

EXPLORE WELLINGTON

Discover Wellington's Town Belt, reserves and walkways



CITY TO SEA WALKWAY VIA THE BOTANIC GARDEN, ARO VALLEY, NEWTOWN AND ISLAND BAY



Absolutely POSITIVELY

ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL **Wellington**

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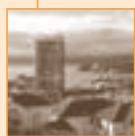
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington, Victoria University and Te Aro School have kindly agreed to let walkers cross their properties on this next stretch of walkway but they accept no responsibility for your health and safety.

Turn left at the top of the steps and walk along Salamanca Road to Mount Street. Walk up Mount Street to the historic Roman Catholic Mount Street Cemetery.



3 | Mount Street Cemetery

This peaceful old cemetery, a protected heritage site, provides good views of the city and harbour. The land was granted by the Government in 1853 to be held in trust by the Catholic Archbishop of Wellington for use as a burial ground. About 800 early settlers were buried in this pioneers' cemetery including Father J P O'Reilly, Wellington's first resident Catholic priest. Two of the original three acres were subdivided in 1927 for Wai-te-ata Road houses and university use. All the known burials are thought to be within the remaining acre.



The walkway follows the main path across the cemetery and down to Wai-te-ata Road. Turn right and walk up it. At

the Wai-te-ata (student) Apartments veer left down the steps behind the building and onto the footpath on the outside edge of the carpark.

Walk down the road past the rugby gymnasium and along the path beside Boyd Wilson Field. Turn left down to Te Aro School.



4 | Te Aro School

In 1854 Te Aro School was opened on Ghuznee Street with 117 students.

In 1879, with the growth in the roll, land in upper Willis Street was purchased for a larger school building that was opened in 1881. The present Te Aro Infant School was built in 1922 on the site of the old Terrace Gaol. This new light airy and open school, enjoyed by the juniors, served as a catalyst for more change and in 1932 new buildings next to the infant school were officially opened. After 10 years apart, the two branches of Te Aro School were reunited.

The Terrace Gaol, erected in 1852, was often full, helped by the city's rapid growth after it became the capital in 1865. A stay at the Terrace Gaol included sparse meals in your cell, weekly baths and constant surveillance by armed guards.



EXPLORE

The City to Sea Walkway starts in the heart of central Wellington near Parliament and ends at the south coast, 12 kilometres away in Island Bay.

Along the way, you will visit the Botanic Garden and two historic cemeteries, pass several observatories, see the famous Cable Car, Victoria University and a plant nursery, walk through part of Aro Valley with its turn-of-the-century cottages, 14 parks and reserves, several children's play areas, a public golf course, along bushy Town Belt tracks, exposed ridge tops and through native and exotic vegetation.

You will get spectacular views of central Wellington, the southern suburbs of Newtown, Berhampore and Island Bay, Government House, historic Erskine College, the Brooklyn wind turbine, Mount Victoria, Mount Kaukau and Cook Strait, as well as more distant views of the Tararua, Rimutaka and Kaikoura ranges.

The walk takes about six to seven hours but can be done in stages. The route is described here from the city to sea but marker posts mean it can be walked in either direction. You can catch a No 1 bus to the city from Island Bay, and other services at several points along the way.

Note: to complete the entire walk in one day you will need a good level of fitness.



1 | Bolton Street Memorial Park

Start the walk at the main entrance to Bolton Street Memorial Park with a quick tour through this fascinating old cemetery. Set aside by the New Zealand Company in an 1840 development plan for the city, it contains the graves of many of Wellington's early settlers. The path crosses the motorway via the Denis McGrath Bridge. Follow Robertson Way through the park to the Seddon Memorial, past Anderson Park to the Lady Norwood Rose Garden (flowering from November to May). Continue past the Peace Flame garden and pond and Begonia House before continuing up Serpentine Way through remnant native forest to Junction Path.



Walk past the Peacemaker Sculpture and along Manuka Way, turn right on Scrub Path, cross the road and climb Hill Path and the sleeper steps to the Australian Path. At the top you will find the Sundial of Human Involvement, Planetarium, the historic Carter and Dominion observatories. It is a short walk from here down to the Cable Car terminal and lookout over the central city.

Go through the Cable Car terminal and descend the path to Rawhiti Terrace

and the steps down Kelburn Parade. (See Explore Wellington Walk 5 for more details on the Botanic Garden).

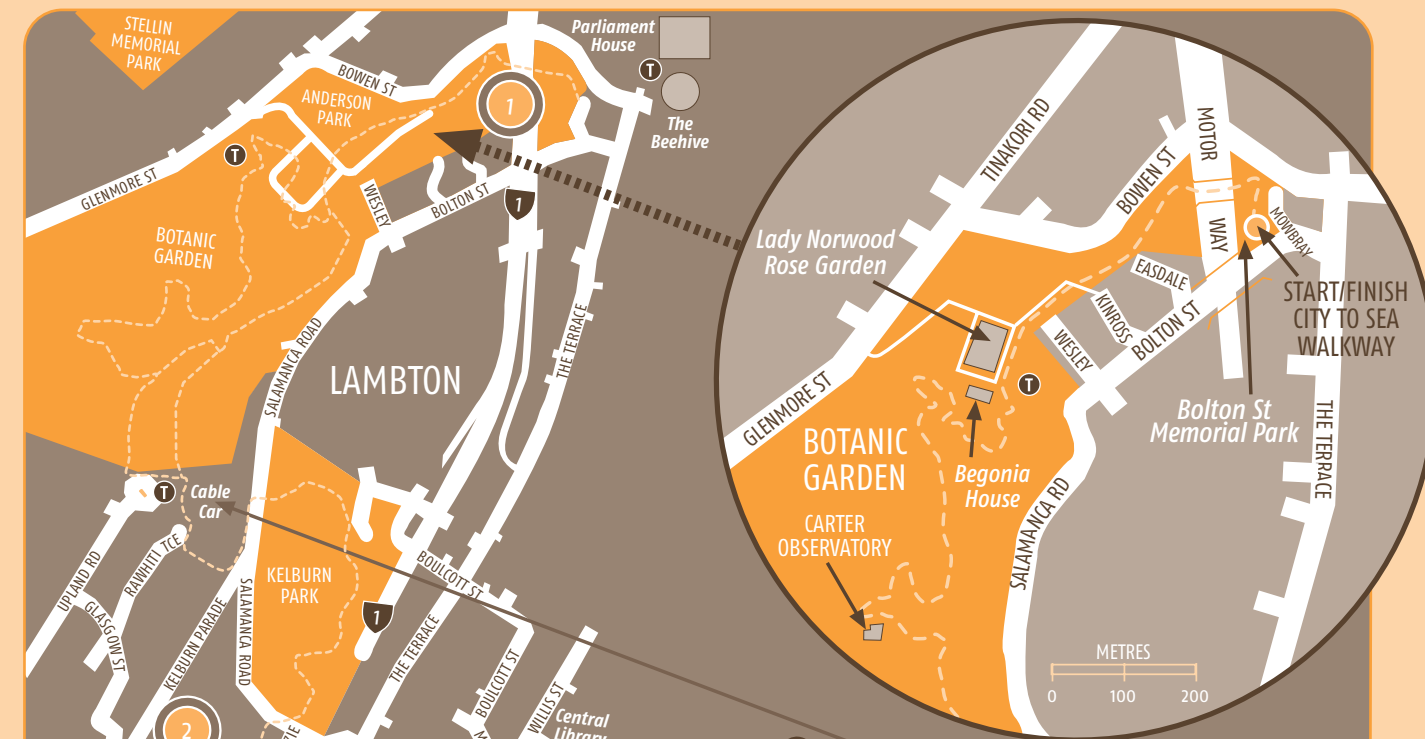
To continue the walk, turn left on Kelburn Parade and walk to Kelburn Park, or turn right and visit Victoria University.



2 | Victoria University

Victoria University of Wellington (Vic) is one of the city's two universities. The landmark Hunter Building on Vic's Kelburn Campus dates from 1904 and sits alongside the purpose-built Adam Art Gallery opened during the university's centenary in 1999. The university is a vital part of the cityscape, hosting many public events, including conferences, debates, seminars and lectures, as well as theatrical performances and concerts. If you want to see the live tuatara display, visit the art gallery, library, or any of the university facilities, call 463 5283 or go to www.vuw.ac.nz for information and opening hours.

Enter Kelburn Park and follow the path around it to the left of the fountain. Descend the path and cross the carpark at Club Kelburn, through another short stretch of bush and then right up the steps to Salamanca Road.



KEY

- TOWN BELT/RESERVES
- CITY TO SEA WALKWAY
- TOILETS
- POINTS OF INTEREST ALONG THE WALKWAY

Te Araroa
For some miles, along the ridges behind the city, the Skyline Walkway merges with Te Araroa, the National Walkway. Depending on which way you go, the Cable Car in Wellington is the beginning or end of the North Island sector of this magnificent project – a defined track from North Cape to Bluff. Follow the City to Sea Walkway for an extension to 'The Long Pathway' finishing at the South Coast.



8 | Colonial Cottage Museum

A side route leads from Nairn Street Park to the Colonial Cottage Museum (68 Nairn Street) some 300 metres away. Built in 1858, its construction is of the elegant late-Georgian style. See how Wellington's first European settlers 'create' new lives for themselves by mixing traditions from their home land with the dictates of a new country by visiting our oldest identified building. Photograph taken by Mark Coote.

To continue the walk, go up Bidwill Street, right into Bell Road a few metres and then up the vehicle access road straight ahead of you, past the vehicle barrier and down the path and steps to Prince of Wales Park. From the playing field climb the grassy spur to fine views of Government House, the city, harbour and hills.



7 | Central Park

Central Park was established in 1913 on Town Belt land. The wrought iron gates at the entrance to the park were presented in 1920 by the then Mayor, John P Luke. Note the nikau palms and mamaku tree ferns along the track and the northern rata near the park's main entrance.

Follow the markers up the left side of Moturua Stream valley past the bridge. Turn left on to the old road and then right onto the track which leads to the lawn above the Wellington Renouf Tennis Centre. Cross Brooklyn Road to Nairn Street Park and on to Bidwill Street.



5 | The Benevolent Home

Also known as the Old Men's Home, it originally opened in 1893. In 1937 it became the Ohiro Home and in 1945 the Central Park Hospital. It closed in 1975.

6 | Tanera Community Gardens

Walk up past the Tanera Community Gardens managed by the Mokai



Government House

Government House was built between 1908 and 1910. It has 11 bedrooms and two large suites as well as a ballroom, sitting rooms, service rooms and a wing of offices. The grounds cover about 12 hectares, including flat lawn, garden and steep hillsides.

Other building and facilities in the grounds include the Policeman's Lodge at the front gate, a tennis court and pavilion, a small swimming pool, a Second World War bomb shelter, a squash court, eight cottages and garages.



Walk through Wellington's beautiful parks and discover picturesque views, stunning flora and fauna and some early history of the area. The City to Sea Walkway guides you along part of the Town Belt from the Botanic Garden, through parts of historic Aro Valley, Newtown, Berhampore and Island Bay.



CITY TO SEA WALKWAY VIA THE BOTANIC GARDEN, ARO VALLEY, NEWTOWN AND ISLAND BAY



Near the summit, a sealed path leads down to a tributary of Waitangi Stream and across a bridge to its east side. Continue along the path to Wellington Scottish Athletic Club, then to the right of the building and up to Hutchison Road.

Cross Hutchison Road and turn right, continue on about 100 metres and then go left down a path and through pine trees above Rugby League Park. The track comes out into the open and becomes a vehicle access track.

Continue along to the Cook Islands (NZ) Society recreation hall and onto the carpark of the City of Wellington Pipe Band hall. There is an area to sit and enjoy your lunch while listening to the Tui that visit here during the winter flowery scenes in abundance from June to September. Turn right and climb the steep grassy knoll left of the marker to look down Paekawakawa, the valley now occupied by Island Bay suburb, and back to the central city and harbour.

Follow the ridge road to more fine views, including Mount Albert slightly to your left across the valley and the South Island's Kaikoura ranges.

At the low point in the ridge you are above an underground reservoir built by Greater Wellington Regional Council. Commissioned in 1992, it holds 20 million litres of water supplied from Wainuiomata and services Newtown, Island Bay, Berhampore, Miramar and Seatoun and parts of the central city.

Descend the path, and walk around the upper level of McAllister Park before crossing Lizardet Street to Farnham Street play area. Cross the park and veer left down a track through scrub and bush to Morton Street. Turn right along Morton Street and past Wellington City Council's Berhampore Nursery.

Opened in 1949, the nursery is the source of the Council's plant requirements throughout the city. Over 600,000 annuals for bedding, 70,000 natives, 250 street trees and 50,000 general trees and shrubs for road reserves and roundabouts are grown each year. The most important

contribution is growing natives to restore the natural reserve areas and Town Belt.

Turn left past the nursery and up the stairs to the Berhampore Municipal Golf Course.

10 | Berhampore Municipal Golf Course

A petition was presented to the Wellington City Council on 11 February 1914 for the establishment of a golf course on the Town Belt. As reported in The Dominion 6 February 1914: "the game of golf was one of the best for health and recreation for people of all ages, including children. Edinburgh, reputed to be a conservative city, had now nine public golf courses". Berhampore Electors' Association was very interested in the project and saw the hill above Berhampore as an eyecore and a perfect location for a golf course.

The course was officially opened on 30 October 1915 and within 10 years, extensions were being planned as its huge popularity saw

congestion on the greens. In 1922 the course was extended to its present 18 holes.

Follow the orange directional signs to Quebec Street and Tawatawa ridge.

Turn left up the road and onto the ridge with its 360 degree views, Happy Valley and the Te Kopahou Reserve above it, over to the Airways Corporation domed radar station and Hawkins Hill, back to the Brooklyn wind turbine, and north to the distant Tararua range.

Take a short detour to your right to admire the stone powhenua (sculpture).

11 | Te Rauparaha and Te Rangihaeata

Tapu Te Ranga Marae placed the powhenua on the hill. Te Rauparaha was a leading Ngati Toa chief who migrated with his people to the Wellington region, along with a

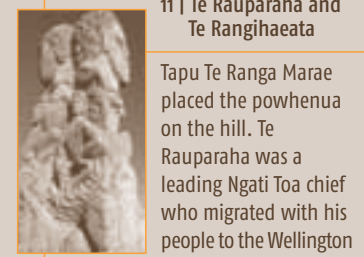
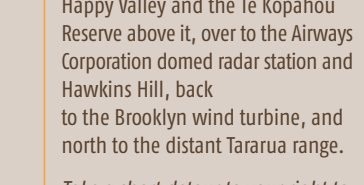
number of Taranaki tribes – including Ngati Tama, Ngati Mutunga, Ngati Tupaia (hapu of Ngati Ruanui), Ngati Haumia (hapu of Taranaki) and Te Atiawa – in the early eighteenth century. First Lieutenant, Te Rangihaeata was Te Rauparaha's nephew. Te Rauparaha faces Kapiti Island to the east and Te Rangihaeata faces Tapu Te Ranga Island to the south.

Carry on along the track to Tawatawa ridge, past the trig point and the reservoir.

At the end of Frobisher Street, cross the road and turn up Severn Street, keep to the left side of the road passing Welland Place, then climb the steps just past number 149.

The City to Sea Walkway finishes in Island Bay. There is an option to finish in Owhiro Bay by taking a right turn after the reservoir onto the Tawatawa Bush Track and head into the gully which comes out on Murchison Street. Either walk down Happy Valley Road finishing at Owhiro Bay. Or connect to the Tip Track, off Happy Valley Road, to the left of Landfill Road taking you into Te Kopahou Reserve.

Owhiro Bay is below on your right, Tapu Te Ranga Island to your left and more good views south to the snow-capped Kaikouras. The highest point,



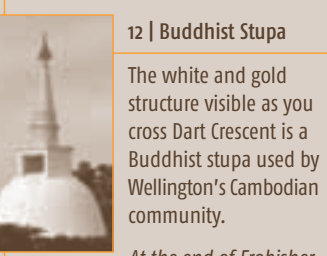
Follow the ridge top path past the reservoir service road on your right and continue on up the hill and down to a grassy clearing. Walk to the end of the street, taking in great views south across Cook Strait to the Kaikoura ranges.

12 | Buddhist Stupa

The white and gold structure visible as you cross Dart Crescent is a Buddhist stupa used by Wellington's Cambodian community.

Follow the gravel path up more steps to a trig point and look-out.

Mount Tapuaeouenuku (2885m) was the first significant peak climbed by New Zealand's most famous mountaineer, Sir Edmund Hillary. In 1953 he and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first to climb Mount Everest.



The path continues along the ridge top to a second look-out and then down the hill. Walk down Oku Street and then Milne Terrace. At the bottom, cross Derwent Street and head left a short distance and right into Shorland Park where the walk ends. The park – which is also the start/finish of the Southern Walkway – has a children's playground and public toilets and is just across the road from the beach.

Island Bay was settled by Italians and is famous for its picturesque fishing boats and Tapu Te Ranga Island.

Erskine College

Tapu Te Ranga Marae

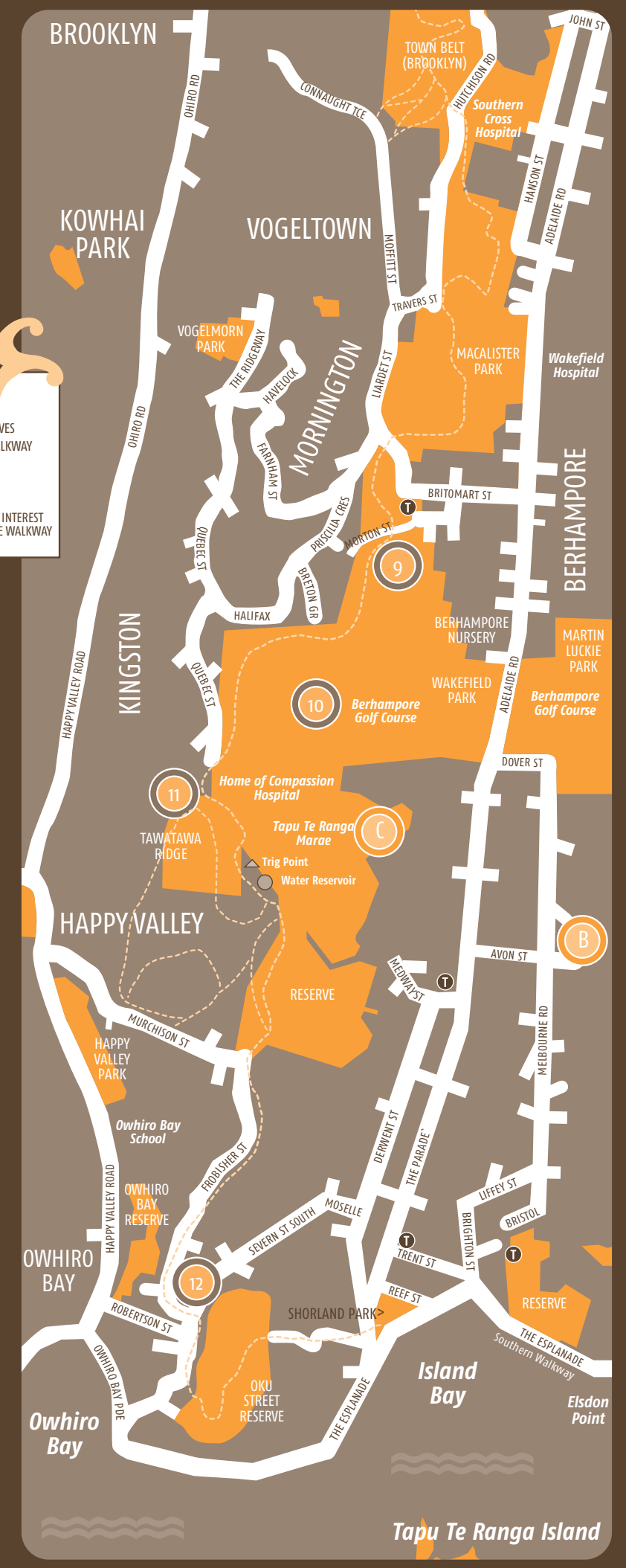
The distinctive old concrete building below you on the far side of Island Bay Parade is historic Erskine College, now used as an art school and function centre. Founded in 1905, it was designed by architect John Swan, who also designed the chapel, which was completed in 1930. The central building was formerly a Roman Catholic girls' college and the building contains wide open hallways, amazing stained glass windows and expansive wooden staircases.

The large green roofed building to your left directly below the reservoir is Tapu Te Ranga Marae. Bruce Stewart first established Tapu Te Ranga Marae in 1974. The marae is based on principles of sustainable living, and works in conjunction with Te Manawa Karioi, a group committed to restoring much of the open space surrounding the marae to native bush. Community planting and working days occur throughout the year and a native plant nursery has been developed at the marae.



KEY

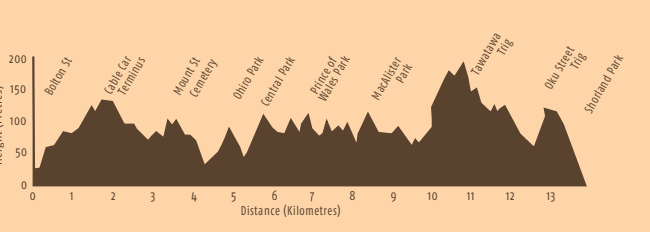
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SAFETY AND REGULATIONS

- Dogs must be kept on a leash
- No Fires
- Mountain Bikers to give way to pedestrians. Unless signposted, tracks are open to mountain bikers
- No Camping
- No Litter
- The walkway is not suitable for wheelchairs, except in parts of the Botanic Garden.

TOPOGRAPHICAL PROFILE



FLORA AND FAUNA

The walkway passes through the semi natural vegetation of Bolton Street Memorial Park comprising native plants, heritage roses and wild flowers and onto the managed landscape of the Botanic Garden. The walkway within the Botanic Garden passes through the unique native forest remnant, pine plantations, formal plant collections and lawn areas.

Further south it passes through Town Belt areas of Bishop's Pine (Pinus muricata), Monterey Pine (Pinus radiata), macrocarpa (Cupressus macrocarpa), and various gums (Eucalyptus spp).

Secondary native vegetation is thriving in some areas and native birds, piwakawaka (fantails), riroriro (grey warblers) and tauhou (waxeyes) populate the walkway.

The long term vegetation plan for the Town Belt involves the removal of many pine trees, especially if they are a hazard, and replanting with native plants.

Other Explore Wellington Brochures featuring Wellington Town Belt, parks and reserves, and art and heritage walks in the city are available at stands at the Visitor Information Centre on Wakefield Street, Wellington International Airport and the Wellington Railway Station. Brochures are also available by phoning Wellington City Council 04 499 4444 or visit our website www.feelinggreat.co.nz for details.

The Mountain Bike brochure is available at the Visitor Information Centre, Wakefield Street or check out www.feelinggreat.co.nz for information about mountain biking in Wellington. You can contact a Wellington City Council Park Ranger on 499 4444.

Planting a tree is a wonderful way to commemorate something special or to take an active part in creating a greener future. There's lots of ways you can help restore the city's reserves, bush and coastal areas – and some don't involve getting your hands dirty! Phone 499 4444 or visit www.Wellington.govt.nz for more information.