









## Caring for your park

-  Pack in and pack out. Take your rubbish home and recycle it where possible.
-  Dogs are permitted in the Korokoro, Stratton Street and Dry Creek Valleys. No dogs on or near farmland.
-  Do not remove, disturb or damage plants or animals.
-  Light no fires. You are welcome to bring a portable gas barbecue.
-  Use gates and stiles. Leave gates as you find them.
-  Poison may be laid in the park to control possums. Do not remove notices or disturb baits, lures, trapping lines or carcasses.

The Greater Wellington Regional Council promotes  
**Quality for Life** by ensuring our environment is protected while  
meeting the economic, cultural and social needs of the community

# Belmont Regional Park



greater WELLINGTON  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Pane Matua Taiao

## Open tops and hidden valleys

The breathtaking views and bush clad valleys of Belmont Regional Park make it a favourite open space for walking, running, mountain biking and horse riding. Located in the hill country between Porirua and the Hutt Valley, the park features the historic Korokoro Dam, World War II munitions bunkers and the original coach road from Lower Hutt to Pauatahanui. The climb to Boulder Hill (442m) or Belmont Trig (457m) gives sweeping views over Porirua and Wellington harbours and the Hutt Valley.

### Opening hours; ranger service

The park is open from dawn to dusk. Vehicle gates at Dry Creek, Hill Rd, Oakleigh St and Stratton St are open 8am – dusk. Some parts of the park may be closed for farm management purposes, particularly during lambing from August-October. The park has a five day ranger service, including most weekends.

Photos of Belmont Trig, Korokoro Valley and View to Porirua by Jessica Dewsnap. Photo of Taranua Tramping Club members at Belmont Trig, 1927 by unknown photographer; ATL PA1-o-650-01-2

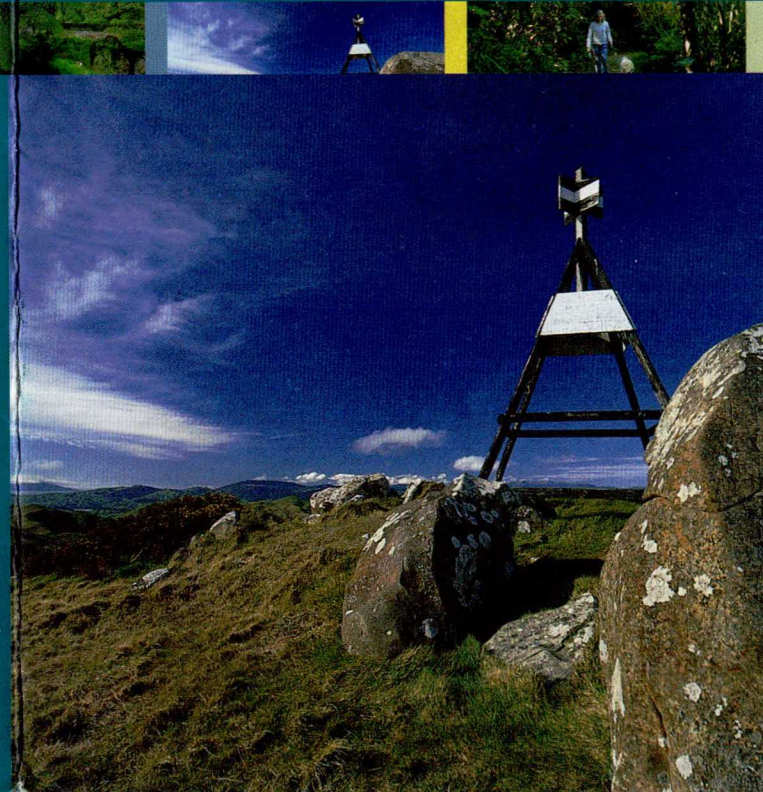
### MORE INFORMATION

Ranger - Belmont Regional Park  
GWRC Parks & Forests  
282 Stratton Street, Maungaraki,  
Lower Hutt  
T 04 586 6614  
F 04 586 1117  
belmontranger@gw.govt.nz

Metlink (for public transport timetables and fares)  
0800 801 700  
www.metlink.org.nz

www.gw.govt.nz

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# History

Early Maori found two major routes to link the Wellington and Porirua harbours, both lying within what is now Belmont Regional Park. One began from the Korokoro Stream mouth and wound over the hills until descending to Porirua Harbour. The other ran from the Pauatahanui arm of Porirua Harbour south over the hills, and down Speedy's Stream in Belmont. These routes initially linked Ngati Ira living in the Hutt Valley and Porirua and later the Kawhia and Taranaki iwi who had migrated here during the 1820s.



Following disagreements between the New Zealand Company and Maori over land transactions in the Wellington district, tensions in the Hutt Valley escalated. On 16 May 1846,

Boulcott's Farm, which was being used

as a military outpost, was attacked and six British soldiers killed. "Although Ngati Toa chief, Te Rangihaeata, was not responsible for the attack he was implicated and Governor Grey made plans to attack the chief's pa at Pauatahanui. Government forces pursued Te Rangihaeata via the old Maori track running through Belmont Regional Park before the final confrontation at Battle Hill."

Source: Miria Pomare, Ngati Toa.

With the increase in Hutt Valley settlers during the 1850s, a road was proposed along the original Belmont to Pauatahanui track. The future Old Coach Road was first walked in 1857 but the dray road was not completed until 1872. Coaches from the Hutt used this route to Pauatahanui until the mid 1880s, when it was superseded by Haywards Hill Road (now SH58). However you can still walk its original road bed today.

By the late 1800s the land now in the park was privately owned with much of it farmed. The growth of Petone borough and the need for a secure water supply led to the damming of the Korokoro Stream in 1903 and the acquisition through the Public Works Act of Te Atiawa's 1214 acre Maungaraki Reserve. During World War II the Public Works Department built 62 concrete ammunition magazines to store army munitions, much of it destined for use in the Pacific

campaign. Occupying just over 1000 acres, the magazines were supposedly laid out to resemble a poultry farm from the air. The army ceased using the area in the late 1960s but the area remained under Crown ownership as Waitangirua Farm.

Planning began in the 1970s to preserve rural areas for the region's growing cities. This opened the way to securing public lands as permanent open spaces and purchasing blocks of private land. Belmont Regional Park was launched on 2 April 1989, the first park in New Zealand to combine land for recreation, conservation and farming purposes. In 2005 the entire area was secured in public ownership to be managed by the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

## Hills falling to harbours

Much of Belmont Regional Park's 3691 hectares is based on a central plateau separating Wellington Harbour and the lower Hutt Valley from Porirua Harbour. This plateau is part of an ancient rolling peneplain, also evident in the flattened tops of Mt Kaukau and Makara's Quartz Hill.

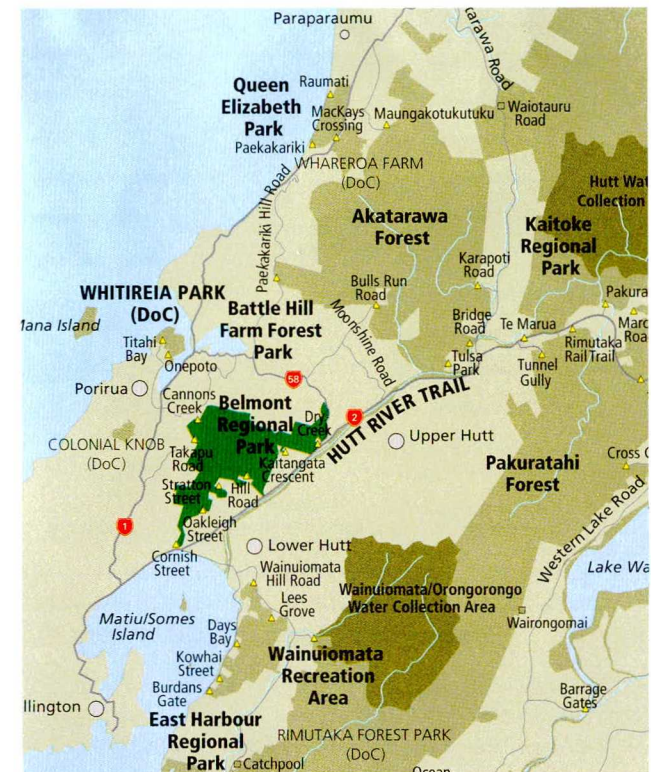
Illustrating the ancient forces of earth and weather, the park features large sandstone and greywacke block fields, deposited by earth flows during the last ice age.

Seven small stream catchments have their headwaters in the park. Most follow fault lines through deep forested valleys as they wind down to rivers and harbours. With a lack of upland forest to intercept and absorb heavy rain, these steep waterways tend to flood easily.

Before the settlers arrived in the mid 1800s, the Belmont hills were covered in podocarp and broadleaf forest including northern rata and rimu emerging over a canopy of tawa and hinau. Owing its survival to its role as a water collection area, the Korokoro Valley forest contains the last significant stand of rimu-rata-tawa-kohekohe in the southwest of the Wellington region.

Pukatea, matai and kahikatea emerge in the remnant forest of Dry Creek, while the pocket of tawa and kohekohe forest at Cannons Creek is the largest on the eastern side of the Porirua Basin.

The Korokoro Valley forest supports a significant diversity of native birds including piwakawaka (fantail), ruru (morepork), titipounamu (rifleman) and korimako (bellbird). Tui and kereru tend to range seasonally throughout the park's native forest and neighbouring gardens in search of food.



## How to get there

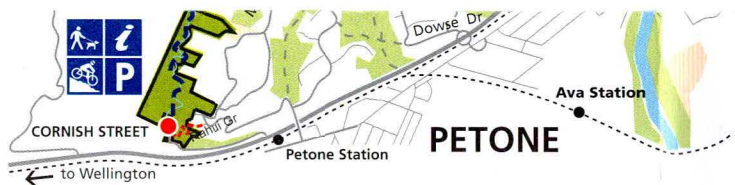
### Entrances

**Off SH2 – Cornish Street, Oakleigh Street and Stratton Street** via Dowse Drive; **Hill Road** via Grounsell Crescent; **Kaitangata Crescent**, Kelson; **Dry Creek** near the intersection of SH2 and SH58.

**Off SH1 – Cannons Creek** via Mungavin Ave and the Cannons Creek Lakes Reserve; **Takapu Road**, Grenada North

**Public transport** – From Petone Railway Station, walk over the pedestrian overpass and walk 10 minutes along Pito-One Road to the Cornish Street entrance or take bus #150 to Oakleigh Street. From Melling Station take bus #145 to the junction of Sweetacres Drive and Hill Road. Enter the park at the Sweetacres track 100m up Hill Road or continue 700m up Hill Road to the park entrance. From Waterloo Interchange take bus #150 to the top of Major Drive, Kelson. The entrance is 1km from the intersection with Kaitangata Crescent. From Manor Park Station walk 10 minutes to the Dry Creek entrance. From Porirua Station, take bus #63, #64 or #61 to Cannons Creek.





No mountain bikes



No fires

△ Hill top

▲ Trig point

## What can you do here?



### WALKING TRAILS

All times stated are for walkers

**For the family:** Enjoy easy walks along the Stratton Street and Dry Creek valleys. Good picnic spots are close by.

**Walking times (return):** Stratton St carpark upstream – 15 mins; Dry Creek Waterfall track – 1 hour (expect wet feet with several stream crossings).



### WALKING & MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

Dogs are permitted in the Korokoro, Stratton Street and Dry Creek Valleys only



**Korokoro Valley:** Tracks lead from **Cornish Street** and **Oakleigh Street** through mature and regenerating bush to the historic Korokoro Dam and up to the all round views at Belmont Trig. 4 hours, strenuous grade.

**Walking times (return):** Oakleigh Street – Korokoro Dam: 1 hour; Cornish St – Korokoro Dam: 3 hours; Oakleigh Street – Belmont Trig: 4 hours.

**Park peaks:** Tracks lead from the end of **Stratton Street** and **Takapu Road** to Round Knob (410m), Cannons Head (390m) and Belmont Trig (457m). **Kaitangata Crescent** in Kelson provides the fastest access to Boulder Hill (442m). Worth the effort, these high points give great views of Porirua and Wellington harbours, and the South Island on a clear day.

**Walking times (return):** Stratton St – Belmont Trig: 4 hours; Takapu Rd – Cannons Head: 4 hours; Kaitangata Cres – Boulder Hill: 2 hours.

### Park traverses:

**Old Coach Rd:** This historic moderately graded route between Normandale and Pauatahanui starts at the top of Normandale Road and crosses Belmont Regional Park via a road sized track. It finishes at Belmont Road, off SH58. 3 hours, moderate grade.

**Cannons Creek – Cornish St:** Starting at the Cannons Creek entrance to the park, follow the Cannons Head track up towards the main park ridge line. Turn right to follow the Puke Ariki track to Cannons Head, Belmont Trig and down the Korokoro Valley. 4 hours, strenuous grade.

**Puke Ariki/ Haywards Korokoro Traverse:** Running from Dry Creek to Cornish Street, this 7-8 hour strenuous walk or 3-4 hour mountain bike ride takes in all the views, historic features, forests and land forms of the park.



### HORSE RIDING TRAILS

The best entry points for horse riders are at **Stratton Street** and **Dry Creek**, both of which have toilets and horse float parking. Horse riders can also enter from **Horokiwi Rd**, **Sweetacres Reserve**, and **Kaitangata Crescent**. Special conditions for horse riding access exist for the **Hill Rd** and **Takapu Rd** entrances; contact the park ranger for more information. Riding times (return): Stratton St – Middle Ridge: 2 hours;



Stratton St-Belmont Trig: 2½ hours; Dry Creek – Boulder Hill: 2 hours.



### PICNICKING

You may picnic anywhere in the park. There are good picnic spots near the Korokoro Dam, Baked Beans Bend, Stratton Street valley and the Dry Creek entrance.

### CAMPING AND GROUP ACTIVITIES

Group camping sites with toilets and drinking water facilities are available by arrangement at the Dry Creek park entrance. Please contact the park ranger.

The Stratton Street and Dry Creek entrances are suitable for group activities and events. The Stratton Street classroom is available for hire for groups of up to around 35 people.

### GET INVOLVED

Numerous community groups are involved in the protection, restoration and enhancement of the park. See [www.gw.govt/belmont](http://www.gw.govt/belmont) for contact details.

## Safety in the park

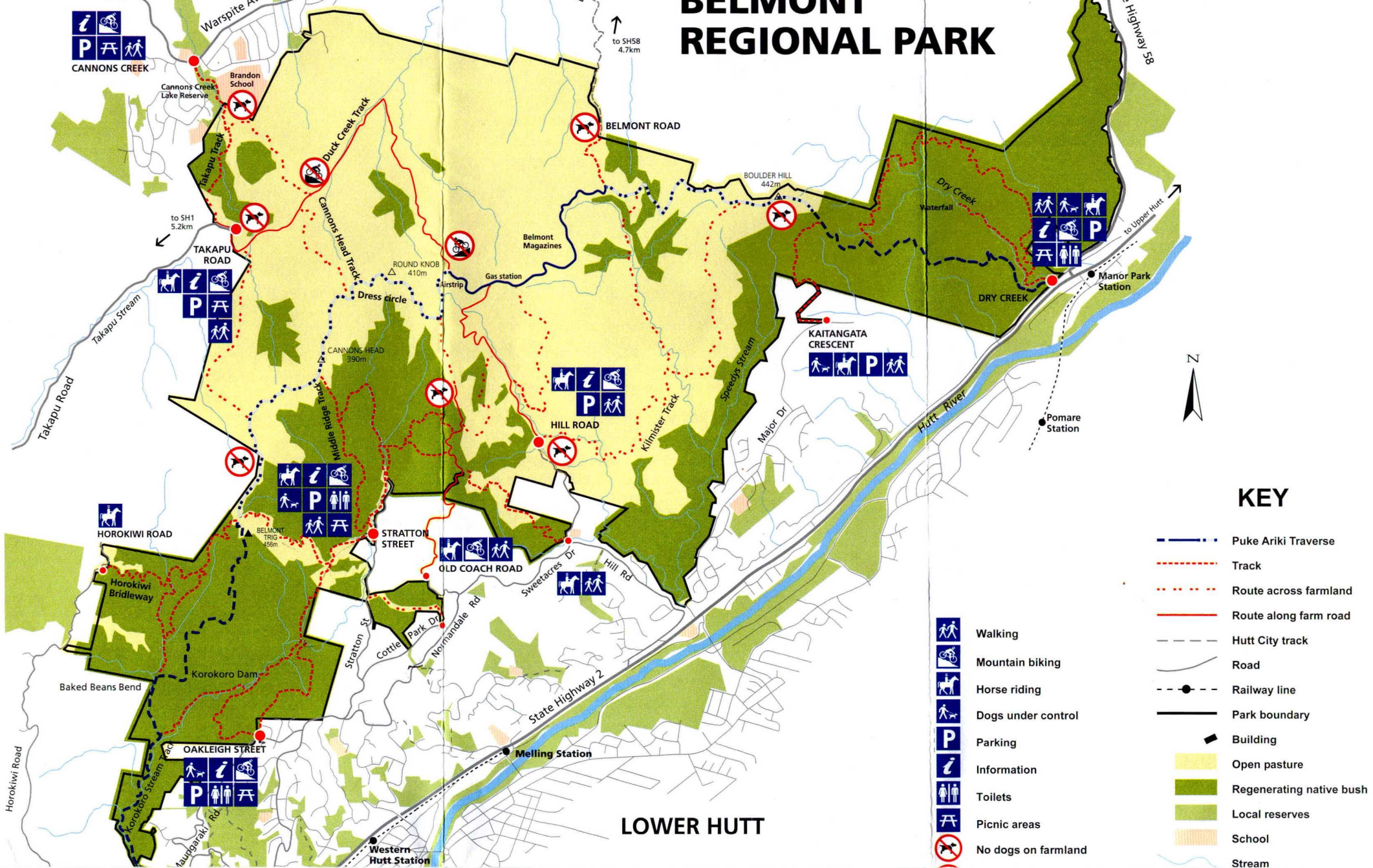
The park has moderately steep hills and is exposed on the tops to wind, rain and mist. Weather conditions can change quickly, so please:

- check the weather forecast before your trip
- carry warm and waterproof clothing and enough food and drink for your trip
- carry sun protection
- plan your route and tell someone your intentions
- wear strong lace-up boots or walking shoes
- avoid streams during heavy rain



# PORIRUA

# BELMONT REGIONAL PARK



## KEY

- Puke Ariki Traverse
- Track
- Route across farmland
- Route along farm road
- Hutt City track
- Road
- Railway line
- Park boundary
- Building
- Open pasture
- Regenerating native bush
- Local reserves
- School
- Stream
- Walking
- Mountain biking
- Horse riding
- Dogs under control
- Parking
- Information
- Toilets
- Picnic areas
- No dogs on farmland