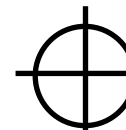




Access to the Action



An Access Guide to Gamebird Hunting in
the Auckland/Waikato Region

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game
156 Brymer Road, RD 9
Hamilton
Phone (07) 849 1666
aucklandwaikato@fishandgame.org.nz

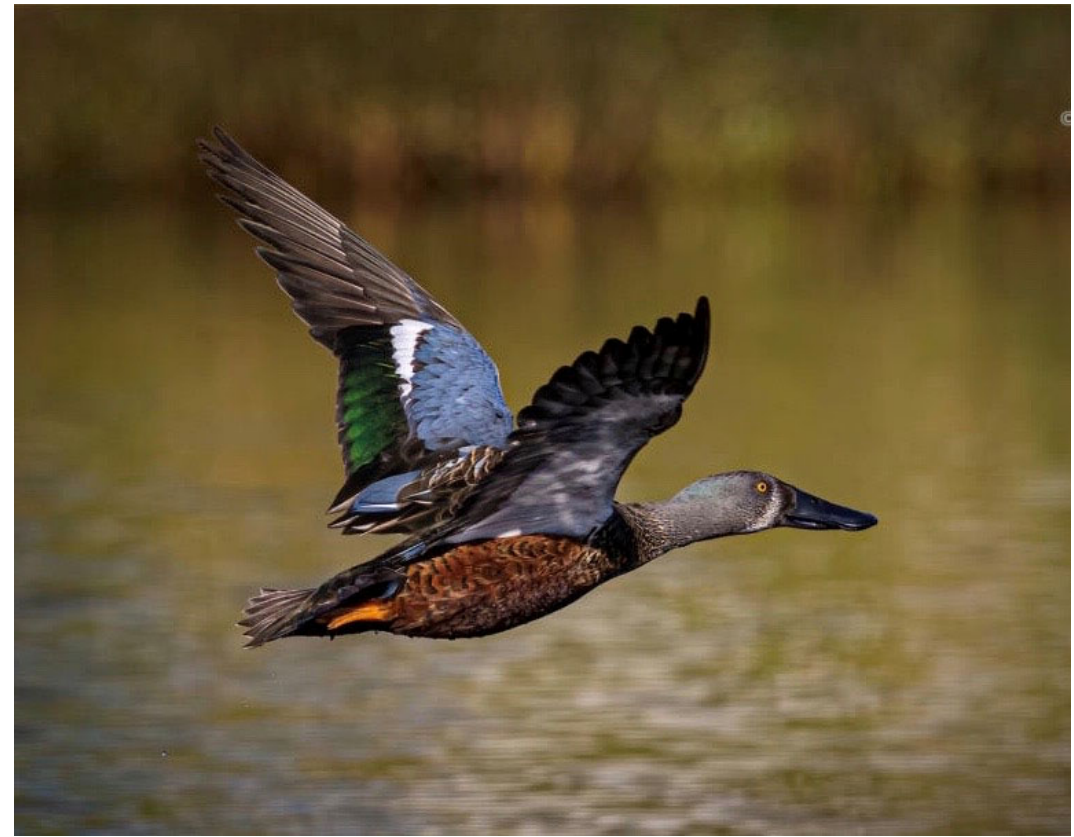
Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game has the statutory responsibilities to manage, maintain and enhance the sportsfish and gamebird resource in the recreational interest of anglers and hunters.

Fish & Game is not a government department but is funded solely from hunting and fishing licence sales.

What your Auckland/Waikato Gamebird hunting licence buys:

- Best and cheapest hunting in the world.
- The ability to hunt throughout NZ.
- The opportunity to hunt a wide variety of gamebirds: mallard, grey and shoveler duck, paradise shelduck, black swan, pukeko, Canada goose, pheasant & Californian quail.
- True user pays user says management of your sport.
- Protection for the future of your sport by providing for gamebirds and their habitat.
- The creation of habitat for all wildlife.

“Getting started in Gamebird Hunting” is a free pamphlet issued by Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game. If you would like a copy of this go to the website or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Fish & Game 156 Brymer Road, RD9, Hamilton.



Mai Mai Construction Guidelines

Hunters today are under pressure from people who do not understand the traditions of water fowl hunting.

Hunters have an obligation to construct and maintain their maimais and shooting stands in a manner that reflects well on the water fowl hunters image.

A well constructed and maintained maimai or stand cannot but reflect well on the sport of water fowl hunting and ultimately contribute to an assurance that our children and grandchildren can also have the privilege of participating in this sport.

For a free copy of ‘Mai Mai Construction Guidelines’ go to the website or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Fish & Game 156 Brymer Road, RD9, Hamilton.



AUCKLAND/WAIKATO DUCK FACTORY HOTSPOTS

Since waterfowl hunting with shotguns in New Zealand began, the Waikato/Hauraki area had been known as NZ's "Duck Factory".

Those living in the Auckland/Waikato region have ready access to some outstanding waterfowl hunting, - most of it within an hour's drive of Auckland city.

Public Hunting Lands Abound

This guide is intended to point you in the right direction by identifying the major hunting areas on public land, how to find them and get to where the action is.

Major areas of wetland owned by the Crown and Fish & Game are readily open to public access via formed roads, unformed paper roads, walkways and boat ramps.

While this guide is large, there just is not enough room to list every hot spot. By exploring and asking fellow hunters, whitebaiters, eelers, landowners, sports shop employees and others who get out into the country you will latch onto other possies and build up a comprehensive knowledge of your chosen area.

Private Land - Ask and You Shall (Often) Receive.

Many hunters get to know local landowners and negotiate their own access to lake edges and the like.

There are many ponds and rivers on private land and a courteous call to the landowner will often get you permission to hunt there.

Sometimes landowners already have enough hunters, or hunt themselves so you may be turned down. Please respect their decision as you are "hunting's ambassador" in this situation. The favourable impression you leave may one day open their door (or visa-versa). However, it can often be a worthwhile question to ask "could you suggest who else I might ask locally"?

Some of the best possies have been found by knocking on a few doors and taking the time to talk to the landowners.

Free Hunting Permits

The Department of Conservation, Forestry companies (through Fish & Game), Iwi and territorial authorities may all issue permits to hunt on lands they administer, and you need to check to ensure you have all the correct permits. Most hydro parcels are administered by the crown and you do not require a permit to hunt them but be mindful that some smaller waterbodies may be in private ownership.

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game also have 1600 hectares of wetlands available for hunting, many of which have established ponds and maimais. (See insert map in Mangatawhiri Wetlands section). An entry permit, which is free can be obtained from the Fish & Game office.

Know where You Are Going

An extremely helpful website to use in conjunction with this booklet is the NZ Walking Access Commission online mapping, (WAMS). There is a set of maps showing hunting and fishing sites, another showing legal access points, and another showing property boundaries and title information. Using this resource can save a lot of time, frustration and petrol as well as suggest many new possibilities.

Gamebird Licensed Hunter Access Points

To make things easier for you we have erected gamebird hunter access signs on many of the access points mentioned in the below areas.

Unfortunately, vandalism is rife and if you find an access point without one of our signs please phone us so that we can replace it.

COUNCIL OWNED LAND IN THE AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME COUNCIL REGION



- | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------|
| 1. | Waikato Islands | 415.6 ha |
| 2. | Aka Aka | 116.3 ha |
| 3. | Tuakau | 53.8 ha |
| 4. | Mangatawhiri | 213.3 ha |
| 5. | Whangamarino | 739.2ha |
| 6. | Waikare | 74.4 ha |
| 7. | Waitakere | 13.7 ha |
| 8. | Te Aroha | 25.4 ha |
| 9. | Kakahi | 14.2 ha |

KAIPARA HARBOUR

Kaipara Harbour is a productive area with many bays, side creeks, rivers and extensive mangrove area. Best hunting on the Harbour is two hours either side of full tide.

Kaipara and Kaukapakapa Rivers are both duck hunting meccas.

The Hoteo River is also a productive area and can be drift shot from State Highway 1.

Access Points

- 1. Shelly Beach**
Offers fairweather access to much of the western shore of the Kaipara Harbour.
- 2. Springs Road, Parakai**
Access to Kaipara River is by public boat ramp at Parakai at end of Springs Road.
- 3. Cruising Club, Helensville**
Access to Kaipara River can be gained by using Kaipara Cruising & Sportfish Club behind Coastguard building, Mill road, (SH1), Helensville. Private land. Permission required.
- 4. Private Ramp, Helensville**
Access to Kaipara and Kaukapakapa Rivers with permission to use private ramp required from Mt Rex's Shipping Sand Works approx. 3km north of Helensville.
- 5. Jordans Road**
Boat ramp provides access to Makarau River and southern Kaipara Harbour.
- 6. Makarau Reserve**
Boat ramp provides access to Makarau River and southern Kaipara Harbour.
Note; if the gate is locked, you can get the combination to open it from Auckland Council. Details on the gate or ring Auckland Council beforehand.
- 7. Hoteo River Bridge**
Boat ramp located along State Highway 16 (Kaukapakapa Rd) provides access to harbour and Hoteo River.
- 8. Staples Landing**
Boat ramp at Staples Landing off Whitefords Road gives access to harbour and estuary.



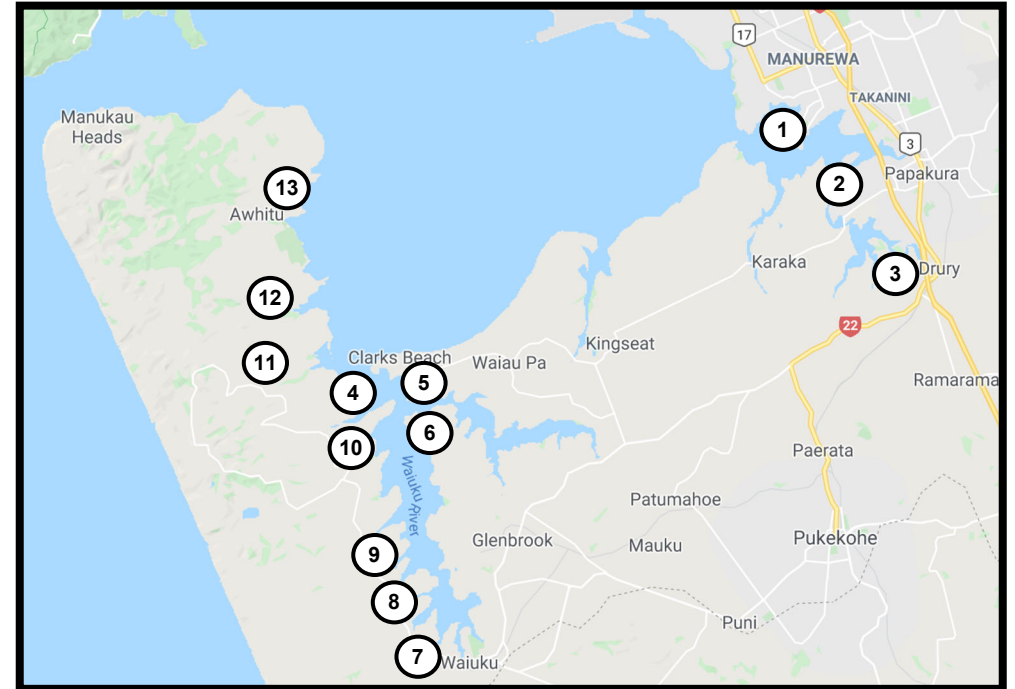
MANUKAU HARBOUR

On Auckland's doorstep yet holds good numbers of ducks particularly in the south Manukau which still offers many relatively remote areas.

Whangapouri, Oria and Drury Creeks west of Drury township are popular hunting areas.

Access Points

- 1. Weymouth**
Boat ramp at Weymouth provides good access to south and western harbour in fair weather.
- 2. Drury Creek - Bottle Top Bay**
Ramp into Pauhurehure inlet off Oakland Road, off main Karaka road (Hingaia Road), gives access to Drury, Whangapouri and Oria Creeks.
- 3. Slippery Creek, Drury**
Boat ramp at Slippery Creek (at High tide) gives access to south western arm of harbour and estuarine areas especially Drury, Whangapouri and Oria Creeks. Ramp located on Drury-Papakura Road (Great South Road) just north of Drury.
- 4. Clarks Beach**
Boat ramp providing good boat access for all tides.
- 5. Waiau Pa**
Boat ramp at end of Wharf Road. Approx 5km from Waiau Pa.
- 6. Glenbrook Beach**
Boat ramp on Kahawai Point on McLarin Road, off Glenbrook Beach Road. Approx 6km from Glenbrook.
- 7. Waiuku**
Boat ramp at end of Sandspit and Rangiwhea Roads but best when tide is in.
- 8. Waipipi**
Ramp useful in high tide only, off Waipipi Warf Road (approx 5km from Waiuku).
- 9. Gordon Road**
No formed ramp but can launch small boat off Gordon Road 2km north of Waipipi (approx 6km from Waiuku).
- 10. Te Toro Road**
Boat ramp good for all tide use. Approx 8km from Waipipi on Te Toro Road, off Lees Gully Road (Approx 10km from Waiuku).
- 11. Pollock Wharf Road**
Boat ramp small and not well developed approx 4km from Pollok on Pollok Wharf Road (approx 20km from Waiuku).
- 12. Matakawau Point**
Boat ramp approx 6km from Matakawau, on Matakawau road (approx 25km from Waiuku).
- 13. Grahams Beach**
Boat ramp approx 15km from Pollok, off Grahams beach Road via Awhitu (approx. 24km from Waiuku).



WAIKATO RIVER DELTA

A totally unique area comprising some thirty islands between the Tuakau Bridge and the Tasman Sea. Note the closed game area (no shooting).

Meandering waterways between the islands provide a haven for ducks, as does the surrounding wetland in the Aka Aka and other adjacent area. Consequently, this is a very popular area for hunters.

Fish & Game own many of the island titles in the area to encourage their recreational use - see map. A Fish & Game entry permit is not required for Waikato Islands but is required for the Aka Aka and Piggott Wetlands.

- A. **Ngahinapouri Island** - 13 hectares
- B. **Kaiwaka No 1 Island** - 113 hectares
- C. **PakePake Island** - 71 hectares
- D. **Puhehunui Island** - 100 hectares
- E. **Motutieke Island** - 118 hectares
- F. **Aka Aka Wetland** - 116 hectares
- G. **Piggott Wetland** - 54 hectares

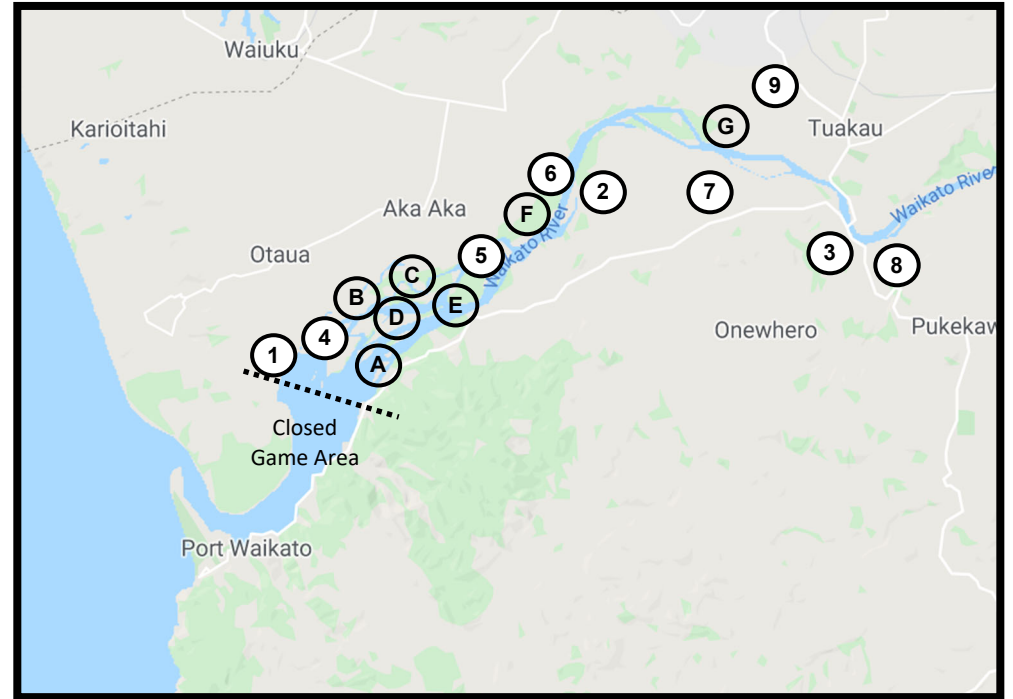
Access Points

MAJOR BOAT RAMPS

1. **Hoods Landing, Otua**
This ramp (Off Hoods Landing Road) provides access to most of the lower Waikato islands and river area. Can be crowded opening so get there early. Public toilets here. Please use the rubbish bins properly.
2. **Elbow Landing Reserve Boat Ramp, Aka Aka**
This ramp at the end of Elbow Road adjacent to water ski club gives good access to the Waikato islands.
3. **Tuakau Bridge, Tuakau**
Located on River Road, Tuakau, several ramps at and near Les Batkin Reserve give good access to the islands and adjacent wetlands further upstream from the Waikato delta. Public toilets present. There are also other simpler ramps nearby off River Road and also Alder Road (entrance just before Tuakau Bridge).

SMALL BOAT RAMPS AND FOOT ACCESS

4. **Crouch Road**
Boats can be launched here for good access to lower Waikato Islands, however this ramp is in poor condition. Please leave farm gates as you find them (i.e. closed if they are closed).
5. **Mawhitiwhiti Road**
A smaller boat ramp gives access to the larger islands in the lower delta. Note: foot access via the stopbank next to Mawhitiwhiti Road is private land. Landowner permission required.



6. **Bregman Road**
Boat launch to river "just" possible (Note: by manhandling small boat down a steep bank past the pump station into the canal).Foot access to Aka Aka Block from Bregman Road (free permit required to enter - available from Fish & Game office).
7. **Frost Road**
Boat ramp at end of Frost Road, off the main Port Waikato Road.
8. **Murray Road**
Several small improvised boat ramps upstream of Tuakau Bridge, off Murray Road, available for launching small boats.

FOOT ACCESS IS AVAILABLE TO:

9. **Parker Lane, Tuakau**
Foot access (no boat launch), to Piggott Wetland (and Waikato River). Sign posted off Parker Lane. Off-road parking available in the game season, (otherwise locked). Free permit required to enter - available from Fish & Game office.

MANGATAWHIRI WETLANDS

This area would now be drained grassland if it were not for Fish & Game (what was then the Acclimatisation Society) buying over 200 hectares of wetlands. The Fish & Game wetlands are also adjacent to the sizable privately owned Ryburns Lagoon.

The Dean, Blythen, McKenzie and Cathcart Wetlands have established ponds and maimais. Hunting is only permitted from the hunting stands. Permits are required for entry - available free from Fish & Game Office.

Sites are balloted but anyone may hunt when stands are vacant after 7:30am later in the season.

Access to the Fish & Game Wetlands

DEAN WETLAND

1. **McIntyre Road (off Kellyville Road), Pokeno-Mercer.**
Vehicular access is available to parking areas, thereafter foot access is available to 19 ponds.
2. **Mercer Boat Ramp, off Mercer Esplanade, smaller ramp off Riverside Road, Mercer.**
Many hunter use this site to access the Waikato River in the Mercer area.

MCKENZIE WETLAND

3. Off road vehicle parking available in season (gate is otherwise locked). Gated entry is behind metal pile next to Mangatawhiri River bridge off Pioneer Road. Vehicle track alongside the true right bank of the Mangatawhiri River. Note; the first property on left, signposted as North Emmett Wetland is closed to hunting.

BLYTHEN AND CATHCART WETLANDS

Foot access available from McKenzie Wetland (see above). Note; in times of flood there is safe foot-bridge access across Mill Creek.



WHANGAMARINO WETLAND

The Whangamarino is a diverse fertile swamp habitat, ideal for ducks. Located at the junction of the Whangamarino and Maramarua Rivers. The large size of the flood plains and willow areas provide feeding grounds for thousands of waterfowl. There are also four large peat domes which add to the excellent wilderness experience.

The two rivers provide access to most of the waterfowl hunting areas in the Whangamarino.

Fish & Game (739.2ha) & DoC (4960ha) manage most of the wetland (80% of total area).

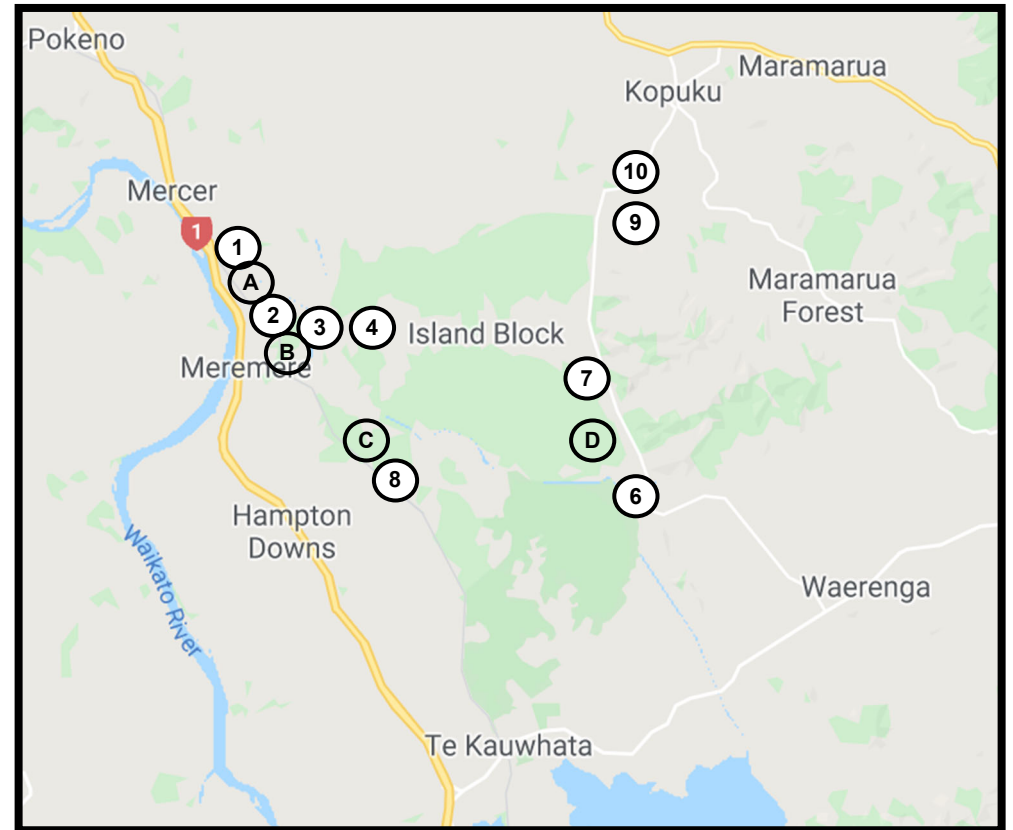
Fish & Game Properties:

- A. **North Shepherd Wetland** 59.2 hectares
- B. **Central Shepherd Wetland** 78.3 hectares
- C. **Cocks Wetland** 247.1 hectares
- D. **Williamson Wetland** 354.6 hectares

Ponds and maimais have been built on all of these properties. Entry permit (free) required for all areas. Fish & Game and DoC permits are available from Fish & Game office .

Access Points

1. **Oram Road, Meremere**
Year round parking and Foot access to North Shepherd Wetland from Oram Road next to Flood Control structure 2km south of Mercer.
2. **Island Block Road, Meremere**
Game season parking access and year round foot access to North Shepherd Wetland from Island Block Road 1 km east of Meremere Power Station.
3. **Island Block Road, Meremere**
Foot access (parking by side of road), to Central Shepherd Wetland from Island Block Road 1km east of Meremere Power Station.
4. **Island Block Road/Whangamarino River Bridge**
Boat ramp at bridge provides good access to Whangamarino and Maramarua Rivers and their adjacent wetlands. This site also provides foot access along the stopback to the Central Shepherd Wetland ponds that are next to the Whangamarino River.
5. **"The Causeway" (off Island Block Road).**
Foot and vehicular access (with key), is available via private causeway (a.k.a. "Bucketline Road") off Island Block Road. Contact Fish & Game Hamilton for access details. Permit essential. DoC permit required.
6. **Falls Road "so called Humpback Bridge"**
Boat ramp at Falls Road/Whangamarino River bridge provides good access to the eastern end of the swamp and river. DoC and/or Fish & Game entry permits required for adjoining wetlands as appropriate.



7. **Falls Road**
Foot access can be obtained to the Williamson Wetland from Falls Road. Parking beside road (note: 2 entry points). Fish & Game permit required.
8. **Wattle Road**
Vehicular and foot access available to Cocks Wetland (F&G permit required) and also adjacent Raeo Arm (DoC permit required). Boat ramp at the end of the track beside the Whangamarino River. Please park where signposted, not at the ramp. A key is required to get past mid-point gate. Otherwise park at this gate and walk—or a small boat ramp by this gate gives access to the Raeo Arm (no key required). DoC and/or Fish & Game access permits required.
9. **Finlayson Road**
Foot access off Finlayson Road to Kopuku area of the Whangamarino Wetland. Permission required from landowner to cross paddocks to swamp.
10. **Coalfields Road**
Foot access off public road to Kopuku swamp. DoC permit required.

LAKES WAIKARE, ROTOKAWAU AND OHINEWAI

LAKE WAIKARE

Waikato's largest lake (3442 hectares) with thousands of waterfowl which flight in and out of the wildlife refuge on northern half of the lake, the boundaries of which are marked by four yellow buoys. The lake also holds large numbers of Canada geese as the season progresses.

Access Points

- 1. Roto Street, Te Kauwhata**
Boat ramp next to old landfill provides access to northern and western areas of the lake. Key required. Contact Fish & Game, Hamilton.
- 2. Ruahine Road, Te Kauwhata**
Boat ramp at Ruahine Road at the lake's outlet provides access to northern area of lake and beyond.
- 3. Yacht Club, Waikare Road**
Boat ramp adjacent to the old yacht club site (note: now demolished) off Waikare Road gives access to most of the lake.
- 4. Matahura Stream, Waikare Road**
Simple boat ramp on private land off Matahura Stream off Waikare Road - landowner permission required.
- 5. Gill Road, Ohinewai**
4WD vehicular access from Gill Road. Boat ramp at end. No sign posts. This is an unformed paper road which is marked on maps. Please respect private property either side.
- 6. Te Onetea Road, Rangiriri**
Boat ramp off Te Onetea Road gives access to Te Onetea Stream and the lake. Take care of shallow sill at lake edge.

LAKE RANGIRIRI (a.k.a. Lake Kopuera)

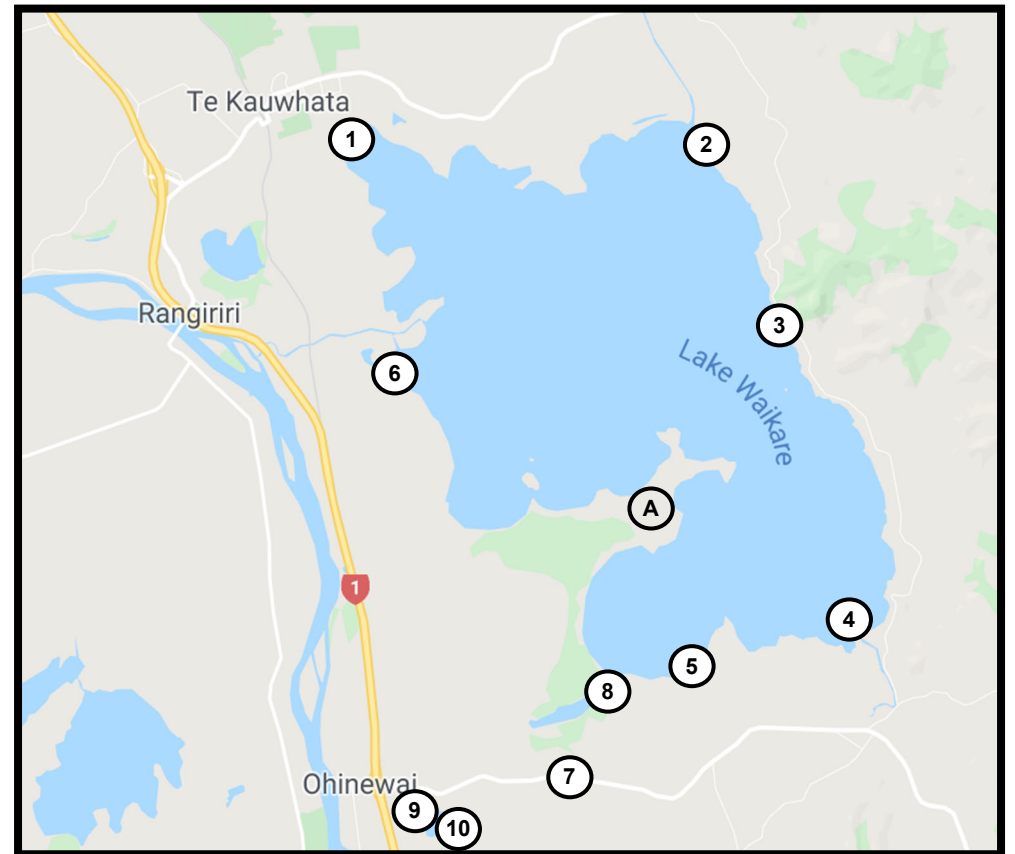
North of Rangiriri is a Wildlife Refuge (entry forbidden with dogs or firearms) which holds many thousands of ducks in the area that might otherwise have gone off to sea when the season progresses.

"The Island" a.k.a Lake Waikare Fish & Game property. This can only be reached by boat. Typically, people use the old yacht club site or Gills Road to access this.

LAKE ROTOKAWAU (Also known as "Black Lake")

22 hectares of open water surrounded by 260 hectares of Crown owned conservation area connected to Lake Waikare by a drain. Foot access is via gate on Tahuna Road. DoC permit required.

- 7. Tahuna Road, Ohinewai**
Access can also be achieved by using small rowboat or canoe on drain which leads to lake, although overgrown.
- 8. Via Lake Waikare**
Access by small boat or canoe via canal connection between lakes. Effort often required to bash through obstructions.



LAKE OHINEWAI

16 hectares in area with well planted reserve surrounded by farmland

- 9. Ohinewai Domain**
Foot access can be had via Domain on north end of lake which is a conservation area. DoC permit required.
- 10. Frost Road, Ohinewai**
Vehicle access possible via farm race off Frost Road - landowner permission required.

A. = Fish & Game property - Waikare Wildlife Block. Access only via boat.

LAKE WHANGAPE AND OPUATIA WETLAND

OPUATIA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RESERVE — DoC permit required

Shallow willow and scrub dominated floodplain. This is often covered in water spilling over from the Opuatia Stream and the nearby Waikato River. However, it can also be bone dry some years.

Access Points

1. Waikato River

Opuatia River negotiable by boat from Waikato River (see Waikato River access points).

2. Churchill Road

Foot access to DoC Wildlife Reserve by two access strips off Churchill Road. DoC permit required.

LAKE WHANGAPE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RESERVE

Large Waikato Lake (1450 hectares of open water) and adjacent wetlands (910 hectares). Popular area with Canada geese. A DoC permit is required.

3. Whangape Domain

Boat ramp at public domain provides access to lake via Whangape Stream. Domain located at lake's outlet off Glen Murray-Rangiriri Road also provides foot access to many possies. Hunters camp in the domain and either walk south-east edge of the lake to find a possie or boat out to the western end. Note: Boaties beware of rock weir to protect lake levels. Shuggs Landing is a better boat launch site. Note: access road and boat ramps poorly maintained.

4. Beverlands Road

Access also possible from Beverlands Road. Access across unformed legal road to lake edge reserve. Note: may not be suitable to launch boats in low water periods.

5. Herbert Road

Access across private land. Landowner permission required.

6. Slater Road

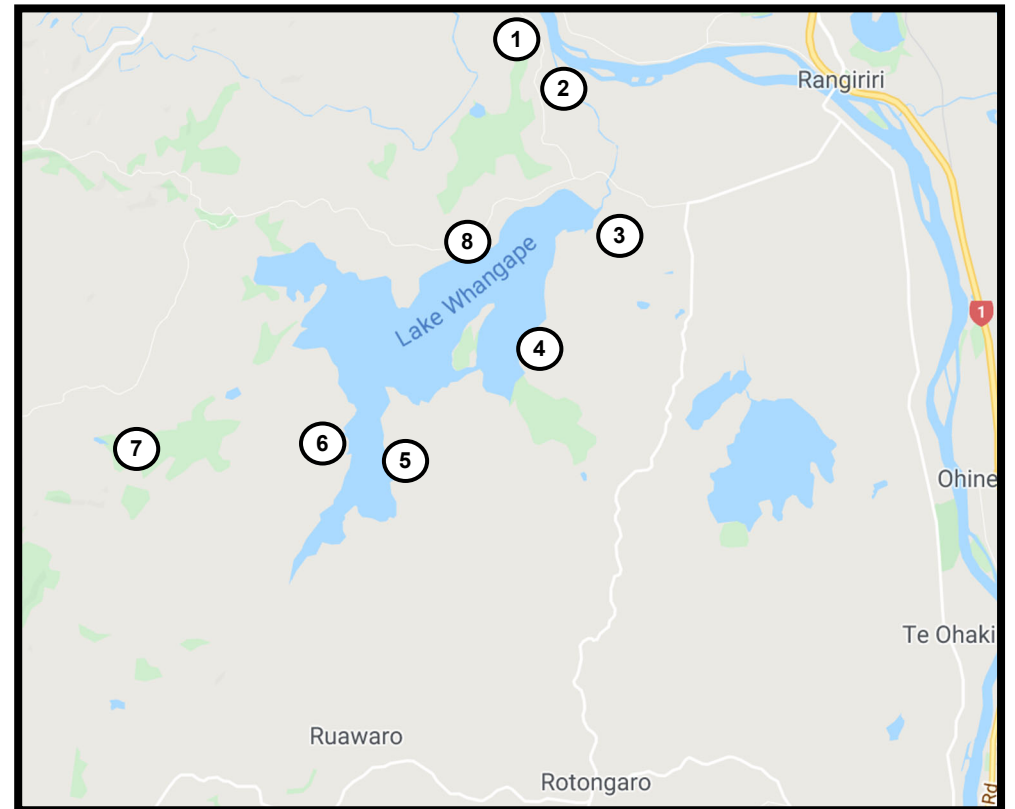
Access across private land. Landowner permission required.

7. Awaroa Swamp/Stream

Most practical access to stream across private land.

8. Shuggs Landing.

Off Glen Murray Road has good off-road parking and is a preferred boat launch site. There is no boat ramp and 4wd is recommended to launch boats at this location especially when the lake is low.



LAKES ROTONGARO, LITTLE ROTONGARO AND OKOWHAO

LAKES ROTONGARO AND LITTLE ROTONGARO (also known as Ratongaro-iti)

Wildlife Management Reserves—DoC Permit required. Some 340 hectares of open water connected by shallow canal and surrounded by farmland. Often popular area for geese. A DOC permit is required

Access Points

- 1. Pukekapia Road**
Vehicular and foot access to southern Lake Rotongaro from Pukekapia Road then along unformed public road to lake. Boat access probably summer only.
- 2. Rotongaro-Rangiriri Road**
Vehicular and foot access across private lands. Landowner permission required. Provides access to northern Rotongaro lake.
- 3. Rotongaro-Rangiriri Road**
Legal unformed public road provides difficult foot access to Little Rotongaro-iti.
- 4. Rotongaro-Rangiriri Road**
Private land affords practical access only to Lake Little Rotongaro. Landowner permission required.

LAKE OKOWHAO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RESERVE

12 hectares of open water, surrounded by DOC reserve. DOC permit required.

- 5. Okowhao Road, Huntly**
Legal public vehicle access via farm race to the western edge of reserve.
- 6. Te Ohaki Road, Huntly**
Practical vehicular and foot access via private land. Landowner permission required.



LAKE WAAHI

LAKE WAAHI

522 hectares of open water making it the third largest lake in district. Open to all waterfowl including Canada geese. Improvement in adjacent mine discharges is allowing this lake to return to its former glory as a popular hunting location.

Access Point

1. Weavers Crossing, Huntly

Boat ramp at Weavers Crossing just west of Huntly provides good access to all of lake. Private land is another option (landowner permission required).



LOWER WAIKATO RIVER

WAIKATO RIVER

Mercer to Cambridge provides many kilometers of extremely productive hunting - especially drift shooting from an unpowered boat, (the motor must be stopped if your gun is out of its case. The exception is when recovering shot birds).

Access Points

WAIKATO RIVER MERCER TO HUNTLY

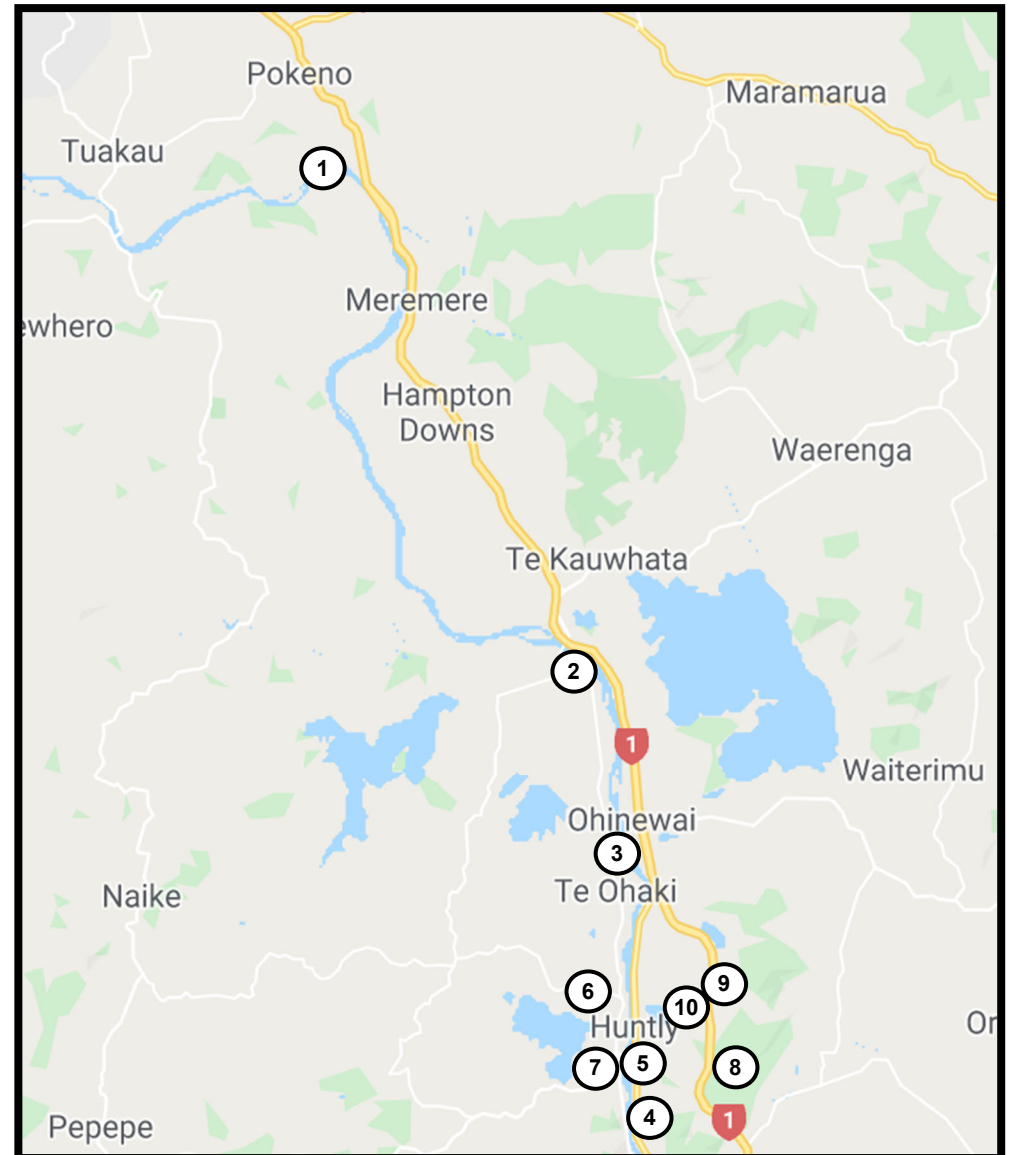
Boat ramps at:

- Mercer**
Two ramps; one beside Mercer Esplanade, one beside Riverbank Road, both beside Mercer Bridge off State Highway 1.
- Rangiriri**
Adjacent to Rangiriri Bridge off State Highway 1.
- Ohinewai**
Boat ramp gives Waikato River access. Known as Ferry Landing, end of Ferry Landing Road, Ohinewai. Just off State Highway 1.
- Huntly**
Immediately upstream of Tainui Bridge on true left bank.
- Huntly**
On true right bank just outside town limits by public toilets.
- Huntly**
On true left bank just north of Lake Waahi outlet. Metal ramp with reasonable parking.
- Huntly**
On true left bank at end of Parry Street in Huntly west. Concrete ramp.

LAKE KIMIHIA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RESERVE

59 hectares. Was 300 hectares but drained in 1960's for coal mining needs. DoC permit required.

- Evans Road, Huntly East**
Boat ramp off end of Evans Road (opposite Kimihia Road). Key required. Contact Fish & Game office Hamilton for current details.
- McVie Road, Huntly East**
Formed road across new SH1 to northern end of lake. Park by old quarry.
- Lake Hakanoa**
Most of the lake with Huntly East township is a wildlife refuge. By law, firearms and dogs are not permitted.

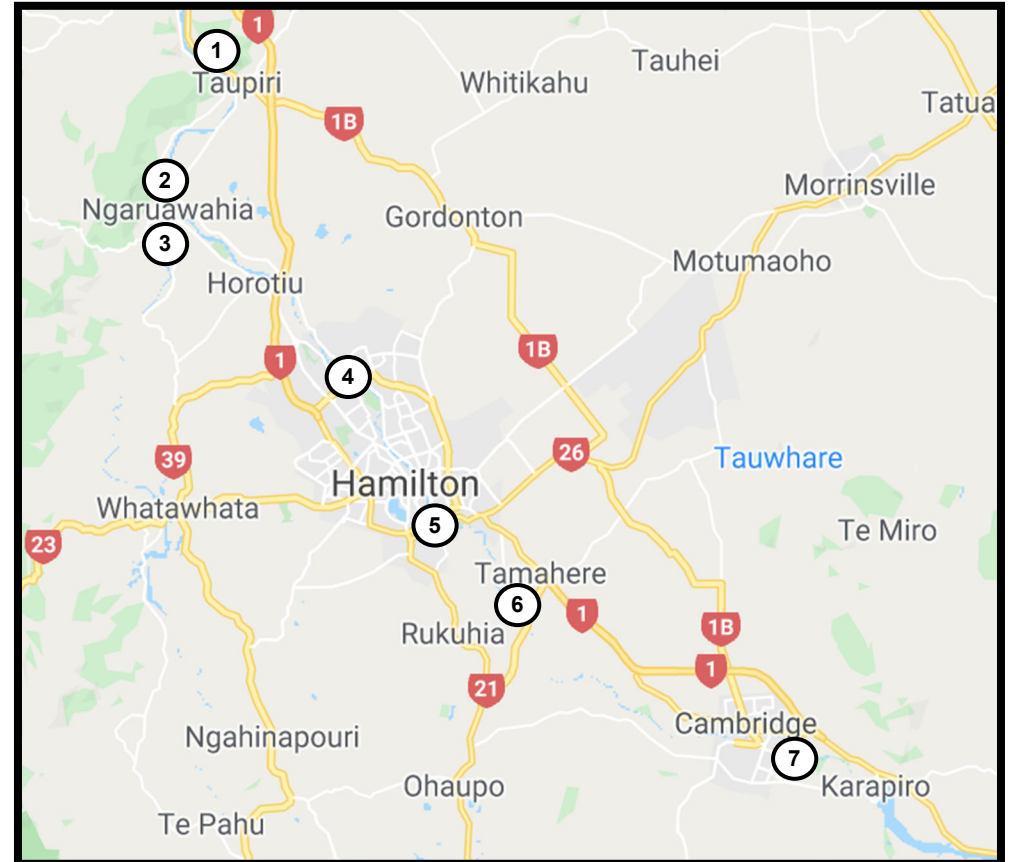


WAIKATO RIVER

WAIKATO RIVER HUNTLY TO CAMBRIDGE

Access Points

- 1. Taupiri**
Boat ramp off Thermal Explorer Highway opposite entrance to Taupiri cemetery.
- 2. Ngaruawahia**
Boat ramp below Thermal Explorer Highway in Domain off Lower Waikato Esplanade (behind bandstand), at confluence of Waikato and Waikato Rivers.
- 3. Ngaruawahia**
Boat ramp off Waikato Esplanade, just upstream of Thermal Explorer Highway bridge.
- 4. Hamilton**
Boat ramp, unnamed road off northern end of Pukete Road. Note gate closure times.
- 5. Hamilton**
Grantham Street boat ramp.
- 6. Hamilton**
Narrows Boat Ramp off Narrows Lane, off Airport Road, Tamahere.
- 7. Cambridge**
Below State Highway 1 road bridge over Karapiro Stream.



HAMILTON LAKES

HORSHAM DOWNS LAKES

Hold good numbers of ducks however most available sites marked up. Worth visiting later in the season when hunting pressure declines considerably. No powerboats are allowed on these lakes apart from Kainui.

Access Points

1. Lake Are Are

33 hectares of open water with legal access via 2 unformed paper roads off Ormsby Road. Hunter parking at end of Ormsby Road. Also, hunter access and off-road parking off Driver Road. Legal foot access around entire lake margin or negotiated access through private land. DoC permit required.

2. Lake B

Crown owned lake some 15 hectares in size with 40 hectares of associated wetlands. Access available off Bankier Road but requires landowner permission. DoC permit required.

3. Lake D (Kainui)

25 hectares of open water. Foot access from Lake Road or private access via adjoining landowners. Legal foot access around whole margin of lake.

4. Lake Rotokauri

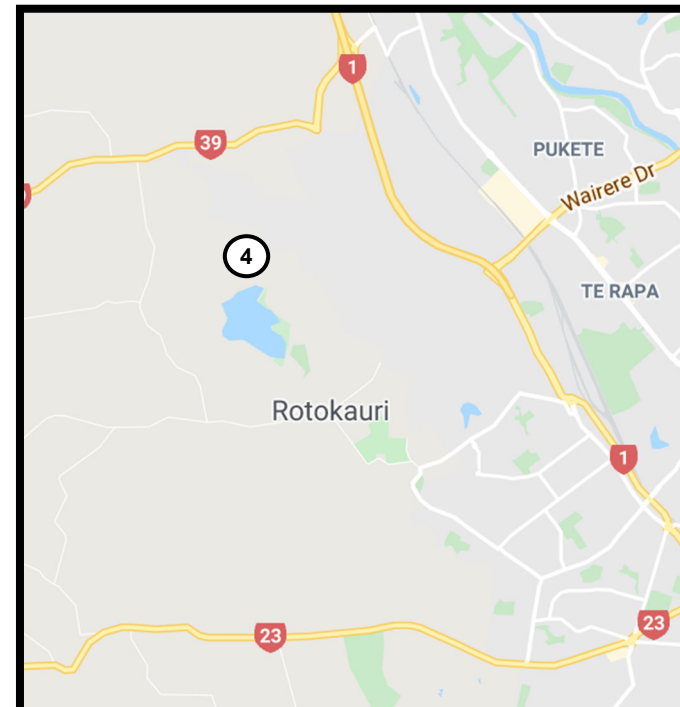
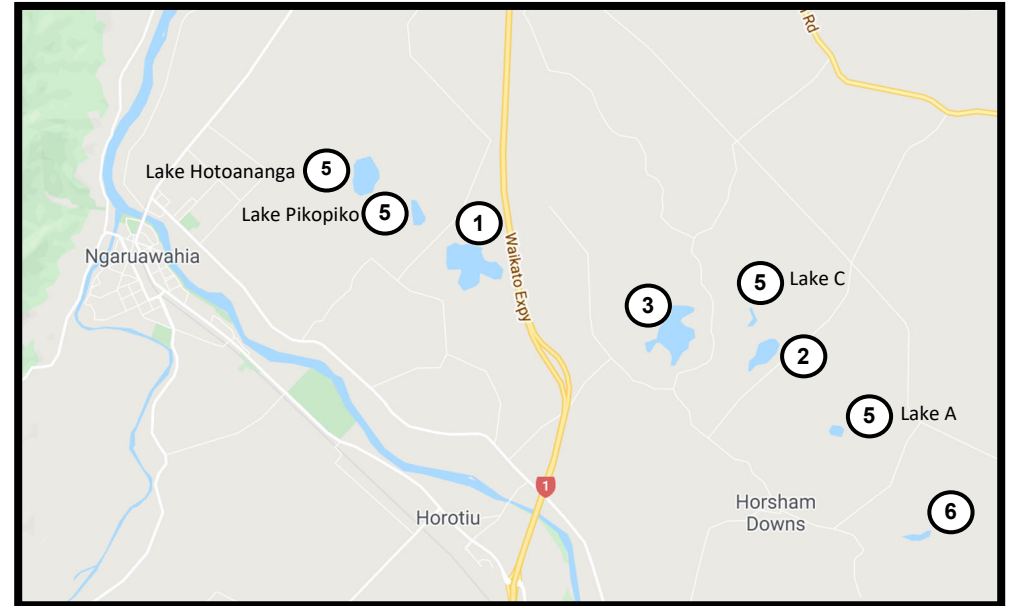
143 hectares. Access by two unformed legal roads across farmland, one from Exelby Road to north, the other from Bunyard Road to south. Hunting access controlled by local Fish & Game User Group who manage hunting on the lake and can be contacted via Fish & Game office by interested hunters. DoC permit required.

5. Lake Pikopiko, Lake C, Lake A and Lake Hotoananga (Magazine Lake)

Private access available to these small lakes - landowner permission required. DoC permit required.

6. Lake E (Hurrell's Lake)

Public access available to lake but half has wildlife refuge status and the remaining is in private ownership.



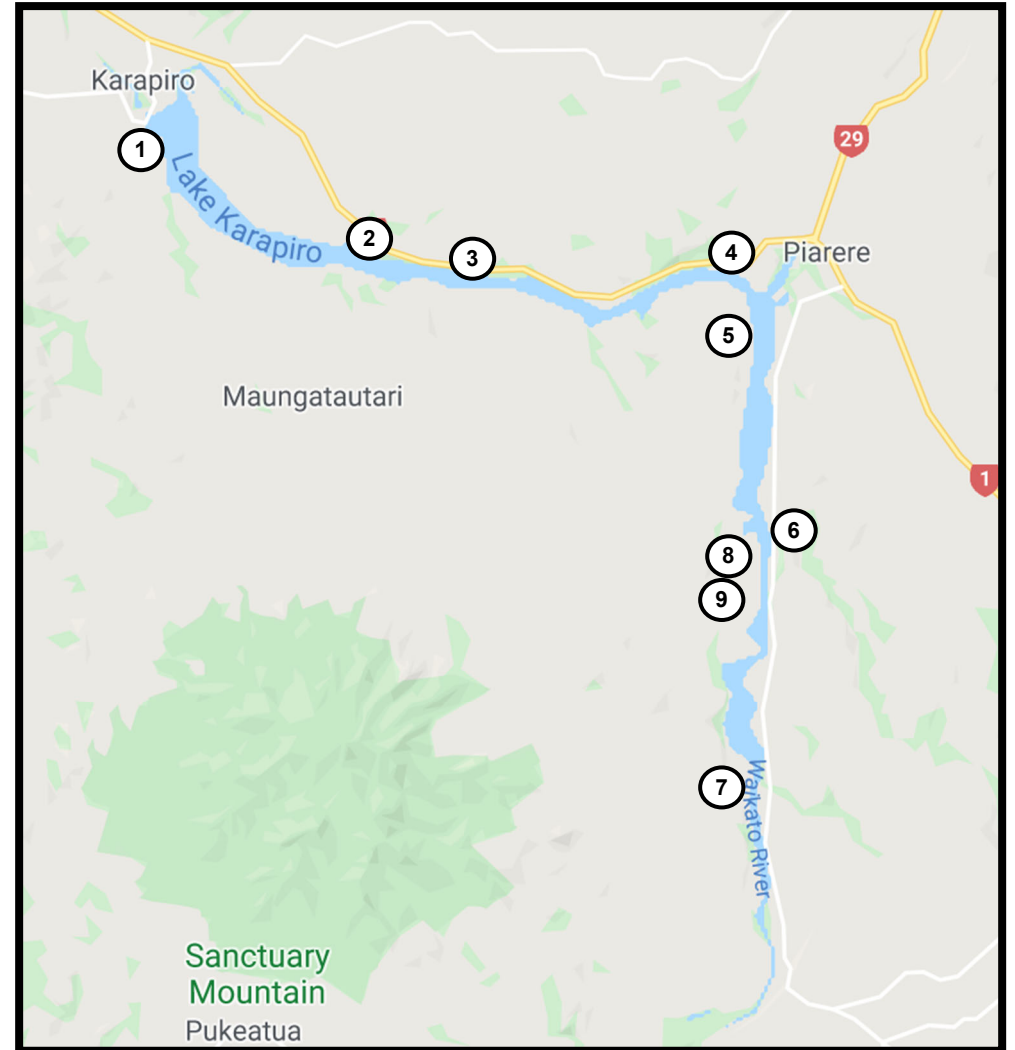
LAKE KARAPIRO

Vast weed beds and still quiet backwaters provide some hunting opportunity, however pronounced lake level fluctuation swings can affect hunting. Also popular for other recreational activities such as rowing and wake boarding.

Access Points

Boat ramps at:

- 1. Karapiro Domain**
Boat ramp gives access to western arm of lake.
- 2. State Highway 1, Karapiro Straight (Keely's Reserve)**
Reserve with boat ramps provide access to mid reaches of lake.
- 3. State Highway 1, Karapiro Straight (Monaroa Reserve)**
Reserve with boat ramps provides access to mid reaches of lake.
- 4. Bob's Landing, Karapiro Straight**
Entry is diagonal to and below the Tirau Road (SH1) and Maungatautari Road intersection.
- 5. Horahora Domain**
Horahora Reserve off Maungatautari Road, Horahora. Boat ramps provide access to "Stumpy Bay" and lake further south. (Camping permitted—fully self contained campervans only, short term stays. No freedom camping).
- 6. Aniwanawa Reserve**
Foot access only from Horahora Road near Pokaiwhenua Stream mouth.
- 7. Little Waipa Domain**
Boat Ramp off Horahora Road where Waipa Stream enters Lake Karapiro gives access to wide calm backwaters and swifter areas upstream (camping permitted—fully self contained campervans only permitted).
- 8. Finlay Park**
Boat Ramp at end of Finlay Road Horahora on western side of Lake Karapiro. Private access but made available to public on request.
- 9. Epworth Camp**
Boat Ramp at end of Finlay Road, Horahora. Private access but made available to public on request.



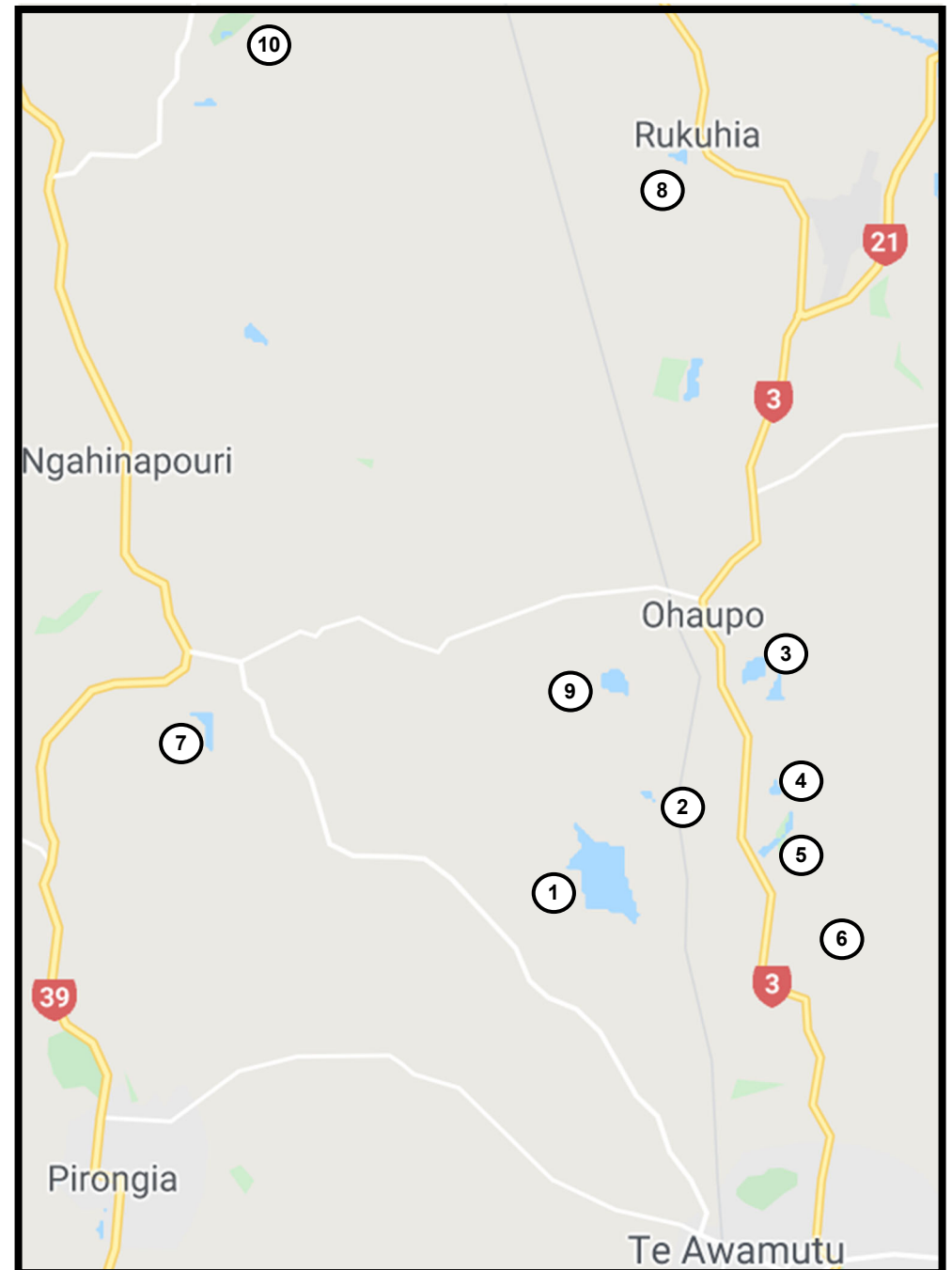
WAIPA DISTRICT LAKES

As with Horsham Downs lakes most sites claimed, however hunting pressure declines after first fortnight of season providing good hunting opportunity for itinerant hunters.

Beware that there are special conditions on sites administered by Waipa District Council so be sure to get one of their gamebird permits where required – it's free!

Access Points

- Lake Ngaroto**
108 hectares of open water with adjoining 42 hectares recreational reserve. Boat ramp off Bank Road. Good foot access around lake margin. DoC and Waipa District Council access permits required for gamebird hunting.
- Lake Ngarotoiti Wildlife Management Reserve**
DoC permit required. Waipa District Council permit will be required if you access esplanade reserve on part of the lake margin.
- Lake Rotomanuka Wildlife Management Reserve**
DoC and Waipa District Council access permits required for gamebird hunting.
- Northern Lake Rotopiko Wildlife Management Reserve**
DoC and Waipa District Council access permits required for gamebird hunting. Do NOT discharge firearms in direction of East Rotopiko Lake.
- East Rotopiko Lake, (Serpentine Lake)**
Note that this is now the National Wetlands Discovery Centre and is permanently closed to gamebird hunting - but visitors otherwise welcome.
- Lake Rotopataka Wildlife Management Reserve**
Two hectares. Foot access down to lake from Thompson Road off State Highway 3. DoC permit required for gamebird hunting.
- Lake Mangakaware, (a.k.a. Krippner's Lake)**
Shooting from fixed stands only. Permits from Waipa District Council. Legal access off Anderson Road.
- Lake Kareatahi, Rukuhia, (a.k.a. Cameron Lake or Rukuhia Lake)**
Signposted off Rukuhia Road. Shooting from fixed stands only. Permits from Waipa District Council.
- Lake Ruatuna Wildlife Management Reserve, Ohaupo**
Signposted access off Ryburn Road. DoC and Waipa District Council permits required for gamebird hunting.
- Lake Koromatua, Temple View Wildlife Management Reserve**
DoC permit required for gamebird hunting. Waipa District Council permit will be required if accessing esplanade reserves.



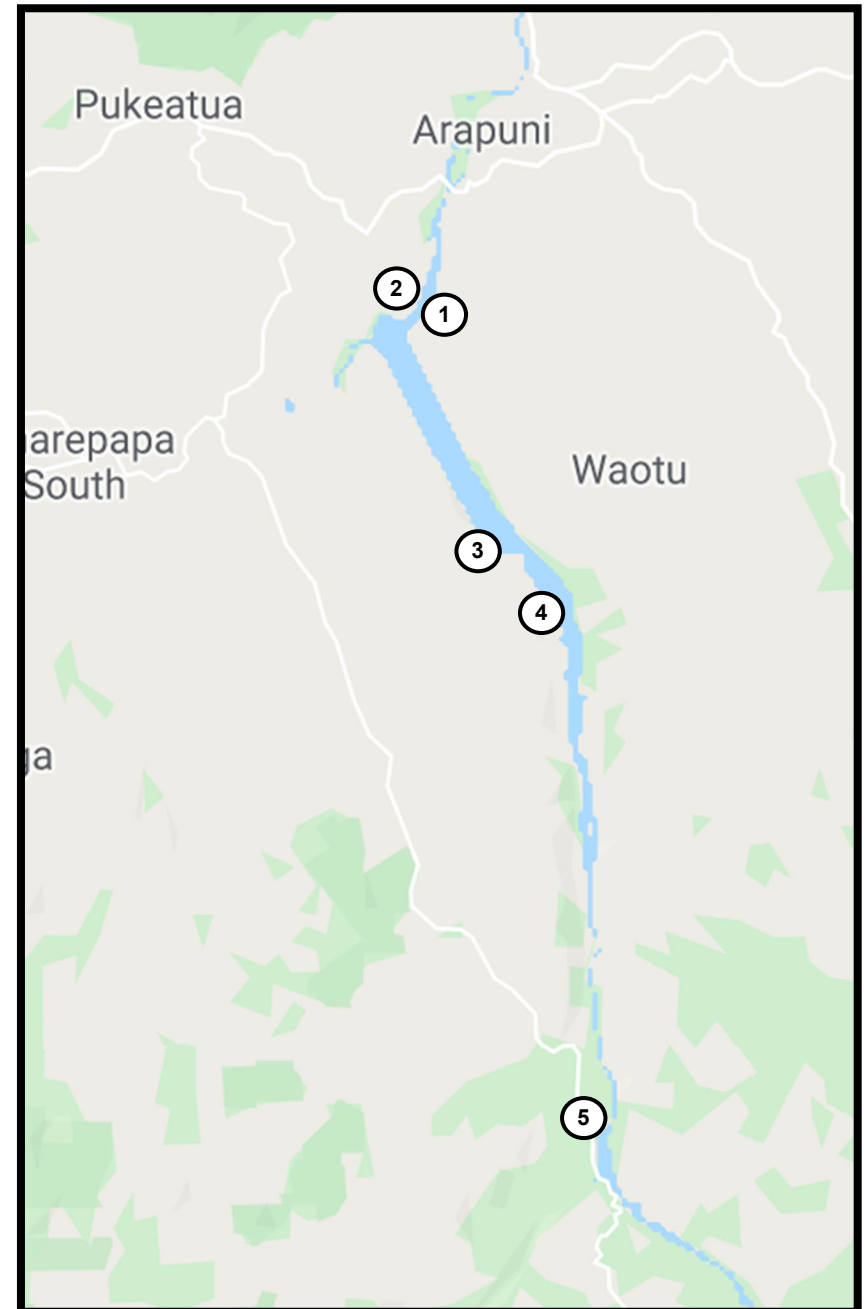
LAKE ARAPUNI

As with Karapiro still water in upper part of lake along with weed beds provide some duck habitat.

Access Points

Boat ramps at:

- 1. Jones Landing**
Jones Landing boat ramp off Lake (Arapuni) Road. Provides access to whole lake especially north eastern arm. Camping (fully self contained campervans only) permitted short term.
- 2. Bulmers Landing**
Boat ramp at end of Bulmer Road.
- 3. Arapuni Landing**
Boat ramp at Arapuni Landing Road
- 4. The Landing**
Landing Road off Mangare Road - gravel road where farm gates must be left as you found them.
- 5. Waipapa Road**
Boat ramp below Waipapa Dam gives access to upper end of lake.



LAKE WAIPARA

As with Karapiro and Arapuni still waters in upper part of lake along with weed beds provide some duck habitat.

Access Points

1. **Waipapa Road**
Boat ramp upstream of dam face off Waipapa Road.



KING COUNTRY REGION

Access Points

WAIPA RIVER

Boat ramp at confluence of Waikato and Waipa at Lower Waikato Esplanade/Broadway Street, Ngaruawahia. Productive drift shooting the length of the river later in season. Access can also be gained upon request from bordering landowners.

RAGLAN, AOTEA AND KAWHIA HARBOURS

Provide good hunting for swan, paradise shelduck and dabbling ducks. Access available from public boat ramps near townships and adjacent landowners. See online for options.

THE DEEP SOUTH - THE KING COUNTRY

Other than the major waterways that are suitable for drift shooting there are limited public and DoC lands available for waterfowl hunting in our southern region.

The area however is considerably under-utilised and contains excellent gamebird populations along with a large number of back country ponds - some 900 of which were subsidised by hunter funds during the Acclimatisation Society era.

Additional hunters in the south would assist in moving birds around making hunting much more productive in the area.

Paradise shelduck in flocks numbering in the hundreds are a major problem to farmers. Consequently hunters targeting paradise shelduck typically receive a ready welcome from farmers which can lead onto worthwhile hunting (& fishing) opportunities.

A number of Auckland hunters who have travelled down into the King Country for the March Special Paradise Season, (in years when this is operating), have discovered excellent possies abandoning their older ones further north.

An excellent area in which to try door knocking for hunting possies.



COROMANDEL PENINSULA HARBOUR AND ESTUARIES

Access Points

WHITIANGA HARBOUR

Upper harbour in tidal channels, mudflats and mangroves provides good hunting if care is taken in positioning of maimai.

Boat ramps at:

1. **Robinsons Road**
Concrete boat ramp midway along Robinsons Road.
2. **Whitianga Wharf**
Good concrete boat ramp
3. **Te Kauanga Road** (3km on Tairua side of Coroglen)
Limited parking available
4. **Kapowai and Waiwawa Rivers**
Access direct from road, however on Kapowai landowner consent required. Alternative access via direct contact with landowners.

WHANGAPOUA HARBOUR

Large area with few shooters due to its isolation.

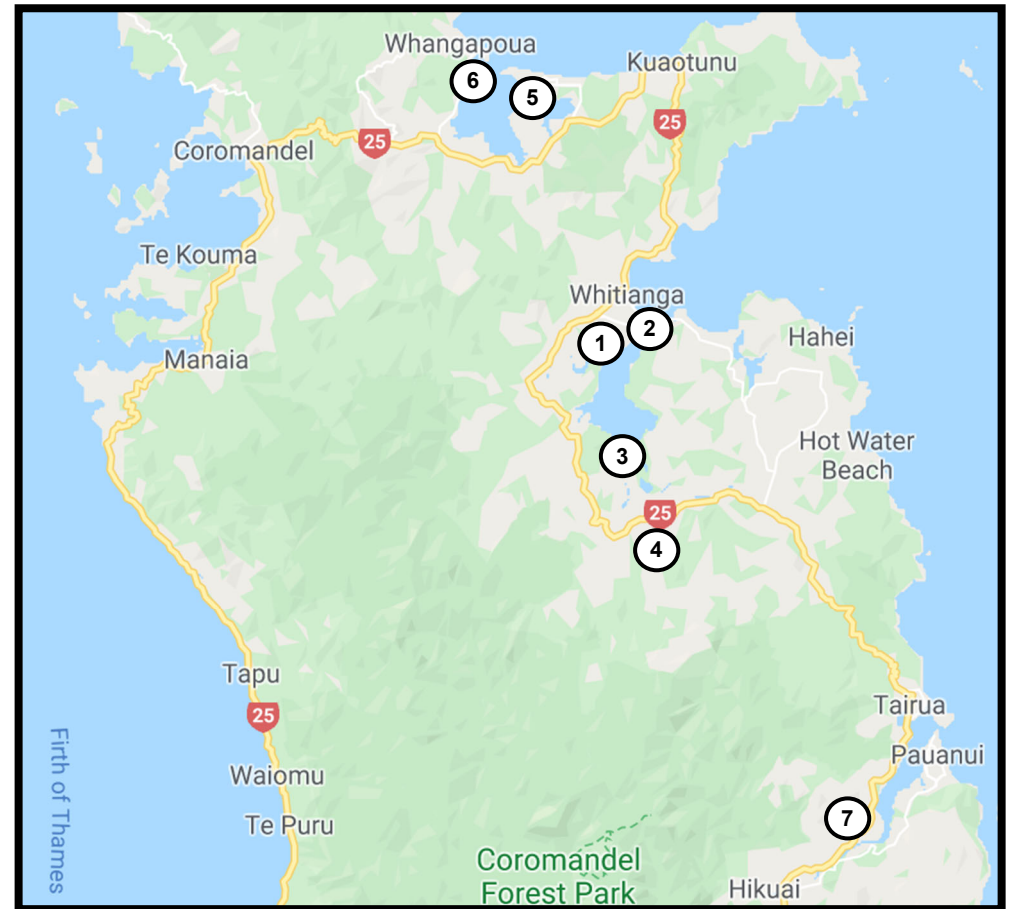
Boat ramps at:

5. **Wharf at Matarangi Beach**
Good ramp available.
6. **Wharf at Whangapoua**
Or via direct contact with landowners.

TAIRUA HARBOUR

Upper harbour and river provide hunting opportunities.

7. **Tairua**
Off SH25 at several points between Pauanui turn-off and Tairua. Note concentrations of Paradise Shel-duck in area.



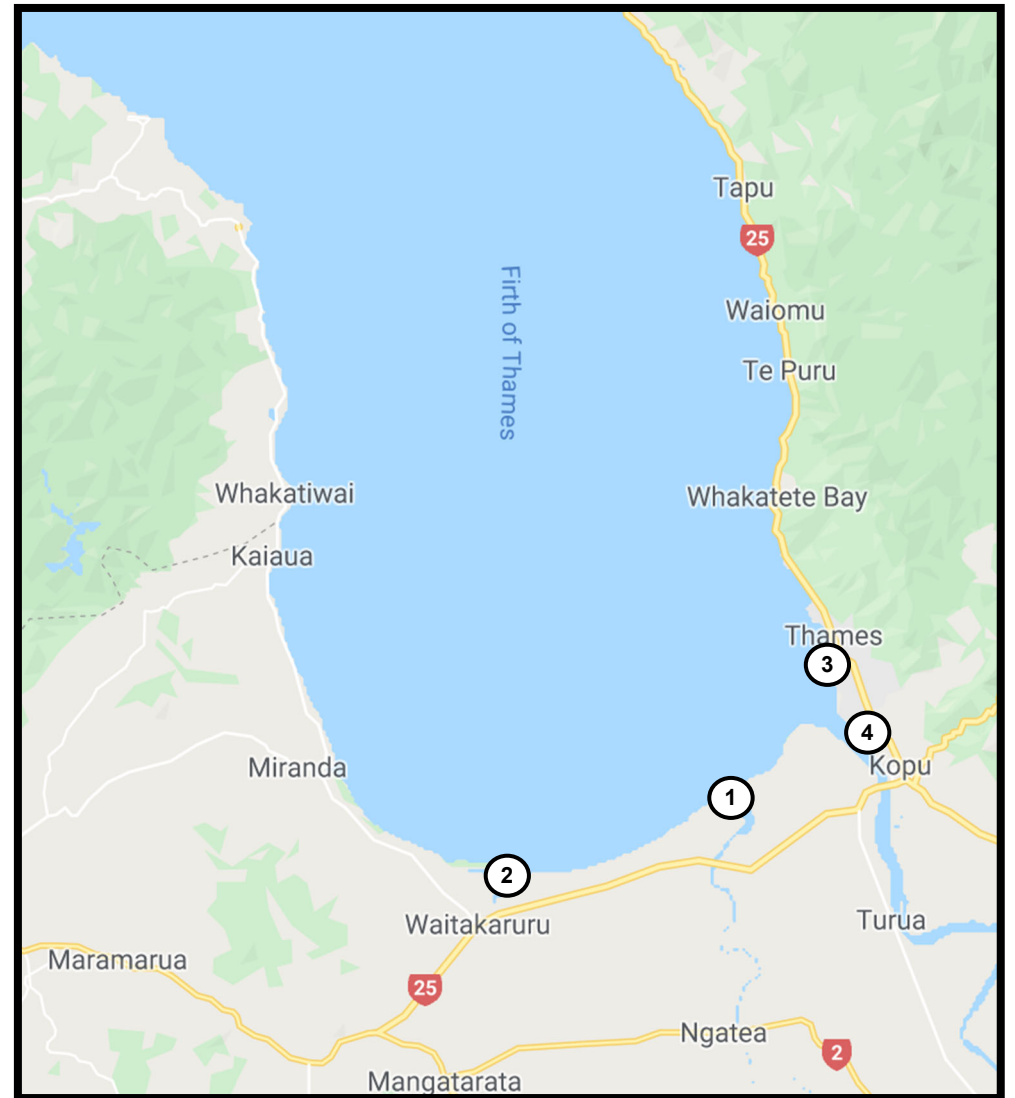
FIRTH OF THAMES

An area that hosts literally thousands of ducks. Hunting best at the top of the tide when ducks roosting on the mud are forced to move.

Hunting using floaters (boats dressed into maimais) get under the flightlines and enjoy spectacular hunting.

Access Points

1. **Pipiroa Boat Ramp** (Buchanan Road, off SH25)
Boat ramp gives access to Piako River and from then onto the Firth.
2. **Waitakaruru River Boat Ramp** (Opposite Canal West Road, Waitakaruru)
Boat ramps gives access to the Firth.
3. **Thames Wharf**
See Waihou section.
4. **Kopu Bridge access to Waihou River and Firth.**
See Waihou section.

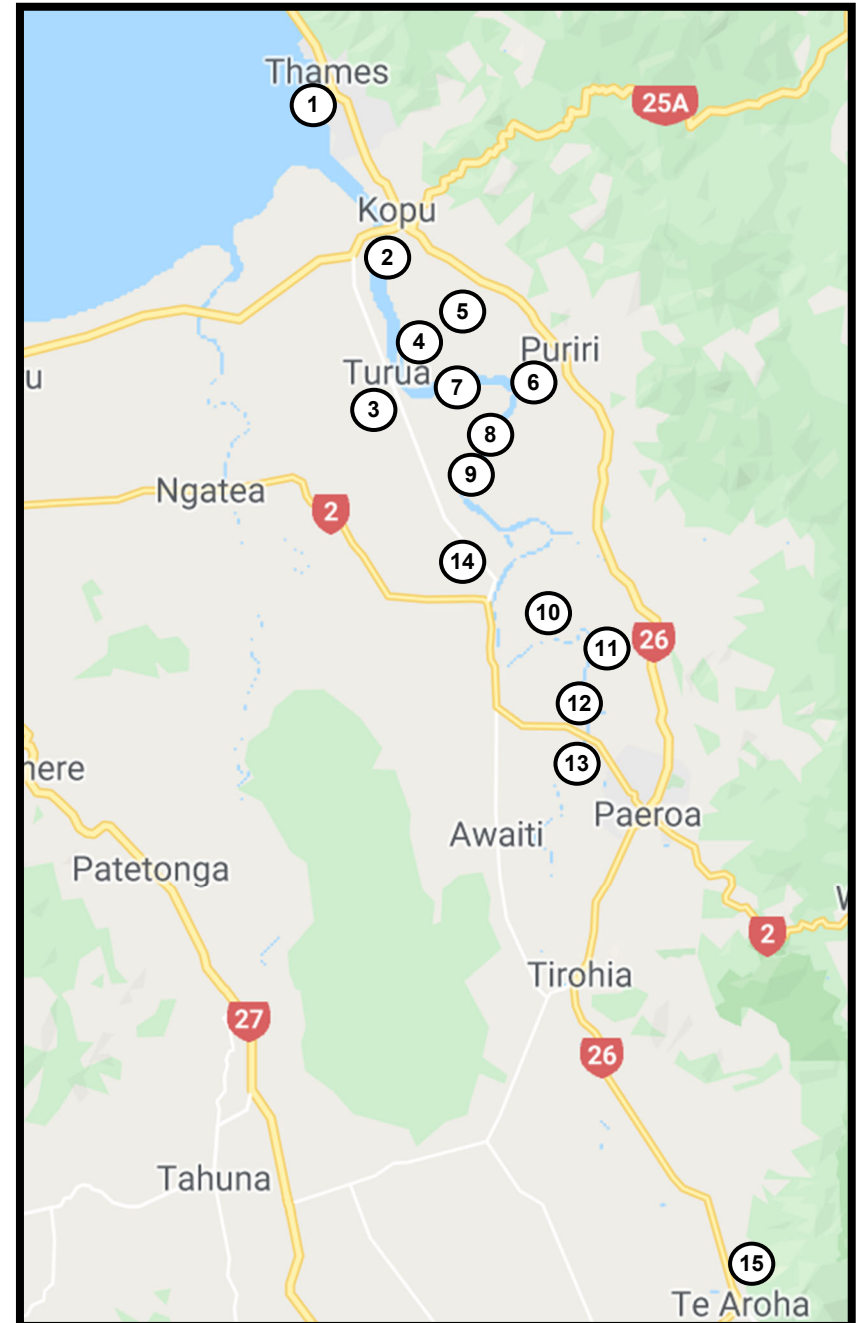


LOWER WAIHOU RIVER

Popular hunting area especially around Puriri/Netherton Bends. Fish & Game has recently initiated and co-ordinated an extensive fencing and replanting programme of the river involving some seventy kilometers which will return this area to its former glory.

Access Points

- 1. Thames Wharf**
Boat ramp located at main Thames Wharf at southern end of township.
- 2. Kopu Boat Ramp, opp. Quay Street, Kopu**
Boat ramp located off the true right hand bank of Waihou in industrial area.
- 3. Turua**
Boat ramp located off Piako Road in middle of Turua township.
- 4. Matatoki**
Foot access over private land at end Matatoki Road. Legal access available but easier access is obtained with landowners permission.
- 5. Matatoki**
Foot access over private land at end of Wainui Road. Permission required.
- 6. Wharf Road, Puriri**
Foot and Vehicular access – From Puriri, take Station Road to Wharf Road for access to Waihou River.
- 7. Turua**
Foot access to Waihou River at end of Huirau Road.
- 8. Turua**
Foot access at end of Gumtown Road.
- 9. Hikataia**
Foot and vehicular access off Puna and Wharepoa Roads west of Hikataia.
- 10. Netherton Bend**
Foot access from Robinson Road, approximately 7km from Paeroa - Thames SH26, then Ferry Road, landowner permission required.
- 11. Rangiora Road**
Foot access from Rangiora Road, approximately 4km north of Paeroa - Thames SH26 but landowner permission required.
- 12. Waimaire Bend**
Vehicular and foot access but landowner permission required to obtain easy access off Old Main Road then Rangiora Road approximately 3km northwest of Paeroa on SH2.
- 13. Opposite the Maritime Park Museum on SH2 before Paeroa**
Boat ramp off Hubbard Road, just off SH2 next to main Waihou River bridge.
- 14. Captain Cook Landing**
Just off SH2 on Netherton-Thames Road. Boat access to Waihou River sites.
- 15. Te Aroha**
Boat ramp located just downstream of main road bridge off Honi Street and Lawrence Ave.



HAURAKI PLAINS AND PIAKO RIVER

The Piako, is a large tidal river running between Firth of Thames and Kopuatai Wetland. It holds good bird numbers, but thick mud and tidal nature make hunting extremely challenging and potentially dangerous. A boat is required to set and retrieve decoys.

Kopuatai Peat Dome Conservation Areas and Wildlife Management Reserves

New Zealand's largest remaining natural peat dome covering an area of some 10,201 hectares. The edge zones of the dome comprise open floodplain, manmade ponds and willow dominated swamp which provides superb hunting opportunity. Formation of Kopuatai Management Association comprised primarily of hunters is providing more hunter opportunity in the area.

On the true left bank of the Piako River the Waemaro, ABCD Flax Blocks, Pattersons Lagoon and Patetonga Lake are all Wildlife Management Reserves and provide good hunting opportunity.

Access Points

- 1. Tramline Road, Patetonga**
Boat ramp end of road gives access to Patersons Lagoon and Patetonga Lake, wildlife Management Reserves. DoC permit required for both.
- 2. Maukoro Landing Road, Patetonga**
Boat ramp off Maukoro Landing Road. Also provides foot access to ABCD Flax Blocks, DoC permit required.
- 3. Waemaro Wildlife Management Reserve**
Boat entry off confluence Piako River & Waitoa Canal. DoC permit required.
- 4. Dagger Road, Kerepehi**
Foot access along eastern riverbank from Dagger Road to the Loop, DoC permit required.

PIAKO RIVER

A. Pipiroa

Boat ramp at Pipiroa, off Buchanan Rd, gives access to mangrove areas at river mouth. A very popular area with hunters. Also provides launching point for Firth of Thames.

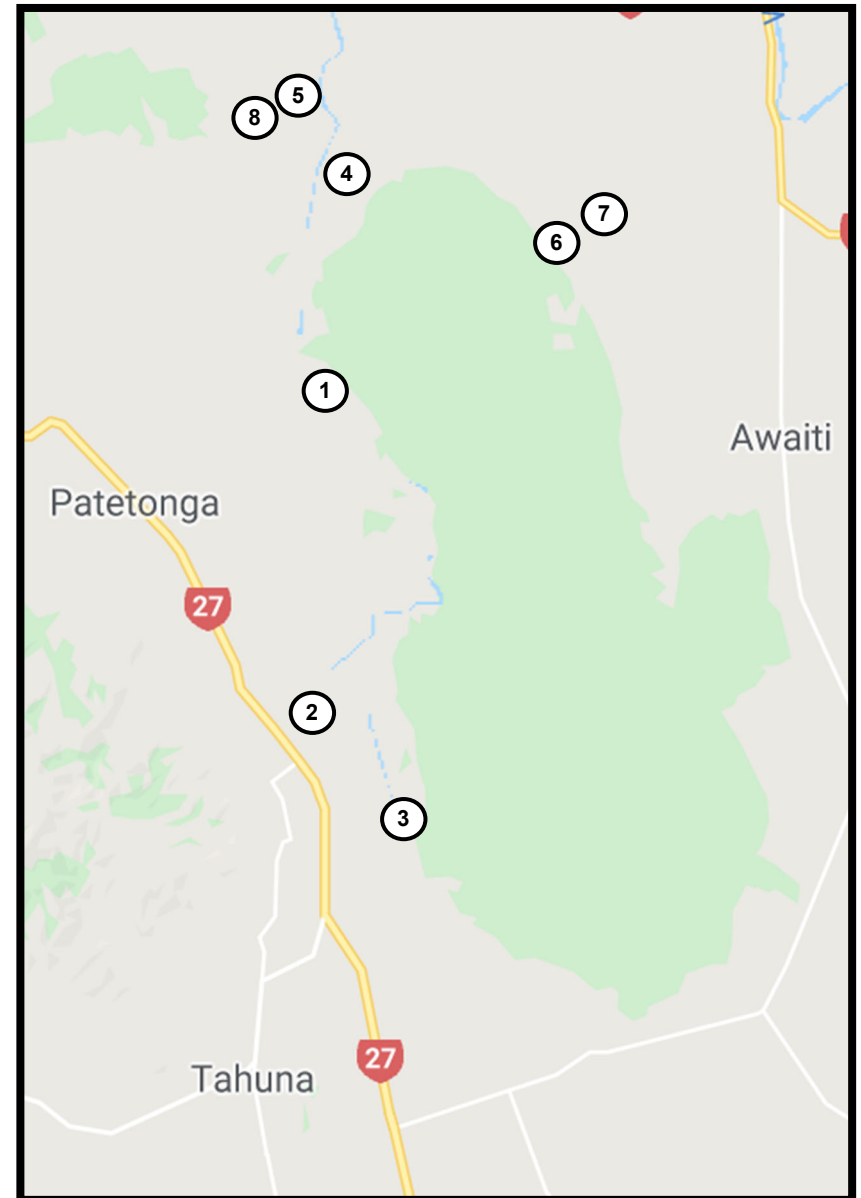
B. Ngatea

Boat launch opposite Rowing Club in Ngatea-Kaihere Road, off SH2.

C. Kerepehi

Boat ramp (concrete) located at western side of Kerepehi. Turn right just after leaving township before Awaiti Canal Bridge.

- 5. Kaihere**
Boat ramp (metal) off Kaihere Road at right-angled bend in road approximately 6kms from Ngatea.
- 6. Off Awaiti Canal Road**
Entry to Elstow Canal Conservation Area. DoC permit required.
- 7. Off Awaiti Canal Road**
Entry to Awaiti Canal Conservation Area. DoC permit required.
- 8. Off Torehape Road and also Kaihere Road**
Torehape Wetland Management Reserve. DoC permit required.

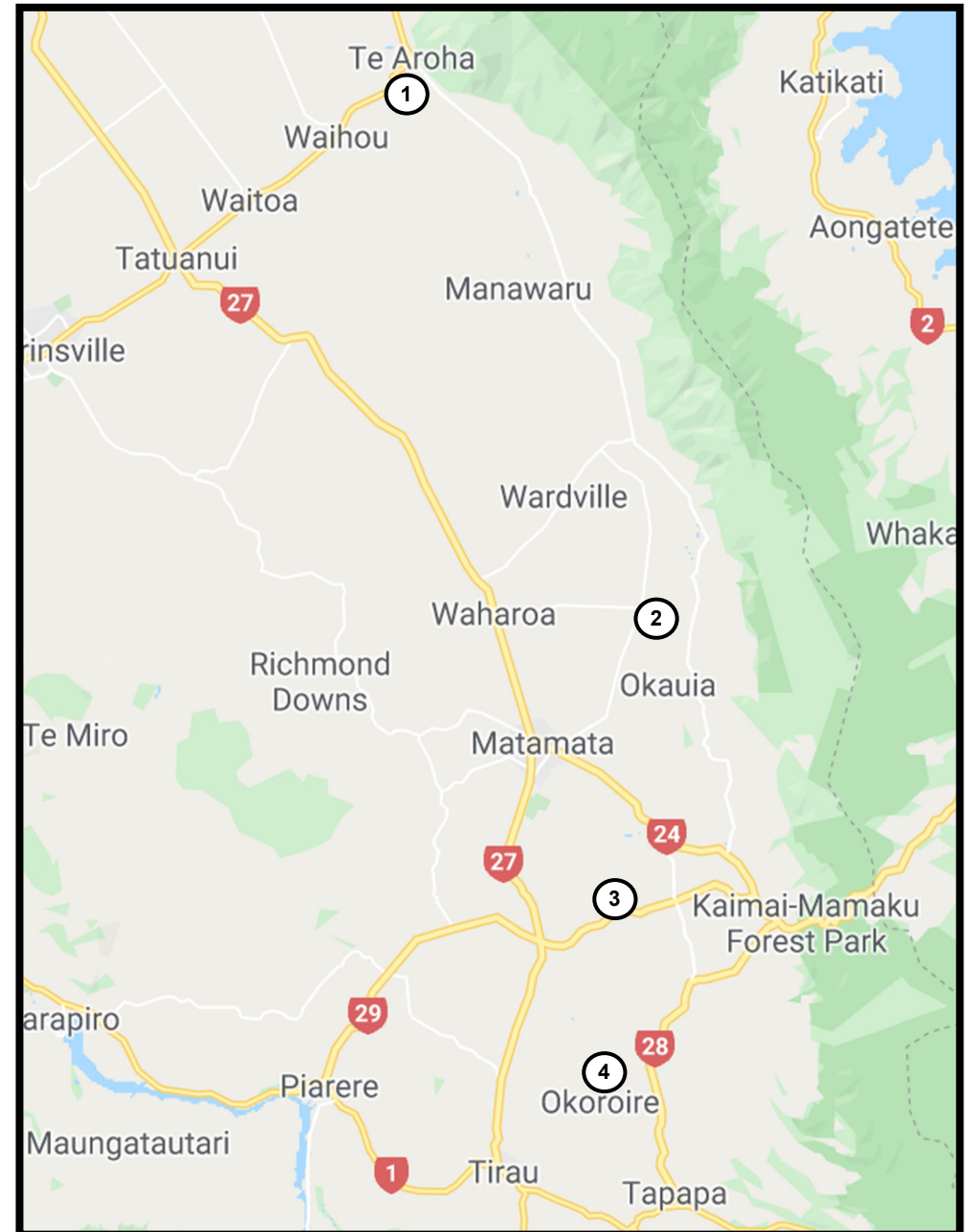


UPPER WAIHOU RIVER

Next biggest river in the district after Waikato wherein drift shooting downstream from Okoroire Falls is popular.

Access Points

- 1. Te Aroha**
Boat access - located just downstream of main road bridge off Honi Street and Lawrence Ave.
- 2. Okoroire Road**
Relic jet boat operators jetty sited on public road reserve just above the bridge on Okoroire Road. Suitable access to carry small tinnie or canoe down to river and launch.
- 3. Hinuera Area**
North end Rangitunuku Road just before SH29 Karapiro-Tauranga Road bridge, 3km from Hinuera. Again suitable place to take small boat/canoe out of river.
- 4. Okuaia Springs**
Small boat access approximately 3km North East of Matamata and then 2km down Okuaia Springs Road.



FORESTS

There are a number of Rayonier Forests in the Auckland/Waikato area which provide excellent pheasant and quail hunting opportunities. The Hamilton office of Auckland Waikato Fish & Game Council issues these forest access permits on behalf of Royonier. One permit fee covers all 4 forests. This fee covers the permit, coloured maps and public liability insurance while hunting in any of these Rayonier forests.

For up to date permit fee information, see the current issue of Gamebird Hunting Guide Regulations: North Island - the small booklet that should come with your hunting licence.

Hunters requiring a permit must provide the following details and send into our Hamilton office with payment (typically via internet banking).

1. Name, address and phone numbers.
2. Date of birth.
3. Gamebird licence number.
4. Firearms licence number.
5. Vehicle registration.
6. Dog registration number.

1. **Mahurangi Forest, Warkworth**
2. **Tairua Forest - Whangamata**
3. **Maramarua Forest - Te Kauwhata**
4. **Waihou Forest - Te Aroha**

