.co.nz)

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## Hylton Park

Grade 2-4

*Only 600m from Somme Parade on Brunswick Rd, entry to the park is on the right.*

Hylton Park has something to offer all riders as this is the cross country venue for the New Zealand Masters Games and the North Island School Secondary Championships.

*There are several kilometres of fun tracks which are well designed, with a beginners track on the lower level. There are plenty of tracks to explore for at least an hour or more.*

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## Matipo Park

Head up Brunswick Rd, 800m past Hylton Pit and you will find the entry on your left.

Grade 4

A recreational reserve with a mixture of native and exotic trees donated to the town by the Matipo Land Company in 1913.

*Be careful crossing the railway, follow one of the forestry roads up the hill, turn right at the ridge line and find a track and enjoy the descent before heading back up the hill to find another track to descend. You can spend an hour riding all the tracks and repeating the tracks you enjoy the most.*

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## Events



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## M2C Multisport Race Ngā Ara Tūhono

27 – 29 March 2015

Your next great challenge! Run, pedal and paddle your way from the mountains to the sea. Traverse a massive 270km over 3 days through the most varied terrain – alpine Mt Ruapehu slopes, untouched native forest and the Whanganui River to the Tasman Sea. If you've done the Coast to Coast or an Ironman event, the M2C will take your breath away.

Novices, professionals, individuals and team entries are all encouraged.

For more details and entry go to [www.m2c.kiwi.nz](http://www.m2c.kiwi.nz)

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## Sunday Road Rides

The Wanganui Cycling Club welcome all ages and abilities to join them on their regular Sunday group rides. These rides are always on and always at a distance and speed for you with different groups for different abilities.

Meet at The Red Lion Inn, Anzac Parade, 9.00am on Sundays.

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## Wanganui MTB Club Rides

Evening rides during the summer at Hylton Park and in the winter at Te Araheke Mountain Bike Park. Visitors and non-members welcome. Every Thursday at 6.30pm.

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