

Te Hikuwai Walkway, November 2012: allow 60-90 minutes

Start at the entry to the Munro Reserve, at the roundabout linking River Rd, Discovery Drive and Commodore Drive. There is parking either in River Rd opposite Alandale Retirement Village, or in Discovery or Commodore Drive. If you would like to avoid the road crossing, there is an underpass which leads from Commodore Drive into the Munro reserve. (To avoid the present road works at the Pukete Bridge on River Rd, consider approaching the starting point for the walk either from Rototuna, down Thomas Rd, or down Resolution Drive off Wairere Drive. Turn left off Resolution into Discovery and that will take you straight to the roundabout where the walk starts.)

At the entry to the walkway, beside Alandale, the path leads down alongside the retirement home and emerges onto the riverbank, running below the Alandale Village and below the "pipe bridge" which is our return route. Follow this path along the river bank. It eventually joins the newly opened Te Hikuwai walkway. Just before the new section there is a gravelled path, quite steep, leading up to the left to an old pa site. We will explore this for those who don't mind a climb. If anyone would prefer to rest for a few minutes and wait that's fine, as we will come back to the main path at exactly the same spot we left it.

At the point where the new boardwalk begins, there is also a wide gravelled path taking off to the left. We will take this small diversion, and with luck see plenty of tui, before the path emerges opposite the Flagstaff shops. We then return along the same path to rejoin the Te Hikuwai boardwalk to the Pukete Bridge.

At the bridge we will use the underpass to go under the road and emerge on the south side of the bridge.

Using the path on the south side of the bridge, we will take the path at the far end, which takes off at the end of the newly constructed high board fence, leading down to the western side of the river. We will need to cross Delamare Rd (caution) to join the riverbank walkway and head left (to the north) along the western bank.

At a point opposite where we came in, we will take the rising path up the hill to cross the "pipe bridge" to emerge at the bottom of the access walkway we used to begin our walk. Head up the path onto River Rd.

Cross River Rd with caution and head back to where you parked your car or bicycle.