



MATAITAI FOREST Track times in minutes. Advise errors to dfwlkins@clear.net.nz

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Map By Tumonz. 5907031.60, 1787008.30 - 5903042.60, 1792570.10 Scale 1:20,000

Mataitai Forest – History & General Information

Overview:

The Mataitai Forest is a Department of Conservation (DoC) controlled Reserve. A network of tracks has been established that traverse the reserve area. Maintenance of the tracks is carried out by the Manukau Tramping Club as a voluntary service under the overall supervision of DoC.

As with all tramping advise someone of your intended route, your estimated return time and the time at which they should call the Police if you are overdue. If you exceed the Police call out time due to being late out you then know to call the Police directly to cancel the search that will be commencing.

Note: Please clean your boots before entering, and after leaving this reserve, to minimise spread of Kauri Die Back disease.

Route Descriptions:

The tracks are generally designated by the colour of the permolat markings originally used namely: Orange, Red, Pink, and White supplemented by descriptive names on intersection signs such as Puriri Track. Gradually all markers are being changed to the standard Orange Triangle and the formal track names, shown on this map, should be signposted at intersections with times sometime during 2010.

The track system is a series of loops anchored to the main ridge intersection, just in from the car park, and looping around to the campsite directly opposite on the northern boundary.

History:

This forest was originally investigated for purchase by the Forest Service in 1959. It was finally purchased and Gazetted as State Forest Land in 1963 (NZ Gazette 1963 page 105). The Forest was named Mataitai as this was the name of the Maori Block that surrounds and originally included the forest.

The 364.2 hectares of land was purchased from a Mr Blennerhassett for approximately £3,500 (2007 equivalent corrected for inflation is \$120,113).

In 1978 an order was Gazetted (NZ Gazette 1978 page 3289) redesignating the land under the Forests Act (amended in 1976) as "Open Indigenous State Forest" for the purpose of public recreation.

With the formation of the Department of Conservation the land became subject to stewardship under Section 62 of the Conservation Act 1987.

The previous history of the forest is a bit murky; suffice to say that in 1959 it was still being logged by a Mr Charles Straka working the last of the millable timber as a summer time only operation. There were a series of tractor tracks along the main ridge lines with some spur tracks as required for timber extraction. These tracks form the basis of the current network.

The Rangers report of 1959 suggests that a fire some 45 years earlier had burnt part of the area that had been previously milled for kauri. They speculated that the best pole stands sighted during their visit had most likely originated from about that era (1914) and consisted largely of Hard Beech (*Nothofagus. truncata*).

N. truncata is described as having - Small oval coarsely toothed mid-dark green leaves that are smaller and glossier than *N. fusca* (Red Beech). It prefers well drained damp conditions in partial shade and some shelter as well as a cooler climate. It is frost hardy.

Other trees you will sight are kauri "rickers" (juvenile trees before loss of side shoots), as well as some good solid specimens or kauri that are maturing well. A short track to one of these specimens comes off the Kauri Track at the eastern end of the forest. Tanekaha and Puriri are all in abundance as well as scrub type plants such as Manuka and Kanuka that are gradually reinvading the previously grazed parts of the forest. Occasional Rimu can also be found.

Have fun and enjoy the walks available in this forest area.

Feedback: If you have any comments please advise: dfwilkins@clear.net.nz