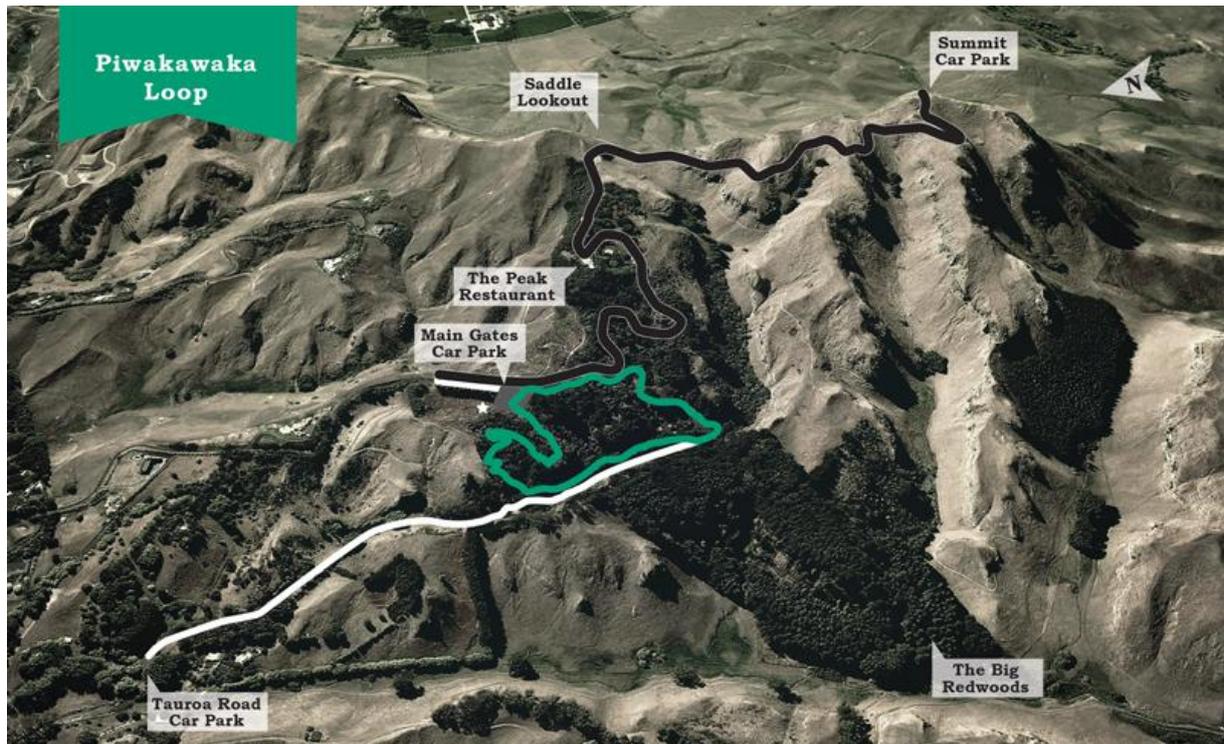


Piwakawaka Loop

1.3km / Est 40 mins

Named after the cheeky fantails seen along the way, this track passes through majestic gum trees and native bush, the Small Redwoods Grove, and loops around past the lemon-scented eucalypts on Chambers Walk to the Main Gates Car Park.



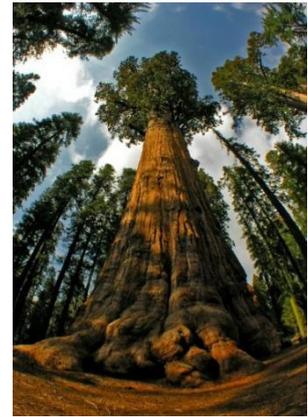
Piwakawaka



Throughout Te Mata Park, you will hear the friendly ‘cheet cheet’ call of the fantail, also known as Piwakawaka. One of New Zealand’s most common birds, the Fantail is one of the few native bird species that has been able to adapt to an environment greatly altered by humans. Easily recognised for its energetic flying antics, the fantail uses its broad tail to change direction quickly while hunting for insects. Their favourites are moths, flies, spiders, wasps, and beetles, although they sometimes also eat fruit. The fantail is quite short lived – the oldest bird recorded in New Zealand was three years old. They stay in pairs all year and are prolific breeders, with females laying as many as five clutches of two to five eggs in one season. Fantail young are fed about every 10 minutes – about 100 times a day - so it’s understandable that during waking hours the bird is almost never still, constantly seeking out flying insects. The cheeky fantail is not shy and will often flit within a few metres of people, hoping to catch any small flying insects that we humans have disturbed.

Small Redwoods

This grove of 137 California redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) was planted in 1974. Native to America, the redwood is an evergreen and extremely long-lived tree with a life span of 2,500 to 3,500 years. They are the tallest trees now living on Earth - the record-holder is the Hyperion tree in Northern California (pictured right) which measures 115.61m (379.3 feet). Redwoods have a conical crown with horizontal branches. Their bark is very thick – up to 30cm – and quite soft and fibrous, with a bright red-brown colour when freshly cut which is where the name redwood comes from. The leaves tend to lie in a flat plane to maximise their ability to capture sunlight.



Lemon-Scented Eucalypt



The upper section of Chambers Walk is planted with a grove of *Eucalyptus Citriodora*, or Lemon-Scented Eucalypts which grow to around 35 metres in height and are native to Australia. Also known as the Blue Spotted Gum, they have smooth, pale bark and a narrow-leaved crown which smells strongly of lemons, especially after rain. The Lemon-Scented Eucalypt is a favourite source of pollen for bees and is also used for structural timber in building. These trees were planted in Te Mata Park in the 1980s and are an important food source for birds and insects.

Chambers Walk

Chambers Walk is named after the family who created Te Mata Park and gifted it to the community in perpetuity. The land that makes up Te Mata Park was included in a large block purchased in 1862 by early farmer settler John Chambers (pictured right). In 1927, as a memorial to their father, his sons Bernard, John and Mason gifted a 99 hectare reserve on the upper Havelock North hills, including Te Mata Peak, to the people of Hawke's Bay. So Te Mata Park was formed and is ours forever, with further protection granted in 1997 under the QEII National Trust for open space. The Park's Trust Deed specifies that a male descendant of the original grantors must be a member of the Trust so, over more than 80 years, a long line of Chambers men have been committed to the ongoing care and protection of the Park. Since 2000, Bruno Chambers, great great grandson of John Chambers, has served as the Chairman of the Trust.



Kawakawa



Kawakawa (*Macropiper excelsum*) is a small tree which is found throughout the north island and upper south island of New Zealand and is common in all the bush areas of Te Mata Park. Also known as the pepper tree, kawakawa leaves are often covered with insect holes which are mainly caused by the kawakawa looper moth caterpillar. Kawakawa was one of the most important healing herbs used by Māori and is still widely used today. A tea can be made from the leaves or roots and used for bladder and stomach and indigestion problems and to relieve pain. The leaves are used to heal cuts, bruises and nettle stings. Related to black pepper, Kawakawa seeds can also be used as a cooking spice. Kawakawa are prolific and vigorous growers and can create such a dense canopy that other plants are suppressed. Some kawakawa re removed to prevent this happening in the Park.