

TRAILRUN

AU/NZ

NZ / NORTH ISLAND: The Kaimai Killer

Your guide: Mal Law

NEARBY TOWN/CITY: Waihi (11km, 10min drive); Paeroa (15km, 20min drive)

EXACT LOCATION: DoC Campground at END of Dickey Flat Road – [see map](#)

TOTAL ROUTE DISTANCE: 41 kms (with a shorter option of about 25kms that avoids the most hilly and technical sections)

TOTAL ASCENT: 1850m **TOTAL DESCENT:** 1850m

TIME TO RUN: 5 hrs (elite) to 9 hrs (weekend warrior) NB NOT suitable for novices. A couple of worthwhile side trips add half an hour.

TYPE OF TRAIL RUN: Loop

DIFFICULTY: Hard/technical, definitely not a run for novices.

DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS: Steep ascents, 95% single-track (a lot of which is technical), stream crossings (can be high after rain)

FEATURES OF INTEREST: Beautiful regenerating bush, large kauri trees, second highest waterfall in the North Island (Ananui Falls), numerous stream crossings, huts, the Waitawheta Tramway, swing bridges and gorges.

START GPS: 37°26.308'S; 175°44.855'E

FINISH GPS: 37°26.308'S; 175°44.855'E

ONLINE REFERENCE: [Garmin Connect](#)

BEST MAP/S: Old NZMS 260 series: T13 or Topo 50 series: BC35 Paeroa & BC36 Katikati.

RUN IT:

1. From the Dickey Flat car park take the Mangakino Pack Track south towards Daly's Clearing Hut. This pretty much follows the Waitawheta River, which after a couple of kms is crossed (caution – can get high after rain) before ascending through beautiful regenerating bush.
2. About 6 kms from the start take a left turn on Dean Track, following the sign to Franklin Road. Descend through bush before breaking out on to farmland with wide views all around. Follow this straight on over a few stiles until Franklin Road is reached.
3. Turn right following signs for Waitawheta Valley and follow farm track for a couple of kms before turning left on to Bluff Stream Kauri Loop Track (to Kauri Trees and Ananui Falls). A couple more stream crossings and a steep climb take you to the site of two spectacularly large kauris.

4. At this point you also have the option of following the track past the kauri trees and continuing down a steep descent to get back to the Waitawheta River and complete a shorter loop.
5. If doing the big loop keep following the track uphill towards the Ananui Falls. The next 10 kms or so are steep, rough and technical so be prepared. The Ananui Falls are a worthwhile side trip before dropping steeply into the next river valley.
6. At the next junction turn right to cross the river following the sign for Waitawheta Hut. A very technical section of bush running follows. The hut itself is accessed via a bridge across a spectacular gorge but the route lies straight ahead on the Waitawheta Tramway.
7. The next few kms are relatively easy running following the old tramway as it criss-crosses the gorgeous Waitawheta River. On reaching Dalys Clearing Track turn left and climb the hill to Daly's Clearing Hut.
8. A short way past the hut turn right on to the Mangakino Pack Track again and follow this for a couple of kms to complete the big loop section of the run. For the final 6 kms you'll be re-tracing your steps from the start of the day.

POST RUN GOODNESS:

The Talisman in Karangahake Gorge

The Waikino Station Café – and you can catch the train into Waihi

Ti Tree Café - for sustenance in the sunny courtyard

Kava Café – for awesome pizza

Waitete Orchard Café & Restaurant – for a-la-carte dining and the world's best ice cream!

You also need to visit Waihi to peer into the 200m deep Martha Gold Mine and take a leisurely stroll around the 4km Pit Rim Walkway.

Trail Guide courtesy of Running Wild NZ www.runningwildnz.com. Thanks also to Mark Samson for help in compiling this guide.