

CBD Walks, features and timing

Claudeland/Bridge St Bridges Circuit through Jesmond and Parana Park. (Sandra Baxendine, brisk walker)

Start Pedestrian crossing at Victoria St Garden Place
Cross Alma St over Claudeland Bridge (Raised Plates of bridge walkway),
turn down steps and slope into Jesmond Park

5 min Jesmond Park
Along Opoia Road (cross a no exit street)

10 min Parana Park - features, Avery, Fern Walkway, Bridge, Playground.
Then along River Road by Memorial Park

17 min Bridge St Bridge

20 min Pools
Cross Grantham St

24 min Art Post/Museum

28 min Back at start at pedestrian crossing Victoria St.

These times are for a walk with no real stops if someone wants to do a circuit in their lunch time.

Maxine Fraser and Ron McColl (visually impaired) – Garden Place to Lake Rd reserve at Hamilton Lake

5.40pm Start at Garden Place

5.42 cnr Victoria & Ward Sts

5.45 cnr Ward & Anglesea Sts, waited 1 minute for ped light crossing (unbusy time of day)
Along base of WINTEC (on southern side of Ward St)

5.50 **OBSTACLE:** although there is a button for the ped crossing, it's not on the footpath – you first have to cross a free-left turn vehicle lane to get to the button, which is ON a ped island ! Again the green man stayed for only 4 seconds. Remember, this is crossed by hundreds of Girls High, daily.

5.52 arrive at bottom of Girls High hill

5.55 arrive top Tainui St.

Note – if a lunchtimer wanted to get to the lawn overlooking the Lake, to eat their lunch, (we didn't time it but) they would need to cross one lane of Lake Rd, wait on the refuge, then cross the other lane. Plus the return journey.

5.58 from south edge of Tainui St, we crossed to the north side (Braemar). We had to have our wits about us as we crossed (no zebra or button), as there are many traffic streams around that intersection. Walked up & over ridge, down Lake Rd.

OBSTACLE: poles of Railway Station sign planted right in the middle of the footpath – bit dodgy for the poor-sighted !

6.05 top of steps leading down on to walkway along railway line (heading back to city). We noted 2 good things: a 3-wire fence – barrier from rail lines, & boxing edges

to path, which helped Ron with his cane, feel where the edges were. But he said that a poor-sighted person would be most unlikely to tread that path alone

anyway. However many flax flower spikes, heavy with pods, hung low over the path. The lines of sight were reasonable & plantings weren't too high, so you didn't feel hemmed in.

- 6.12 end of railway walk. Cross Norton Rd, no ped link from railway walk to park, you just have to run, although there was a lip coming down from the curb, so that would be helpful for a wheelchair. Meandered through Ward Park to cnr Ward & Tristram Sts.
- 6.16 6.16 press ped crossing button. Same story as we walked briskly across – only 5 secs for the green man - & it's an intimidating stretch of road. Proceed along north side of Ward St. **OBSTACLE:** cars whooshing up out of Warehouse's underground park – maybe a beeping thingummy & light, to warn peds up at street level, activated by the vehicle's ascent. Expensive ? Also consider vehicles turning off Ward St (from both directions) INTO the underground park.
- 6.20 6.20 cnr Ward & Anglesea Sts. Walk via gap between Downtown Plaza & City Council (felt completely safe – what are the factors which give this feeling ? – analysing this might help with some other areas)
- 6.25 6.25 arrive Garden Place take-off point.

Round trip - & quite a distance – had taken $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. It would probably take considerably longer during the busier part of the day
Great exercise. I enjoyed it & so did Ron, who said he'd now discovered new places. When's the next one !

Cheers
Maxine

Daphne Bell and Kevin Churchill (wheelchair) – Garden Place to Little London St, Trust Waikato Garden

Herewith our times for the walk:

5.40 Garden Place to Centreplace garden: 3 mins

5.45 5.45 Bryce St

5.50 river end London St

Going with Kevin I now have a whole new appreciation of negotiating cobbles (irregular, sloping) , kerb cutdowns etc. so very valuable learning for me

The Trust Waikato garden at the end of London St is available to the public with a seat by the sculpture.

Barbara Crowth and Marianne Versluys, Raikside walk to Frankton

Herewith what we did this morning - Wed 16 January, 2008. Marianne V and I met at 8:30 and set out. NB The times given showed the need to allow time to cross with lights or allow for traffic flows. Also, I cut a chunk of CBD out of a Freebie map which is very portable and useful if one is unsure about localities.

RAIL WALK (Marianne suggests OK in daylight and probably all right on one's own then.)

8:35 set out - From Bus Depot along Bryce St (passing Foodtown)
continue along to Seddon Rd intersection and cross Bryce St and then

Seddon Rd to the Rail Walk entry by large boulders ((which are to the left of the lowered railway line).

8:43 enter Rail Walk which is a gravel walkway with low plantings either side.

8:50 at end of Rail Walk which concludes up a bank of steps and brings you up to Lake Road.

{ we then continued to the left on Lake Road and crossed over, turning right into Upper Marama Street and continuing to the no exit end.}

8:54 Resumed walk through pedestrian walkway between houses nos. 39 & 42 of Upper Marama. Came out into Fowlers Avenue (with a good view of Lake Rotoroa down the hill fairly steep hill - could be lunch spot or by lake at bottom of hill.)

8:58 Walked down hill to go left along and up hill to Ruakiwi Road (was Lake Rd) junction

9:05 At corner Tanui-Ruakiwi Rds - crossed to Tainui St and so down the hill past Girls' High School turning into Tristram St at the Ward St corner, then right at Bryce St and back to Bus Depot by 9:18.

So, in all this under three-quarters of an hour just doing the walk and not going flat-out.

Garden Place to Steele Park via Victoria Bridge (Rod & Judy McDonald and Margaret Southgate, plus a bag of heavy library books)

Garden Place to Riff Raff statue reserve: 2 minutes. Pleasant bricked area with multiple layers, each with a grassed area and a seat, plus trees. Wheelchair ramps but possibly assistance needed coming back up, especially for anyone with limited arm strength. Would be fine for an electric wheelchair. Terminates in a wooden viewing platform that is also wheelchair accessible, but access to river only available to the able-bodied – steps on final section.

Riff Raff reserve to Cathedral: 3 minutes (total 5min from Garden Place). Two grassed areas available, one either side of Victoria St. Cathedral grounds very pleasant but steep, on western side of Victoria St. On Eastern side is a readily accessible grassed area with a seat under a large tree, although not shaded for most of the day! Also available at this point is the riverside area down Grantham St. This would require an extra 2 to 3 minutes to access (making a total of about 8 minutes from Garden Place). Again, there are pleasant grassed areas on both sides of Grantham St – the Ferrybank Lounge area on the eastern side and the Band Rotunda area on the western side. Both pleasantly shaded if required, toilets available nearby.

Cathedral to Memorial Park across Victoria Bridge: 3 minutes (total of 8 minutes from Garden Place.) This brings you out to the steps that go under the Victoria Bridge and allow access to the southern side of Bridge St and hence to Hamilton East shops, without trying to run across Bridge St in the traffic. It obviously also allows direct access to Memorial Park and the various seats and shaded areas there. The access

under the Victoria bridge has no signage to indicate where it goes, and the path leading back to the southern side of Bridge St is some distance along the walkway. Signs and a general upgrade are badly needed to allow the public to make use of this. Taking the steps and river path to the other side of Bridge St adds another 2 minutes (10 minutes total from Garden Place)

Bridge St to Steel Park 5 to 10 minutes, depending on dawdling time in Hamilton East shopping area (15 to 20 min total from Garden Place). Steele Park has huge established trees and is right next to The Cook and a variety of other eateries and coffee shops, which will appeal to lunchtime wanderers. A leisurely round trip would be 40 minutes.

Additional information of use to those starting from anywhere other than Garden Place:

Whitiora Bridge, starting from the western end, to Garden Place: 15 to 20 minutes

Claudlands Bridge (western end) to Garden Place: about 3 minutes.

Victoria Bridge to Garden Place: 8 minutes.

Whitiora Bridge to Fairfield Bridge (western side):

Whitiora Bridge to Fairfield Bridge (eastern side):