

## TARAWAERE DAM & BILLY GOAT TRACK – Coromandel

**260 Series Map:** Thames, T12

**Topo50 Map:** BB35 Hikuai

**How to get to START:** In Thames turn right at the Toyota site and follow the road up the Kauaeranga Valley for approximately 13 km eastwards to the Kauaeranga Education camp which is about 7km up valley from the information centre.

The location of the tramp is indicated and labelled in opposite and can be seen as a green line near the top of sheet T12.

From the camp turn right on the road for 50 metres to a Y-junction (**WP7** 134masl). Turn left along the gravel road for 10 – 12 minutes to the car park on the right with signs for Hydro Camp and Billy Goat Track (**WP No 8** 152 masl).

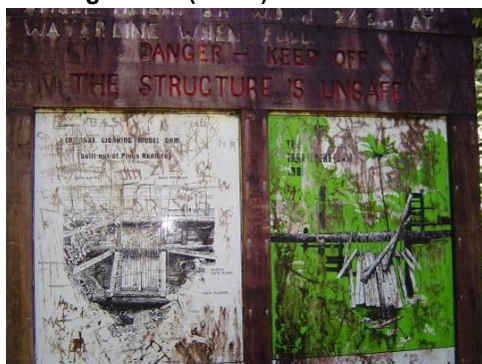
**Accommodation:** First rate accommodation at the Kauaeranga Education Camp hut with several dormitories, separate ladies and gents shower and toilets, gas fired hot showers, gas cooker with sufficient pots and pans (plus a toaster), huge efficient open fire with firewood supply and solar lighting throughout.

### Rough description:

A six hour, moderate walk including coffee break and lunch stop. Initially over a swing bridge then several minor stream crossings and latterly up a steep, rough, slippery, not-overused south facing slope with heavy vegetation. Descent is on warmer, drier north facing slope through area of previous kauri logging.

**Detail:** Turn right out of the Kauaeranga Camp to Y-fork (**WP7**, 134 masl) in gravel road and go left down the road for 10 – 12 minutes to a car park on the right (**WP8**, 152 masl) with signs for Hydro Camp and Billy Goat Track over a swing bridge. Minutes from the bridge go straight over cross tracks (**WP9**, 152 masl) and straight over the next one as well for Tarawaere. A forty minute (total time) walk reaches the second river crossing of the day (**WP11** 174 masl) then straight on / to the right at a Y-fork with track to Water Fall Dam. This area has a slightly indistinct track plus several stream crossings so watch for track signs on trees. There is then a slow climb (slog) to the signboard just below the dam site reached in 1:30 minutes (**WP No 12** 237 masl). This is a good place for a coffee / tea stop. After a rest and some refreshment there is a rather steep, tricky ascent from the dam to meet the Water Fall Dam track in 2:15 minutes total walking time (**WP 13** 352 masl).

### Dam signboard (WP12)



The climb continues and reaches the crest in drier, open woodland in 3:10 minutes at (**WP14** 568 masl) via a slow, steady climb. Descend through relatively open, sunny woodland to meet T-junction with path to Hydro Camp and Pinnacles path (**WP16** 463 masl) going right to the river for lunch stop (**WP17** 449 masl)).

### North from the track



After lunch retrace the route back past the Long Trestle (**WP18** 456 masl) on a good track. This section has superb views and information boards plus remnants of the railway with the best preserved bit, shown below as Figure 7, being reached in 5:10 minutes (**WP19**).

The descent continues with a view of camp from WP20 before meeting the original track (**WPs 9 and 21**) where going right reaches the original swing bridge (**WP22** 174 masl) and the car park in 6 hours total walking time.

**NZ Grid GPS:** Geodetic Datum 1949

**NZTM GPS:** NZTM on WGS84

### Location



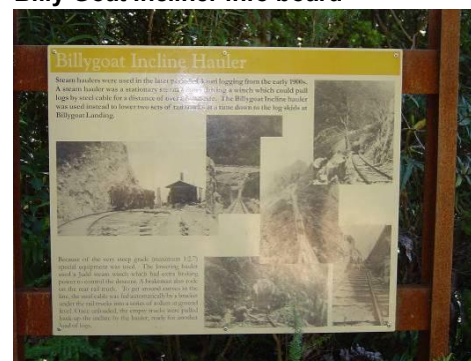
*Overall altitude gain / loss of about 430 metres on this walk*

An extract of the map showing critical waypoints is shown below. The waypoints, as numbered on the map, are referred to in the text and all waypoints are detailed below.

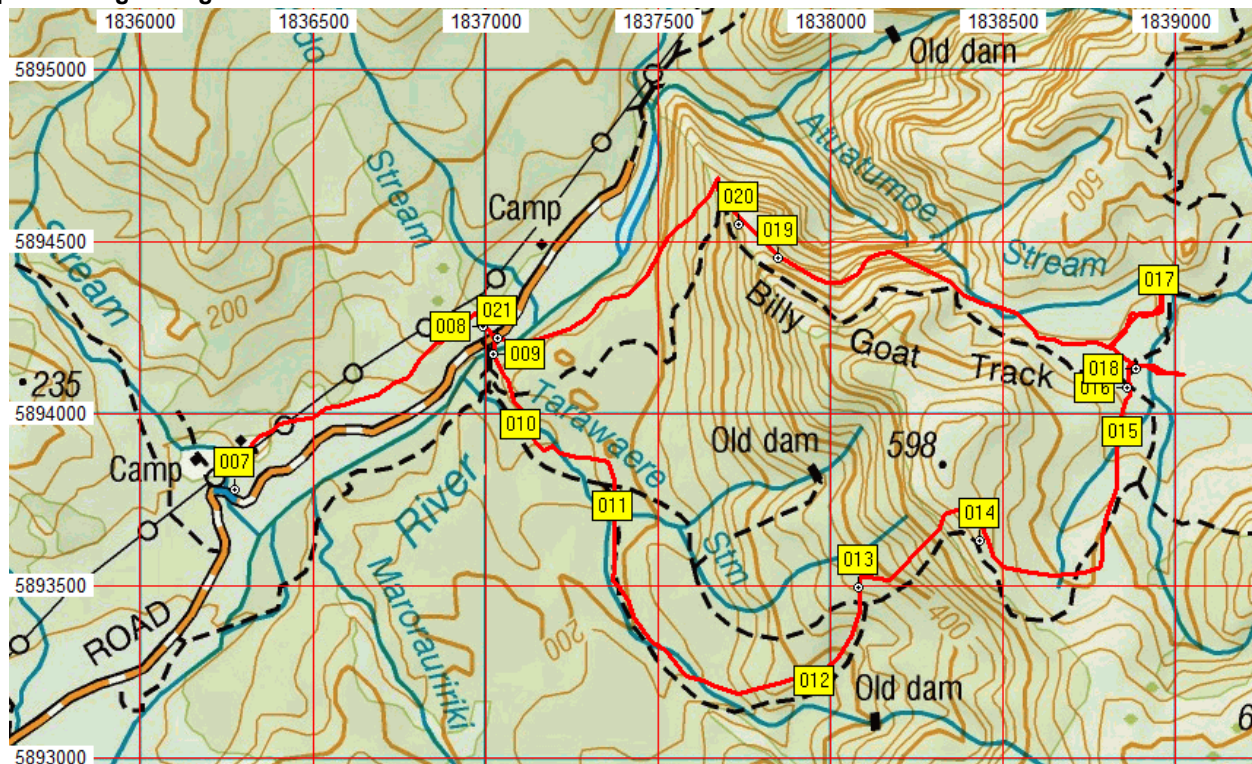
### Junction of paths (WP 16)



### Billy Goat Incliner info board



## Map and Google Image with GPS data



### Waypoints – NZ Grid

007	2746570	6455776	134	Y fork in road, go left
008	2747315	6456206	152	Walk 10 min and go right to Hydrocamp & Billy Goat trail then swing bridge
009	2747319	6456108	152	5min from bridge at + paths go straight to Tarawaere Dam and straight at next + paths
010	2747398	6455905	157	River crossing
011	2747614	6455732	174	River crossing, poor signal, to Y-fork and go straight with indistinct path and stream crossings
012	2748298	6455158	237	1:30min slow to here as steep & rough to sign board for dam
013	2748300	6455400	352	2 hours meet waterfall dam track from left (this branch comes from WP11)
014	2748730	6455625	568	3 hours crest in open woodland after very slow steep climb
015	2749187	6455786	476	3:30 min meet T junction and go left, right goes to HiHi Trig
016	2749157	6456069	463	3:45 min meet T-junction and go right, Hydrocamp & Pinnacles
017	2749300	6456317	449	4 hours stop at river for lunch then backtrack through WP16
018	2749182	6456093	456	4:30 branch off to end of Long Trestle (description etc)
019	2748144	6456395	402	5 hours at top section of rail still in place, steep & rough down
020	2748032	6456464	359	View of camp within minutes of clearing the rail section
021	2747325	6456113	173	5:30 min + paths, go right

### NZTM

Easting	Northing
1836273	5893779
1836994	5894254
1837024	5894174
1837103	5893971
1837369	5893735
1837956	5893227
1838082	5893496
1838435	5893632
1838846	5893950
1838860	5894077
1838956	5894388
1838887	5894132
1837848	5894453
1837736	5894550
1837036	5894222

**Preserved bit of Billy Goat railway (incliner)**



**Base Camp**



**Notes:**

- *Garmin Summit GPS on Geod49 with weak signal in forested areas otherwise signal OK*
- NB** All waypoints are NOT shown on the map above