

# GOVERNORS BAY

## HARBOUR, HILLS AND HERITAGE WALKS

Explore the head of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour from shore to summit



### Choose Your Governors Bay Walk



### Key to walks

- 1 Seashore Stroll and Scramble** – 1 hour return. Discover two hidden sandy beaches safe for swimming. Good option for families with mixed abilities.
- 2 Foreshore Track** – 1½ hour return. Easy stroll or great family bike ride along the old foreshore road with fantastic views up the harbour.
- 3 Governors Bay Heritage Trail** – 1½ hour circular. Appreciate the history and find some historic gems on this gentle loop route with lovely harbour views.
- 4 Experience Ōhinetahi Reserve** – 2 hours circular. A steep climb is rewarded with elevated views and a bush walk.
- 5 Mt Ada Grand Loop** – 5-6 hours circular. Hit the hills and climb 500m to the summit traversing Ōhinetahi Reserve. Saunter along the crater rim then descend steeply back to Governors Bay.

**Other Tracks in the area** – Visit [summitroadsociety.org.nz](http://summitroadsociety.org.nz) to download map of all tracks in Ōhinetahi Reserve. Visit [ccc.govt.nz/walking-track-map](http://ccc.govt.nz/walking-track-map) for an interactive map of Port Hills tracks or pick-up brochure from library or i-SITE.

	Well formed track surface, easy walking		Walk on formed track. Some up and down. Wear walking shoes
	Easy tramping on formed, signposted track. Wear walking shoes or tramping boots		Tramping on mostly unformed track. Prolonged up and down hill. Boots recommended
	EASIEST grade mountain bike – shared use with walkers		Mountain bikes not permitted
	Dogs permitted on leads		Dogs prohibited

### OTHER BROCHURES AVAILABLE IN THIS SERIES

Lyttelton Town and Hills, Diamond Harbour Coastal and Village Loop Walks, Akaroa/Wairewa Summits and Bays, Akaroa Country Walks, Akaroa Village Walks.

For more information see [www.bpwalks.co.nz](http://www.bpwalks.co.nz)

### Safety is your responsibility

**Plan, prepare and equip yourself well.**

**Tracks slippery after rain** – sturdy footwear and walking poles recommended.

**Weather can change quickly** – check forecast before departure. When cloud covers hilltops, choose a lower level walk.

**High fire danger** – absolutely no fires to be lit anywhere.

**Crossing and walking along roads** – most walks involve road crossing and short sections along roads. Keep on the footpath, dogs on leads and hold children's hands. The main road is busy with limited visibility – listen and look carefully for vehicles before crossing.

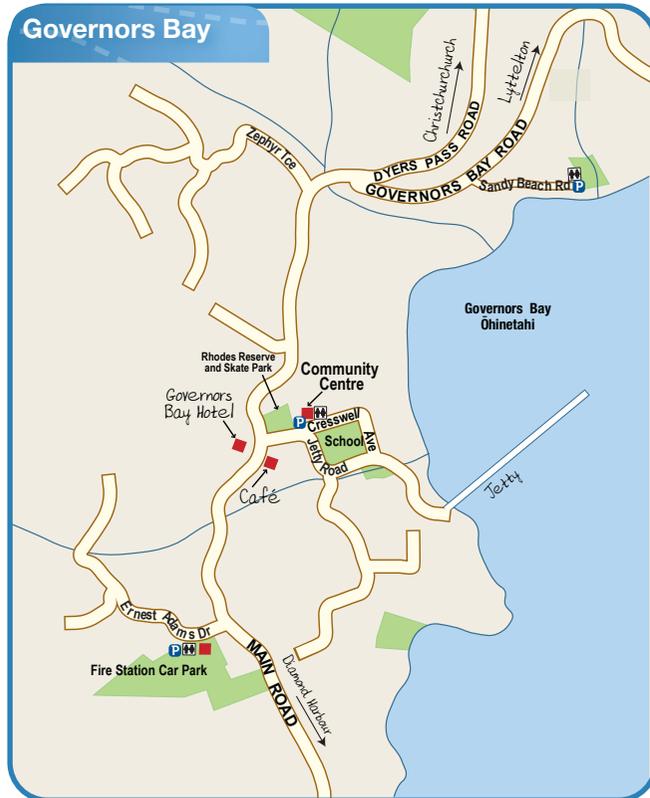
**Cliffs and other hazards** – keep children under supervision.

**Rockfall hazard** – do not linger in areas below potential rock falls.

## Getting to Governors Bay



**By Car:** Coming from Christchurch, drive over Dyers Pass Road and continue straight ahead at the bottom of the hill. Coming from Lyttelton, follow the coastal road around to Governors Bay. Parking at Fire Station, Jetty Road or Sandy Beach.



## Explore Governors Bay on Foot

Get out of your car and explore on foot to discover the hidden gems of Governors Bay.

Three easy walks take you along the coast to gentle swimming beaches, around the foreshore with views up the long harbour, and on a hunt for charming heritage buildings hidden behind high hedges.

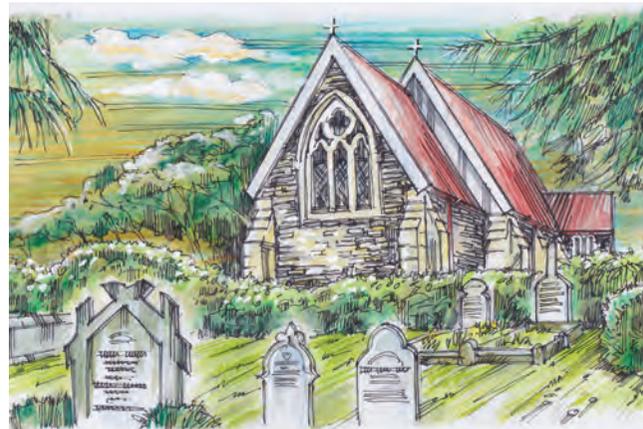
Two more challenging tramps hit the hills where lush native forest is regenerating on protected upper slopes, and open spaces and rocky outcrops afford stunning elevated views. Be aware that many of these upland tracks have been built by volunteers to provide access to the native regeneration projects. They are steep and will be slippery after rain, so be prepared for an adventure, wear shoes or boots with good soles and bring your tramping poles.

Use the map and key on page 1 to choose a route that is suitable for your ability and the weather conditions on the day. Take your brochure with you so you can find and follow your chosen route.

All routes visit the centre of Governors Bay, enabling you to relax over lunch or coffee at one of the delightful local eateries as part of your experience.

For more local information visit the local Community Association website at [governorsbay.nz](http://governorsbay.nz)

Happy Walking!



Discover secluded St Cuthbert's Church – one of the hidden gems on the Heritage Trail



## SEASHORE STROLL AND SCRAMBLE



1 hour return, 3.5km

Access to Māori Gardens Beach only at low tide.

Cliffs and scramble at end on track to Māori Gardens

Discover two hidden sandy swimming beaches. First, an easy 15 minute walk to Sandy Bay. You can leave less active group members here while those wanting more adventure continue another 15 minutes to Māori Gardens.

*At publication date first part of track is closed. Start at Sandy Bay instead. Check status on [www.bpwalks.co.nz](http://www.bpwalks.co.nz)*

**Directions:** Parking is available near

the Governors Bay Community Centre on Cresswell Ave. Walk downhill to Jetty Road until you see a gate and stairs on your left. Take the stairs down to a track following the shoreline under the trees, emerging briefly onto the beach then back into the bush. Soon you pass a Scout Den, opened in 1961 by Sir Joseph Ward, then New Zealand's Chief Scout.

Sandy Bay beach has picnic tables and a toilet. There is vehicle access and parking if non-walkers want to join you.

The track to Māori Gardens is above cliffs and can be slippery. Take care, closely supervising children. The remains of a short jetty providing deep-water access can be seen. It was dismantled in 1938 after a young boy fell over the edge and drowned. When you reach a junction take the right hand lower track passing the bench under the pine tree. (Do not head uphill – this goes to the main road). Then scramble carefully down the steep steps to the beach. Climb over the rocky shore to reach Māori Gardens. Explore the rock pools as you cross to the main beach. The classic kiwi baches were built in the early 1900s. Return route is via the same track.

### Watch for Ongaonga - Stinging Nettle

Look out for Ongaonga, the New Zealand native nettle, on the tracks. This raggedy shrub grows in regenerating forest areas alongside tracks where there is more light. It can range in size from a small young plant up to 2 m tall. **The white hairs and stems give a painful sting** even if you only brush against it and a large number of stings can be dangerous.

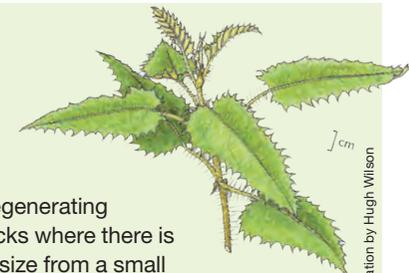


Illustration by Hugh Wilson

## FORESHORE TRACK



4.5km to 6km return or  
1½ hours return, 5 kms

Dogs on leads on track.  
Dogs prohibited on  
foreshore and mudflats  
for wildlife protection

Stroll along the foreshore of Governors Bay around to Allandale and back on a wide easy flat track, or start at Allandale and walk to Governors Bay for lunch.

The Foreshore track also makes a great bike ride for families. Watch out for walkers.

**Directions:** Starting at Governors Bay, park on Cresswell Ave. Walk along Jetty Road (opposite the Community Centre) and follow it down to the jetty.

Turn right to start the gentle foreshore stroll, signposted as Head to Head Walkway to Allandale. This is original Old Coach Road, built many years ago by prisoners from Lyttelton Gaol. Today it is a tranquil place with lovely scenery and birdlife. You will pass the Margaret Mahy Memorial Bench and Ōhinetahi Volcanic Caverns. For a bit more of an adventure, divert up around Sage Reserve, a 10 minute steep loop, then return to the foreshore track. Continue on to the Allandale Reserve car park, turning left onto the bridge at the junction. Rest, picnic and explore the beach before returning on the same track. There is a public toilet a little further on across the creek from the Reserve car park.

### Where else can I Mountain Bike?

Mountain biking is popular in the area with some amazing trails for those who are up for the challenge. In 2006 the Living Springs Trust in Allandale made land available for a series of trails to be constructed, and years of work and several thousand volunteer hours have led to a substantial track network.

Download details at <http://www.singletrack.org.nz/trail-maps/>

For daily Port Hills MTB updates check [ccc.govt.nz/find-a-ride](http://ccc.govt.nz/find-a-ride) and [ccc.govt.nz/trackstatus](http://ccc.govt.nz/trackstatus)

Another great track starts from the Summit Road near the Sign of the Kiwi, passing through Steve and Eleanor Woolf's private property to Reuter Park emerging lower on Dyers Pass Road. For more information contact the Woolf's on 03 329 9683



## Governors Bay Heritage Trail



## GOVERNORS BAY HERITAGE TRAIL

Appreciate the fascinating history of Governors Bay and visit some of its hidden gems on this lovely loop route along the Foreshore Track and back through the village. To make a longer walk continue there and back along the Foreshore Track to Allandale Reserve adding about ½ hour.



**Directions:** Start the Governors Bay Heritage Trail at the Community Centre on Jetty Road. Parking is usually available on this road.

Walk along Jetty Road above the school. Your first stop is the first cottage on the right.

### 1 William Gray's Cottage and Palm #4 Jetty Road.

William lived at this address in 1867. He laid out the grounds for H.D. Potts at Ōhinetahi Homestead and became an authority on native plants, also planting the exotic palm still in front of this cottage today. He was a vestryman, churchwarden, Council county clerk, violin-maker and also Postmaster in the bay from 1870-1910 running the Post Office from this property.

Continue straight ahead into Merlincote Crescent then left into Chlomondeley Lane and down the hill.

### 2 Cholmondeley Children's Centre

Hugh Cholmondeley purchased this site in 1898 but sadly his wife Margaret (nee Morgan) died soon after this. He gifted the site in 1919 to the Ministering Children's League and the foundation stone of a children's home was laid in 1920. A polio epidemic delayed opening until 1925. By 1957 there was also a school on-site. The original buildings were demolished after the 2011 earthquake, and Prime Minister John Key opened this new building in 2015. More than 25,000 children have received care and respite at Cholmondeley since 1925.

Follow Cholmondeley Lane left then down the steps at the end, turning right onto Jetty Road.

### 3 Governors Bay Jetty

The first *short jetty* was built here around 1874. With the harbour silting up, two extensions (1915 & 1927) were necessary, the final extension making it 228 metres long. A steamer service ran from Lyttelton on Sundays and public holidays up until the 1920s, carrying picnickers and visitors to *The Pleasure Gardens* at the Hotel. The historic, iconic jetty was closed after the 2011 earthquakes and a fundraising campaign is underway to ensure its restoration.

Walk along the coastal *Old Coach Road*, built by prisoners from Lyttelton in the 1860s. Pass the old boatshed piles, remnants of a fire in the year 2000, and continue on to the bench on the point.

#### 4 Margaret Mahy Plaque

On the rock next to the bench is a memorial plaque, remembering famous local identity Margaret Mahy. Author of numerous children's books and winner of many prestigious literature awards, she was also known for her Saturday strolls along this very track.

On a promontory about five minutes past the sewage works you will see the 'honeycomb' formations in the cliff face on the right.

#### 5 Ōhinetahi Volcanic Caverns

The trachyte rocks have weathered into these circular shapes, part of the system of dykes radiating out from the extinct Lyttelton volcano. The original fortified Ngāti Māmoē pā may have been on the promontory above the caverns.

Note the regeneration of native bush as you continue on and past Sage Reserve, a 10 minute steep loop if you want to divert and explore this local restoration project. Try and spot some kingfishers among the seabirds on the foreshore.

#### 6 Ōhinetahi Homestead

A glimpse of the magnificent homestead will soon come into view on the hillside. (Note that there is no access from the Foreshore Track, but if you wish to visit after your walk, drive to the entrance gate on the Main Road. Do not walk as the road is narrow without a footpath.)

When you reach the barrier across the track, you can extend your walk by 30 minutes or so by continuing along the Foreshore track to Allandale Reserve and back.

To continue on the Heritage Trail turn right up Church Lane, also called *Gunners Track* after *Gunner Edwards* who once had his blacksmith's shop at the top of the Lane. Take the left fork at the 'Craigievar' entrance to the Main Road, keeping children close at hand beyond this point.

When you reach the Main Road, turn left and cross over after a few meters at the yellow *Church* sign. Enter the Church grounds through the signposted gate.

#### 7 St Cuthbert's Church

The foundation stone for this very early church was laid in 1860. The church was built of local stone with the help of parishioners, the lovely porch cobblestones being carried from the beach in the women's aprons. The building was completed

in 1862 and the adjacent wooden vicarage was constructed in 1866. Many old local names can be found on the headstones in the graveyard. Severe earthquake damage in 2010 closed this heritage-listed building, but many community members worked tirelessly to ensure its renovation and re-opening, just as had been done 150 years before, declaring 'Our old Church made new'.

Look for the grave of Mary Elizabeth Small, whose story is told in the children's novel *The Runaway Settlers*.

Return to the Main Road and cross back to the other side. Then turn left along the footpath. After about a 10 minute walk, carefully cross the Main Road again to the row of letter boxes marked 108-120. Turn up Gateway 112.

#### 8 Old School and School House

The school opened in 1868 during the Provincial Government period remaining in use for nearly 100 years. The school bell, formerly mounted on the outside of the porch, was donated in 1877 from the wreck of the ship the *Ocean Mail*, grounded on the Chatham Islands. Electricity was installed in 1928, and it was used briefly in the 1960's as a rehabilitation unit for psychiatric patients. Later gaining a heritage listing, it was restored by the Governors Bay Heritage Trust in 1998. The schoolmaster's house next door was also built in 1868, designed at the time to be large enough to house 8-10 boarders.

Cross back over the Main Road. Turn left along the footpath.

#### 9 The Governors Bay Hotel

This was originally the local store. In 1867 the store and adjacent land were purchased by Mary Hauck and in November 1870 Richard Henry Chattaway and William James Birch announced that they had opened the *Governors' Bay Hotel*, also known as the *Ocean View Family Hotel*. By the early 1900s when Edward Brownie took over as proprietor, the hotel accommodated many passengers arriving by coach and the steam ferries that moored at the two wharves in the bay. With beautiful grounds, known during this era as *The Pleasure Gardens*, it was a favourite place for honeymooners and was a popular base for holidays and recreation.

End your circuit with refreshments at the Hotel, or the Café over the road, before returning to the Community Centre. Note that the Rhodes Reserve next to the Community Centre is also a lovely picnic spot to conclude your day.

### Ōhinetahi Homestead

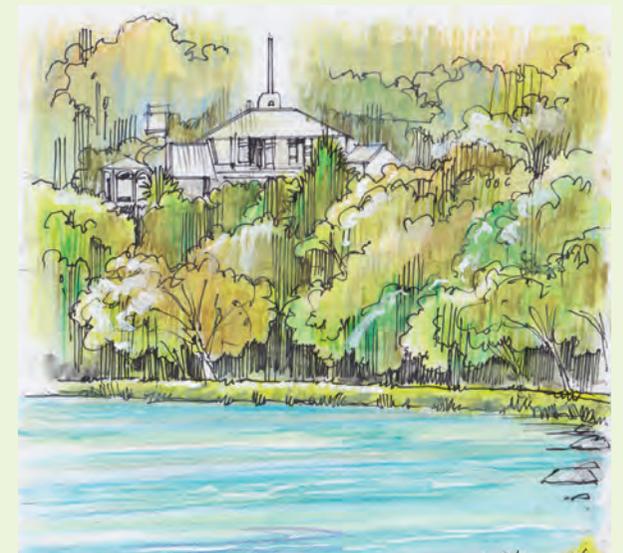
Thomas Potts, politician, farmer and early conservationist, established this grand homestead between 1863 and 1867 to house his large family. A passionate botanist, Potts sent out seeds and specimens from Kew Gardens in London before emigrating, enabling him to establish a lovely garden around his homestead.

Potts observed and wrote extensively about New Zealand birdlife and recognised the impact that ruthless native forest clearance was having on the native birds. He was one of the first to lobby for conservation measures.

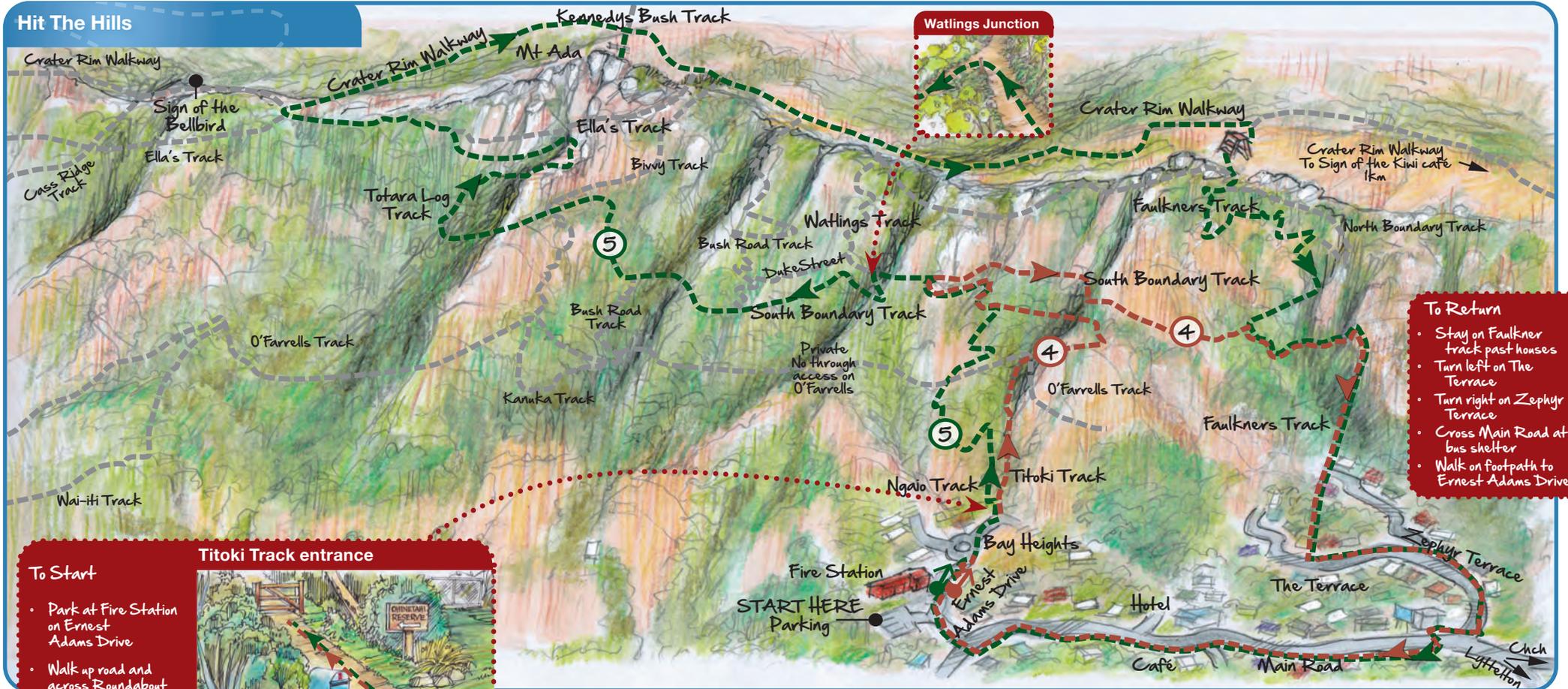
In 1977 the homestead was purchased by renowned architect Miles Warren (later Sir Miles), with his sister Pauline Tregrove and husband John. The house was restored and one of New Zealand's finest gardens created, displaying many sculptures in its magnificent formal grounds. The homestead suffered extensive damage in the 2010 earthquakes. Sir Miles Warren subsequently carried out a major reconstruction and then gifted the Category 1 homestead and its beautiful garden to the nation. It is now owned by the Ōhinetahi Charitable Trust.

Ōhinetahi is open to visitors 1 September–31 March, 10:00am to 4:00pm

For more information Email [info@ohinetahi.co.nz](mailto:info@ohinetahi.co.nz) or Phone 03 329 9852



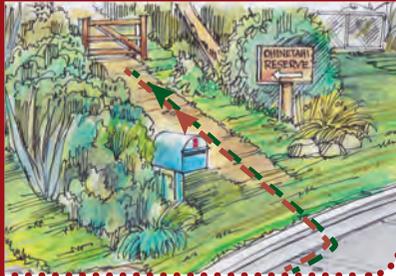
## Hit The Hills



### To Start

- Park at Fire Station on Ernest Adams Drive
- Walk up road and across Roundabout into Bay Heights
- Titoki Track entrance is 100m on left

### Titoki Track entrance



## HIKING IN ŌHINETAHI RESERVE

The two routes given here are loops from Governors Bay village. For more information on the other tracks shown in grey download the Ōhinetahi brochure from [www.summitroadsociety.org.nz](http://www.summitroadsociety.org.nz)

## SAFETY ADVICE

- Tracks are steep and slippery when wet.
- Good footwear essential.
- Walking Poles recommended.
- Rock fall Hazard.

4

## EXPERIENCE ŌHINETAHI RESERVE

Get a taste of beautiful Ōhinetahi Reserve on this steep circular route.

**Directions:** Follow the “To Start” instructions on the map to reach the Titoki Track entrance.

Walk up Titoki Track, past the turn-off to Ngaio Track and continue straight ahead when you cross the wide grassy O'Farrells Track. Stay on Titoki Track when Ngaio Track joins it again. Titoki Track ends at T junction with South Boundary Track. Turn right, traversing through the bush with beautiful views until you meet Faulkners Track. Now turn right taking extreme care as you descend steeply down-hill.

When you go past the first lot of houses stay on the track and follow the “To Return” instructions on the map for the best route back to the Fire Station.

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## GRAND MT ADA LOOP



Climb to the summit of Mt Ada for breath-taking views over the harbour, city, plains, mountains and ocean. Enjoy a picnic on the summit and return to Governors Bay in time for a well-deserved afternoon tea.

**Directions:** Follow the “To Start” instructions on the map to reach the Titoki Track entrance.

After a few minutes climb, turn left onto Ngaio Track. A further stiff climb brings you to lovely views above the bush line. Cross the wide O'Farrells Track, continuing straight uphill. After another 10 minute climb you meet Titoki Track again. Turn left onto it and then left again at South Boundary Track

### To Return

- Stay on Faulkners track past houses
- Turn left on The Terrace
- Turn right on Zephyr Terrace
- Cross Main Road at bus shelter
- Walk on footpath to Ernest Adams Drive

a few minutes later. Continue through bush and watch out for the knee high marker post at the junction of Watlings and South Boundary Tracks. Here, take a sharp left downhill to stay on South Boundary Track. The track emerges at a lookout point and then turns on a right angle. Stay on the upward side of a large boulder partially blocking the track to reach the Bush Road Track intersection. Take the left fork downhill. After 5 minutes turn right onto Totara Log Track, and then continue straight on past the Bivvy Track turn off. Emerging from the bush you now have views over Allandale and of the regeneration occurring since the 2017 Port Hills fires. When you reach a 'Summit Road Society' sign, with an arrow pointing uphill, bear slightly to the left following the metal posts. A steep climb takes you to the top of a rocky knoll. Go straight up the ridge, and follow the track as it skirts left until reaching a T junction with Ellas Track. Turn left under Mt Ada, to the ridgeline where you join the Crater Rim Walkway.

The route now turns right. (Option: to visit the Sign of the Bellbird shelter and toilets, divert left for 300m and then retrace your steps.) Continue on the Crater Rim Walkway until it crosses a wide track coming up from the city side. Here turn right through the plantings for 5 minutes to reach the peak of Mt Ada, stepping over a low fence part-way. This high vantage point provides a breath taking view.

Return to the Crater Rim Walkway and continue for about 30 minutes past the Ellas and Bush Road Tracks.

The route turns right at a stile with signs on the other side stating 'Lookout, Governors Bay'. (Option: to visit the Sign of the Kiwi café stay on the Crater Rim Walkway for 1km and then retrace your steps to this point to return to Governors Bay.) Climb over the stile and head down Faulkners Track.

At the intersection a few minutes later keep right to stay on Faulkners, and again at the lower entrance to North Boundary Track. At the South Boundary Track junction keep left on Faulkners continuing downhill. Take extreme care on this steep, winding track.

Follow the "To Return" instructions on the map on page 5 for the best route back to the Fire Station.



Brochure produced in conjunction with Lyttelton Information Centre and Governors Bay Community Association.

Read about the Trust at [www.rodonaldtrust.co.nz](http://www.rodonaldtrust.co.nz)

## Ōhinetahi Bush Reserve

Over 100 years ago, Christchurch MP Harry Ell recognised how urgent it was to protect the tiny remnants of native forest that had survived pioneering forest clearance. In 1906 he nursed the Scenery Protection Act through parliament and protected Kennedy's Bush, a significant remnant above Halswell on the city side of the hills. Realising the value in combining conservation with recreational access, he worked to establish the Summit Road around the crater rim so people could visit the area, and constructed the Sign of the Kiwi and Bellbird as rest houses. He named Mt Ada after his wife to thank her for her support.

His grandson, John Jameson, founded the current Summit Road Society 14 years after Ell's death to continue his work. The Society now owns three large reserves on the Port Hills, including Ōhinetahi occupying 150ha on the slopes above Governors Bay. Society volunteers manage the reserve to facilitate native bush regeneration by excluding grazing animals and controlling weeds and pests. The reserve is open to the public so you can enjoy exhilarating hikes with breath-taking views of the harbour as you experience the process of native regeneration in all its stages, spotting bellbirds, fantails, silver eyes, grey warblers, native pigeons, and the occasional tomtit along the way.

Fire swept through part of Ōhinetahi Reserve in 2017, a terrible blow to the Summit Road Society, who had only just fully opened the reserve after the 2011 earthquakes. Thankfully the native forest proved resilient, and damage was largely confined to more open areas. You can see burnt areas as you walk through, but the overwhelming impression is the power of nature to regenerate. Look out for the fast growing native poroporo and slower but longer lived species like broadleaf re-establishing again.

Tracks are critical for reserve management as well as recreational access. Summit Road Society members Ben and Colin Faulkner spent years constructing and maintaining tracks in the Port Hills. Spare a thought for their energy, dedication and sheer nerve as you descend on precipitous Faulkners Track.

To find out more about the Summit Road Society and Ōhinetahi Reserve visit [www.summitroadsociety.org.nz](http://www.summitroadsociety.org.nz)



Poroporo *Solanum laciniatum*



Broadleaf *Griselinia littoralis*

Illustrations by Hugh Wilson



## Communities of the Crater

The craggy tors dominating the skyline at the head of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour bear witness to the Lyttelton volcanics which commenced 12 million years ago and formed cones of up to 1500m high. The tors and crater rim cradling the head of the harbour are the eroded remnants, now only about 500m high.

As volcanic activity subsided, plant communities colonised the new lands, cloaking the hills in a thick forest, filled with flora and fauna unique to New Zealand, but devoid of human life.

Waitaha were the first people to arrive around 700 years ago. The name Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū, once again in use for Banks Peninsula, honours their chiefly ancestor Rākaihautū and the great storehouse (pātaka) he found here in the forests and sea. About 200 years later, a new wave of people, Ngāti Māmoē, established a settlement along the shoreline at Governors Bay named Ōhinetahi, meaning "the place of one daughter". The Ngāi Tahu people followed, naming the head of the harbour Whakaraupō, meaning bay of the raupō reed and establishing Rāpaki further around the coast, now the hub of Māori activity in the harbour.

European settlement in the Governors Bay to Allandale area commenced in 1851, after the Canterbury Association's first four ships had arrived. The microclimate at the head of harbour enabled productive farming and horticultural industries, and the new settlers were quick to cut down the forests and convert the land to these new uses, oblivious to the impacts on the environment.

Access to Governors Bay has always been difficult. The steep road over Dyers Pass was expensive to construct and maintain, and the shallow mudflats necessitate long well-situated jetties. At one time there was both a lower jetty at Sandy Bay where remnant piles can still be seen, and the existing upper jetty. The settlement was serviced by launches and a steamer from Lyttelton brought visitors.

Today the car rules, and many people who live here commute daily to Christchurch over Dyers Pass.

You will discover more and appreciate Whakaraupō/Head of the Harbour and Ōhinetahi/Governors Bay as you get out exploring on these lovely walks.